



## Illinois Forestry Development Council

The Council shall study and evaluate the forest resources and the forest industries of Illinois.

### Inside This Addition...

Fiscal Year  
2016 & 2017  
Reports

### Report from the Director...

This Report is normally an annual issue. However, due the State's budget status, the Illinois Forestry Development Council's (IFDC) last two Reports have been biannual. The Council, though unfunded for FY-16, did manage to meet three times and was able to submit a proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project to revitalize the State's Oak-Hickory forest type. More on that later in the Report.



I was recently corrected in a statement that I gave to a Chicago Tribune reporter where I stated the State's Forestland at 4.1 million acres. My local Extension Forester let me know that we are now just over 5 million acres of forestland! Yes, we are making some great strides in re-establishing some great habitat for 75% of our native wildlife and of course we grow some of the best hardwood timber in this great Nation of ours. The Forest and Forest Products Industry provides over 130,000 jobs, with a payroll of over \$8 billion with tax revenues of \$2.5 billion dollars, a \$23 billion-dollar industry!

Included in this report I've listed the Council roster of appointees and those slots directed by statute. I urge the Executive and Legislative branches to fill open positions and act on nominated appointees that we have moved through the system as soon as possible.

It is a real pleasure and honor to serve as Director for the Illinois Forestry Development Council. We have a good core of Council Members that are dedicated to our Illinois Forests.

The following is a report on Council activities and recommendations for future actions.

Sincerely,

**Bill Gradle, Director**  
Illinois Forestry Development Council



# IFDC Biennial Report -- FY 2016/2017

**Note:** This report covers the last two fiscal years and will return to a single reporting year for FY2018.

During fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Council has been involved in many statewide forestry issues that effect the delivery of forestry technical assistance and financial assistance to private forest landowners and municipal/urban forestry interests and communities.

## Our RCPP Adventure...

State funding was not provided to the Council in FY2016 to facilitate the grant program. A pre-Proposal application was submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project, "Improving Oak-Hickory Forest Type in Illinois", in November 2015. This proposal was accepted and the Council was invited to submit a final proposal for the project in April 2016.

The Project was selected for funding in October 2016. The project will bring \$2.3 million dollars over five years to provide technical and financial assistance to Illinois forest landowners for the installation of practices on private forestland in 4 targeted areas covering 37 counties in Illinois that contain approximately 1.2 million acres of Oak-Hickory forest type (see map below). Practices include:

- Brush Management
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Herbaceous Weed Control
- Prescribed Burning
- Forest Stand Improvement

Funding comes from the NRCS' Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). Applicants must have a forest management plan that is current and up to date. NRCS assists interested landowners with their applications and ranks the application.

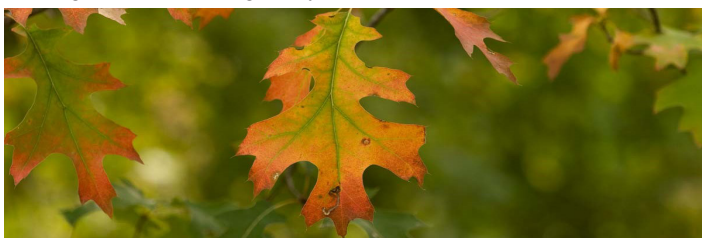
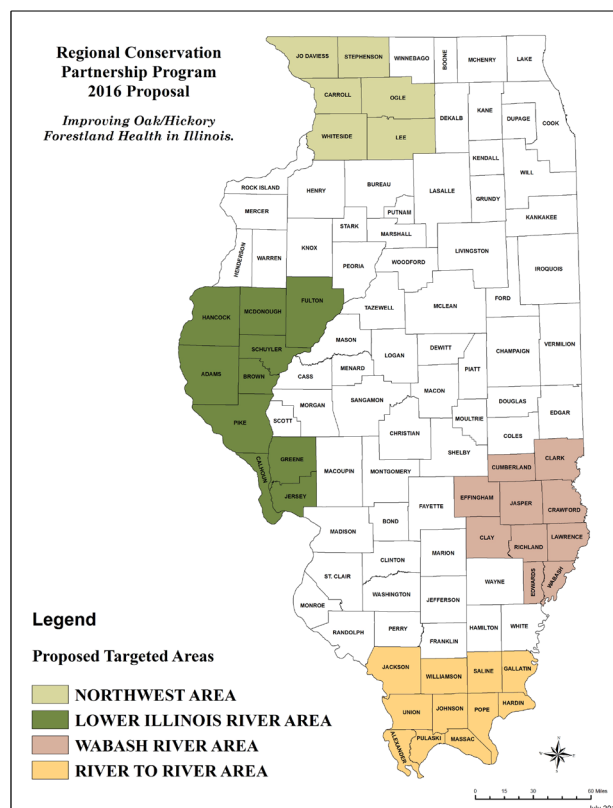
Ranking criteria was developed with input from the Council. The signup is continuous and the first cutoff for applications was in January, 2017. More than 400 applications were collected and ranked. The Council provided input on the number of applications that would be funded in this first year.

