

## Mission Statement

To increase awareness and appreciation of rivers in Illinois by planning activities and events cultivating education, recreation and conservation each year on the third Saturday in September.

Education, recreation and conservation are important to the health of our rivers. They are interconnected like a river within its ecosystem. It is important to keep the history and culture of life along the river alive, to continue to address the threats against its health, and to form new and innovative ways to provide access to the waterways for recreation.

With this in mind, communities and organizations are invited to celebrate your river by offering citizens a chance to contribute to the health of the watershed by providing organized activities and events annually on the third Saturday in September.



For more information on how to celebrate It's Our River Day within your community or organization, please contact:

**Office of Governor Pat Quinn**  
217-782-6830 (Springfield)  
Or visit [www.CleanWaterIllinois.org](http://www.CleanWaterIllinois.org)

## For More Info

Visit [www.CleanWaterIllinois.org](http://www.CleanWaterIllinois.org) for a listing of all the events planned.

### Join In!

If you are group interested in organizing an It's Our River Day event, here's how you join in:

1. Designate a lead contact in your community or organization for It's Our River Day.
2. Determine your event. Your event should take place on the third Saturday in September.
3. Visit our website at [www.CleanWaterIllinois.org](http://www.CleanWaterIllinois.org) and fill out the Event Contact Sheet.
4. Your event will be listed on the official It's Our River Day link from information provided by the lead contact to the Governor's Office in Step 3.
5. Publicize your event locally.
6. Get out and celebrate It's Our River Day!

It's Our River Day is organized by the Illinois River Coordinating Council (IRCC). The IRCC is a diverse group of citizens, grassroots and not-for-profit organizations, federal and state agencies, sportsmen, river enthusiasts, and others who oversee planning and funding for preservation and restoration of the Illinois Watershed.

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Illinois River Coordinating Council  
Pat Quinn, Governor



# It's Our River Day

A celebration of Illinois  
watersheds through  
Education  
Recreation  
Conservation

Saturday, September 19, 2009



[www.CleanWaterIllinois.org](http://www.CleanWaterIllinois.org)

## Education

For many generations, the rivers in Illinois have supported life, inspired art and influenced culture. Ancient civilizations settled along rivers because of their rich diversity of plant and animal life. Thousands of years later, people still depend upon the river as a valuable resource. The chronology of human dependence, interaction, abuse and restoration of our rivers is an important lesson for people of all ages.

We encourage educators and citizens today to promote the rich natural history of life along the rivers of Illinois.



## Recreation



Rivers provide a vast array of recreational opportunities. Hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and water sports are only a few of the activities that rely on Illinois rivers as a resource.

River-related recreation not only provides entertainment, it also fosters an appreciation for rivers as a natural resource.

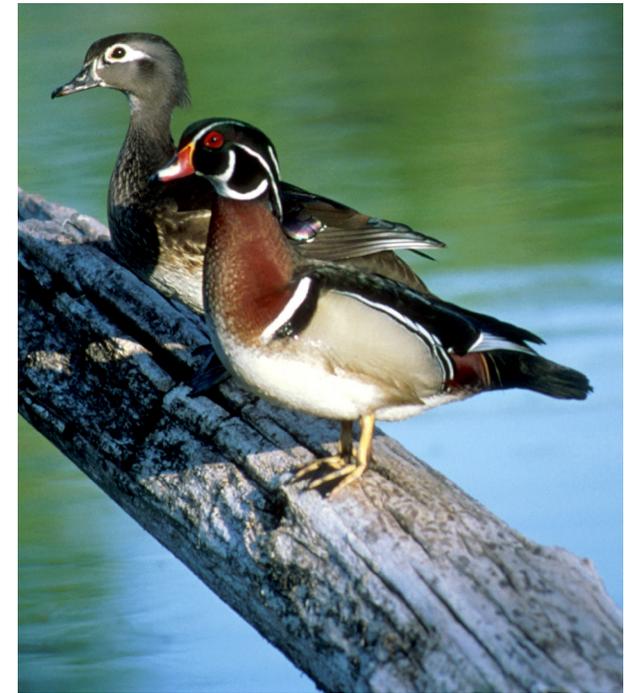
Recreation on Illinois rivers provides fun and excitement for everyone! It is our hope that it will also demonstrate the need to protect our waters.

## Conservation

For thousands of years, Native Americans and European settlers lived along rivers because they provided the necessities of life, including food, shelter and water. While some of the resources taken from the rivers have changed, the waterways are no less important in the framework of today's civilization.

Economics has placed a huge strain on our river systems. Sedimentation, pollution and altered habitats are only a few of the long list of threats that affect the health of our waters.

Through citizen involvement and conservation, we can raise awareness of the issues and learn ways to protect and preserve Illinois' waterways.



Courtesy of Natural Resource Conservation Service

# CELEBRATE IT'S OUR RIVER DAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2009