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CONSERVATION 2000

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Ecosystems Program
Critical Trends Assessment Program
Illinois Natural Resources Information Network
Review of Illinois Water Law

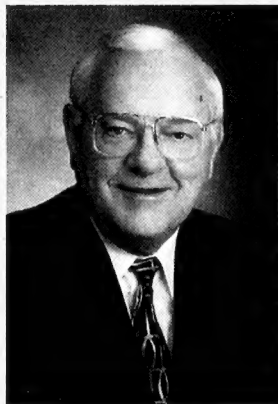


SIX-YEAR REPORT

CONSERVATION 2000

1996-2001

SIX-YEAR REPORT



George H. Ryan, Governor



Brent Manning, Director



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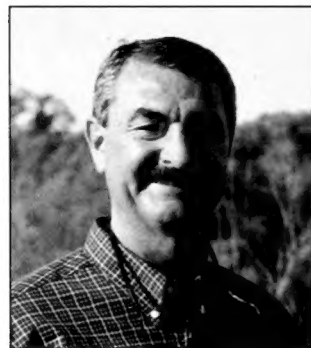
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Cover Photo: Shabbona Lake State Park
Photographed by Adele Hodde

CONSERVATION 2000 SIX-YEAR REPORT



Natural resource stewardship has achieved a new level of success through Conservation 2000 (C2000). The Ecosystems Program, Local Partnership Councils, the Critical Trends Assessment Program, EcoWatch monitoring and the Illinois Natural Resource Information Network have made a powerful impact. Our State rivers, streams, wetlands, forests, prairies, fish, wildlife, and the lives of Illinois citizens have received the benefits.

The characteristics of a sound ecosystem include the extent and the quality of the natural communities present. To address the quality of all life for today and the future, the C2000 initiative has brought together the bold efforts of citizens, scientists, administrators, legislators and the Governor of Illinois. The C2000 network is improving the extent and the quality of human interaction on behalf of natural resources.

To date, habitat restoration has been done on nearly 50,000 acres across Illinois and legal protection for over 1,500 acres has been acquired. We have over 2,000 Ecosystem Partnership members across the State. Currently 1,800 Citizen Scientists have been trained to monitor over 400 EcoWatch sites.

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In addition, C2000 has made tremendous strides towards watershed research, education and protection. Through the Ecosystems Program Project Grants, hundreds of thousands of publications, from brochures to posters to videos, have been produced and distributed to educate the public on best management practices, habitat restoration, historical sites, natural areas and watersheds to name a few.

A functional relationship within and between natural communities is another characteristic of a sound ecosystem. We look to the future to continue to bring together more partners, public and private, to address the urgency of deteriorating ecosystems, lost species and degraded habitat. The value of all C2000 Ecosystem Projects totals \$43,487,865.82. The C2000 program contribution was \$16,583,457.67, with matching funds of \$26,904,408.15. What a tremendous impact we have made in six short years!

The C2000 Ecosystems Program is built upon the vision and tireless efforts of many. We have much to be proud of in our six-year history. We have taken action on a solid hope of protecting and enhancing Illinois' natural resources for today and the future.

MARVIN HUBBELL

Manager, Division of Ecosystems, C2000 Coordinator



Michael R. Jeffords

Illinois River Bluffs

THREE FORCES CONVERGE . . .

Critical trends — Citizen recommendations — Legislative response

CRITICAL TRENDS — *the scientific foundation*

In harmony with citizens' demands for a comprehensive approach to natural resource management the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published *The Changing Illinois Environment: Critical Trends* report in 1994. The baseline ecological data in this state of the state report led to three conclusions:

1. The condition of natural ecosystems in Illinois was rapidly declining as a result of fragmentation and continued environmental stress.
2. Regulations of emissions and discharges for pollutants were working, and have caused a decline of point pollutants in the last 25 years, *and most importantly . . .*
3. Existing data designed to monitor compliance with environmental regulations or the status of individual species were not sufficient to assess ecosystem health statewide.

At the same time the *Water Resources and Land Use Priorities Task Force* of Governor Jim Edgar presented findings revealing the decline of Illinois' ecosystems.

CITIZEN RECOMMENDATIONS — *stewardship in action*

Historically efforts to preserve and enhance Illinois' natural resources have focused in nature preserves, parks, and fish and wildlife areas. The 1993 *Illinois Conservation Congress* understood that farmlands totaled 75% of the 90% privately-owned Illinois landscape. Solutions to our State's ecological problems would demand a comprehensive approach to natural resource management.

These urgent circumstances required an entirely new approach to natural resource protection and enhancement. The Conservation Congress proposed broad-based, multi-disciplinary solutions to the State. They asked for action to remedy our ecological challenges by:

advocating natural resource analysis and services be organized on a regional scale.

advocating voluntary, incentive-based participation.

advocating comprehensive and comprehensible ecosystem-based scientific information.

advocating a grassroots program design rather than State government design.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE — *unprecedented and powerful*

Initiating **Conservation 2000** (C2000), with a landmark 100% affirmative vote in 1996, the Illinois General Assembly responded to the constituents recommendations and support of Governor Jim Edgar. The authorizing legislature created a six-year \$100 million initiative which integrates the interests and participation of local communities and private, public and corporate landowners. Scientists, citizens and legislators began working together through this comprehensive long-term program to enhance and protect Illinois natural resources.

Continuing the history of enthusiastic support for the program, Governor George Ryan signed House Bill 1746 into legislation in August of 1999, extending the General Revenue funding portion of the C2000 Program to the year 2009.

The legislation requires three agencies to work together to provide service to the private sector:

the Department of Natural Resources Conservation 2000 program
the Department of Agriculture, directing their efforts toward soil conservation in the agricultural sector
the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, focusing on lakes management.



Michael R. Jeffords

Monarch Butterfly

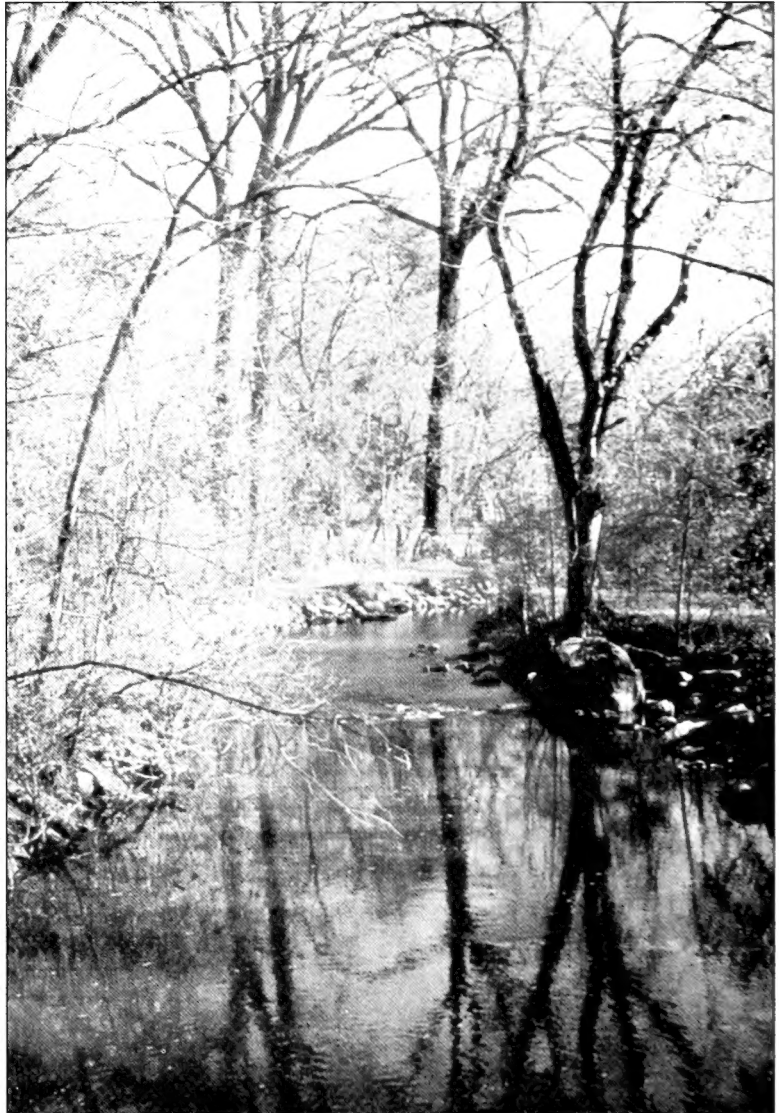


Ecosystems Program Mission Statement

To monitor, maintain, enhance and restore biological diversity and ecological conditions of the Illinois landscape through local partnerships.