Thirty seven applications were funded at \$758,000 covering 3,533 acres. Contracts will be developed from the approved applications, which cover from 1 to 5 years, depending on the amount of work to be performed. Remaining funds will be obligated into contracts from ranked applications over the next four years, or until the funds are depleted. NRCS will determine the cutoff dates for ranking and will consult with the Council on funding amounts for a given year.

## Approved Grants...

All of our current year projects are progressing well as indicated in their quarterly reports. Grants approved for the FY2017 cycle are as follows:

Title/Purpose	Sponsor	Amount
1. <del>Mgmt</del> of Invasive Plants & Pests in IL	Morton Arboretum	\$4,061
2. Raising Awareness Of Forest Invaders	River to River Coop. Weed Mgmt. Area	\$4,888
3. Forest Landowner Engagement, Phase 2	Illinois Forestry Assoc.	\$5,000
4. Woodland Res. Mgmt.	Crawford Co. SWCD	\$3,930
5. Outreach to Promote Program Implementation	Lincoln Heritage RC&D	\$3,200
6. Survey of Tree Plantings In So. IL w/ <del>Mgmt</del> Options	U of I Extension	\$5,000
7. Reforestation Tour Booklet/Video	Champaign Co. SWCD	\$2,000
8. Timber & Industry Analysis Report	IDNR	\$3,540
9. TIGER Inv. Update	IDNR	\$1,200
10. Tree Signage	IDNR	\$5,000



## Initiatives & Accomplishments - FY 2016/2017

Council initiatives during the past year include the following:

- Worked with both State and Federal agencies to keep forestry technical assistance levels up at a level where planning and implementation of forest management plans and implementation of practices are not impeded due to a lack of this valuable asset.
- Commended the Director of IDNR, Wayne Rosenthal, for keeping the Mason Tree Nursery open and staffed.
- Printed 1,000 copies of the newly revised Silviculture Manual for distribution.
- Printed 1,000 copies of the pamphlet, "Forestry Best Management Practices," for distribution. The publication serves as a handbook of voluntary guidelines to ensure Illinois' forests are not degraded.
- Working with other forestry groups and Congressman Rodney Davis to amend the regulation in the Farm Bill concerning the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) where it mandates that 60% of EQIP funding goes to livestock concerns. The Council feels that each respective State Conservationist, working with their State Technical Committee, can make that decision rather than a mandate from the "Beltway" in Washington, D.C.
- The Council continues to review the Illinois Forest Action Plan and will discuss the final draft at its next meeting in July 2017.

The Committee continues to meet regularly and engages new members. Historical documents and past meeting minutes are now housed on the IDNR Urban and Community Forestry Program Partner Initiatives webpage.

