Six year Summary of Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished From July 2015 through June 2021

Text by Bill Kleiman with map work by Dave Holman February 5, 2022

Covid slowed many of us to a crawl, but then we came back with vigor.

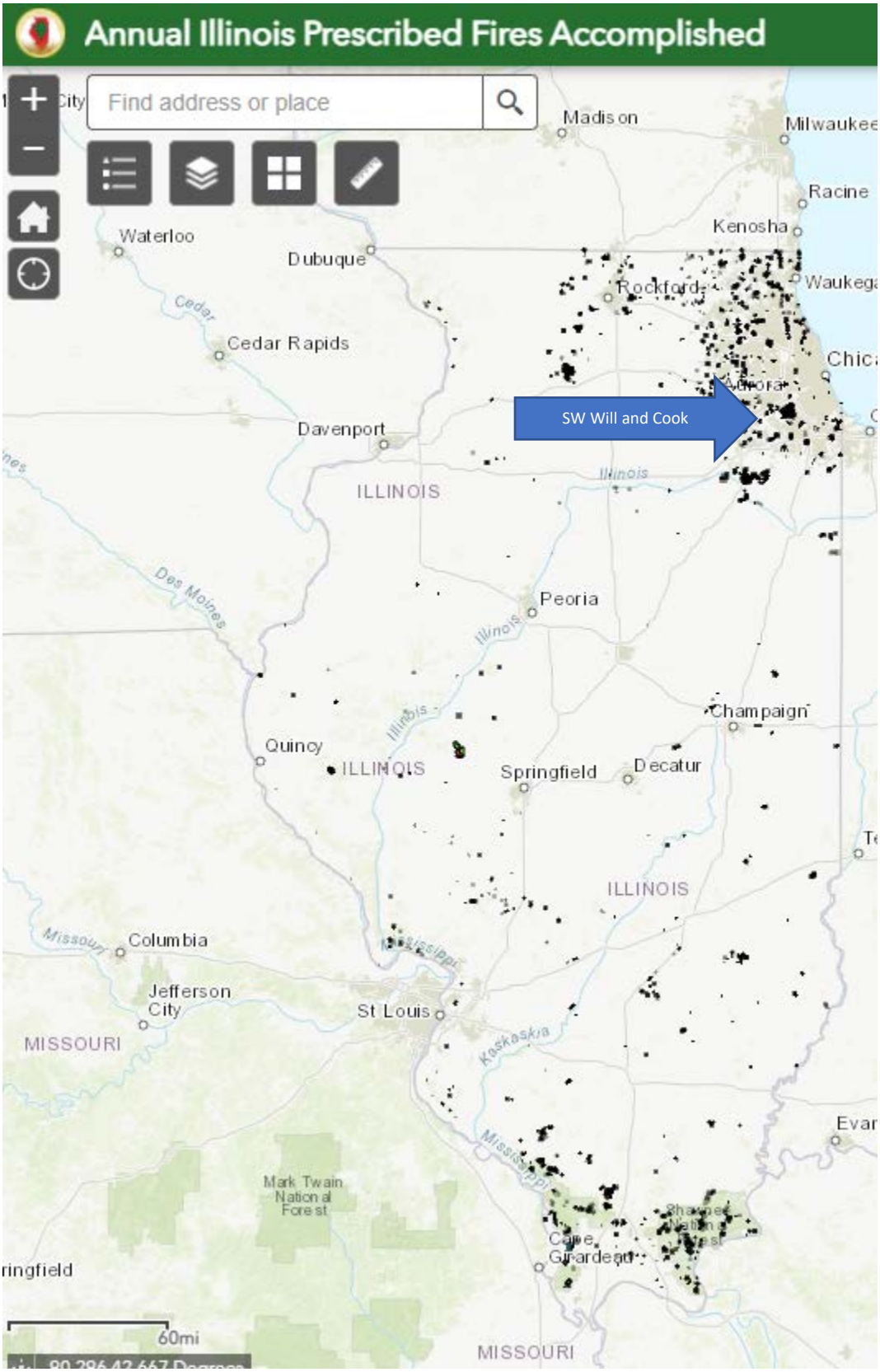
Our map of Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished highlights our fire community on one interactive map.