The purpose of the Ecosystems Program is to integrate the interests and participation of local communities and private, public and corporate landowners to enhance and protect watersheds through ecosystem-based management. The Ecosystems Program is funded through Conservation 2000 (C2000), a comprehensive long-term approach to protecting and managing Illinois' natural resources.

The Ecosystems Program is a voluntary, broad-based incentive program.



Contributed by Butterfield Creek Steering Committee

Butterfield Creek

Ecosystems Program

The Ecosystems Program is made up of Ecosystem Partnerships, which are coalitions of local stakeholders—private landowners, businesses, scientists, environmental organizations, recreational enthusiasts, and policy makers. They are united by a common interest in the natural resources of their area's watershed. Partnership designation brings financial and technical support, which is integral in addressing watershed concern.

A major component of the Ecosystems Program is Project Grants. To be eligible for a grant, projects must work toward accomplishing Partnership and Program goals and be in an Ecosystem Partnership area. Projects are submitted each year in one of the following categories:

Habitat Projects restore or enhance the existing landscape. Such practices would include prairie establishment, prescribed burning, stream restoration, and creation of wetlands.

Capital Projects are used to purchase conservation easements and/or acquire land for the purpose of habitat protection and/or restoration. Such practices would include purchasing land to preserve a valuable biotic community, securing conservation easements along a waterway, and to restore a riparian corridor.

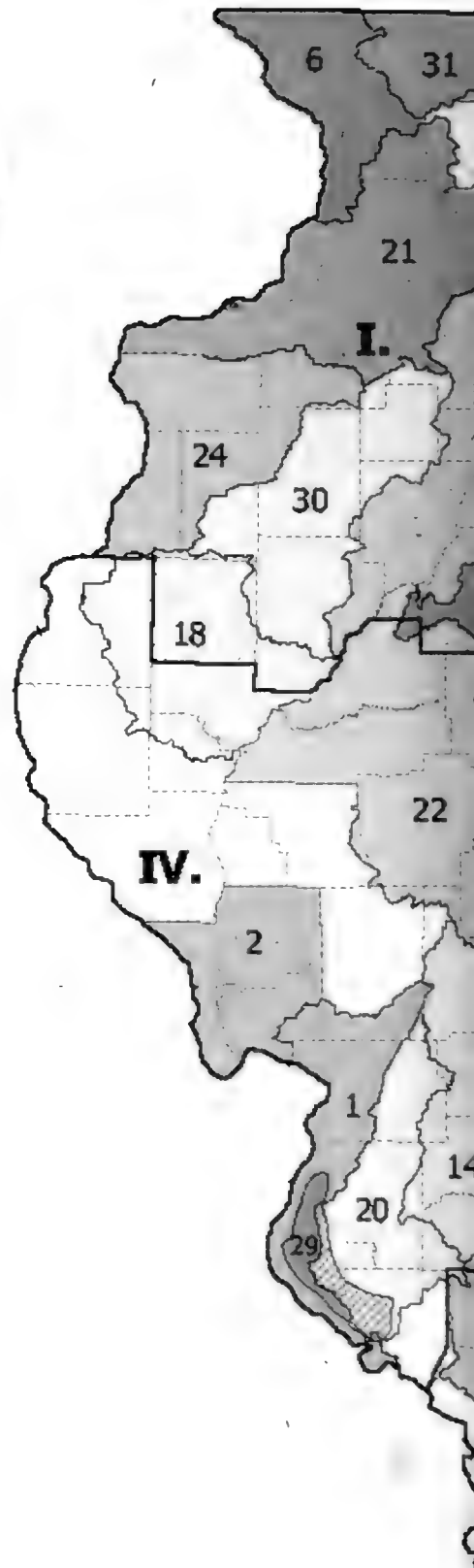
Outreach Projects provide the public with management assistance and technical advice. Such projects would include landowner education on sound ecological practices to employ on their land, technical assistance in local habitat restoration or protection work, and general environmental education workshops.

Resource Economics Projects use the natural resources of an area to create an economic benefit for the surrounding community. Such practices as converting abandoned railroad right-of-ways to public trails or developing public access to waterways to promote aquatic recreation.

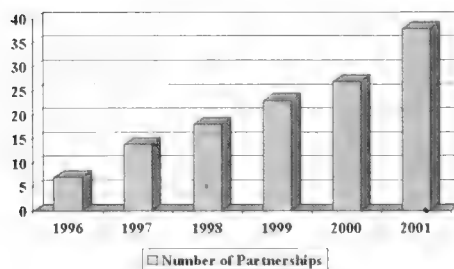
Research Projects are scientifically oriented to the collection, analysis and interpretation of environmental data for the purpose of advancing the understanding of the environment. Such projects would include flora or fauna studies, and watershed data collection.

Ecosystem

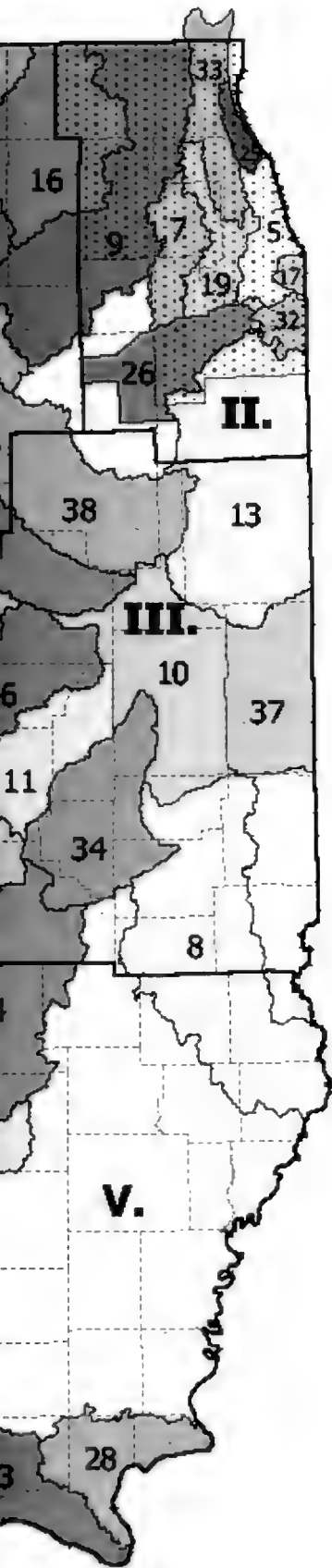
- 1 American Bottom
- 2 Big Rivers
- 3 Cache River
- 4 Carlyle Lake
- 5 Chicago Wilderness
- 6 Driftless Area
- 7 DuPage River Coalition
- 8 Embarras River
- 9 Fox River
- 10 Headwaters
- 11 Heart of the Sangamon
- 12 Illinois River Bluffs
- 13 Kankakee River
- 14 Kaskaskia River Basin



Total Partnerships



38 partnerships



Partnerships

- 15 Kinkaid Area Watershed Project
- 16 Kishwaukee River
- 17 Lake Calumet
- 18 La Moine River
- 19 Lower Des Plaines
- 20 Lower Kaskaskia
- 21 Lower Rock River
- 22 Lower Sangamon Valley
- 23 Mackinaw River
- 24 Mississippi Western Five
- 25 North Branch Chicago River
- 26 Prairie Parklands
- 27 Rock River Resource Rich Area
- 28 Sinkhole Plain Area
- 29 Shawnee Watershed
- 30 Spoon River
- 31 Sugar-Pecatonica Rivers
- 32 Thorn Creek
- 33 Upper Des Plaines
- 34 Upper Kaskaskia
- 35 Upper Rock River
- 36 Upper Salt Creek of the Sangamon
- 37 Vermilion
- 38 Vermilion Watershed Task Force

Ecosystem Partnerships

Bringing C2000 to the watersheds

With natural resource protection and enhancement as the goal, the IDNR, through the C2000 Ecosystems Program, invited citizens within watersheds to form Local Partnership Councils (LPC). The LPC would be comprised of citizens concerned with the quality and quantity of ecological diversity in their region.