The Committee, along with the entire Council, has spent a great deal of time on the development, revision, and review of the Illinois Forest Action Plan (IFAP). With the changing demographics of Illinois from rural to urban, the role of and importance of our urban forest continues to increase. The IFAP reflects these changes.

The Committee is also tasked with helping facilitate an improvement in the quality and quantity of urban forestry management across Illinois. The Committee's meetings have provided an opportunity for committee members and partner organizations to discuss new ideas and approaches and garner support for initiatives.

In the upcoming year, the Committee is looking to formalize its vision and structure while developing a strategic plan, promote and educate about the benefits of trees and species diversity, help facilitate and expand Urban and Community Forestry education opportunities in the State, and work with and through partners to improve the quality and condition of Illinois' urban forests.

## Urban & Community Forestry Committee 2016 Accomplishments

The Illinois Arborist Association (IAA) selected Robert Sproule from the Village of Oak Park, as its new liaison to the Illinois Forestry Development Council (IFDC). Rob has since been confirmed as the new chairperson for the Urban and Community Forestry Committee.

The Committee and Council would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Steve Ludwig from the Village of Algonquin, who previously served in the same position and has now moved onto a new position within the IAA.

The Committee would also like to thank Beth Corrigan of the Moron Arboretum who was acting as the Committee's Secretary. She has stepped down and been replaced by Sravya Pamulapati, an intern with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Urban and Community Forestry Program. The Committee will continue towards their goal of improving the scale and quality of urban and community forestry within Illinois.





## Critical Members of IFDC

The Illinois Forestry Development Council was created in 1983 upon passage of the Illinois Forestry Development Act (525 ILCS 15). The Council's charge is to identify and evaluate the social, economic, scientific and educational value of Illinois' forest lands and forest products industries. The 29 members of the Council represent the following interests or groups:

MEMBER	REPRESENTING		
<b>Vacant</b>	Landowner Engaged in Farming	Dr. Jeffrey Brawn Mr. Jay Hayek**	University of Illinois/Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
<b>Vacant</b>	Landowner Engaged in Farming	Dr. James J. Zaczek,	Chair, Southern IL University-Carbondale Dept. of Forestry
Mr. Roy Bailey	Private Timber Grower	Mr. Raymond Poe Mr. Elliot Lagacy**	Illinois Department of Agriculture
Dr. Karla Gage	Private Timber Grower	Mr. Wayne Rosenthal Mr. Tom Wilson, CF**	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Stan Curtis	Wood Products/Primary Forest Industry	Ms. Kim Watson	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Mr. Craig Willenborg	Wood Products/Secondary Forest Industry	Mr. Chris B. Meister Ms. Lorrie Karcher** Mr. Patrick Evans**	Illinois Finance Authority
Mr. Kurt Bobsin	Illinois Tree Farm Committee	Mr. Christopher Merrett	Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
Mr. John Edgington Mr. Mike McMahan**	Illinois Forestry Association	<b>Vacant</b>	IL Speaker of the House
Mr. Cole Craft	Illinois Walnut Council	<b>Vacant</b>	IL House Minority Leader
Mr. Benjamin Snyder	Illinois Chapter of the Society of American Foresters	<b>Vacant</b>	IL Senate President
Mr. Scott Beckerman	Illinois Chapter of the Wildlife Society	Mr. Jason Barickman (R)	IL Senate Minority Leader
Mr. Michael Brunk	Urban Forestry Representative	Mr. Ivan Dozier* Mr. Wade Conn**	USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service Illinois
Mr. Robert Sproule	Illinois Arborist Association	Mr. Brendan Cain*	U.S Forest Service Shawnee National Forest
Mr. Steve Stierwalt Mr. Ray Herman**	Association of Illinois Soil & Water Conservation Districts		
<b>Vacant</b>	Environmental Issues		

**\*Ex-officio Members**

**\*\*Designee or Alternate**