On our Illinois Prescribed Fire Council website you can find our map of Annual Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished. We now have six years of map data.

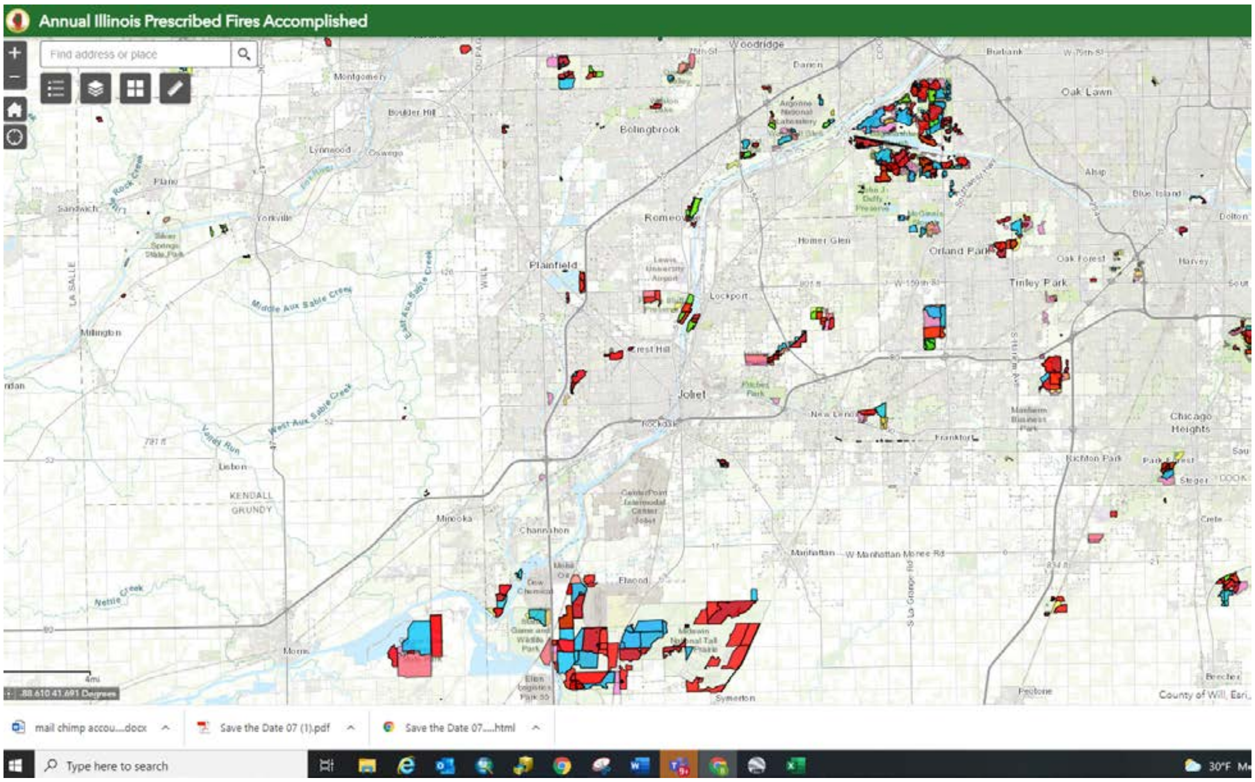
It is easy to get on our map. You just go to the easy how to participate page. You can still send us data from previous years.

In this report we celebrate good fire work.