The LPCs organized and applied to the IDNR for designation as watershed partners. To achieve the grassroots-design recommendations of the Conservation Congress, these designated watershed Partnerships would review and prioritize local C2000 natural resource grant applications.

Beginning in 1995 with the formation of the Rock River Resource Rich Area Partnership, watershed organizations now number 38, with more on the horizon. These partnerships are growing in expertise and their memberships are increasing. Local communities are recognizing the importance of the Ecosystems Program as C2000 projects are completed.

Following are some examples of successful locally-driven projects funded in part by C2000 Ecosystems Program grants. They represent a "cross-cut view" of the diversity, multi-disciplinary, broad-based natural resource activity taking place in the past six years.

CACHE RIVER PARTNERSHIP--Southern Illinois C2000 Grants #021-97, 017-98, 001-99, 005-00, 006-01

From the Cache River Basin, An Inventory of the Region's Resources. Page 3

"The Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office has received five separate grants totaling \$1 million. In a unique partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the IDNR, a Water Resource/Reclamation Project has been designed. It is estimated that approximately 1 million acres will be impacted with these C2000 grants:

The landowners with technical assistance from the NRCS and the IDNR develop restoration plans. Reforestation with plantings of pin oak and nuttall oak, buffer strips of native species along waterways, and shallow water impoundments are some of the practices that are reducing fragmentation of habitat. The response in biological diversity to these restoration practices has been almost immediate."

A rare habitat achieves international recognition

“Because it harbors such a rich collection of biologically significant natural communities, the Cache River basin has earned state, federal, and international recognition. In 1996 UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, added the Cache River and Cypress Creek wetlands to its list of 15 “Wetlands of International Importance” because of their crucial role in sustaining waterfowl and shorebirds that use the Mississippi flyway. The designation—which imposes neither restrictions on the use of the wetland nor obligations on their owners—puts the Cache River and Cypress Creek wetlands into the same class as more famous U.S. Wetland systems such as the Florida Everglades and the Okefenokee Swamp.

The Cache River basin lies at the crossroads of continental climate zones — the “biological midpoint of North America.” Scientists have classified the continental U.S. into distinct physiographic provinces according to bedrock, soils, terrain and the plant and animal communities that have made their homes in them. The Cache River basin is one of only six areas in the U.S. where four or more of these physiographic regions overlap.”



· Heron Pond

Take a glimpse at the results of a successful outreach grant developed and executed by the Friends of the Fox River. Their information-packed four-color poster makes learning about their watershed inviting. The following is excerpted from their C2000 Final Report, *The Fox River – A Watershed Under Construction*

**FOX RIVER PARTNERSHIP — Northeastern Illinois
C2000 Grant #016-98 Friends of the Fox River Poster**

"The poster contains the C2000 land use base map of the Fox watershed in Illinois. Town and creek names have been added to the base map as well as major roads. Plants and animals of the watershed are depicted... includes a map of the sub watersheds of the Fox and information on the 'biologically significant' lakes and streams of the watershed.

The multitude of uses which the Fox River provides the residents of the watershed is described. The threat which suburban development poses to the watershed is described both with words and graphics. Water quality problems already appearing in the Fox River are outlined.

The poster was distributed by volunteers to the following audiences: village, city, county and other government officials, planning commissions, highway departments, schools, libraries, community colleges, community action groups, developers, homeowner associations, corporations, community events, expos and fairs."

Best Management Practices: aka BMPs

BMPs describe all those actions which promote sustainable development -
- economic growth that also protects the local environment.

GLACIAL LAKE

A lake found in a depression formed by a large chunk of ice left behind as the glaciers retreated years ago. Today, glacial lakes are fed by water flowing into them out of the land that surrounds them.

Helpful information from the poster.

Fox River is "Biologically Significant"

Within the Fox watershed, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources lists 14 glacial lakes and 4 tributaries as "biologically significant" because they support endangered and threatened species or have high mussel and fish diversity.

Biologically Significant Glacial Lakes

Bangs
Cedar
Cross
Crystal
Deep
E. Loon
Grays
Lily
McCullom
Round
Sullivan
Turner
W. Loon
Wooster

The Fox River is also the only river in Illinois that includes a large glacial lake system. The river runs through the Chain O'Lakes area, a series of glacial lakes and wetlands near the Illinois-Wisconsin border.

Biologically Significant Tributaries

Buck Creek
Morgan Creek
N. Branch Nippersink Creek
Yorkville tributary

Special thanks to: *Wetland Maps*
Dave Clark-GIS Wizard-The Wetland Institute
& Tom Price-Water Resources Engineer-NRCC
Mapa: *Watershed graphics information courtesy of Geographic Data Technology, Inc.*
Eminent: *C. T. Lee*
Cindy Strubbed & Tracy Feltner
Design & Illustration: Nancy Williamson

WAT SUBV
The land through which a river, or lake, or stream flows to a larger body of water.

What is a watershed?

It's the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake.

How do watersheds work?

The landscape is made up of many interconnected basins, or watershed. Within each watershed, all water runs to the lowest point—a stream, river, or lake. On its way, water travels over the surface and across farm fields, forest land, suburban lawns, and city streets, or it seeps into the soil and travels as ground water.

Are all watersheds the same?

Not at all. Watersheds come in many different shapes and sizes and have many different features. Watersheds can have hills or mountains or be nearly flat. They can have farmland, rangeland, small towns, and big cities. Parts of your watershed can be so rough, rocky, or marshy that they're suited only for certain trees, plants, and wildlife.

Public education and outreach goals were accomplished through an attractive, informative 2-sided full color poster.

C2000 capital grants are preserving remnants of the past along the Kankakee River . . .

**KANKAKEE RIVER PARTNERSHIP--Northeastern Illinois
C2000 Grant #005-98A**

From The Kankakee River Valley, An Inventory of the Region's Resources

"The Kankakee River enters Illinois near Momence and runs for 62 miles. It is 200-800 feet wide and 15 feet deep at its deepest. The Kankakee valley, as the term is used here, takes in 2,169 square miles of the Kankakee River drainage. It encompasses nearly all of Kankakee and Iroquois counties plus parts of four adjacent counties in northeast Illinois.

Two "mainstream" rivers dominate the valley – the Kankakee, which flows west across the valley until it joins the Des Plaines to form the Illinois River, and the Kankakee's principal tributary, the Iroquois. Neither dammed nor dredged, the Iroquois runs across a bed of gravel, sand and silt, and is fed in part by artesian wells – upwellings of groundwater under pressure – near Gilman.

In few Illinois places is the relative ecological integrity of such sizeable streams so little compromised by the close presence of humans. Biologists rank most of the Kankakee and Iroquois, along with nine of their tributaries as "highly valued aquatic resource." Five branches of the Kankakee-Iroquois drainage have been designated as Biologically Significant Streams because of the diverse life they support. Nearly 88% of the sampled stream miles in the Kankakee drainage "fully support" appropriate uses as determined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. No surprise, then, that the largest populations of many species of rare fish to be found anywhere in Illinois are found here.

The dilemma is by now a familiar one: How does a place accommodate people who want to live there without destroying the things that make it good to live in, in the first place.



These solutions transcend jurisdictions, from setting open space standards and protecting wetlands, historic sites, and private farmland to setting aside greenways and trails and conserving habitat for plants and animals.

Through the support of Kankakee River Basin Partnership, the C2000 Project Grants provided the opportunity for Kankakee River Conservancy District to acquire a total of 267 acres in Momence Township.

These acquisitions add to one of the largest parcels of flood plain forest in Illinois, the Momence Wetlands. There, 1,600 acres of sloughs and swamps remain largely as observers found them 70 years ago.

Resource economics and outreach grants bring citizens into the wetlands . . .

**VERMILION RIVER PARTNERSHIP-- Eastern Illinois
C2000 Grant #002-00 Boardwalk for Wetland Education Phase I**

*Excerpt from Grant
Application --*

"The Vermilion River Eco-system Partnership has within it a unique area of wetland. Informal community surveys and goals of our partnership for outreach and environmental education reveal the need for education about wetlands and their function. This particular wetland includes a prairie and is in a prime area for community outreach. By building a



boardwalk with informational signs into the wetland, individual visitors as well as school groups will be able to "step out" into the wetland and learn firsthand how wetlands function."

