

Illinois State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Illinois' wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



River Research, Photo Courtesy of USGS

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Cache River Watershed Restoration**

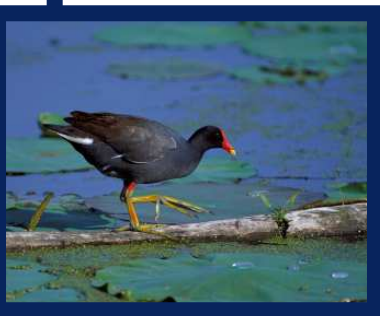
The Cache River watershed contains globally critical ecosystem including swamp, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood forest. A diverse group of public agencies and private conservation organizations have come together to try and conserve this area. State Wildlife Grants are helping coordinate recommendations on the restoration of the watershed's hydrology. By acting to protect the Cache River now, we can conserve the diverse array of wildlife that live there—including bobcats, river otter, and migratory birds—for future generations.



Invasive Plant Management, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Native Habitat Restoration**

Plants and animals that do not naturally occur in an area can be extremely disruptive to the natural balance of an ecosystem. State Wildlife Grants are helping to remove and reduce invasive species and restore habitat for the native wildlife of Illinois. In addition to managing public land, this funding is teaching private landowners how to identify and eliminate invasive species on their property. Protecting Illinois from invasive plants and animals will help preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and conserve vital natural areas important to many of our outdoor family traditions.



Common Moorhen, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Calumet Open Space Reserve Land Acquisition**

Wetlands harbor plants and animals that help clean water and provide flood protection. Unfortunately, as our communities grow, wetlands are disappearing due to development. State Wildlife Grants are helping the Illinois Department of Natural Resources protect Illinois' wetland through the purchase of the Calumet marsh. Working with the city of Chicago, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources used State Wildlife Grant money to purchase 102 acres of this vital natural habitat. Calumet is home to the state-listed little blue heron, yellow-headed blackbird, pied-billed grebe and common moorhen along with migrating waterfowl, shorebirds and neo-tropical migrants are met. By conserving this area now, both people and wildlife benefit.

Congress has appropriated \$12.5 million in State Wildlife Grants to Illinois since 2001. This has been matched with \$4.5 million state and partner dollars.