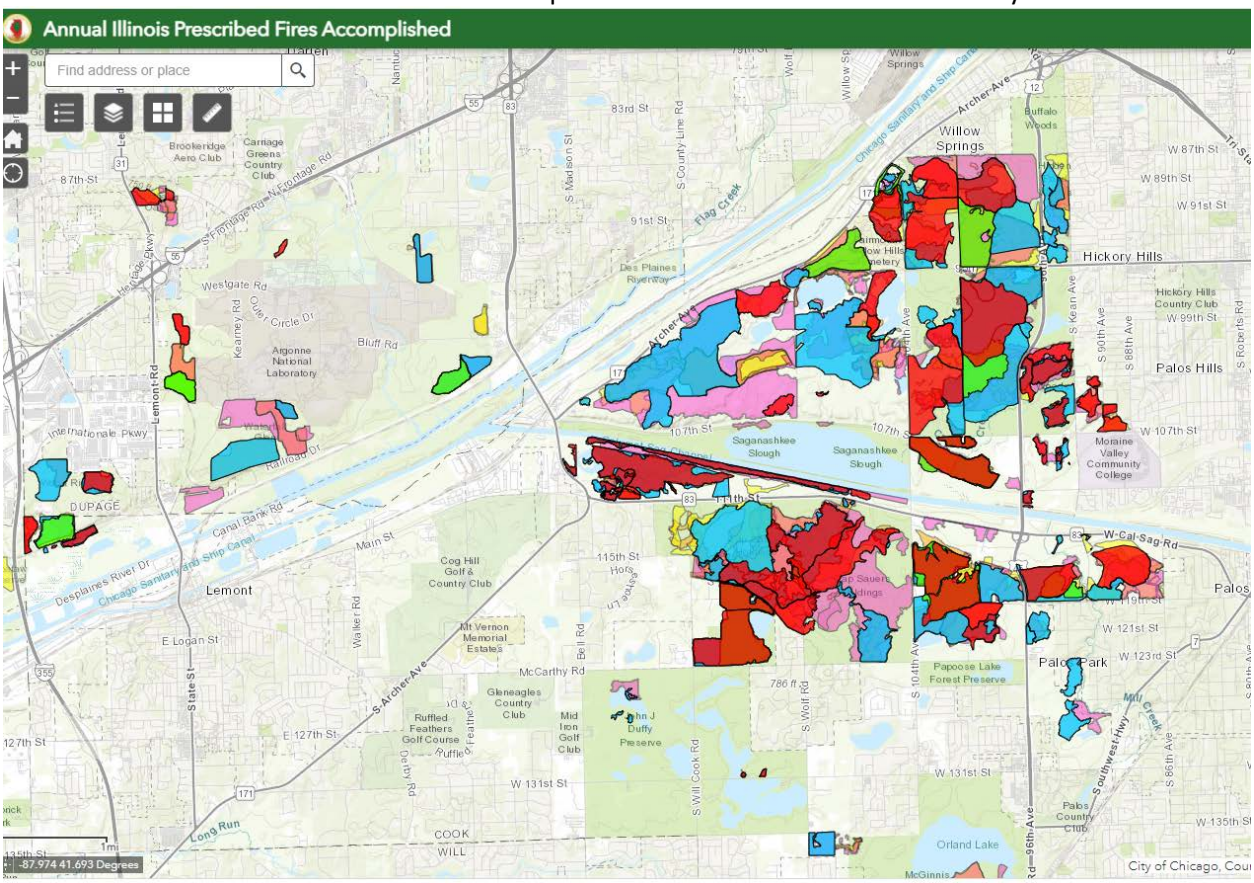
Southwest Cook and Will Counties



Below: We zoom into southwest of Chicago. At the top right is a large cluster of fires at the 10,000-acre Palos Forest Preserves by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. At the south of this map is Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie of the USFS, and the DNR sites of Des Plaines State Wildlife Park and Goose Lake Prairie State Park. Most of the other polygons are Forest Preserve District of Will County and Cook County.



Below: The Palos Forest Preserves fires are impressive. Each color is a different fire year.



FPD of Cook County has five resource crews that are often burning on the same day, and they also contract with several private firms to get a ton of acres burned.

Below: Forest Preserve District of Cook County's Tinley Crew at Swallow Cliff, 2019

Below: Forest Preserved District of Cook County's Palos crew at Black Partridge NP, 2019