**C2000 Grant #005-01
Boardwalk for Wetland Education Phase II**

"Phase I approval has been enthusiastically welcomed by the education community and individuals alike.

Phase II will consist of an additional 500 feet of boardwalk to complete a one-way loop, and additional observation deck, interpretive signage, and a connector trail to the main entrance trail."

This floating boardwalk is brought to you by the cooperative efforts of the:

Consumers Illinois Water Company
Illinois Department of Natural Resources - C2000 Program
Illinois Native Plant Society
Illinois Power Company
Lake Vermilion Water Quality Coalition
Pheasants Forever
Vermilion County Conservation District Foundation
Vermilion County Conservation District Volunteer Corps
Vermilion County Highway Department
Vermilion County Soil and Water Conservation District

An example of many groups working together to make way for the purchase of a large restoration project. . .

**SUGAR-PECATONICA RIVER PARTNERSHIP – Northern Illinois
C2000 Project #004-00 Nygren Wetland**

From the introduction to the Final Report:

“In 1992, Carl and Myra Nygren selected the Natural Land Institute (NLI) as recipient of their estate with the stipulation that the money be used to purchase and permanently protect land in Winnebago County, IL. In 1997, NLI learned that 688 acres at the confluence of the Rock and Pecatonica Rivers was for sale. It had been farmed for many years, although frequent flooding and high ground water made its value as farm ground less than optimal.

After careful research, NLI decided to purchase the ground, previously drained wetland and associated natural areas, including more than three miles of Rock and Pecatonica River frontage and Raccoon Creek stream corridor. It is called Carl and Myrna Nygren Preserve in honor of these generous benefactors.”

Some of the visions presented for the Nygren Preserve were:

A classical ecological restoration that recreates the matrix of flora and fauna present in pre-settlement times.



A managed habitat for breeding birds that require wetlands.

A site for continuing education and passive recreation.

Funding was accomplished through C2000 grant funds totaling \$422,500. Match monies from the Natural Land Institute, the Grand Victoria Foundation and the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program totaling \$1,427,500 were combined to complete the acquisition.”



Bill Kennedy

"The Nygren Wetland Preserve is an unique opportunity for ecosystem restoration because:

-(1) few sites within the state of Illinois are large enough to effectively restore native flora and fauna that will be relatively self-sustaining,

(2) threatened and/or endangered species throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin will be able to thrive within the large landscape that the Nygren Wetland offers,

(3) the Nygren acquisition and restoration project will serve as an example partnership between non-governmental organizations, foundations, and local state and federal agencies to accomplish goals beyond the capacity of each organization."

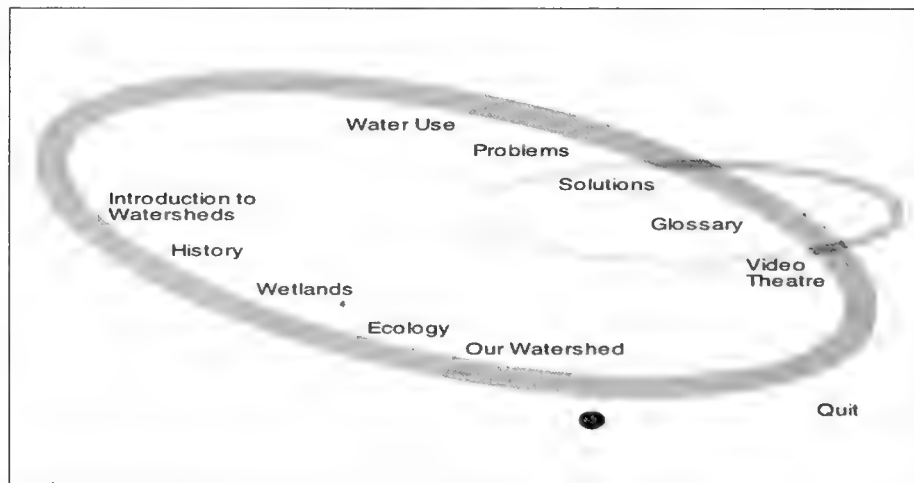


**ILLINOIS RIVER BLUFFS PARTNERSHIP--Central Illinois
C2000 Grant #009-99 Tri-County Watershed Planning**

From the Final Report

"The goal was to build a library of presentation materials on watershed planning and management. This was achieved through the research and production of "Watermarks," a CD-ROM with almost 700 megabytes of relevant information. . . formatted as videos and movies, stills, photos and virtual reality environments, and sound clips.

The library ultimately produced through the grant, differs significantly from the usual concept of the static, traditional library housing volumes of information on shelves. Easily transportable for broad dissemination and access by many, the CD-ROM allows considerable latitude in its use. Although built around local issues, the material is undated and sufficiently generic to guarantee a long usefulness to anyone seeking to foster community awareness of watershed planning needs and to implement related policy. Trainers, students and decision-makers will find its content fresh and its technology interest-compelling."



Watermarks

From the index to *Watermarks*

To date, over 480 project grants have been awarded through the C2000 Ecosystems Program.

The Illinois Watershed Academy

The Illinois Watershed Academy was created in 1999 at the University of Illinois to support the efforts of leaders and volunteers of the state's Watershed and Ecosystem Partnerships to improve ecosystem quality. Recognizing that problems such as flooding, erosion, excessive sedimentation and water quality degradation are most effectively addressed at the level of the natural drainage unit, the watershed. The Academy brings together expertise from the University of Illinois and affiliated agencies to conduct workshops and develop companion curricula about important watershed and leadership topics.

In cooperation with the University of Illinois Partnership Illinois Program, the Water Resources Center, the University of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the C2000 Program has helped support the Watershed Academy the past two years. The funds provide tuition waivers for participants (e.g. volunteer partnership chairs who don't have budgets to support the fee) for the Watershed Academy.

The Academy's first intensive workshop, "Watershed Science for Effective Partnerships" was held February 2000 in Champaign. The second 3-day workshop, "Organizing for Success" was held in January 2001.



Illinois Beach Nature Preserve



Curriculum developed at the Watershed Academy is designed for audiences state-wide, they include farmers, planners, land owners, government officials, teachers, students, an assortment of people who lack basic watershed science, who are interested in and care about what is going on in their watershed.

Ecosystem Planning/Organizational Grants

Establishing the vision and goals for local watersheds

C2000 annually allocates funds for Ecosystem Planning/Organizational Grants, up to \$10,000 each, to Local Partnerships to initiate ecosystem management efforts. Partnerships focus on Ecosystems Program goals of maintaining, enhancing, and restoring the biodiversity and ecological conditions of the watershed within their Local watersheds. Twenty-six Partnerships have received their planning/organizational grants up to a maximum of \$10,000.00.

THORN CREEK ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP – Northeastern Illinois C2000 Project #G00C0180 Planning/Organizational Grant

Excerpts from "A Watershed Plan for Thorn Creek in Southern Cook County and Eastern Will County."

"The Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership was formed in 1997 as part of the IDNR's Conservation 2000 program to protect the area's natural resources.

It's mission is to coordinate and work cooperatively to improve ecosystem conditions and thus the services a healthy ecosystem affords to the watershed's communities and partnership members. The partnership is a public-private cooperative concerned with preserving, protecting and enhancing the local natural systems, and integrating these natural resources into the life and future of the community.

In February 2000, volunteer stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of people living and working within the Thorn Creek watershed came together to participate in a two-day planning workshop. The purpose of developing this watershed plan was to identify ecosystem problems and concerns, determine causes, and to develop solutions and goals.

The document itself is organized into four main parts. The first section is descriptive and includes information about the watershed and the stakeholders areas of concern. The primary environmental concerns of the Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership are typical of any rapidly urbanizing area, fragmentation of remaining open space and degraded habitat. The partnership is also concerned with maintaining positive trends in water quality, hydrology, and hydraulics. In addition to this, there are concerns about the need for more recreational opportunities; interagency, intergovernmental and private sector cooperation; and the level of public engagement. The Thorn Creek Ecosystem Partnership was formed in order to address these areas of concern.

The second portion of the plan outlines the mission and goals of the partnership, and the strategies that will be implemented to reach those goals. This represents the stakeholders' collective vision for the future of Thorn Creek watershed and their plan to realize that vision."



Old Plank Road Trail

“The third section outlines the process needed to carry the work forward. It includes the possible next steps and organizational structure to be developed within the partnership. Those responsible for the implementation of the plan need to be engaged and empowered.

