

Habits of Effective Prescribed Fire Programs

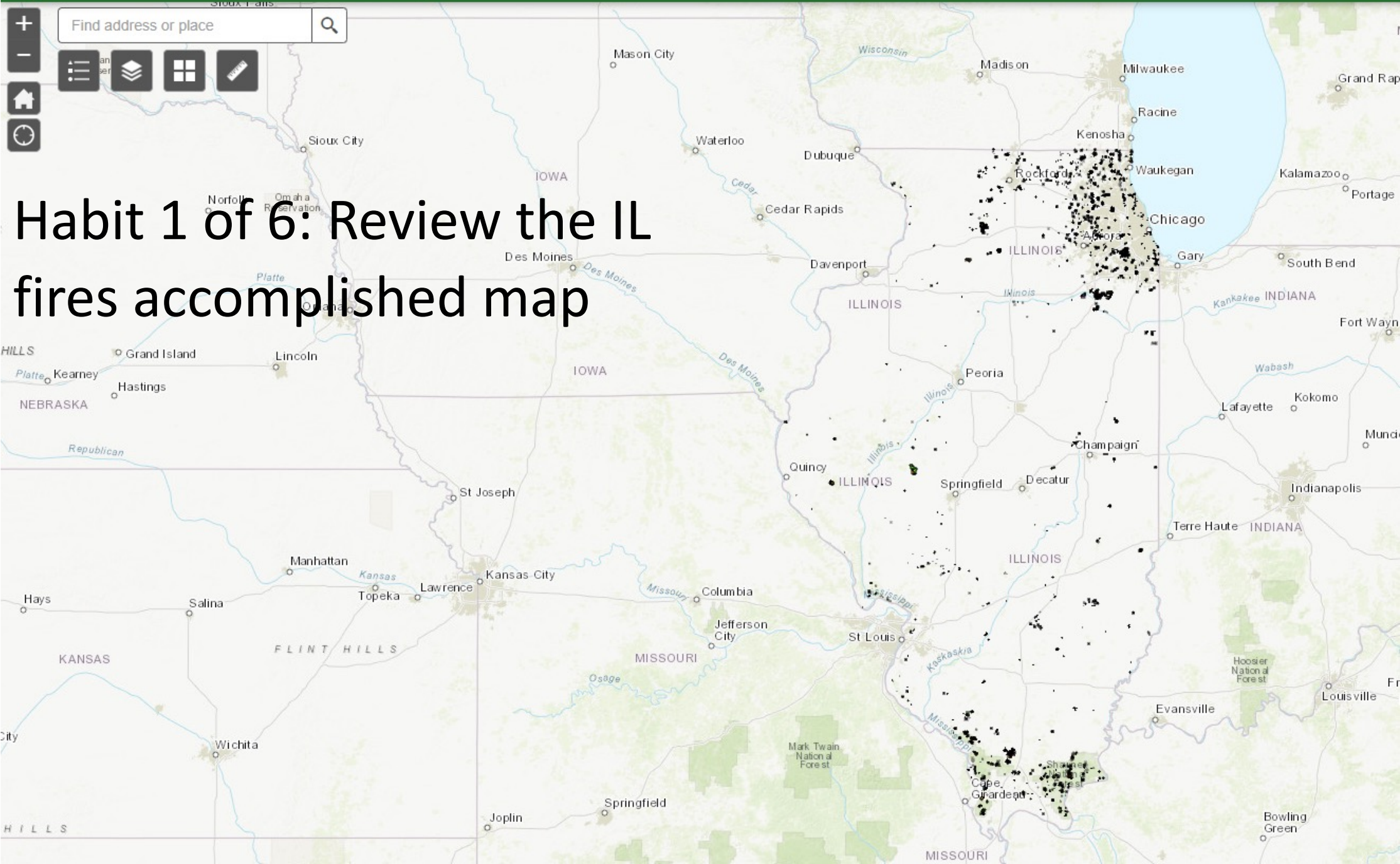
Bill Kleiman, Nachusa Grasslands Director

The Nature
Conservancy 
Nachusa Grasslands









Habit 1 of 6: Review the IL fires accomplished map



Illinois Prescribed Fire Council

TO PROMOTE THE SAFE AND CONTINUED USE OF PRESCRIBED FIRE

Illinois Prescribed Fire Council

We are a group of individuals, organizations, land managers and agencies interested in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of prescribed fires in Illinois. Membership is open to anyone. Interested in natural resources, fire protection, public policy, habitat restoration and wildlife? Join us!



[Illinois Fire Needs Assessment](#)



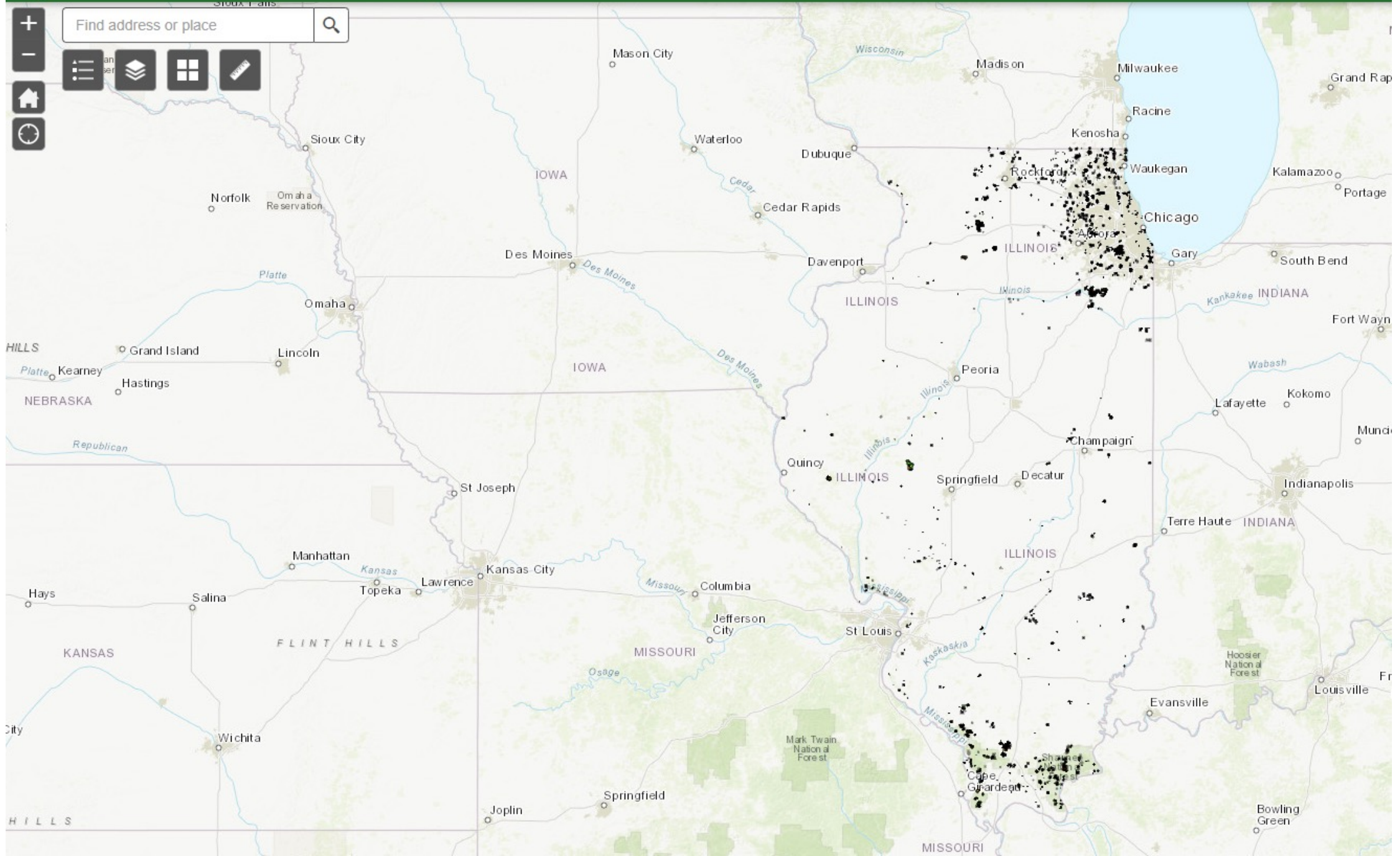
[Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished Map](#)



[Symposium Videos 2022](#)