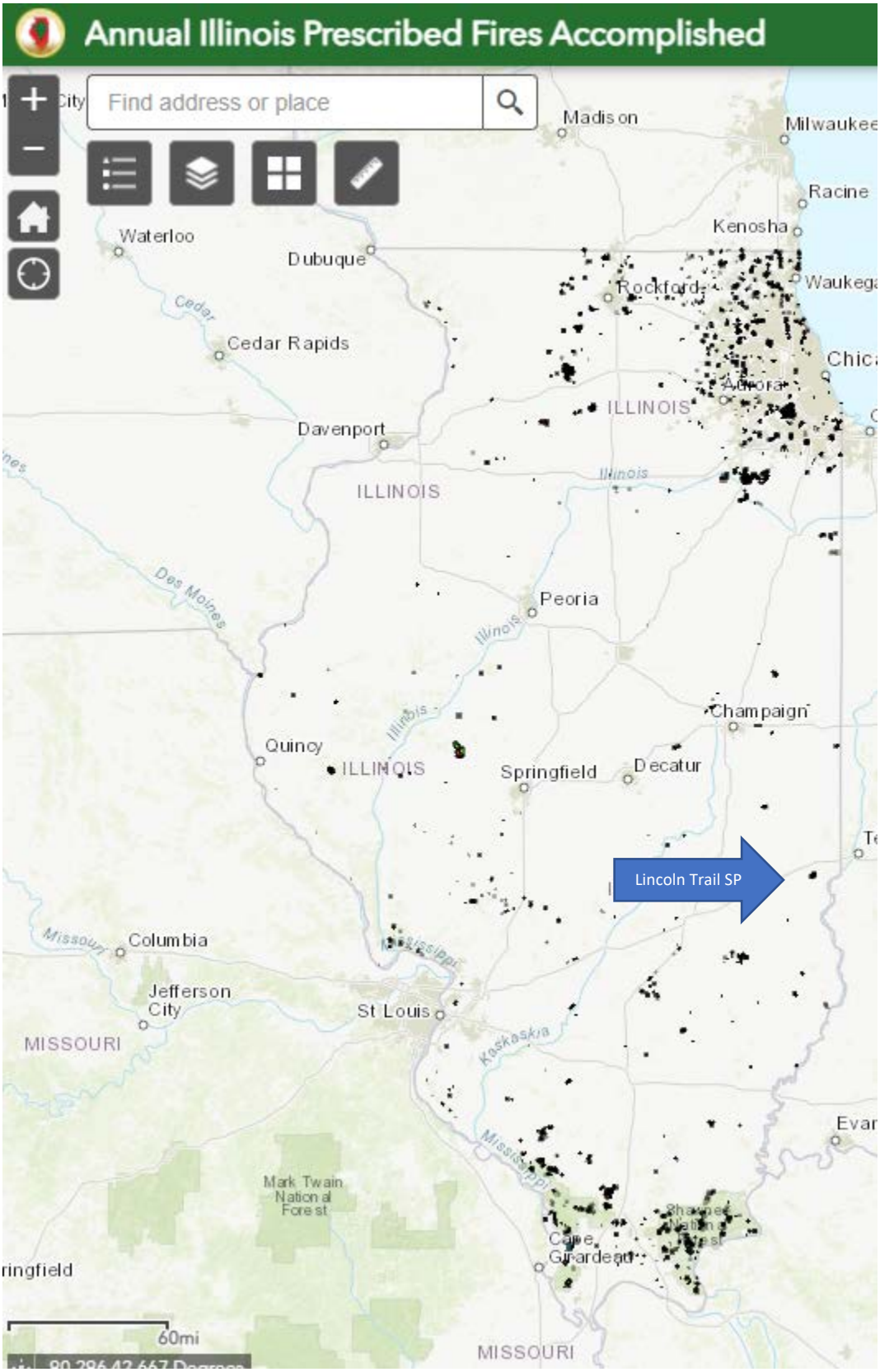
Kristin Pink of FPD Cook County sums up their success this way:

"The 10,000-acre Palos Forest Preserves of southwestern Cook County are among the most intensely fire-managed areas of Illinois: 73% of the land is burned, on average, once every 3 years. The main factor in this success is a long-term relationship with the land, originally stewarded by indigenous people living continuously in Palos for the last 10,000 years. Forest Preserves burn bosses spend 5 years (or longer) in the off-season stewarding the natural areas they burn, and some fire practitioners also conduct scientific monitoring. Today, children grow up witnessing our prescribed fires and become adults who expect them."