The fourth and final section consists of supporting information and appendices. Here you will find information about the municipalities associated with the Thorn Creek watershed along with supporting documentation and a collection of maps. There is also a list of financial sources and resources available for implementation of the plan.

The plan’s intent is to promote the development and use of sound management principles, guidelines, and techniques that will provide ecological, recreational, scientific research improvements. It is also hoped that the plan will serve as a focus for increased private sector, government, community and state agency cooperation within the Thorn Creek watershed. It will ultimately serve to guide the partnership in its decision-making processes concerning the coordination, support, and prioritization of watershed projects.

This plan has been developed by and for everyone who lives, works, and plays in the Thorn Creek watershed. It is intended for use by landowners, educators, decision makers, and managers at all levels, public and private. It will be widely disseminated through the watershed and will be made available for use by individuals, organizations, business, and governmental entities interested in protecting and enhancing natural resources within the region.”

“Over the last several years, federal, state and local agencies and organizations have joined forces to address flooding and environmental issues in ways that were only dreamed of a decade ago...”

Bill White, Science and Planning

Planning/
Organizational grant
status 1996-2001

14 planning grants
completed

5 nearing
completion

7 under
construction

Stream Restoration Program

The Stream Restoration Program designs stable instream habitat at specific watershed locations, where the stability of the entire watershed streams system is affected. The projects reduce stream incision caused by channelization and increased watershed runoff rates. *Figure 1* illustrates the C2000 Ecosystems Program and Pilot Watershed Program stream restoration projects. They include significant financial support from private landowners, businesses, and other agencies such as IEPA'S 319 and the Illinois Department of Agriculture's SSRP program.

The Hall Creek and Little Blue Heron Creek stream restoration projects illustrate the importance of private-public partnerships in the C2000 Ecosystems Program. C2000 staff were contacted by the landowners to design an ecosystem management program for the Tower Farm. Restoration of Hall Creek was part of the remedial steps recommended by DNR staff. In return the landowners gave a 300-acre natural resource easement for ten years to the Department.

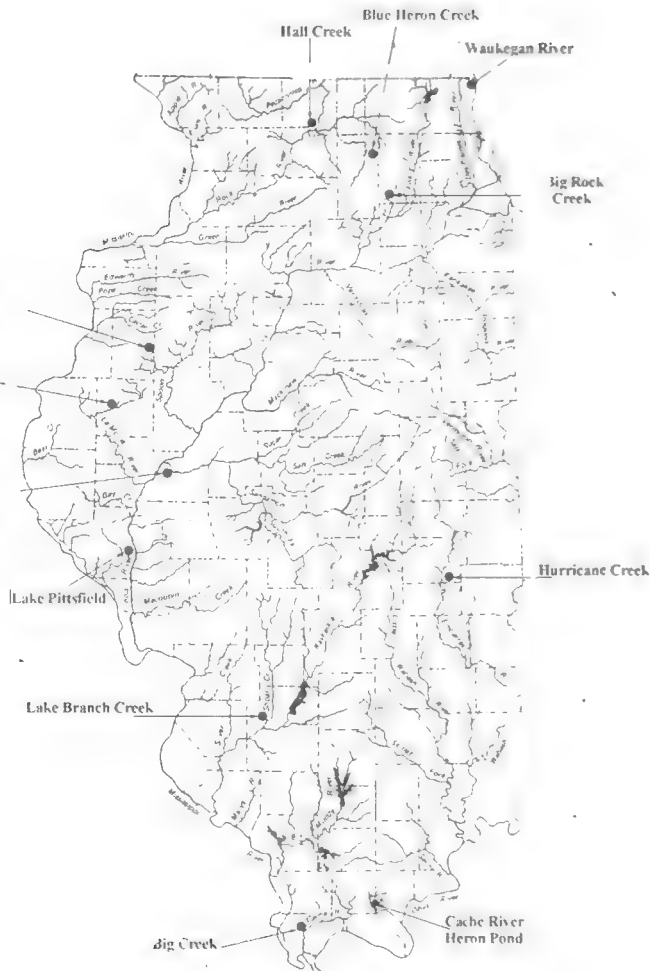


Figure 1

John Rodsater



The adjacent picture shows one of the five Hall Creek (post construction) weirs and riffles installations, with a side channel wetland. Rockford Blacktop Inc. donated all of the heavy equipment, trucks, personnel and stone to this 1500 foot project completed in 1996.

The C2000 Ecosystems Fall Conference, toured the Tower Farm to see many conservation measures done on the Tower farm including a 30-acre hill prairie restoration.



John Rodsater

KISHWAUKEE RIVER PARTNERSHIP — Northern Illinois **Project #001-98**

Little Blue Heron Creek instability resulted from agricultural stream channelizations and increased runoff rates from major developments. The private landowner was concerned about both flooding and increased stream erosion. Stream erosion in the channelized reach undercut mature trees and created logjams to floodwater conveyance.

In 1999, the stream program staff designed a meandering stream segment with pool and riffles adjacent to wooded wetlands to replace the straight channelized reach. The project increased instream habitat while increasing floodwater movement in the remeandered reach. The landowner paid all contractor fees and negotiated rock payments to the quarry so that a portion of the C2000 funds were returned to the Program.

Public Lands Projects

A portion of C2000 funding had been appropriated by the General Legislature for improvements to Jim Edgar-Panther Creek Fish and Wildlife Area (formally Site M). The stream program surveyed 16,000 ft. of Cox Creek in the Jim Edgar-Panther Creek Fish and Wildlife Area for the C2000 program. The program staff designed six rock riffles and pools with a road crossing for equestrians and trail vehicles in the lower 2,000 ft. With C2000



John Rodsater

funding, the stream program with ORC field staff and IDNR heavy equipment crew constructed and installed “lunker” back stabilization on three eroding bank sites. The heavy equipment crew transported and installed the six rock riffles. The stream program and the heavy equipment crew also installed 12 rock riffles and one road crossing on 1800 ft. of

Panther Creek upstream of the Cox Creek junction. Both sites have remained stable and well vegetated since construction.



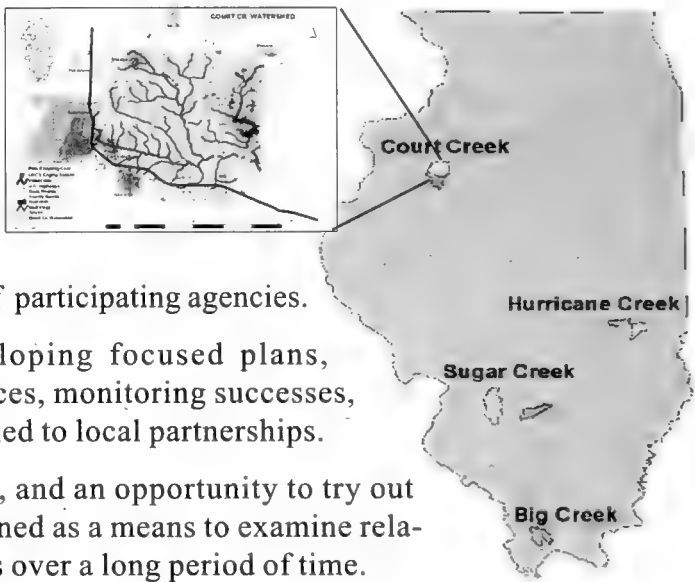
John Rodsater

In 2000, the stream program surveyed 11,000 ft. of ravines in Lake Argyle to reduce sediment loadings. The project has designed 22 rock grade controls and a side channel wetland for this project. In the same year, the stream program surveyed 4,000 ft. of the Cache River near Heron Pond in order to design a series of 6 rock riffles and a road crossing near Heron Pond. The crew also surveyed 14,000 ft. of levees along the Cache River south of the Forman gage.

Pilot Watershed Program

Bringing together broad-based interagency participation and long-range monitoring

In 1997, four pilot watersheds; Court Creek, Hurricane Creek, Sugar Creek, and Big Creek were selected to study the broadest spectrum of natural resource stream management practices. The areas were chosen because of high levels of local interest and availability of participating agencies.



Their purposes include developing focused plans, implementing restoration practices, monitoring successes, and transferring experience gained to local partnerships.

Pilots are a learning experience, and an opportunity to try out new approaches. They are designed as a means to examine relatively discreet and small changes over a long period of time.