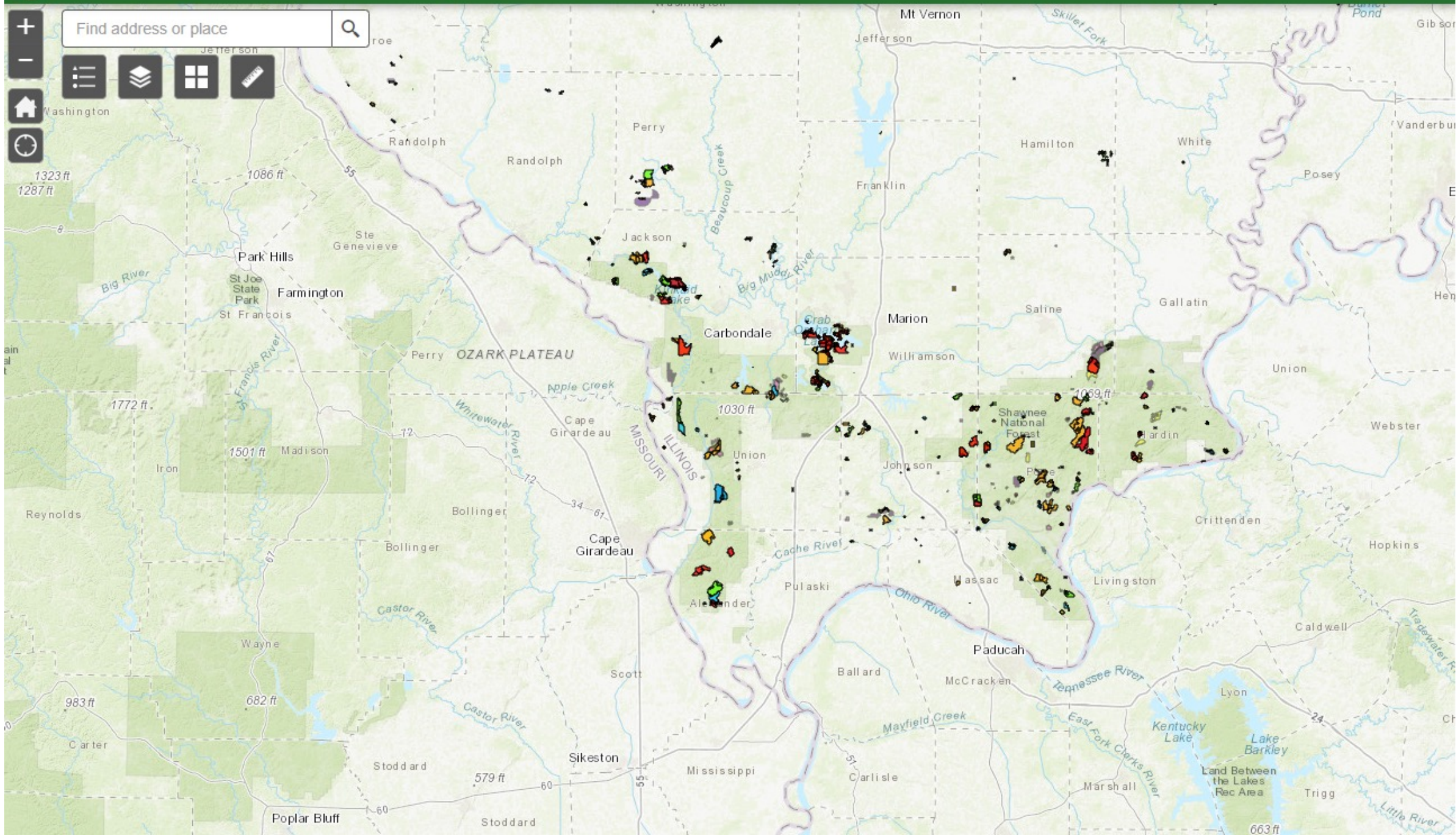


Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished

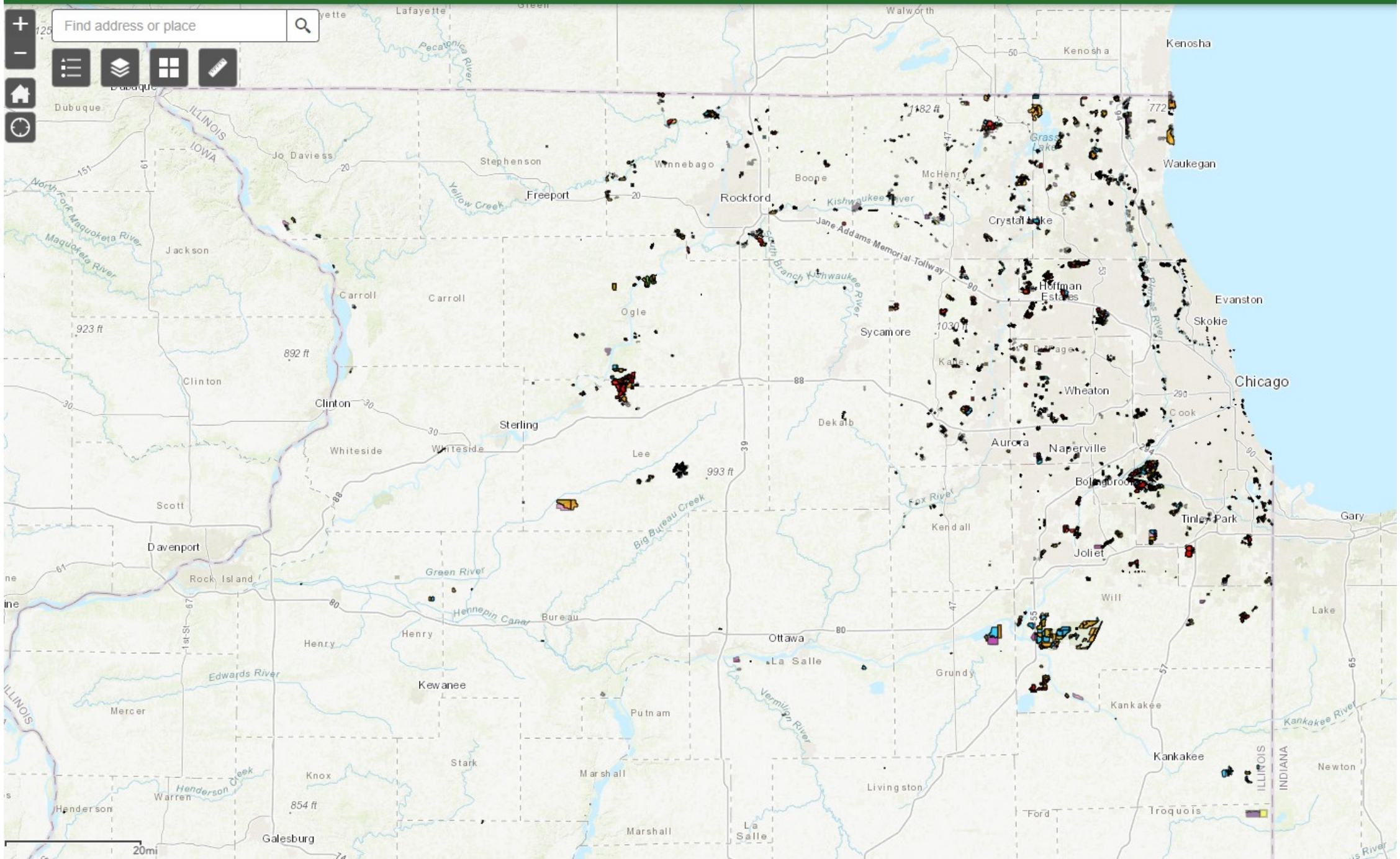




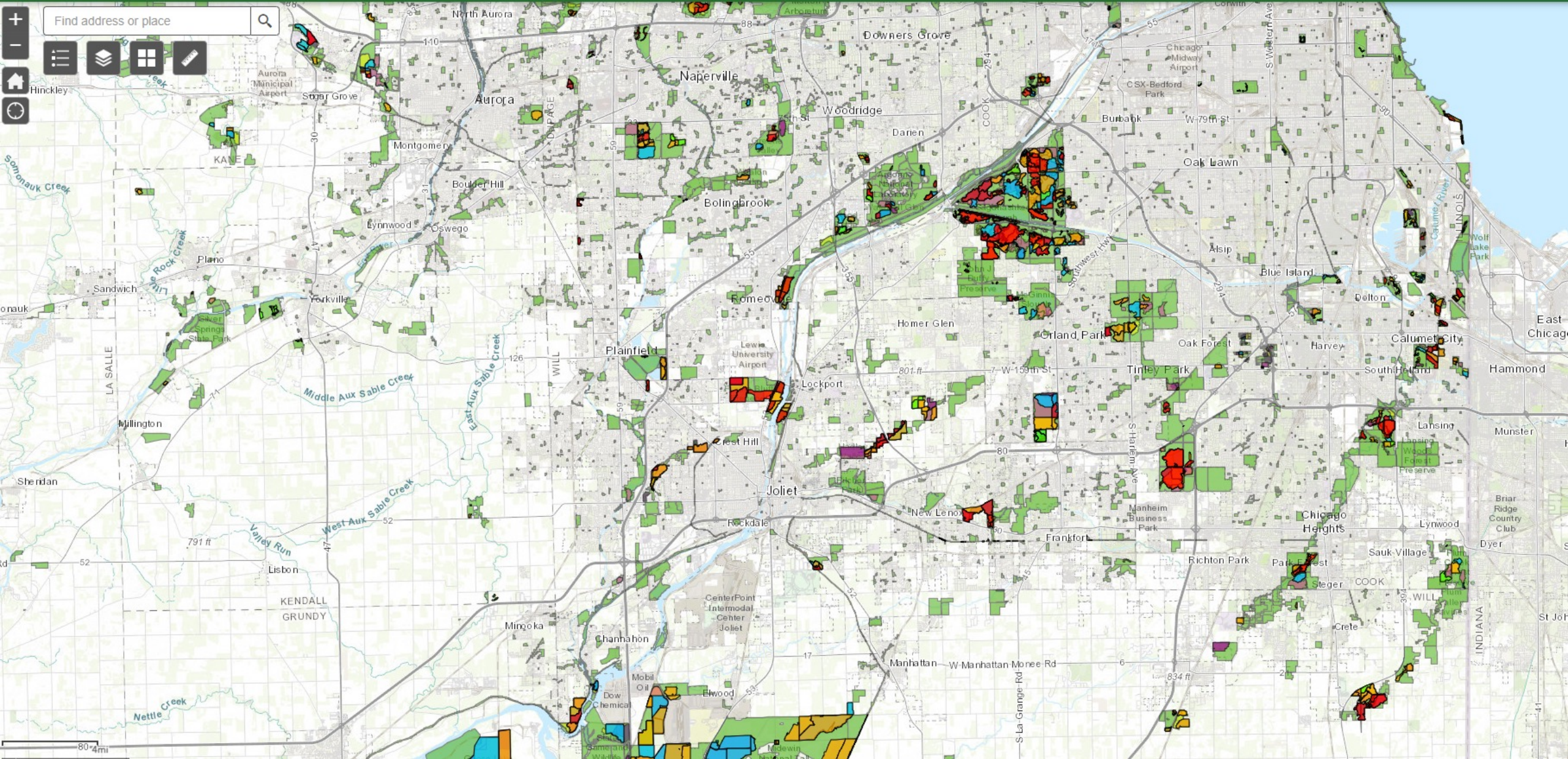
Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished



Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished

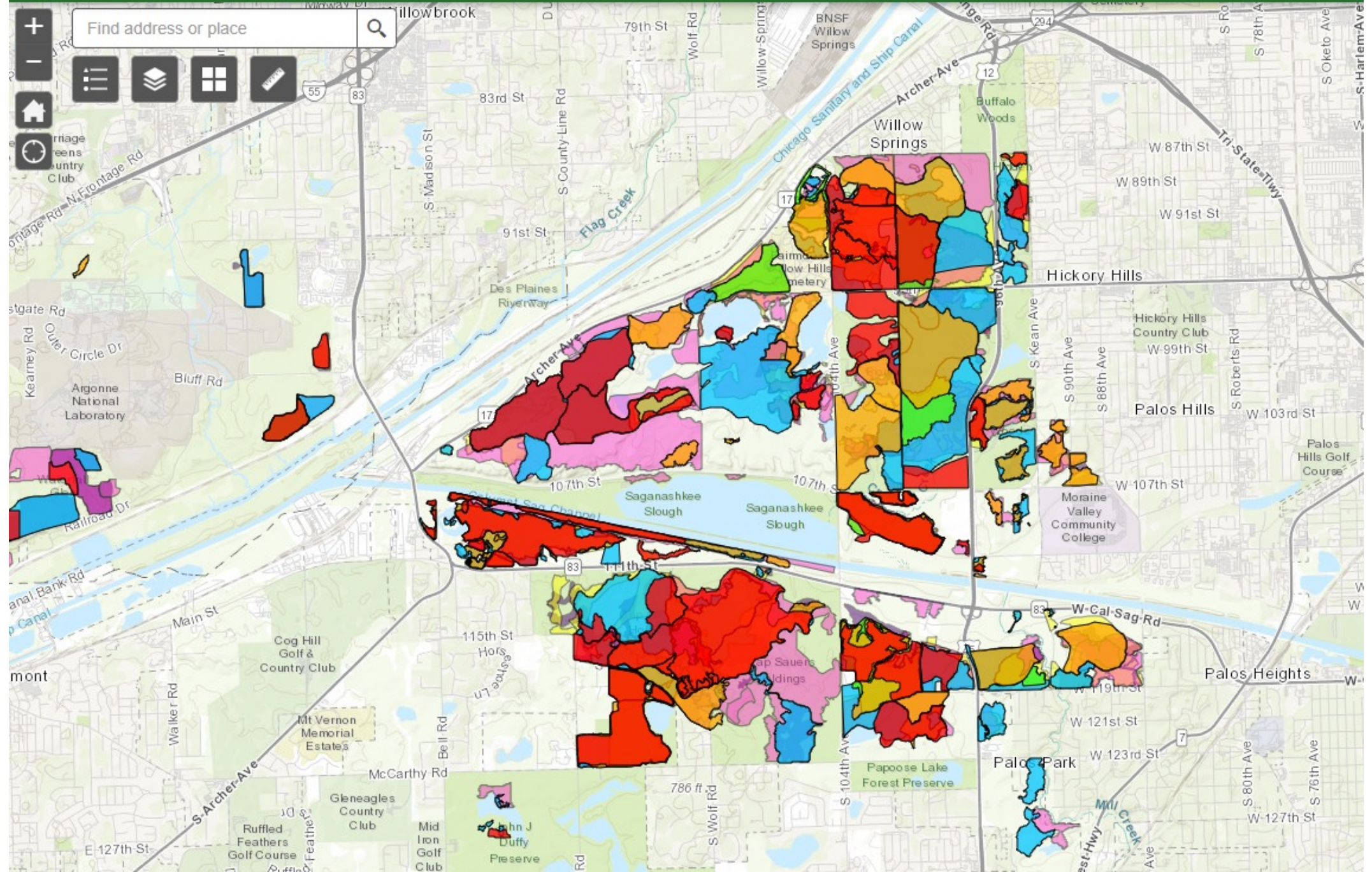


Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished



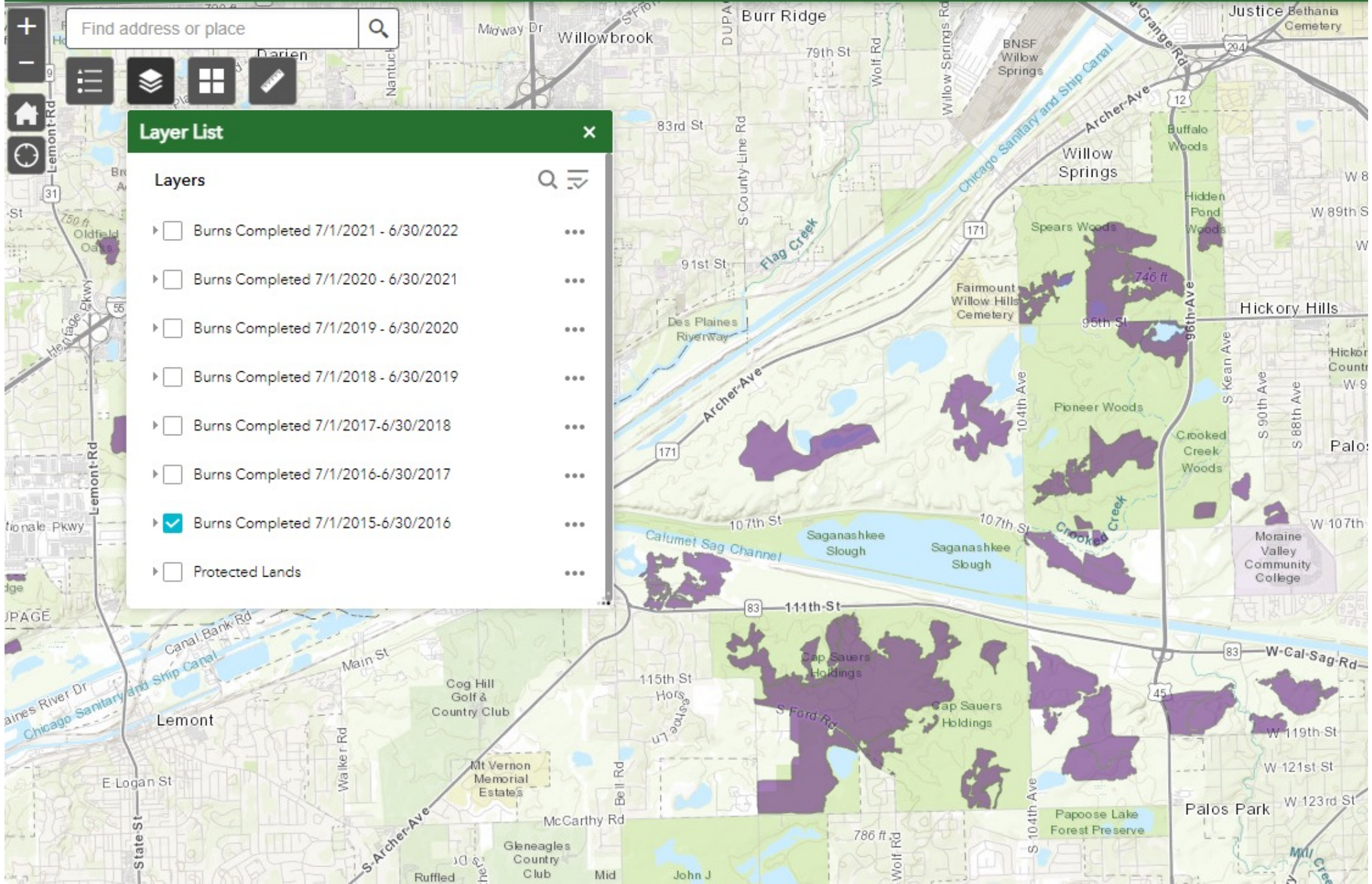


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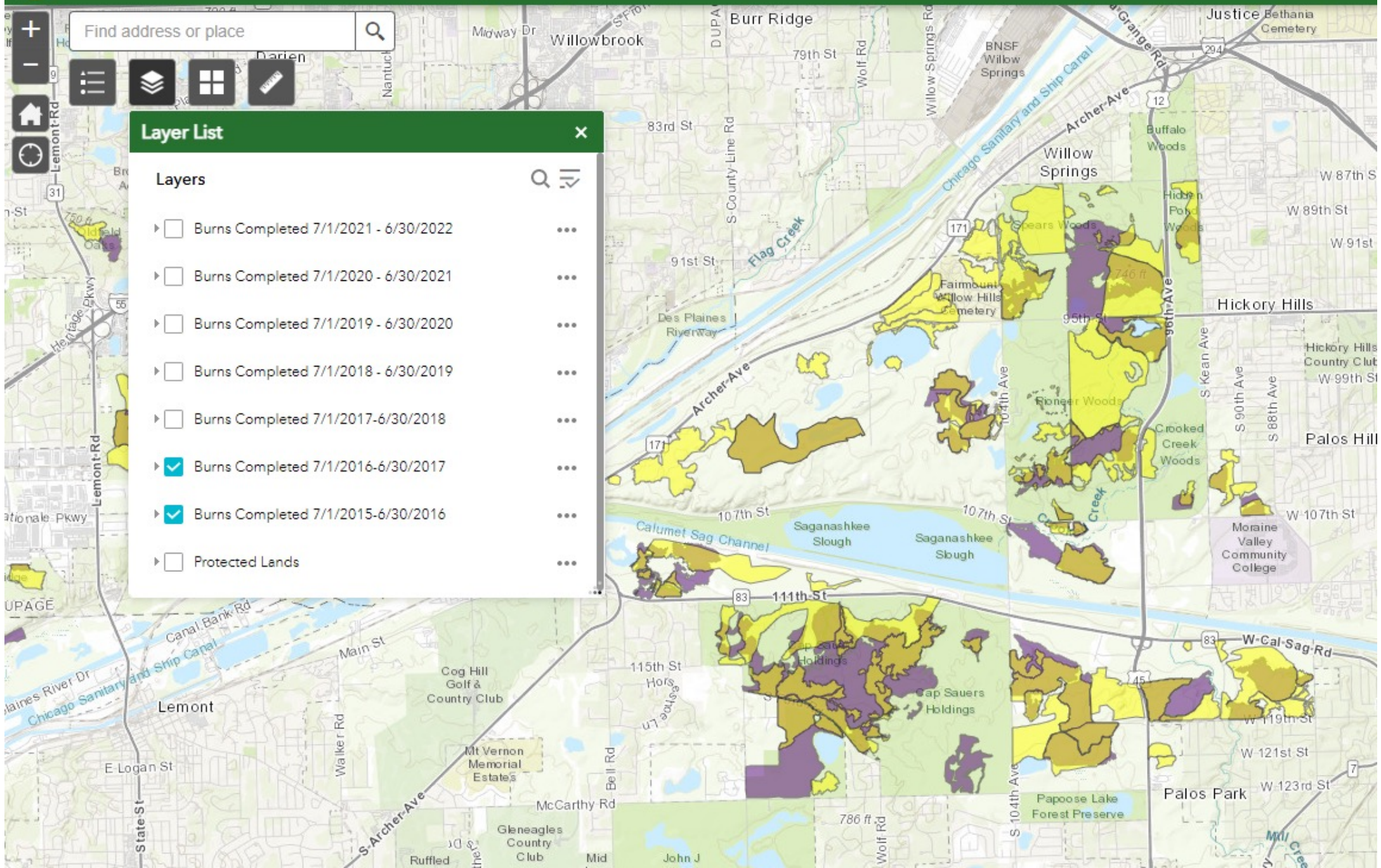




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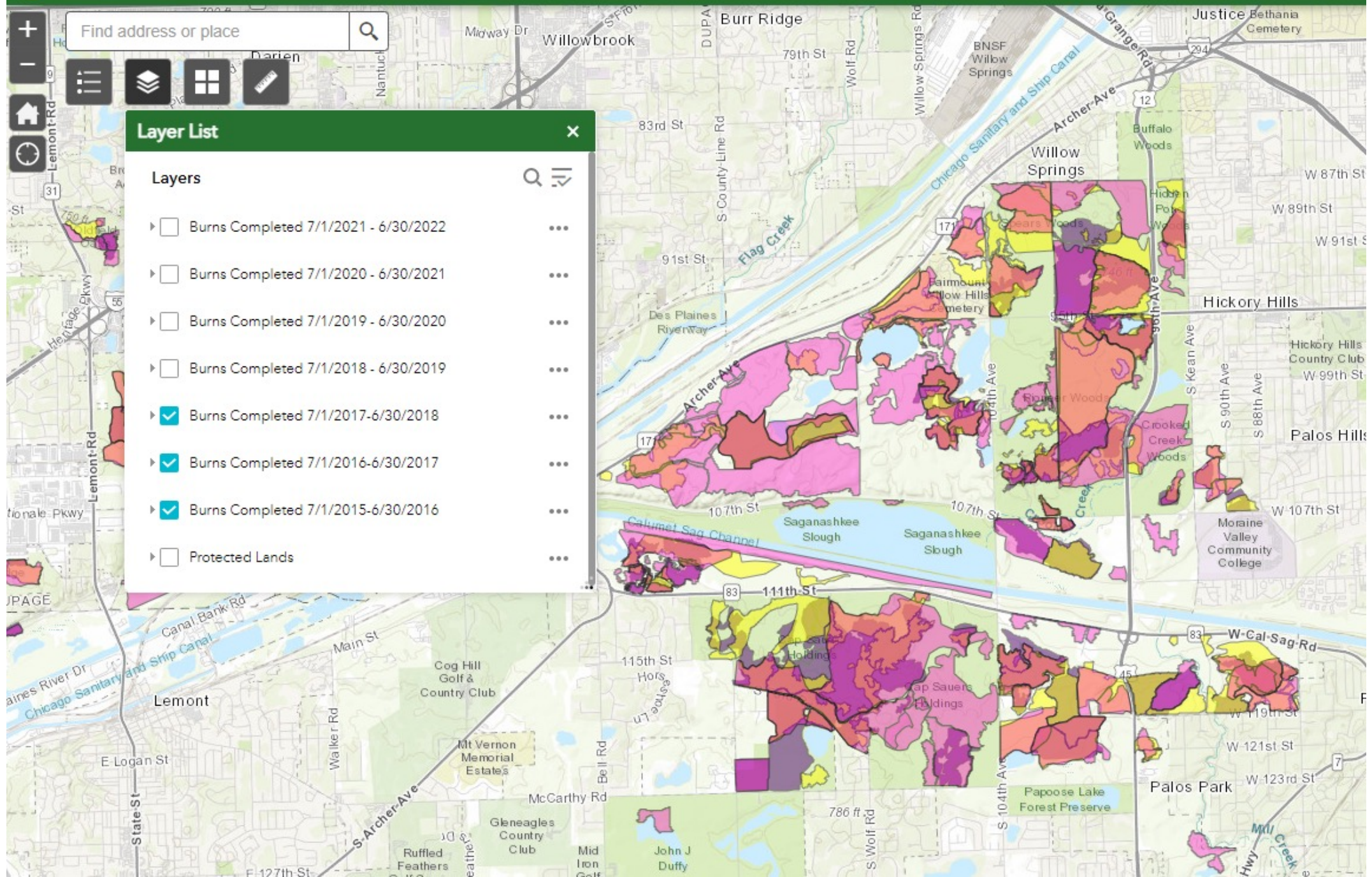


Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished





Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished



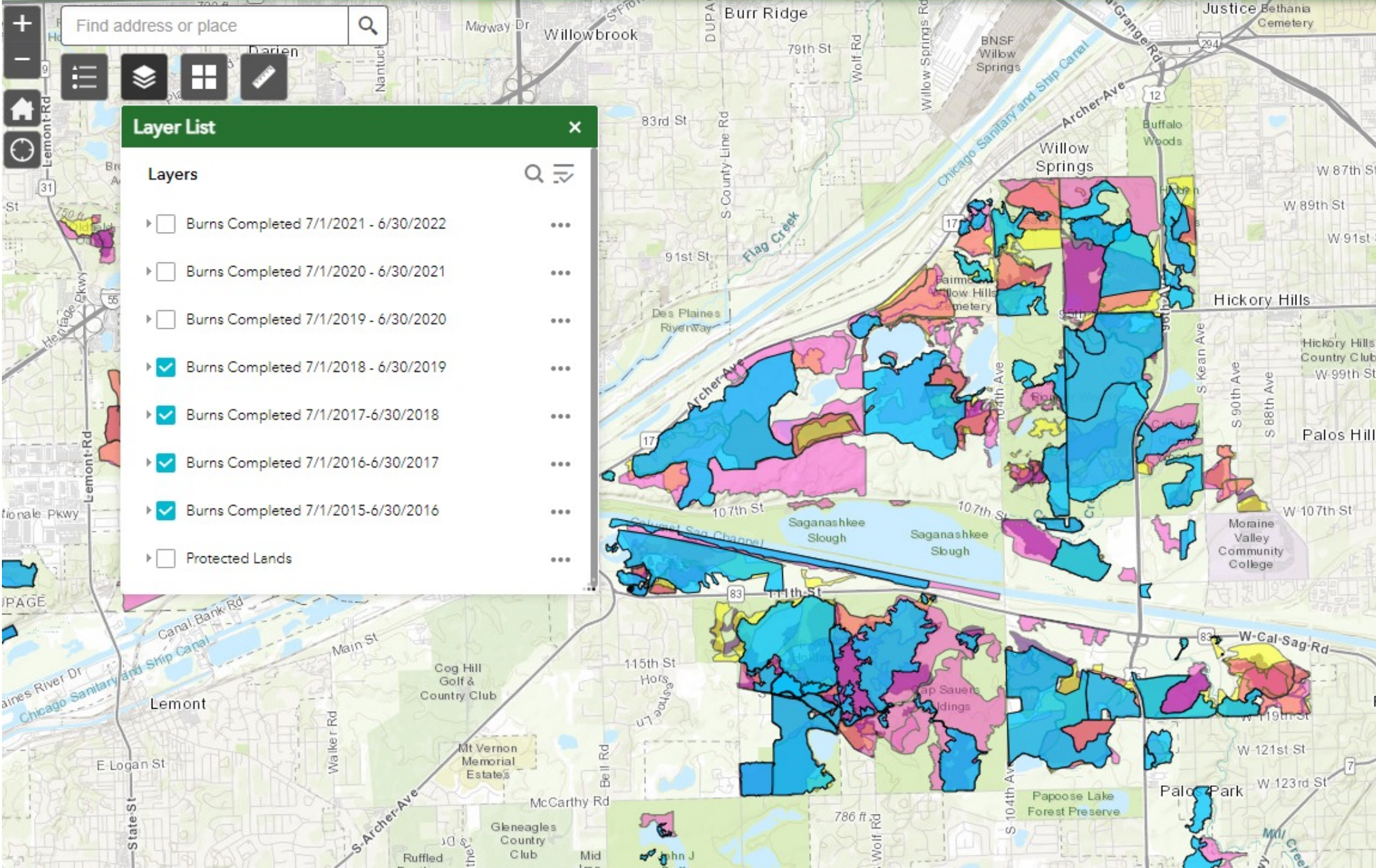
Layer List

Layers

- Burns Completed 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022
- Burns Completed 7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021
- Burns Completed 7/1/2019 - 6/30/2020
- Burns Completed 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2019
- Burns Completed 7/1/2017-6/30/2018
- Burns Completed 7/1/2016-6/30/2017
- Burns Completed 7/1/2015-6/30/2016
- Protected Lands