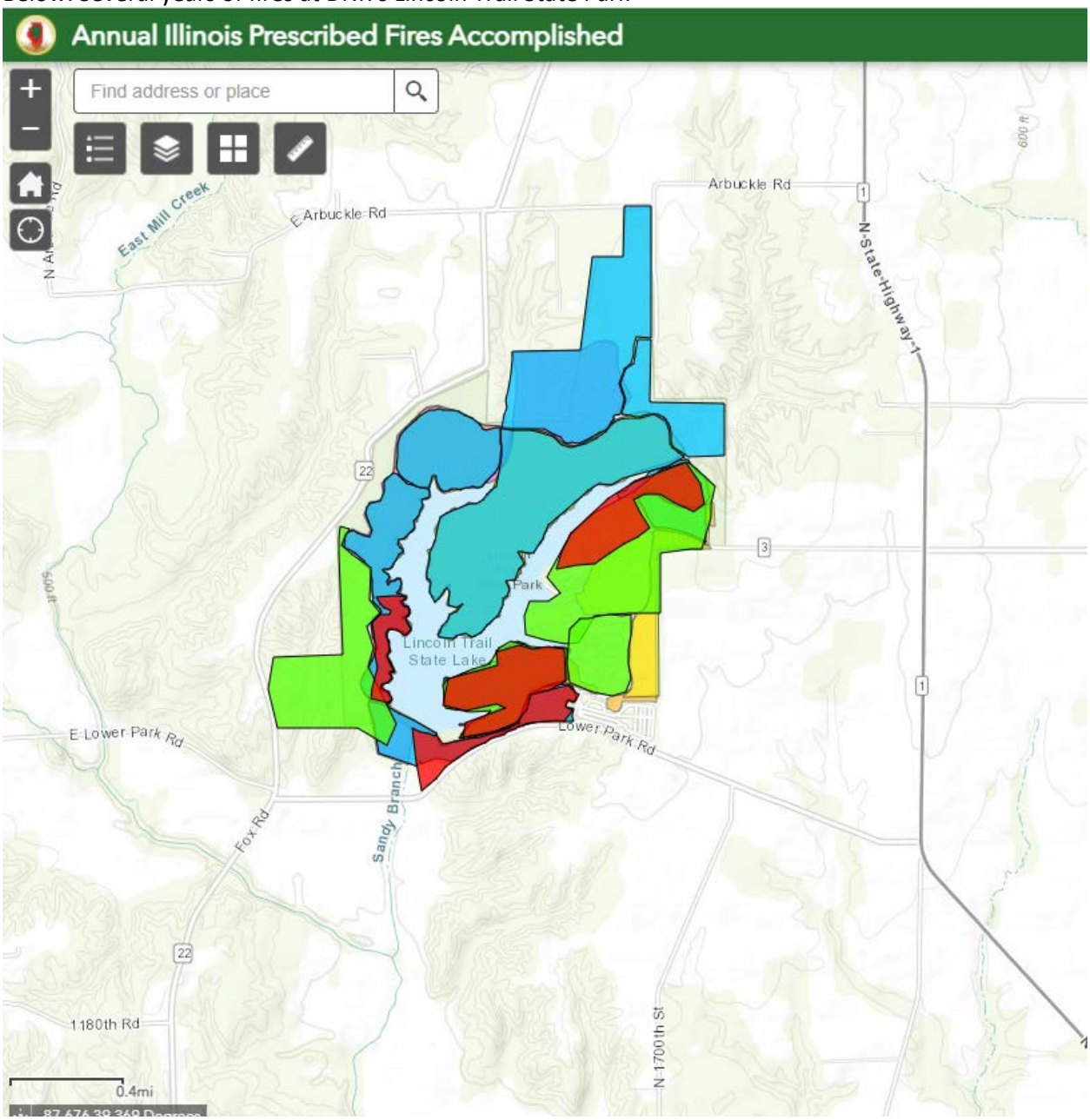
Below: Forest Preserve District of Will County

Below: Forest Preserve District of Will County at Sand Ridge Savanna

Below: Location of DNR's Lincoln Trail State Park in east-central Illinois



Below: Several years of fires at DNR's Lincoln Trail State Park



Lincoln Trail State Park is a fine example of a Site Superintendent engaging with various divisions of an agency to put a lot of good fire on the ground.

