



*A sunny day at Illinois Beach State Park || Zion, IL*

# This June, *leave no* **Child** **inside.**



## June 2014

- Recapping the Legislative Session
- Green Jobs
- Curbing carbon emissions

green.illinois.gov  
Office of Governor Pat Quinn  
Comments, suggestions and  
submissions:  
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Conserve a tree.

Please do not print.

## Governor Quinn Proclaims June “Leave No Child Inside” Month in Illinois

Governor Pat Quinn proclaimed June as “Leave No Child Inside” month in Illinois, and encouraged families to spend time outdoors enjoying recreation opportunities, activities and events throughout the state.

“Following the harsh winter, our beautiful state parks and natural areas are great places for children to re-energize, get outdoors and get active,” Governor Quinn said. “We want to ‘Leave No Child Inside’ because children who spend time outdoors can have fun, get needed exercise and learn about the importance of protecting the natural wonders here in Illinois.”

As part of “Leave No Child Inside” month, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and partner organizations throughout Illinois will host a variety of activities and events in June and throughout the summer to encourage children and families to spend time outdoors.

“Events such as Illinois Free Fishing Days, and simple family activities like a hike on a nature trail in a state or local park, are great alternatives to being glued to a video game controller or bored by TV shows all summer,” IDNR Director Marc Miller said.

The “Leave No Child Inside” initiative was launched in 2007 to get more children outside and to increase the amount and quality of time they spend outdoors. The initiative is intended to promote outdoor activities as fun and healthy ways for families to spend time together, while helping improve health and fitness and curb child obesity.

Families are encouraged to check with local and regional parks, recreation agencies and youth organizations for information on local outdoor activities during the summer months.

*Ready to get outside? Check the events section for suggestions on how to explore Illinois’ great outdoors!*

## **Let's go outside!**

### **Free Fishing Days**

*Illinois DNR*

*Various Locations*

*June 6-9*

### **A Taste of Archaeology for Teens**

*Illinois DNR*

*Dickson Mounds Museum*

*June 10-12*

### **Owls: Hunters of the Night**

*Cache River State Natural  
Area*

*June 14*

### **Lockport Canal Days**

*Illinois State Museum,  
Lockport Gallery*

*June 14-15*

### **Nature Adventure for Kids**

*Illinois DNR*

*Dickson Mounds Museum*

*June 17-19*

### **Hike for Health**

*Beall Woods State Park*

*June 21*

## **Environmental Legislation Update**

The Illinois General Assembly debated and passed a number of bills relating to energy, sustainability and conservation. All of the bills that have passed await Governor Quinn's signature.

### **HB 2427**

Although a comprehensive legislative fix for the Renewable Portfolio Standards remains elusive, HB2427 allows the Illinois Power Agency to procure \$30 million in solar energy through the competitive auction process. This means more solar development in Illinois, along with more jobs and greener utility bills.

### **SB 2780**

An amendment to the Governor's Clean Water Initiative that allows sustainable water pollution control projects—stormwater runoff and treatment, industrial waste systems

and combined stormwater and sanitary sewer systems—to qualify for low-interest loans.

### **SB 2727**

Following a number of reports that cautioned against microbeads—granulated plastic contained in personal-hygiene products to improve scrubbing—because of the environmental damage they cause, the Illinois General Assembly banned microbeads from the market.

### **SB2966**

Urban flooding presents serious challenges to Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. This bill requires state agencies and residents to cooperate, study and ultimately issue a report that evaluates and reviews the latest information and policies related to urban flooding.

## **Green Jobs Corner**

- Various Opportunities in Energy Efficiency and Outreach  
*Elevate Energy*
- Technical Associate  
*The Delta Institute*
- GIS/Forest Technician  
*Naperville Forest Preserve*
- Regional Outreach Associate  
*CLEAResult*
- Account Representative  
*Waste Management, Inc.*
- Software Analyst  
*Enablon*
- Clean Water Advocate  
*Sierra Club*
- Director, Government Affairs  
*Sun Edison*



## Events

### Plants for Pollinators

Peggy Notebart Nature Museum  
June 7

### How safe are household chemicals?

UIC and Oak Park Library  
June 16

### Exploring Solar Technologies

CCGT  
June 17

### Backyard Chickens in the Big City

CCGT  
June 19

### Regulating Carbon Emissions

ICC and MEEA  
June 27

### Summer Sustainability Institute

UIC  
August 6-20

## Environmental Legislation Update

[Continued]

### [SB 2671](#)

Establishes more strict oversight of large used tire processing and storage facilities by requiring Illinois EPA permits and allocating funds to develop a secondary tire market. This will prevent open dumping problems and lead to economic development.