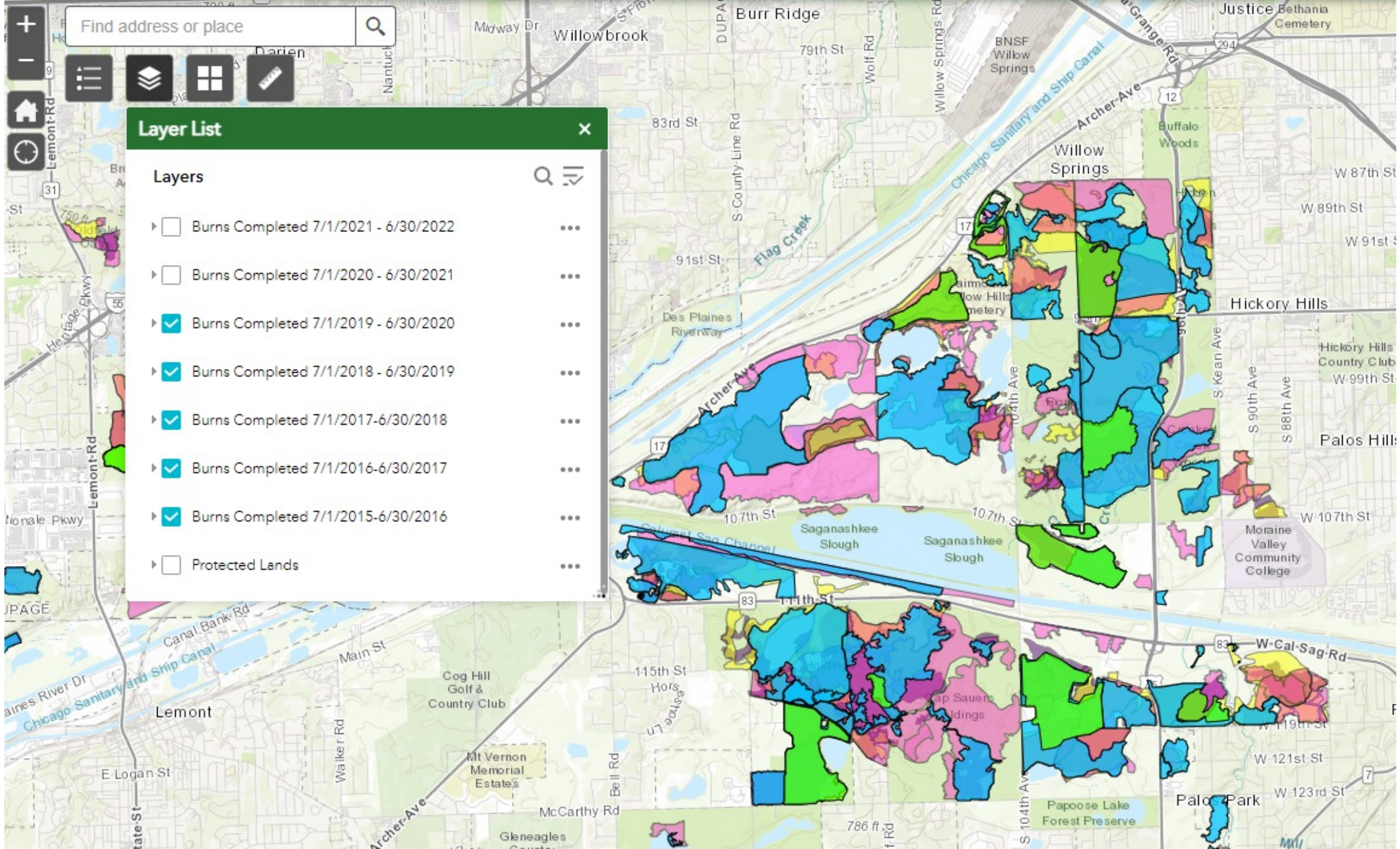


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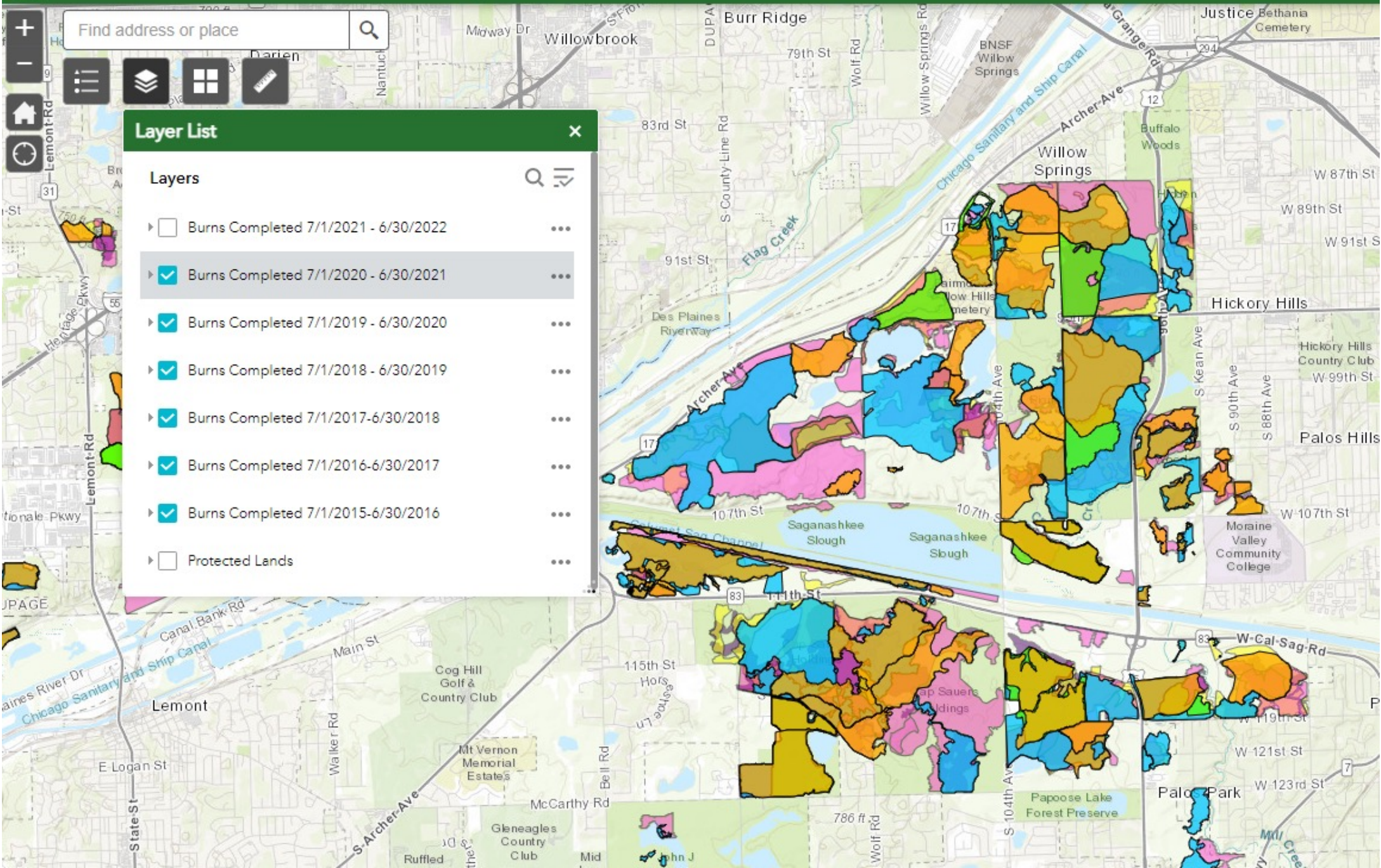


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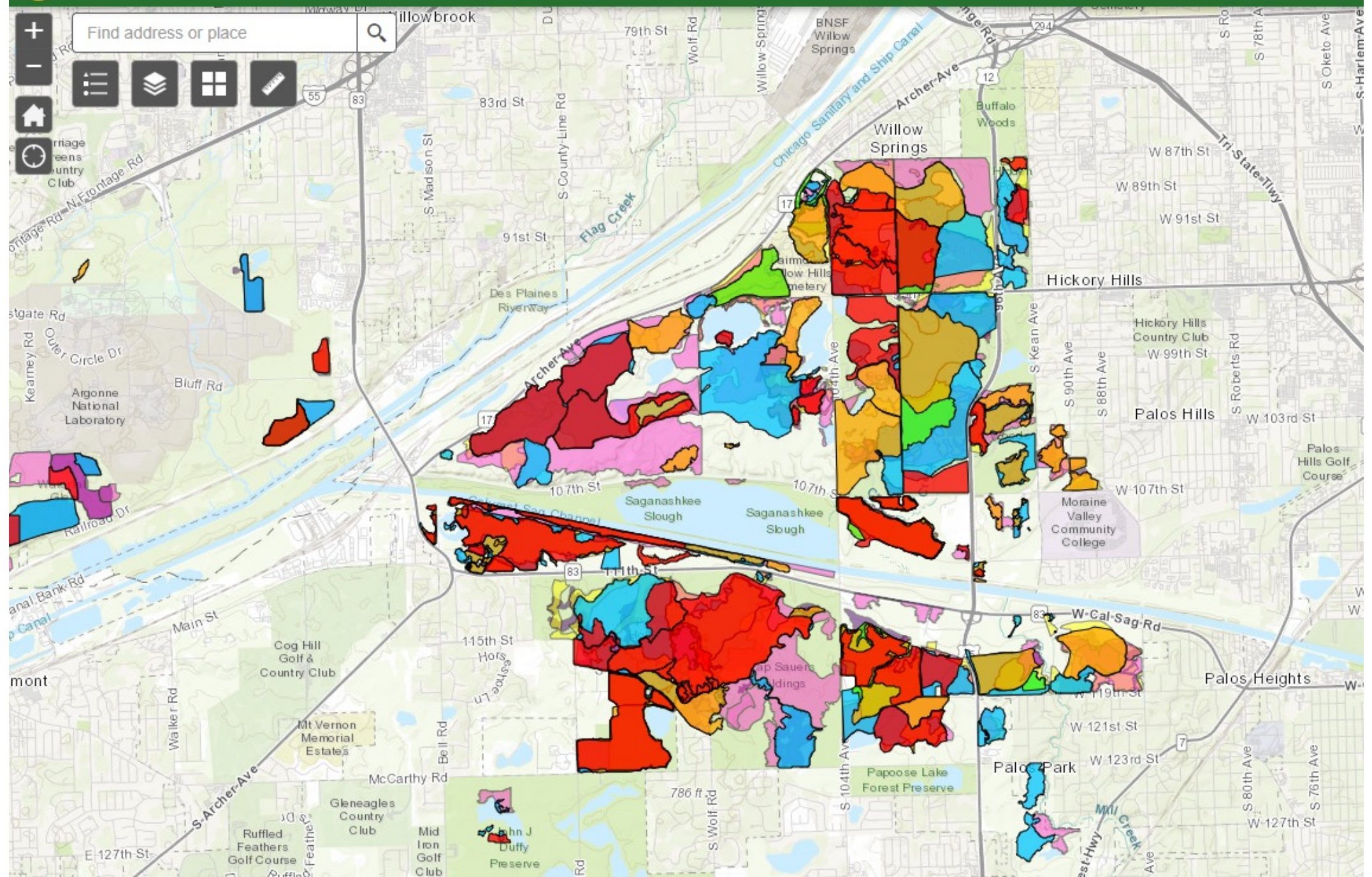


Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished





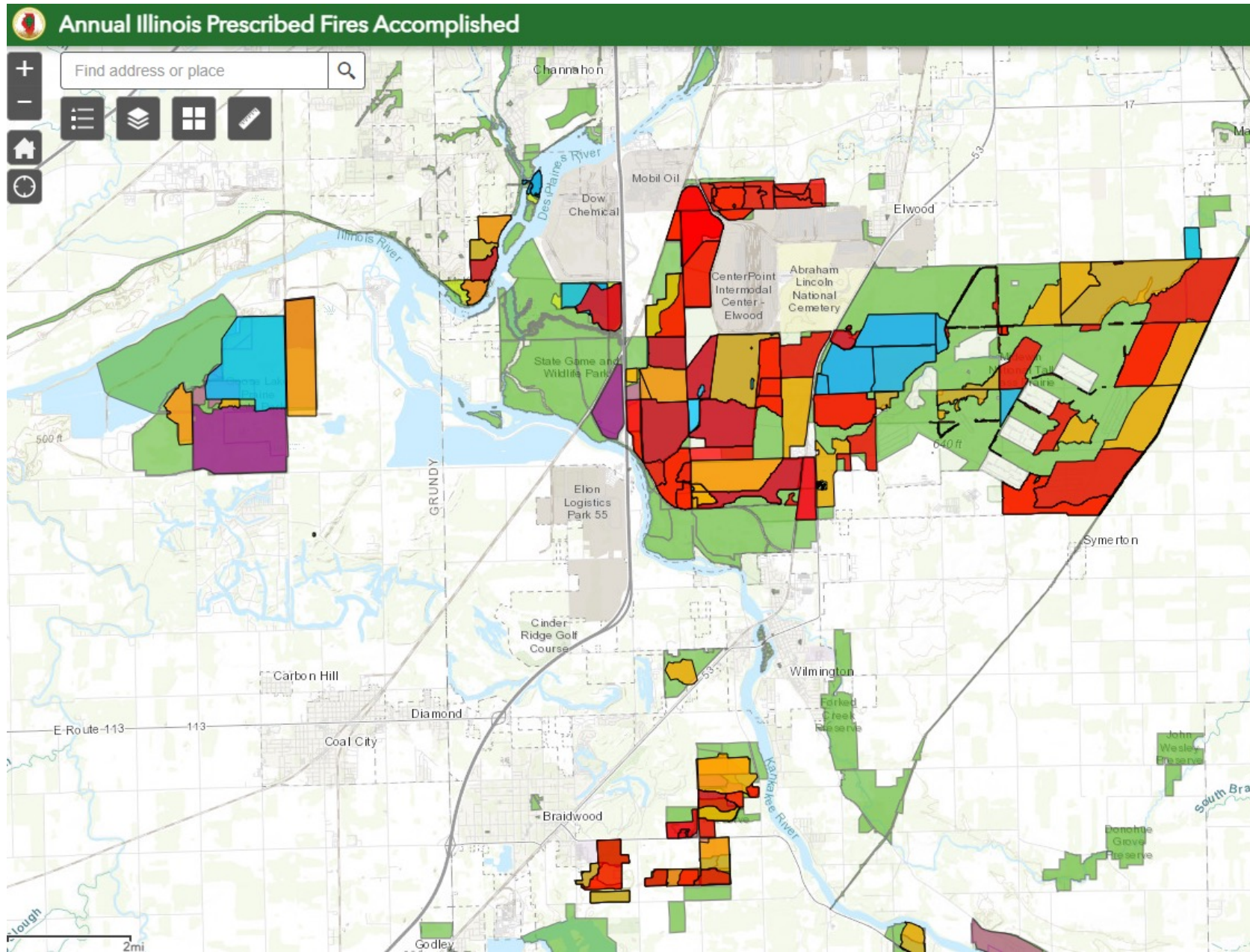
Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished



Cook County FP Palos Crew

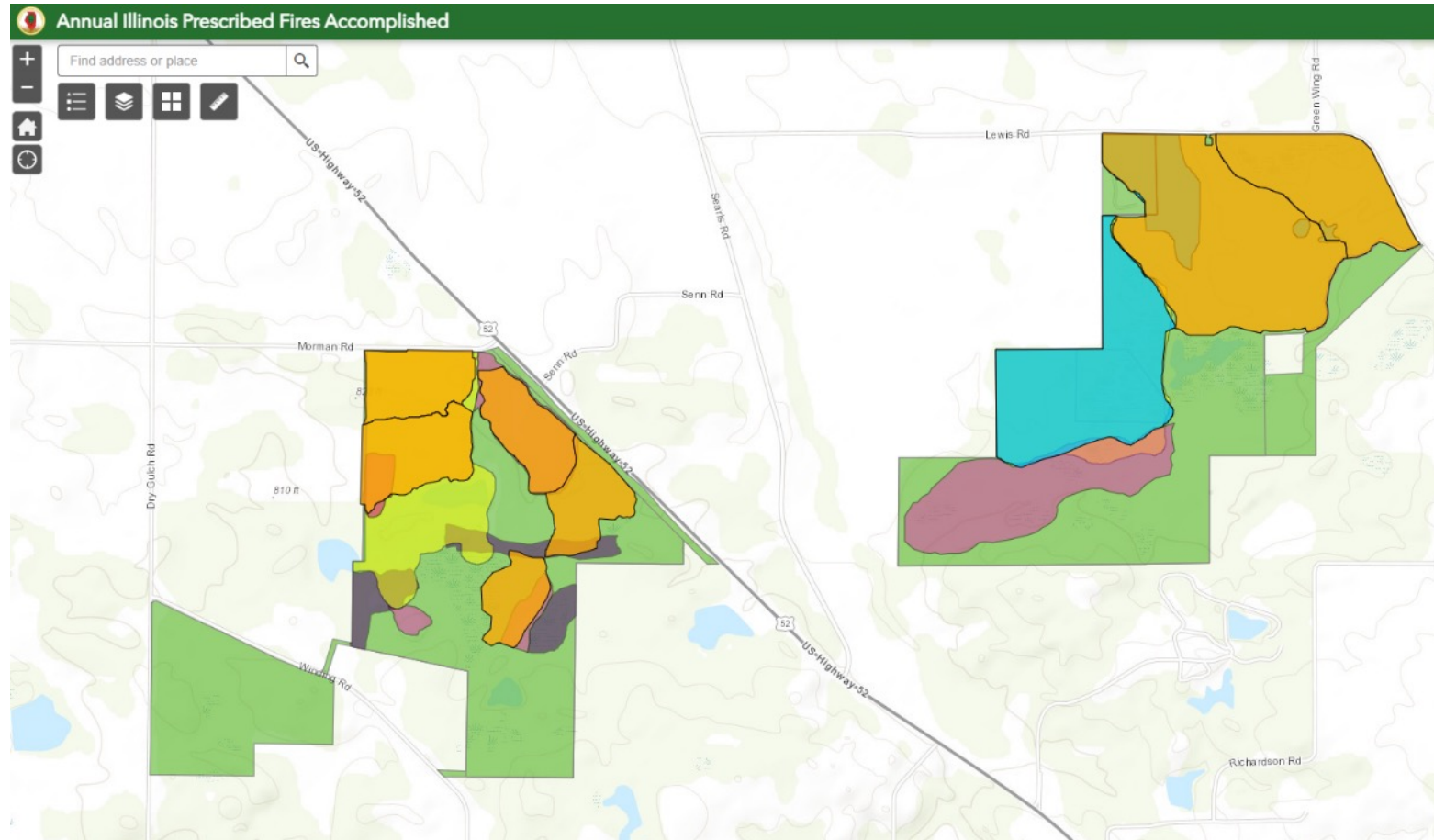


DNR's Goose Lake Prairie & USFS's Midewin & Will County FP

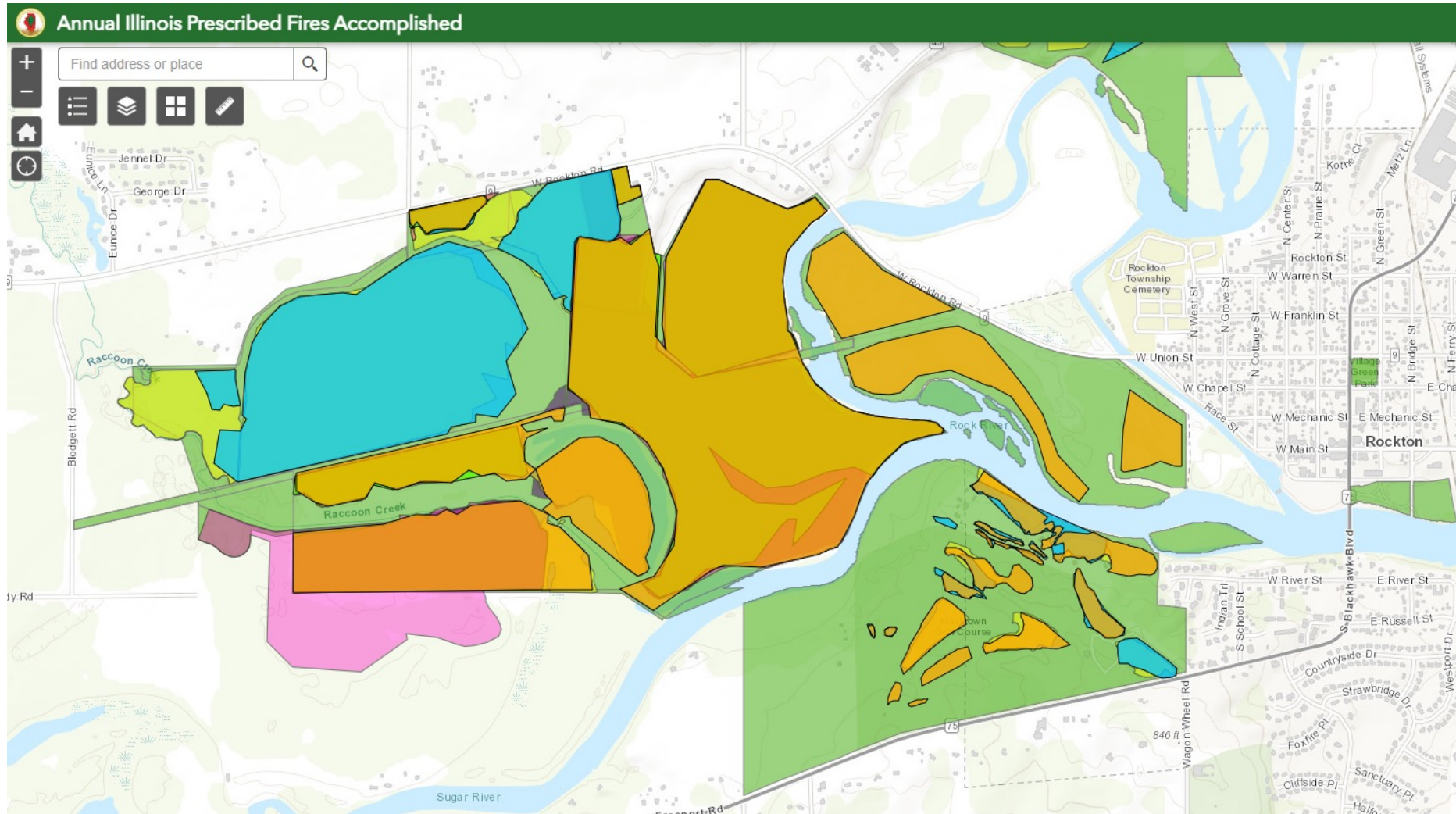




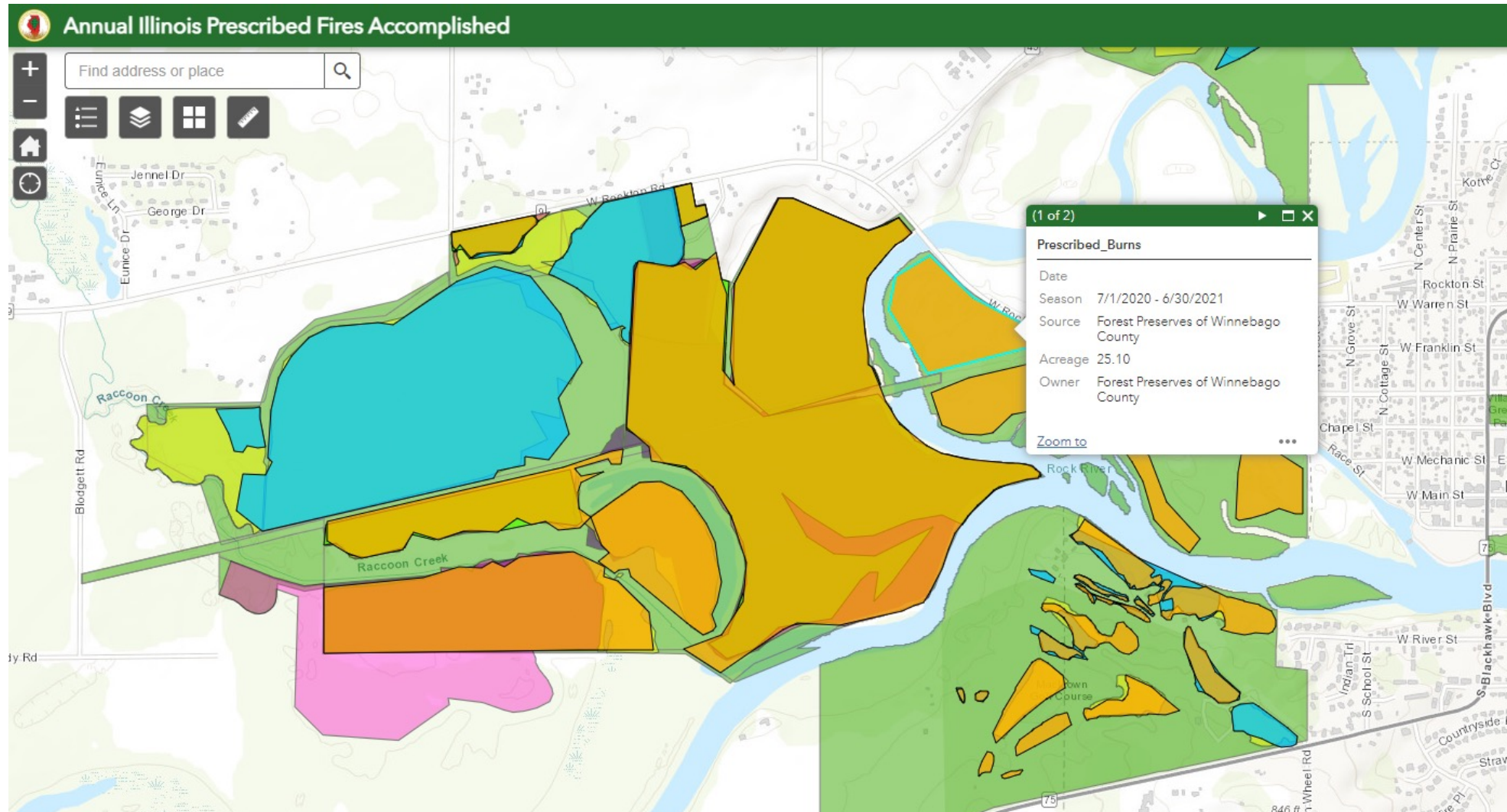
IL Audubon's Amboy Marsh and Gremel



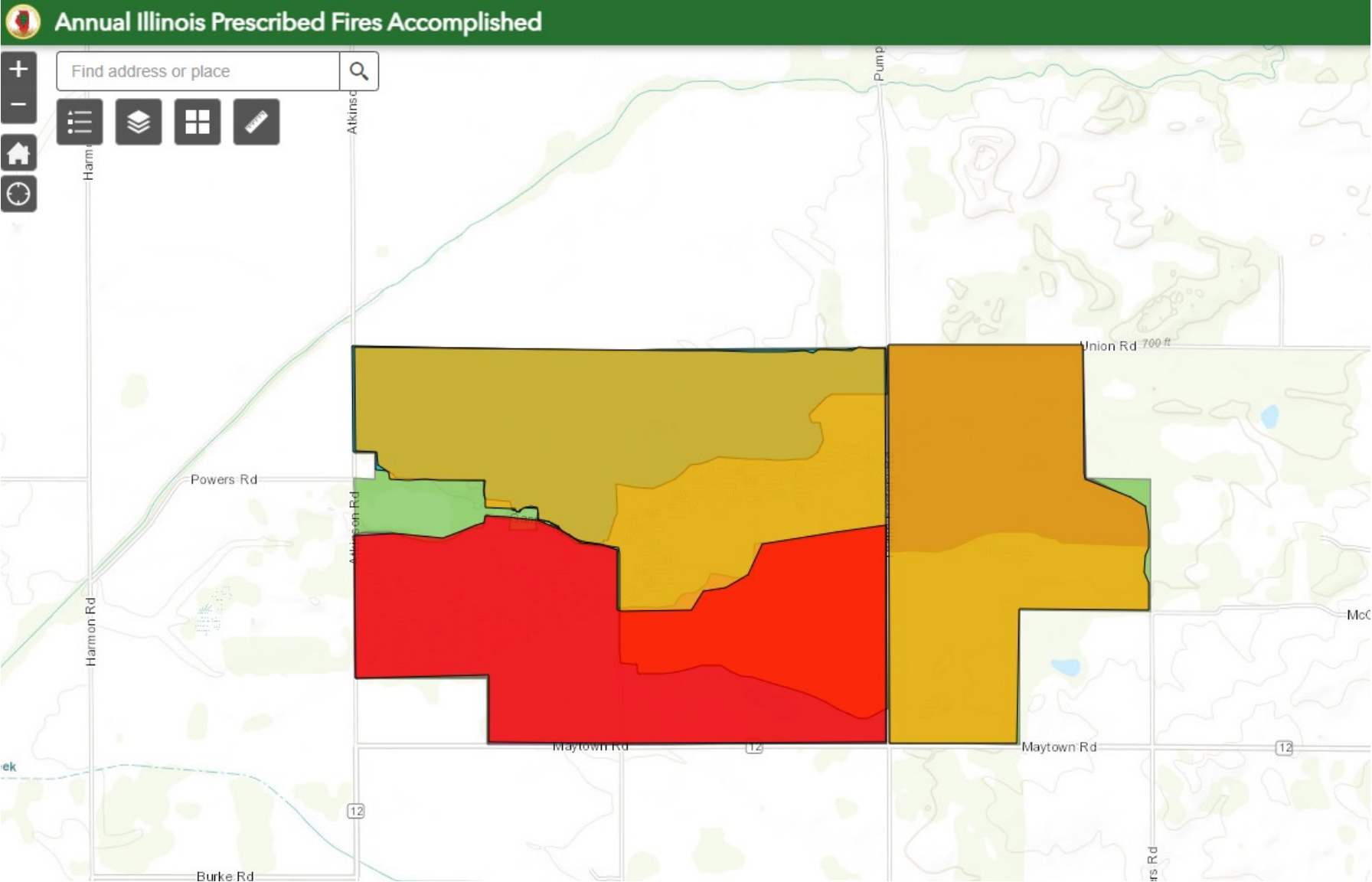
Natural Land Institute's Nygren Preserve & Winnebago Forest Preserve