As a way to measure best management practices (BMP), Pilot Watersheds bring together broad-based interagency participation. That means the Pilot Watershed Program is working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Farm Bureau, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Nature Conservancy to name a few.

By setting up models of stream stabilization, wetland and prairie restoration, water and sediment control basins and tree planting for example, the Pilot Watershed Program adds to the base of natural resource knowledge.

The key is long-range monitoring, tracking the changes in these sample areas over a greater period of time. Finding out what works well and what doesn't work saves the local partnerships time and money when it comes to designing C2000 projects for their watershed. Developing new ways to coordinate funding benefits the local watershed partnerships.



Cypress trees ringing an oxbow lake

Michael R. Johnson

Each Pilot Watershed is paired with a nearby, similar "reference" watershed. The reference watershed has similar geology, land use, hydrology, and physical stream characteristics.

Before intensive IDNR-funded practices are implemented in the pilot watershed, data (e.g., water chemistry, flow, and species diversity) are collected in the pilot and its reference. These paired data are used for comparing changes in the pilot watershed (attributable to extensive management) with baseline changes in the reference.

It is expected that extensive BMP implementation in the pilot watershed will result in improved water quality, reduced soil erosion, and enhanced wildlife habitat.

WHY CONSERVE WETLANDS?

Wetlands are among the most productive environments in the United States, and in the world. They provide economic benefits through fish and shellfish production (over two thirds of the worlds' fish harvest is linked to the health of wetland areas); the maintenance of water tables for agriculture; water storage and flood control; shoreline stabilization; hay and silage production; water purification; and recreational opportunities.

From U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publication July 1995

Critical Trends Assessment Program

The scientific foundation

*“If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending,
we could better judge what we do and how to do it...”*

Abraham Lincoln

The first “Critical Trends” report — *The Changing Illinois Environment: Critical Trends*, 1994 — stated that ecosystems in Illinois are deteriorating as fragmentation and stress disrupt their natural functions. The report recommended statewide collection of data. Making wise choices on the most effective and economical natural resource policies requires current and accurate data. Now the Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP) has developed the data collection tools and programs necessary to monitor trends in Illinois ecosystems.

Over the past several years, the CTAP team has completed an atlas of Illinois land cover, an inventory of Resource Rich Areas, 28 regional assessments, and several years of ecosystem monitoring.

The team consists of staff from IDNR’s Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, the Illinois State Museum, Illinois Waste Management and Research Center, Illinois Natural History Survey, State Geological and State Water Surveys of IDNR’s Office of Research and Scientific Analysis.

Land Cover Mapping

Using satellite imagery shot between 1991-1995 and spatial databases, CTAP delineated the extent of Illinois ecosystems and published *Illinois Land Cover: An Atlas* in 1996. The resulting statewide land cover database reveals natural features and artificial structures at a level of detail appropriate for regional analyses. It will be updated periodically on the changing extent and condition of ecosystems

Illinois Landscape

Land Cover	Acres	Percent of State
Crop Land	21,630,000	60.0
Grazing Land	6,310,000	17.5
Forested Land	4,070,000	11.3
Urban	1,440,000	4.0
Wetlands	1,150,000	3.2
Open Water	770,000	2.1
Grassland	613,000	1.7
Barren Land	16,200	0.1

Resource Rich Areas *The most biologically abundant*

CTAP used the 816 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency watersheds as the geographic unit for detailed evaluations. The land cover data and geo-referenced biological data -- quantity of forests, wetlands, Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites, and Biologically Significant Streams were used to determine the location of the most biologically rich areas of the state.

Thirty such areas, illustrated to the right, were identified and highlighted in an Inventory of Resource Rich Areas In Illinois. The Resource Rich Areas cover almost one-fifth of the state, encompassing seven million acres. They include 45% of the bottomland forest, 34% of the upland forest, and 43% of the nonforested wetland.



The inventory helped to establish priorities for the C2000 Ecosystems Program -- many of the Ecosystem Partnerships have Resource-Rich Areas within their boundaries.

Regional Assessments

Putting the date in watershed boundaries

As Ecosystem Partnerships were formed, CTAP prepared regional "Critical Trends" reports for their areas. Usually based on watershed boundaries, the reports describe an areas' natural and human resources. They are designed to provide the baseline information the partnerships need to set priorities and develop management plans.

The 22-page color *Executive Summaries* present the physical and historical setting of the region — providing a 'sense of place' for residents. The multi-volume technical report, Volumes 1 through 4, examine the Geology, Water Resources, Living Resources, Socio-economic Profile, Environmental Quality, and Archaeological Resources of the watersheds. A companion report, Volume 5, provides historical accounts of the early ecology of the area. Twenty-eight assessments have been completed thus far and assessments for the rest of the state should be completed over the next few years.

Across the state CTAP has found

- habitat fragmentation is a widespread problem that, in the long term, could limit attempts to maintain and enhance biodiversity,
- habitat degradation is a widespread problem that could be slowed or minimized by simply removing the degradation factors, such as grazing,
- if degradation is severe, restoration to pre-disturbance condition will likely require intensive vegetation management,
- restoring native vegetation along streams would shade the streams, stabilize banks, and filter sediment and chemicals from runoff before they reached the streams, resulting in less siltation and degradation and lower water temperatures,
- setting prescribed fires in terrestrial ecosystems, such as prairies, that need regular burning, would maintain their characteristics and diversity.

Ecosystem Monitoring

Expanding the scientific foundation

To move the statistical base of collaborative natural resource management into the future, new methods of research were created. Historical assessments based on fragmented data has been replaced with a long-term monitoring network that will provide timely information on the condition of the major ecosystems.

CTAP scientists from the Illinois Natural History Survey conduct detailed biological inventories of 150 randomly selected sites for each of four habitat types — forests, streams, wetlands and grasslands. Trained volunteers in the EcoWatch Network carry out less detailed biological surveys at several hundred sites. Together the two groups collect a representative set of biological indicators that measure environmental quality.

The indicators include information on plants, birds, fishes and insects that will track changes in ecosystems. As data accumulate over the years, regional and statewide trends will become apparent. This information will support efforts to preserve, restore, and manage ecosystems across the state.

Streams and Wetlands

The streams data collected suggest that some watersheds are better off than others, although no watershed ranked high on all stream quality indicators.

Wetlands in Illinois have declined to only 3.2% of the state and few remain in a high-quality condition. CTAP wetland monitoring sites contain an average of 15 plant species, with two of them introduced.

The number of wetland-dependent bird species found at the typical site is low, 1.3 species on average. A healthy wetland should host 6-10 wetland-dependent species.



Wetland Restoration

Prairie and Grasslands

Grassland in Illinois is much less diverse today than the historic prairie. CTAP monitored plots containing an average of 20 plant species, 7.5 being introduced species, not native. A high quality prairie contains as many as 100-140 different plant species. Of the 20% of the state still characterized as grassland, only 0.01% is high-quality prairie.

CTAP monitoring has shown an average of less than two grassland-dependent bird species nest at the sites, while a high quality prairie would contain 6-12 species.

Forest and Bird Censusing

While forest cover is slowly increasing statewide, the plant species composition of our oak and hickory forests is changing. Fire suppression, habitat fragmentation, and the introduction of nonnative species are limiting the growth of forest diversity and forest-dwelling species.

