

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Making a Difference for Illinois Rivers

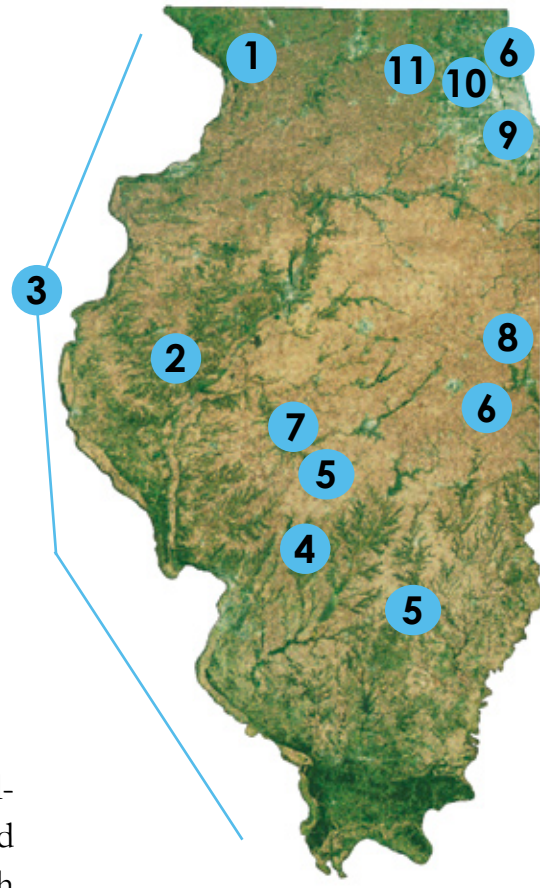
1 “Traditions” mega-dairy denied permit to fill in stream to make manure storage pond.

2 Industry coal mine is being held accountable for over 300 Clean Water Act violations.

3 Wasteful spending on unnecessary expansion of harmful Upper Mississippi River navigation structures blocked.

4 30 million gallons of polluted water no longer destined for Coffeen Lake; new coal ash pond at Coffeen Power Station will use state-of-the-art pollution controls.

5 Deer Run and Sugar Camp coal mines required to reduce water pollution & demonstrate new pollution control measures that will set the bar higher for other mines.



6 Voters make a difference! After hearing from our members:

- Reps. Dold and Biggert changed votes to support EPA efforts to protect air & water from mercury pollution; and
- Rep. Johnson voted to support EPA’s role protecting clean water.

7 South Sangamon Water Commission’s new drinking water plant will reduce pollution to the Sangamon River and protect onsite wetlands.

8 New habitat conservation plan for Vermilion River will improve riverside habitat.

9 New rules will finally protect users of the Chicago River from bacteria and viruses in sewage.

10 Growing support for restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins to prevent the transfer of invasive Asian carp and other harmful plants and animals.

11 Village of Sycamore Sewage Treatment Plant will reduce nutrient pollution to Kishwaukee River.

In 2012 and beyond, we will continue to address the most important issues for the health of our rivers and the health of our communities. Our goals include:



Stream water polluted by manure

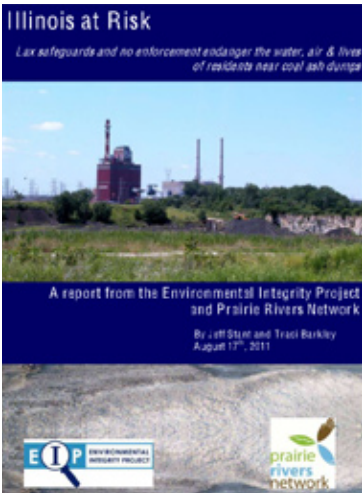
Reducing pollution from farming.

Conventional farming methods can pollute water and damage vital headwater streams. We will continue to press for Farm Bill provisions that require less polluting practices, and encourage farmers to enroll in conservation programs that compensate them for adopting water-friendly practices.

We will continue to press for increased oversight of under-regulated factory farms and strengthened state livestock regulations.



PRN fact sheet on 2012 Farm Bill



PRN report on coal waste threat

Enforcing clean water laws.

Without our actions, state regulators lack the backing they need to be tough on pollution. Our efforts will compel regulators to establish limits for nutrient pollution that fouls state waters and causes the Gulf of Mexico's Dead Zone. Winning better controls on coal ash disposal will protect communities from groundwater pollution. We will continue to work directly with industry to demonstrate and document cost-effective methods for reducing water pollution.



Joliet rally against coal waste pollution



Chicago River

Re-envisioning how we live with our rivers.

There is great need to change the way we live with our rivers. The manmade reversal of the Chicago River and the levees and dams that choke the Upper Mississippi River have outlived their purpose. The current practice of paving and plowing to the edges of rivers and wetlands results in increased flooding and pollution. Our work to prevent the spread of Asian carp and other invaders, and to improve river-side habitat conservation will promote a new paradigm of mutual benefit, fostering a healthier living and working relationship with our rivers.



Asian carp on Illinois River