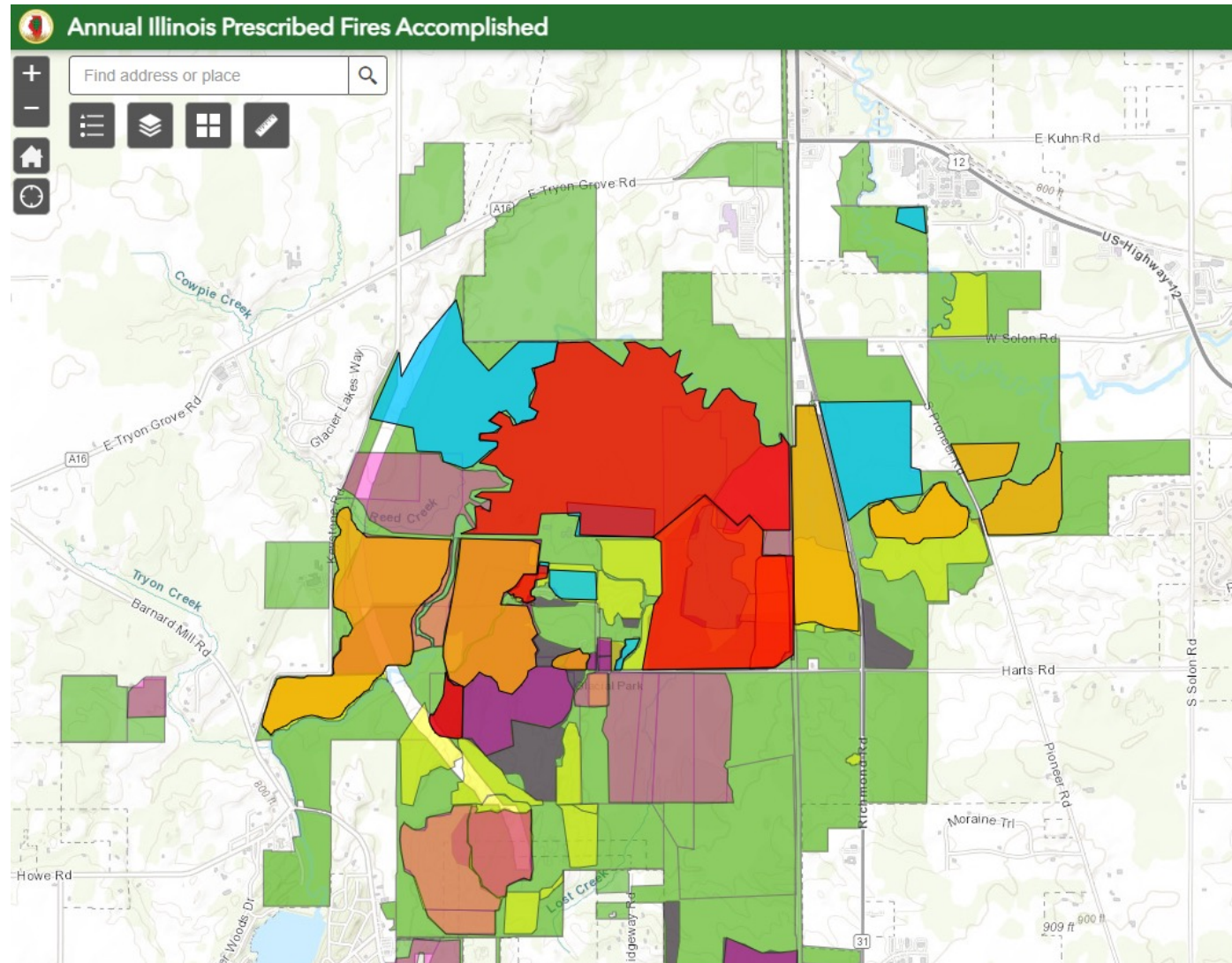
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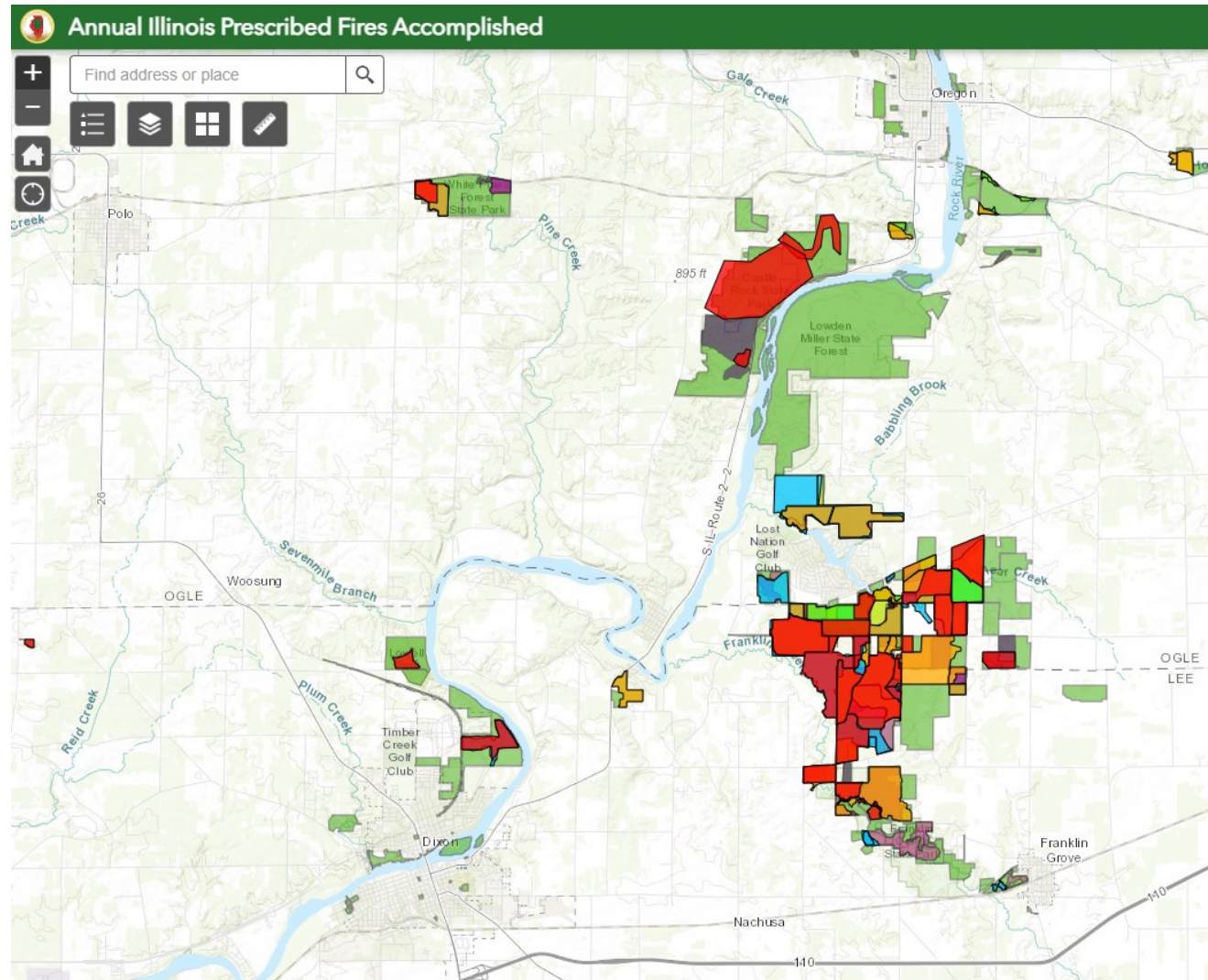
DNR's Green River Conservation Area



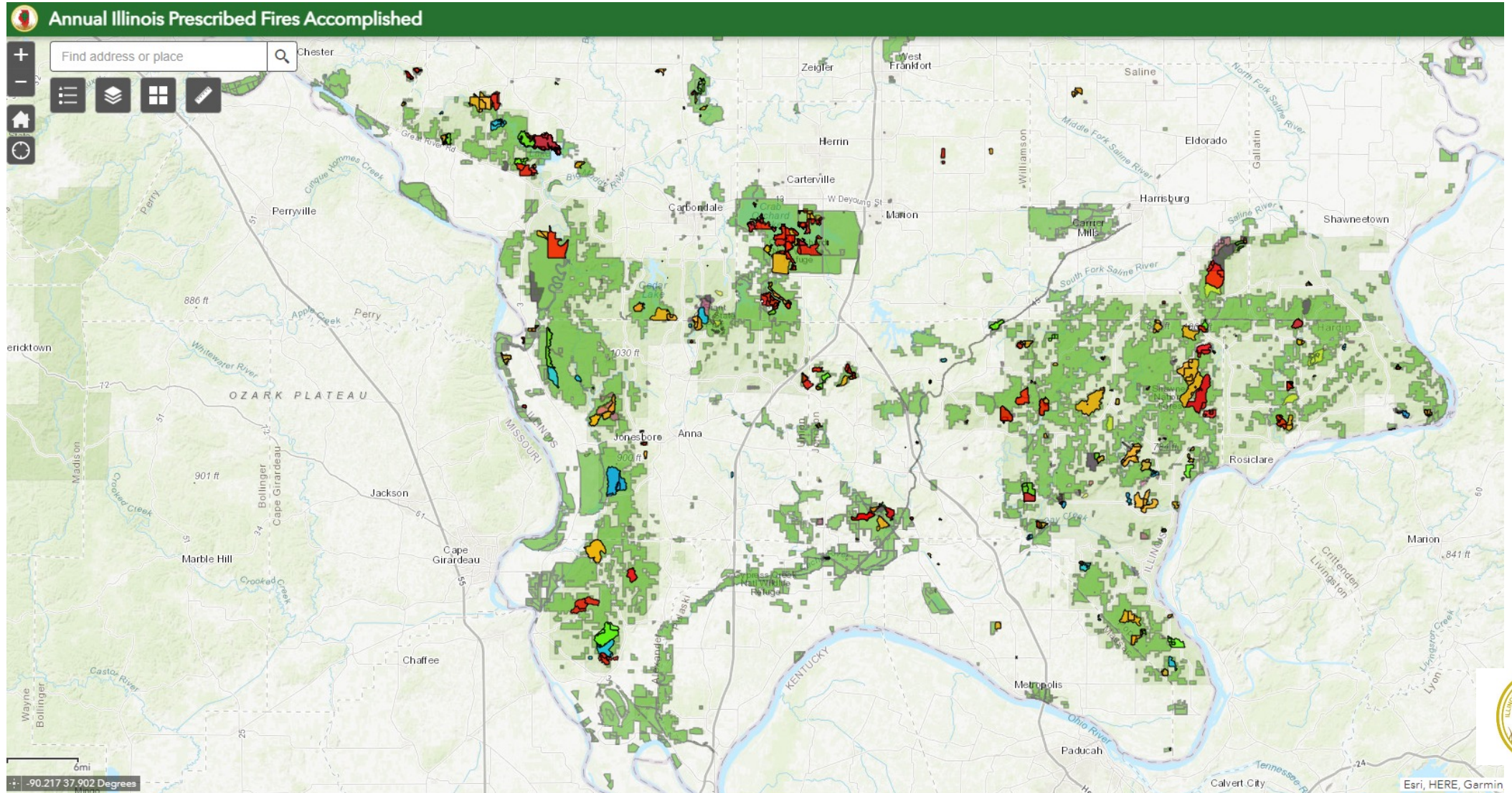
McHenry County Conservation District's Glacial Park



Middle Rock Conservation Partners of TNC, DNR and others.



