Land Trusts Role in the New Era
Systemic Change, Policy, Activism

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Openlands
Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship Act
(House Bill 3458)
Illinois Nature Preserves? *Nature Preserves are the Best & the Rarest* (617 Sites on 108,000+ Acres in 94 Counties)
So What’s the Problem?

Restored + Time – Care = Degraded

Time = Fragmentation, invaders, trespassers, etc.
We Need to Change the Equation:

Restored + Time + Care = Beautiful

BUT... Care = $$$
So Where’s the $$$?

1. Nonprofit organizations
2. Volunteers & Contractors (Pro-bono)
3. Public agencies
   ✓ Army Corps of Engineers
   ~ Local Governments
   ○ State Government
     ○ Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) has $15M+
     ○ Dedicated for conservation via Real Estate Transfer Tax
     ○ DNR unable to spend it & Susceptible to “Sweeps”
Why the State Should Step Up:
IDNR owns ½ Nature Preserve Acres
Dedicated Funds -> Intended Purpose
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<th>Barrington Area Conservation Trust</th>
<th>Grand Prairie Friends</th>
<th>Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation</th>
<th>Macon County Conservation Foundation</th>
<th>Peoria Audubon Society</th>
<th>St. Clair County Greenspace Foundation</th>
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<td>Great Rivers Land Trust</td>
<td>Lake Bluff Open Lands Association</td>
<td>Natural Land Institute</td>
<td>Pheasants Forever</td>
<td>The Conservation Foundation</td>
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<td>Clifftop NFP</td>
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<td>Prairie Land Conservancy</td>
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<td>Heartland Pathways</td>
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<td>Friends of the Kankakee</td>
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<td>Friends of the Sangamon Valley</td>
<td>Jane Addamsland Park Foundation</td>
<td>Land Conservation Foundation</td>
<td>ParkLands Foundation</td>
<td>River Bend Wildland Trust</td>
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**Help US Help YOU:**

*41 different 501 (c)3 Land Trusts throughout Illinois*
DNR: Agreement Details decided in Rulemaking

- **Grants**: Grantees must be a 501(c)3 that protects &/or restores natural areas

- **Use of grants**: Funds only pre-approved actions in a DNR-approved Management Plan

- **Caps**: DNR may “cap” annual funding for the program

- **Distribution of grants**: DNR may set a “max” grant award &/or cap how much one grantee can get

- **DNR needs**: DNR may use NAAF to pay its own costs to run this program
What You Can Do:

- Moving through the legislative process
- Sponsor is Charlie Meyer, Get Co-sponsors
- House Committee:
  - Witness slips, testimony, calling committee members
- When House votes (third reading) call your Representative
- Senate Committee
- Witness slips, testimony, calling committee members
- When Senate votes (third reading) Call your Senator
- Governor
- Take your legislator to your sites or send pictures.