### [HB4716](#)

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) Act deals with an unpleasant reality: waste treatment. It allows the MWRD to sell or otherwise dispose of recovered resources or renewable

energy resources resulting from operations. This will provide an economic opportunity for MWRD to handle its solid waste obligations.

### [SB3049](#)

Common-sense legislation that protects the gray wolf, American black bear and the cougar by adding them to the list of protected species under the Illinois Wildlife Code.

### [SB3438](#)

This bill allows members of local food cooperatives to invest more money into more shares of their cooperative. Members can now purchase up to 10 shares with an upper limit of \$1,000.

## Towards a Greener Illinois

*Summer brings with it a number of opportunities to get outside and improve the environment.*

### **Bike Commuter Challenge** **June 13-20**

Sign up with more than 7,000 people at 450 Chicagoland companies and organizations for the Bike Commuter Challenge. Sponsored by the Active Transportation Alliance, over 20 percent of participants are first time bike commuters.

*[For more information visit bikecommuterchallenge.org.](http://bikecommuterchallenge.org)*

### **SCARCE Tools for Schools**

School may be out for summer, but this means teachers need to start planning for next year. SCARCE helps teachers make environmentally-friendly classroom decisions by collecting books and school supplies for reuse.

Teachers must bring a valid ID to SCARCE's headquarters to browse through the truckloads of new to gently-used classroom supplies. There is also a bin for donations.

*[Learn more about SCARCE's Tools for Schools program.](#)*

# Containing Carbon Emissions

On Monday, June 2 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first guidelines to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. The plan—an initiative directly from President Barack Obama—targets a 30 percent cut in carbon emissions below 2005 levels.

“I commend President Obama for confronting this critical issue,” said

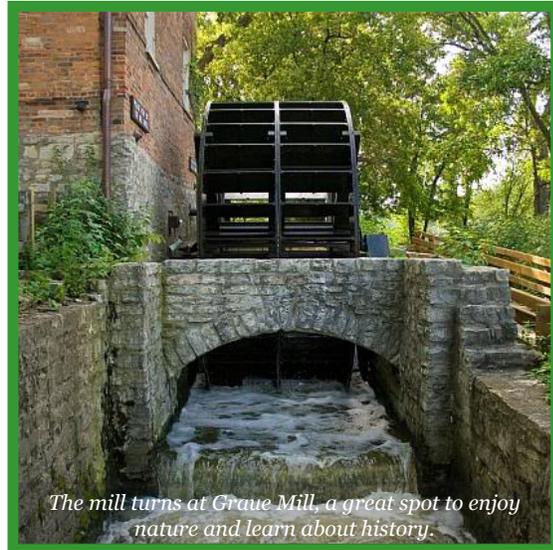
Governor Quinn in response to the rule making. “Illinois has seen the devastating impacts of severe weather first-hand with 11 natural disasters over the past five years. Moving toward a cleaner, more reliable and resilient energy system will bring significant benefits to our communities and our state.”

[-Read Governor Quinn's full statement.](#)

[-Read the full EPA rule here.](#)



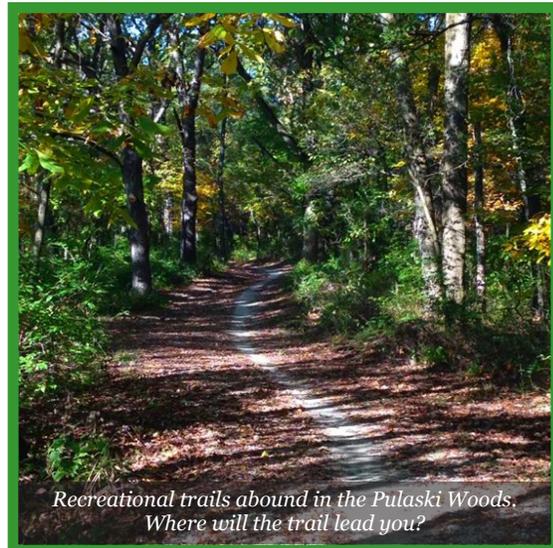
*Governor Pat Quinn speaks about effectively managing our freshwater resources in Chicago.*



*The mill turns at Graue Mill, a great spot to enjoy nature and learn about history.*



*Cyclists enjoy the Burnham Greenway as it meanders through the Millennium Reserve.*



*Recreational trails abound in the Pulaski Woods. Where will the trail lead you?*

*All photos courtesy Governor's Office and Flickr Creative Commons*

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