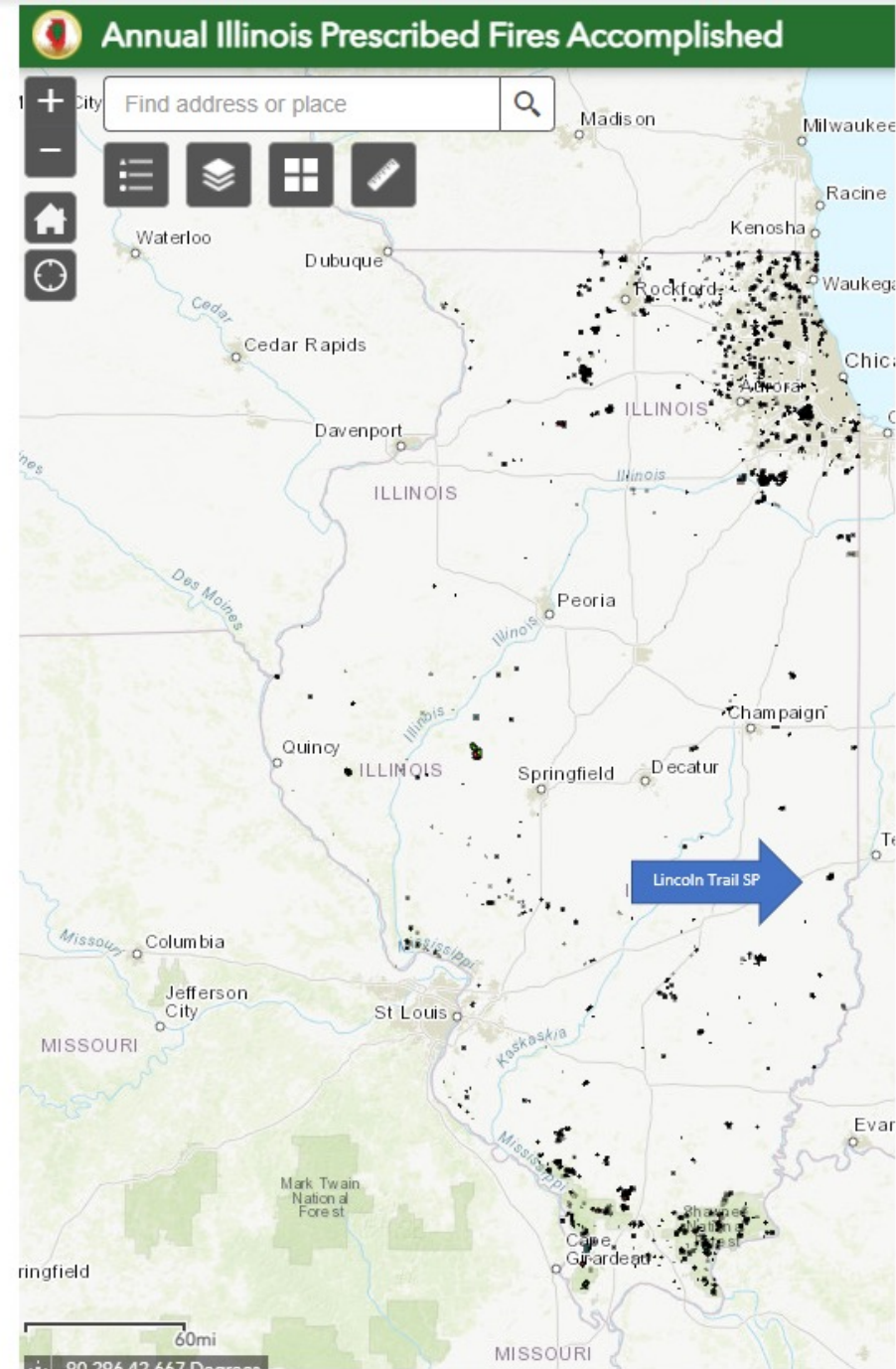
Southern IL: USFS, S IL Pres. Burn Association, TNC, USFWS, DNR



Habit 2 of 6: Realize that fire is a team sport with a short season.