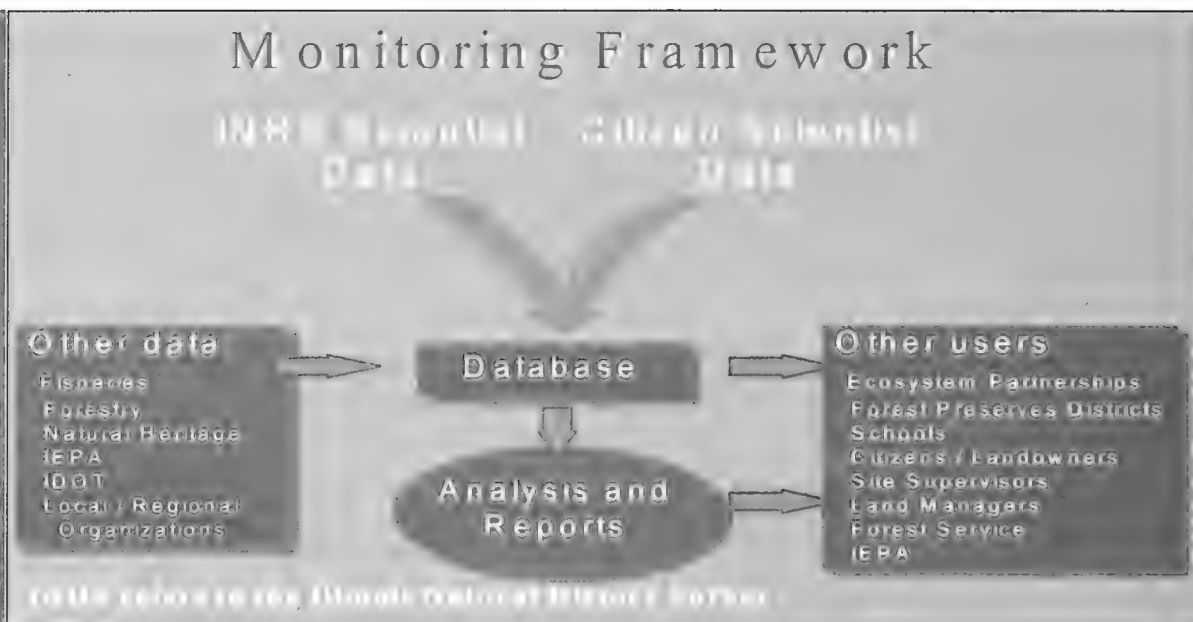
The average CTAP monitoring site contains 58 native plant species and three introduced species, but where they are found, nonnatives are tending to crowd out native species.

More than 70% of shrub stems counted at ForestWatch sites are invasive, introduced species. Northern Illinois forests are the most degraded by invasive plants, while southern Illinois forests are the least affected.

CTAP bird censusing clearly shows the importance of continuous forest habitat. An average of 6.4 bird species considered moderately to highly sensitive to habitat fragmentation were detected at forest sampling sites. But at isolated sites where there was little additional forest habitat within one kilometer, no area-sensitive birds were found. At sites with a high percentage of forest in the surrounding landscape, as many as 15 sensitive species were detected.



Pileated Woodpecker



Illinois EcoWatch Network

Major accomplishments since 1995

- A six-year database containing statewide average trend information exists for three major habitats.
- Data on ecological indicators and habitat conditions are available for more than 700 river, forest and prairie sites throughout the state.
- More than 2,500 Citizen Scientists have been trained to monitor river, forest and prairie ecosystems. Most recently, Citizen Scientist data were integrated with professional monitoring data in the most recent CTAP report, *Critical Trends in Illinois Ecosystems*.
- Each year, approximately 1,800 Citizen Scientists and other volunteers monitor more than 400 sites, contributing an estimated 9,000 volunteer service hours to CTAP. Cumulatively, volunteers have logged well **over 40,000 service hours** through training, monitoring, habitat cleanups and other stewardship activities.
- EcoWatch is recognized nationally for its commitment to high quality data and ability to produce reliable scientific information. Annual data verification reviews have documented consistently high data accuracy rates.
- To expand the quantity and quality of information available for regional and statewide planning, EcoWatch is in the process of identifying, evaluating and assigning 100 randomly selected sites for stream and forest monitoring. Sites are also being identified for prairie and wetland ecosystems.
- Through the Illinois State Board of Education's PLAN-IT EARTH program, 350 teachers in 300 high schools were trained in EcoWatch Network monitoring protocols. Teachers were provided curriculum materials based on CTAP research findings and given sampling equipment. Over 16,000 students were introduced to field-based environmental monitoring in the process.



Olga Aranzubia

RiverWatch Monitoring on Sugar Creek in southern Illinois

Prior to the Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP), existing state databases were insufficient to accurately assess trends in ecosystem health on a statewide basis. The Illinois EcoWatch Network is addressing this information gap by linking the efforts of CTAP research scientists and trained volunteers — referred to as Citizen Scientists — to collect the data necessary to track long-term trends in ecosystem health. This joint professional-volunteer monitoring program was created in 1994 to provide new tools for long-term, systematic monitoring. EcoWatch is coordinated through the Ecosystem Monitoring Section of the Ecosystems Division.

Primary Goals for EcoWatch

- to provide consistent high-quality data that can be used by scientists to measure how the condition of our state's ecosystems is changing over time;
- to educate and inform Illinois citizens about the ecology and importance of Illinois ecosystems; and
- to provide an opportunity for Illinois citizens to become involved in the stewardship of the state's ecosystems

EcoWatch **N E T W O R K**

Imagine wading through a shallow stream, surveying the aquatic life among its rocks and along its banks. Or wandering through a forest, documenting its biological diversity and carefully noting ecological indicators. Sound like the work of a professional scientist? It is. But it's also the work of thousands of Illinois citizens, trained as Citizen Scientists with the Illinois EcoWatch Network.

The Illinois EcoWatch Network is a statewide network of Citizen Scientists coordinated through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Through EcoWatch Network's RiverWatch, ForestWatch, PrairieWatch, WetlandWatch, and UrbanWatch programs, volunteers are trained to monitor the biodiversity of Illinois ecosystems. Data collected by Citizen Scientists are used to track long-term trends in ecosystem health. Programs focus on high quality data collection, public awareness, and environmental stewardship.

The History

The EcoWatch Network began with **RiverWatch** in 1995 and expanded rapidly to cover multiple ecosystems. **ForestWatch** was added in 1996. Approximately 2,500 volunteers have been trained in these programs, with an average of 390 new Citizen Scientists being added each year. In 2001, EcoWatch completed **UrbanWatch** (in partnership with The Field Museum) which is currently offered in northeastern Illinois through a cooperative arrangement between the Ecosystems Division, Museum of Natural History and Division of Education's ENTICE teacher training institute. **PrairieWatch** was piloted in 1998. More than 200 Citizen Scientists have adopted 30 prairie sites since this highly popular program was launched. Tentative sampling methods for **WetlandWatch** and **SoilWatch** have also been developed and tested on a limited basis; however, funding constraints hinder further implementation of these two programs.

Recent Developments

In October of 2000 the EcoWatch Network and C2000 programs were merged to become the Ecosystems Division within the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. This merger strengthens both programs by encouraging staff and volunteers to more fully integrate their efforts. Benefits include encouraging use of EcoWatch data by Ecosystem Partnerships in the formulation of ecosystem management plans and restoration projects. It will also provide additional tools for measuring the impact of these projects.

One project that is currently being undertaken will dramatically improve the capabilities to store, retrieve and analyze EcoWatch data, making it more accessible to Ecosystem Partnership members, landowners and others. A second project focuses on creating monitoring plans specific to individual partnerships and watershed areas. This will assist local stakeholders to document results and refine management strategies to ensure successful restoration and protection of their local natural resources.

Key Partners

EcoWatch has established several key partnerships, both within DNR and with outside organizations. These partnerships are designed to address goals of mutual interest to both EcoWatch and our partners.

- Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of 124 public and private organizations working together to study, restore, protect and manage roughly 200,000 acres of natural lands
- Open Lands - Stream Leaders. A hands-on training course designed to encourage and promote community participation in local stream habitat conservation
- IDNR's Fisheries Division and John G. Shedd Aquarium
- IDNR park system's Interpretive Program
- Cache River Wetlands Joint Venture Program, which includes the US fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy and IDNR
- Motorola RiverWatch, a two year partnership between Motorola and EcoWatch.

Illinois Natural Resources Information Network

INRIN was launched in 1995 under the banner of Illinois' Critical Trends Assessment Program ("CTAP") for the purpose of providing convenient public access to a wealth of natural resources information. The goal was to deliver, to a diverse group of users, environmentally relevant scientific information. Intended users would range from the public at large to volunteer Citizen Scientists, from natural resources professionals to public and private policy makers. INRIN is a convenient system for obtaining and sharing natural resources at various scales and time-frames, ranging from statewide to site-specific, from detailed time-series to onetime "snapshots."

Initially, INRIN was delivered through a dial-in bulletin board system (BBS), providing text-only versions of CTAP documents and downloadable spreadsheet databases. In time, as the number and complexity of documents and datasets grew, INRIN evolved into a web-based system on IDNR's website. The site delivers graphics-rich, user-friendly documents and web pages and links to numerous natural resources related websites operated by state, federal and local governmental entities as well as not-for-profit organizations.

