

# Open Space Legislation: 103rd General Assembly

Presented By:

**Lindsay Kenney**, IEC Conservation Director; PSCC Board Member



# Legislative Agenda: Overview

- Right to Recreate - HB 1568 (Yang Rohr)
- Pollinator Friendly Mowing - HB 2048 (Faver Dias)
- New Fishing Stamp - HB 2317 (Rita)
- Township Open Space Protection - HB 3642
- Prescribed Burning Awareness Month - HR 92 (Keicher)

# Right to Recreate - HB 1568 (Yang Rohr)

In response to a local push along the Dupage River to restrict the ability of paddlers to float past peoples homes, this bill affirms that naturally occurring bodies of water are accessible to all member of the public, not just property owners adjacent to a body of water.

# Pollinator Friendly Mowing - HB 2048 (Faver Dias)

Requires the Illinois Department of Transportation to adopt policies which allow the maximum habitat potential in ditches by restricting mowing during certain times of the year and based on geography, moving from south to north.

# New Fishing Stamp - HB 2317 (Rita)

At the suggestion of DNR Fisheries Division, this legislation would create a new Aquatic Conservation Stamp at \$5 which would go directly to habitat improvement and the mitigation of invasive plant and animal species.

# Township Open Space Protection - HB 3642 (Faver Dias)

In response to recent hostile actions by a township official, this legislation would require that any sale of property acquired through the “Open Space” provisions of the Township Code would need explicit approval by the voting constituents. This also expands the ability of townships to lease those kinds of properties for agricultural purposes

# Prescribed Burning Awareness Month - HR 92 (Keicher)

Creates Prescribed Burning Awareness Month, designated in April. This is a way to raise awareness around the importance of this practice, along with elevating the need for changes in liability law to allow conservation practitioners to obtain insurance coverage for those operations.