

# ILLINOIS & THE NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

AUGUST 2013

## Wetland Summary

Wetlands cover about 3.5 percent of Illinois. The largest acreage of wetlands is in the bottom-land forests and swamps along the State's major rivers. Northeastern Illinois also has a large concentration of wetlands. Illinois has lost as much as 90 percent of its original wetlands over the last 200 years; most of the losses have been due to drainage for conversion to agricultural and other uses. The primary State law governing wetlands is the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989, which sets a goal of no net loss of wetlands due to projects funded by the State. Wetlands can be owned and protected by the public as County Forest Preserve Districts. Wetlands on private lands can be protected using various conservation tools such as being designated as a Nature Preserve or Land and Water Reserve by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission or by public entities such as Conservation or Forest Preserve Districts or the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

## Distinctive Example of NWI Usage in Illinois












The DuPage County, Illinois Wetland Maps were developed based on the NWI maps. DuPage County is currently working to revise the maps with the intent to share data with US Fish and Wildlife for inclusion in the NWI maps. Members of the public, regulatory and development communities use the maps in the following ways: informed real estate decisions; informed residents; education; and watershed planning. Recently, Ducks Unlimited updated the NWI maps for all of Illinois.

## Identified Uses of NWI In Illinois



## LEGEND

How the NWI has been used:

-  Agricultural Planning & Conservation
-  Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Planning
-  Development, Real Estate & Permitting Decisions
-  Energy Project Siting Decisions
-  Enforcement & Legal Defense
-  Hurricane, Storm Surge & Sea Level Rise Planning
-  Military Installation Assessment
-  Transportation Planning
-  Water Quality & Watershed Management Projects
-  Wetland Restoration, Monitoring & Assessment
-  Wildlife & Habitat Conservation

For the most up-to-date wetland mapping information, please contact the state contact(s) listed below:

Pat Malone, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

[www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