The technology of web-based information systems is evolving rapidly, and INRIN is at the forefront of the technology. Existing systems currently allow volunteers and field professionals to submit and manage natural resources data directly through the web. In the next few months, INRIN will bring on-line the ability to display those and other data through web-based map servers. The evolving system will allow users to superimpose a variety of spatial datasets onto basemaps covering both geophysical and political places, such as watersheds, Ecosystem Partnership areas, cities, counties, townships, and the state as a whole.



Mycena Mushroom

Illinois Water Law

In 1992, one of the many challenges the Water Resources and Land Use Priorities Task Force faced was to develop recommendations to address the increasing number of conflicts in Illinois over the state's water resources. The Task Force determined that the existing water law in Illinois is inadequate to meet present and future needs. Water rights in Illinois are poorly defined.

As a part of the C2000 legislation that was enacted in 1995, \$125,000 was set aside for review of the existing water law. The first step in implementing this recommendation was to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Illinois water law by an independent analyst. The purpose of the assessment was to:

- review Illinois' system of water rights and water resources management
- define its strengths and weaknesses
- compare its system with the evolving systems being implemented in other states

An Illinois Water Law analysis was conducted by Planning and Management Consultants, Carbondale, IL in 1996, concentrating on water quantity issues. The Task Force recognized that many water quality-related laws, rules, standards and programs can have significant impacts on the availability, control and distribution of the State's water resources. Despite these linkages, the Task Force chose to differentiate its analyses and recommendations by quantity and quality purposes.

The approach taken addressed the assessment from three fronts.

1. *A literature review was conducted to identify water management issues in Illinois focusing on studies of water management issues, including reports of state agencies, interests groups, committees and task forces.*

2. *A legal review of Illinois water-quantity case law and statutory law was conducted.*

3. *Focus groups were held to gain more in-depth perspectives on the issues identified in the literature search. Additional issues and conflicts not found in the literature search were raised.*

The report further concluded that historical water law in Illinois is inadequate to meet present and future needs. It also recommended a total rewrite of Illinois Water law in order to develop to a single, comprehensive water resources act.

A comprehensive review of the existing water law to determine inadequacies and conflicts; investigation of other state systems; and clarification of options to address the problems are the next steps to be taken.

A Final Thought

The challenges of a statewide program with the goal of protecting, preserving and enhancing our natural ecosystems unifies the Ecosystem Partnerships under one program, Conservation 2000. Although the individual Local Partnership Councils (LPC) may be working on different projects and issues within their respective watersheds, they are sharing knowledge, ideas and data and are working toward a common goal. Each partnership strengthens the entire program. A special appreciation is warranted to all the partnerships, affiliates and C2000 staff for the progress they have made in the past five years at dealing with these challenges.

We have come a long way since the program began in 1996. The C2000 Ecosystem Partnerships now cover 77.1% of the State of Illinois. It is our hope that the entire state will be served by Ecosystem Partnerships within the next few years. Working with the local partnerships, the C2000 Program has been recognized as contributing to a variety of habitat, outreach, research, land acquisition, and economic development projects. The success of these projects demonstrates that this local/statewide partnership is working.

The C2000 program affords opportunity for the LPCs to actively evaluate and plan for the future of their watershed. The Program is providing tools to access existing data and to coordinate with data collection and monitoring programs of EcoWatch in order understand the trends of their watershed. This information network allows for better plans to be developed by partnerships. These plans facilitate the support for future funding. These plans provide a framework and vision to support future funding. The more we plan to reach specific goals, the more we can evaluate what we have achieved.

The C2000 Program staff looks forward to the future to fill in gaps of watershed coverage, information and resources. These actions are necessary to continue uniting our state in protecting its natural resources for the benefit of everyone. The successes of the past and future will demonstrate the Program's value at promoting ecosystem stewardship in Illinois as well as provide the incentive for extending the program funding beyond 2009. Let's keep the wheels in motion!



Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources



Nygren Wetlands

Publications

One of the activities that the Ecosystems Program of Conservation 2000 has actively been involved in, is the development of geographic information. This public information is widely used by scientists at IDNR, by other State and local agencies, and by not-for-profit organizations. C2000 recognizes that the accuracy of the data depicting the landscape characteristics of the state is an invaluable ingredient in the analysis of the state's ecological conditions. Some of the GIS initiatives that C2000 has supported include the following:

The *Digital Orthophoto Quarter-Quadrangles (DOQQ's)* are 1998/1999 aerial photography of the state in the form of geo-referenced TIF files for use in GIS and other computer applications.

The updated *Land Cover of Illinois*, created from LandSat Thematic Mapper satellite imagery is part of an ongoing protocol for maintaining an inventory of how the surface of the state is covered (e.g. Agriculture, forest, wetlands, urban, etc.) The project is scheduled to be completed in June, 2002.

Historic Aerial Photography from the 1930's will be converted to digital format for computer viewing and for use in landscape analysis with GIS technology.

CTAP REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

TECHNICAL REPORTS (Vol. 1-5) AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

Volume 1: Geology

Volume 2: Water Resources

Volume 3: Living Resources

Volume 4: Socio-economic Resources

Volume 5: History of Ecology

Prairie Parklands

Lower Des Plaines

Calumet Area

Lower Sangamon

Vermilion River

Illinois River Basin

Kinkaid Area

TECHNICAL REPORTS (Vol. 1-4)

Rock

Cache

Headwaters

Embarass

Mackinaw

Kankakee

Fox

Big Rivers

Kishwaukee

Upper Des Plaines

Illinois River Bluffs

Spoon River

Driftless Area
Lower Rock River
Sinkhole Plain
(includes American Bottoms)
Sugar-Pecatonica
Vermilion
Upper Sangamon
(Heart of the Sangamon)
Thorn Creek
DuPage River
Chicago River/Lake Shore

TECHNICAL REPORTS (Vol. 5)

Rock
Cache
Headwaters
Embarras
Mackinaw
Kankakee
Fox
Big Rivers

TECHNICAL REPORTS TO BE RELEASED IN 2002

Illinois River Bluffs (expanded)
Upper Rock River basin
Big Muddy

AREAS UNDER ASSESSMENT

La Moine River basin
Little Wabash
Mississippi Western Five
Shawnee Watershed

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

The Changing Illinois Environment: Critical Trends
Critical Trends in Illinois Ecosystems
Building Illinois' Biological Memory
Inventory of Resource Rich Areas in Illinois
The Watershed Adventures of Nate the Newt
Illinois Land Cover
Illinois Geographic Information System

If you would like to order any of these publications, please contact
IDNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 or email: clearing@dnrmail.state.il.us

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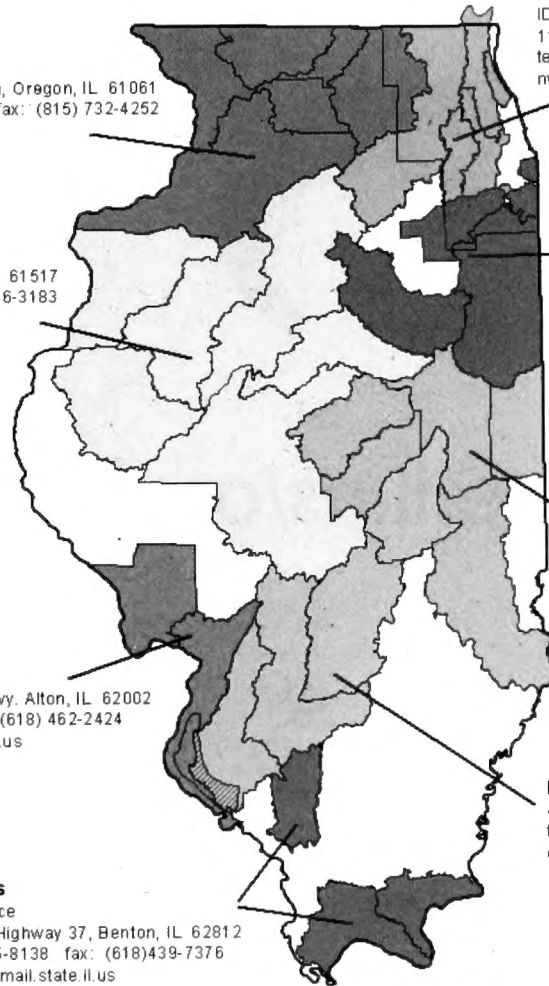
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Nate the Newt is the Ecosystems Program mascot

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