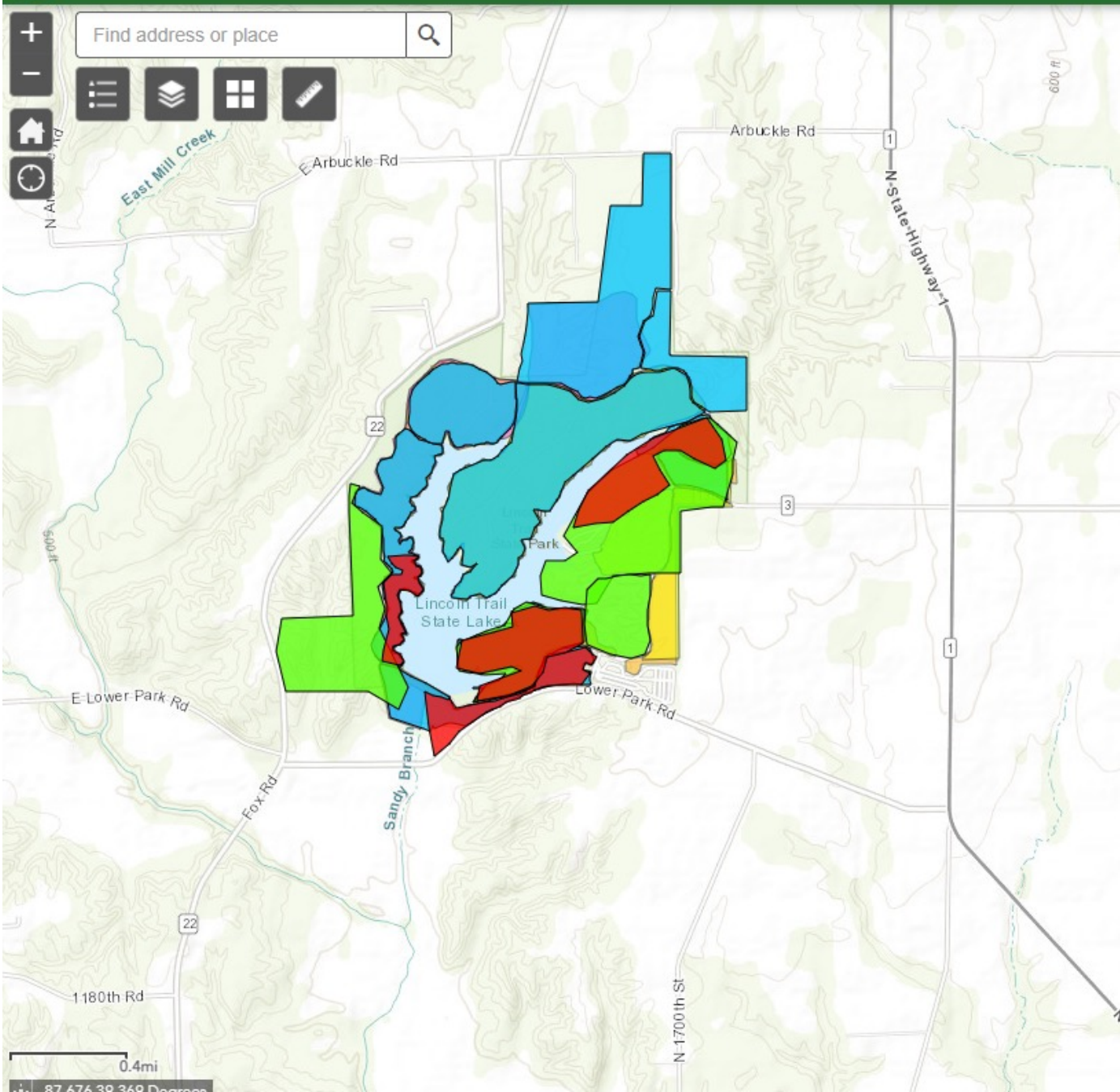


Lincoln Trail State Park





Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished



Tom Hintz, Site Superintendent for Lincoln Trail State Park



Lincoln Trail crew briefing

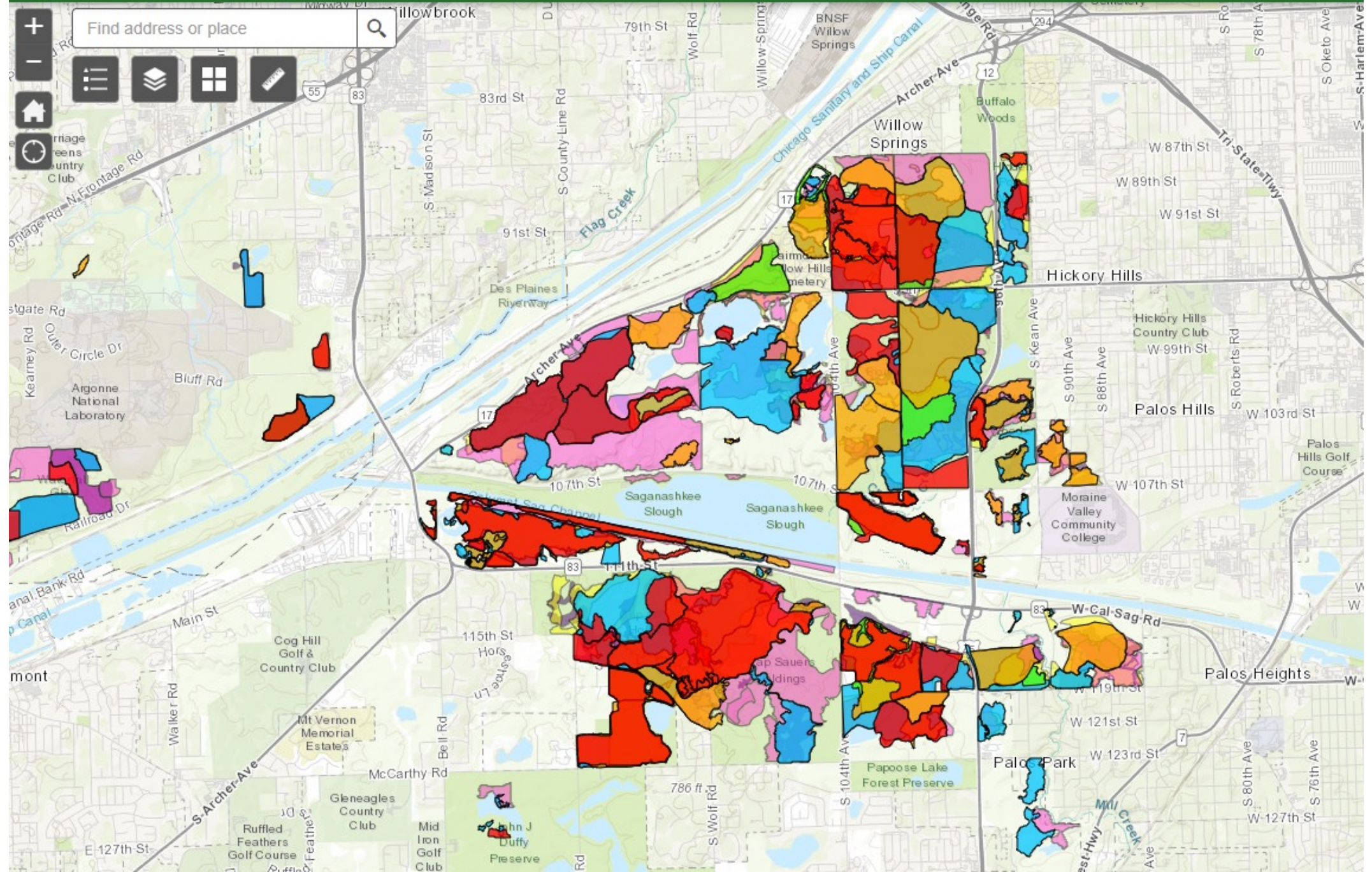


Lincoln Trail Site Tech carrying the torch





Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished

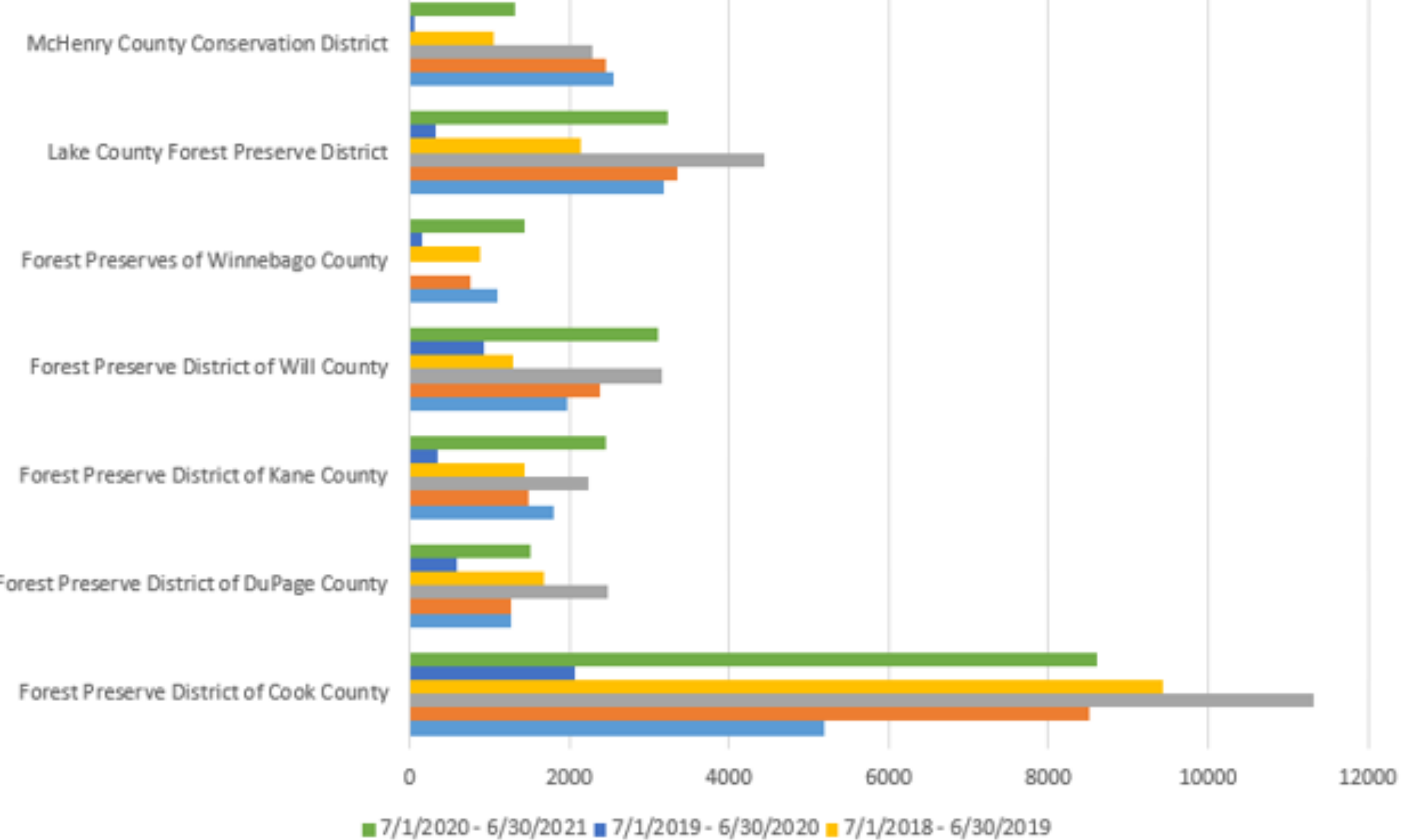


Cook County FP Palos Crew



Cook County FP Tinley Crew















Bill

Leah

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy
FIRE MANAGER

The Nature Conservancy
Nachusa



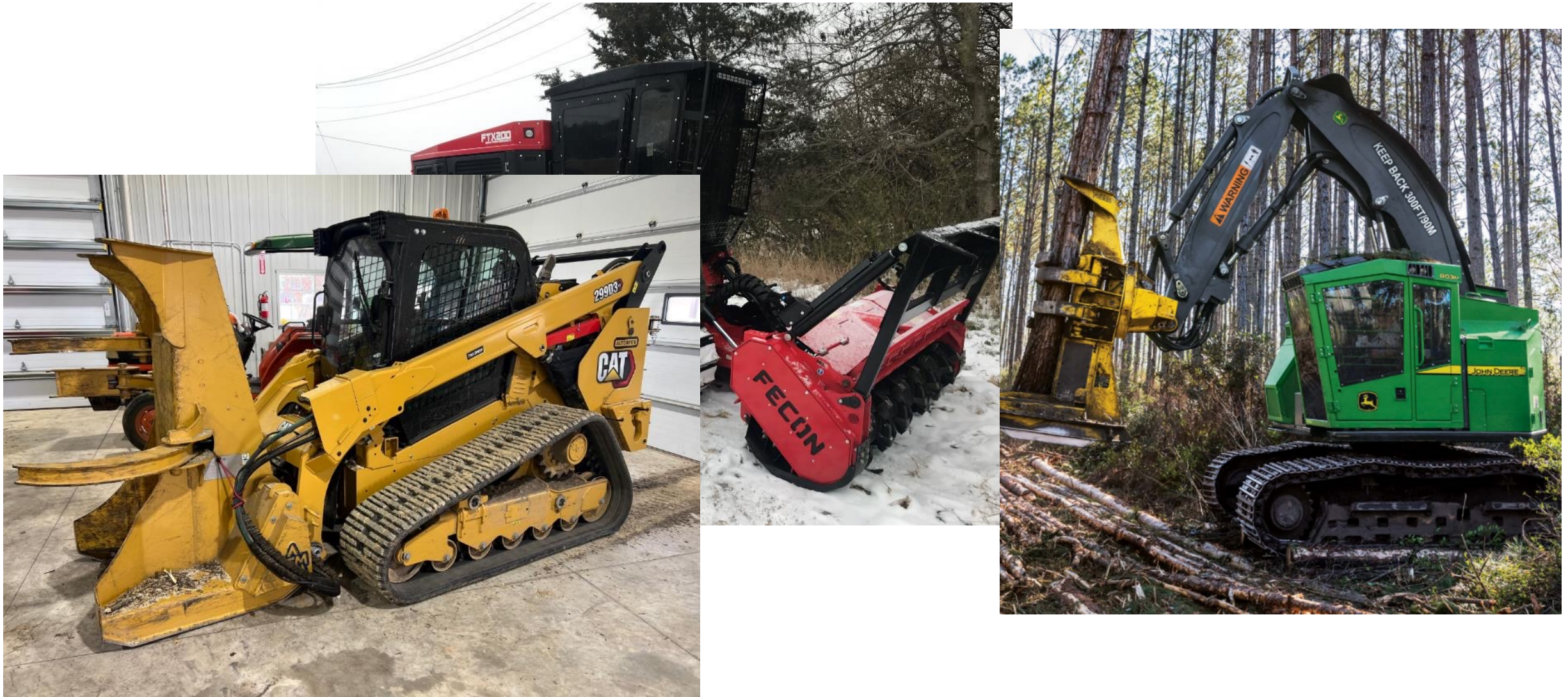
Habit 3 of 6: Thin brush and use frequent fire to keep habitats open







Habit 4 of 6: Provide your staff the right scale of equipment for fire and brush work





















WARNING
OPERATOR
MANUAL

WARNING
OPERATOR
MANUAL

JOHN

WARNING
OPERATOR
MANUAL



















FCNA March 31 through early May, 2020. 175 hours. Bill and Damian tag team during Covid.











12











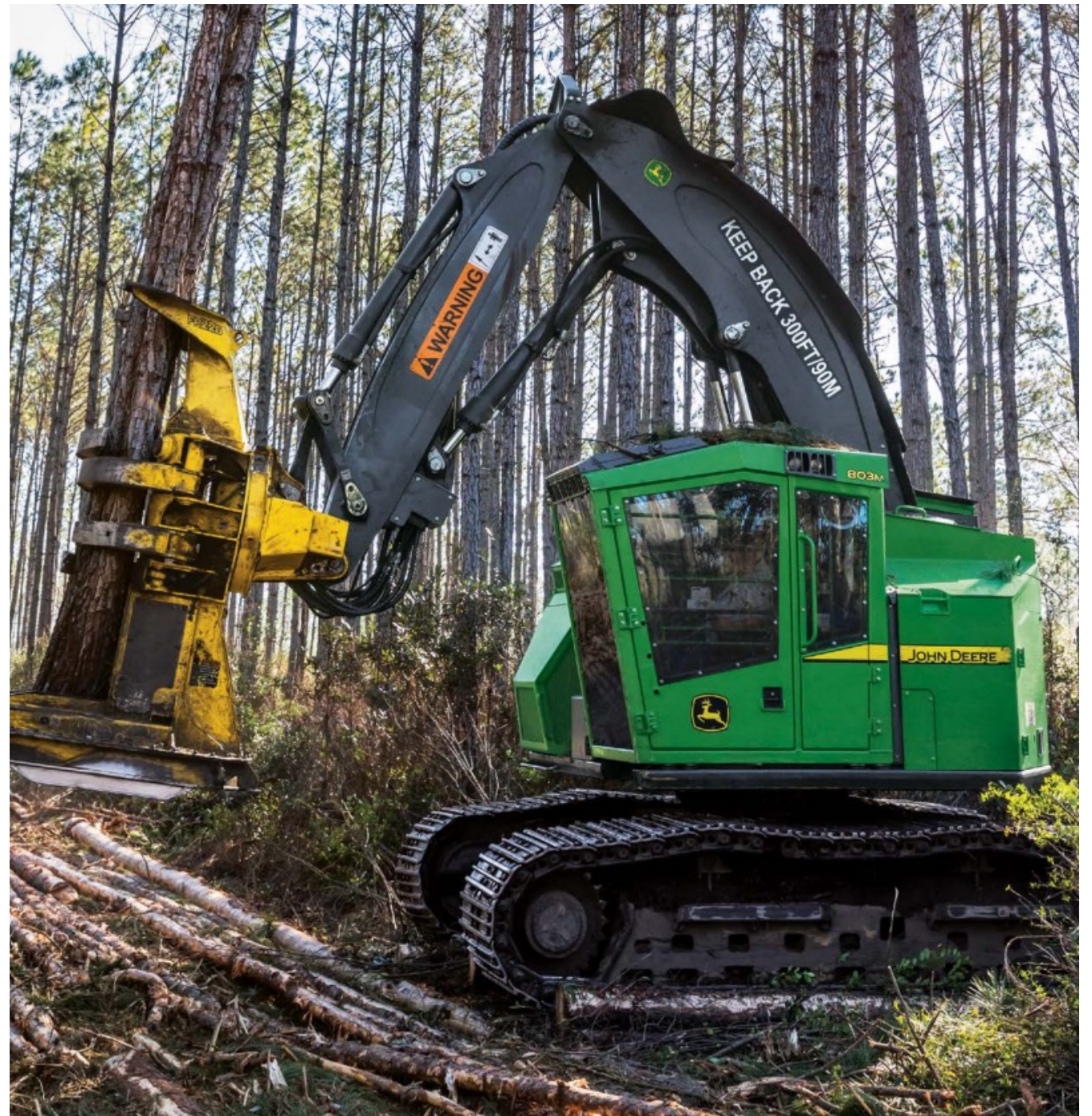
AgriMetal

91

Low Decibel
Series



Feller buncher



Lake County Forest Preserve woodland thinning w feller buncher



After feller buncher at Lake County FP





Habit 5 of 6: Produce an annual fire report

Southern Illinois Interagency Habitat and Fuels Crew

Spring 2021 Fire Report

After implementing only one prescribed burn in January and harsh winter weather in February, conditions quickly changed in March, leading to a very busy and productive spring season. The SIIHFC worked alongside of the Shawnee National Forest, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, Shawnee RC&D, and crews representing the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service from Oregon, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, and Missouri. When the smoke cleared, these collaborative and highly coordinated efforts eclipsed the record for acres burned in a fiscal year by the Shawnee National Forest set in FY19. This was a tremendously rewarding fire season that provided valuable experience to the Fuels Crew and Women In Fire fellows. We are proud to be a part of these great accomplishments and grateful for the trust, leadership, and mentorship of our partners.



Produce an annual fire report

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION FALL 2020-SPRING 2021 BURN SEASON



Despite all the challenges with COVID-19, CFC was able to perform one of our best burn seasons to date. We masked up and got out to get much needed fire across our preserves with a special focus on burning Flint Creek Savanna to stimulate seed source populations for upcoming projects.

Lessons Learned:

- Continue to build out our communications. We now have 6 Midland radios and access to 7 Motorola radios. The two types of radios do not work with each other, so we should continue to acquire more of a single type of radio. Grant potential?
- Burning with the same group day after day makes for smoother fires and role responsibilities
- Savannas should continue to be thinned to avoid strange wind eddies
- UTV/Truck pumper unit is typically not a huge necessity, but when situations arise it is invaluable. We need to add to our equipment arsenal. Another grant/partnership potential?
- Larger units are better. More breathing room and less redeployment means more acres burned efficiently.
- Carving out new fire lanes breaks sheer pins. Stump/Flag obstacles prior to fire lane installation

The numbers:

In total, we were able to burn 68 acres of restorations. This represents fire across 14% of all CFC land

Produce an annual fire report



In 2014, the Forest Preserves released their Next Century Conservation Plan (NCCP). That plan set an ambitious goal of restoring 30,000 acres of Forest Preserves lands to ecological health within 25 years.

Completed in 2020, "The FPCC Restoration Status of the NCCP/NCRMP Identified Priorities" report, provided an overview of the work accomplished toward that 30,000-acre goal between the years 2015-2020. Fire plays a key role in restoring our preserves to ecological health, and essentially re-establishing healthy ecosystems for the benefit of natural communities, plant and animal species, clean water, and long-term sustainability.

Our typical restoration process begins with brush removal, followed by tree thinning, then hydrology repairs; with herbaceous invasive control throughout. Burning, seeding, and other follow up work are included in this restoration process. When funding allows, we conduct all these concurrently.

Prescribed fire continues to be a vitally important, and cost-effective tool required for reaching these goals. During 2015-2020 throughout the entirety of the Forest Preserves 18,495 acres received fire at least once, and of these 16,500 acres were within the identified priorities. Regular burn regimes have been established on the majority of our highest priority landscapes, nature preserves, and stewardship sites. Several new units have been folded into seasonal burn planning.

During the five years represented in the report, 6,400 additional acres of FPCC lands were brought under restoration. The biggest challenge faced during the five-year period was increasing the size and scope of restoration projects to meet the acre goal. The Forest Preserve experimented with new strategies and new technologies to increase our typical project size from tens of acres to hundreds of acres. By 2017, we were able to begin projects in this size range and continue to engage in large scale restorations within our 30,000 priority acres. Although we do not currently have funding to conduct large projects everywhere, we have reached the technical level needed to meet our 25-year goal should funding levels increase.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County has been engaged in 13 projects larger than 100 acres in size, with the largest contiguous project area being over 2,000 acres. In just five years, with this new approach, the Forest Preserve has expanded the acres under restoration from 5,800 prior to the NCCP, adding 6,400 since the plan to 12,200 acres under restoration. Forty percent of priority lands are under restoration. At this current pace, we can place all 30,000 acres under restoration by 2035. While the full ecological benefits of this work may take more time to be realized, early results are positive.

*Forest Preserves of Cook County
Restoration Status of the Next Century
Conservation Plan / Natural & Cultural
Resources Master Plan, 2020*



Produce an annual fire report

2017 Prescribed Burn Report
April 26, 2017

By Brad Woodson



The spring burn season ended as of April 21, 2017. The total acreage burned on District property in the spring of 2017 was 1988 acres, which is below the five-year spring burn average. LPNR staff conducted 42 prescribed burns on 20 burn days over a 65-day burn season (February 14 to April 21). There were an additional 4 potential burn days on the weekends (Saturday and Sunday) of the spring burn season. One of those days, April 15 was used to conduct wildland fire training with the McHenry County College Fire Academy. Staff did conduct 3 prescribed burns on Saturday, February 18. Overall, there were very few days where relative humidity dropped below 30%. This resulted in a relatively mild burn season with few wildfires, spot fire activity, and fire intensity. The prescribed fires that were conducted did their job. Invasive brush was set back, vegetation structure manipulated, and native vegetation stimulated.



Habit 6 of 6: Burn with your crews







Habits of Effective Prescribed Fire Programs

Bill Kleiman, Nachusa Grasslands Director

Directors are encouraged to:

- Review the IL fires accomplished map
- Realize that fire is a team sport with a short season
- Thin brush and use frequent fire to keep habitats open
- Provide your staff the right scale of equipment for fire and brush work
- Produce an annual prescribed fire report
- Burn with your fire crews

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