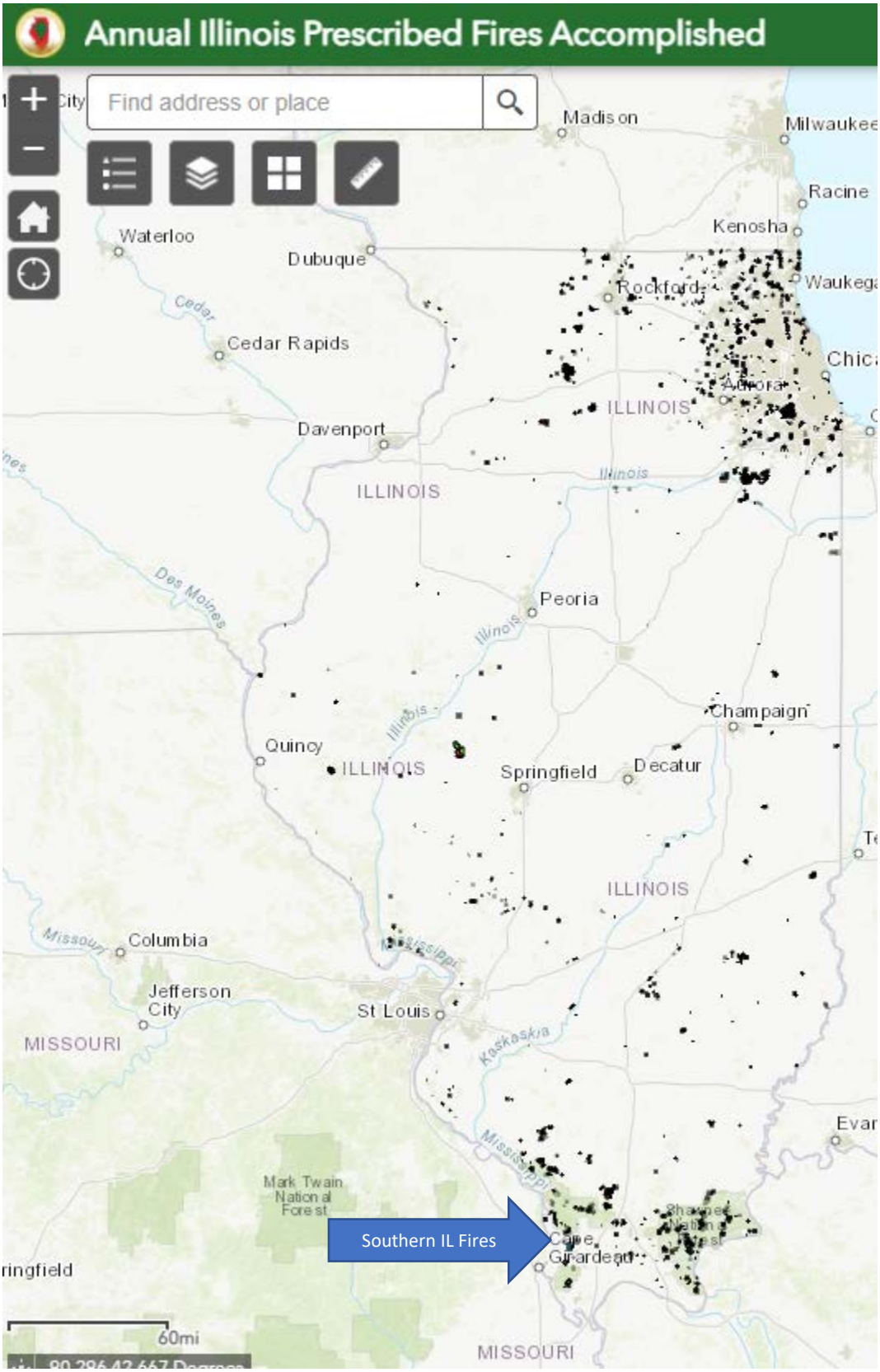
Paul Brewer is with our IL Prescribed Fire Council and he worked in this region. He remembers that the park started burning in the 1970s with Bill McClain (Heritage Division) and Jeff VerSteeg (Wildlife Division) on a ten-acre remnant prairie there. Then later they added Paul Brewer (DNR Private Lands Biologist), and Bob Szafoni (Heritage Division). The fire program increased more with Tom Hintz coming on as Site Superintendent, working with Doug Brown (Wildlife Division), Roger Jansen (Heritage Division), and Erik Esker (Site Tech).

Tom Hintz, below, is that Site Superintendent.

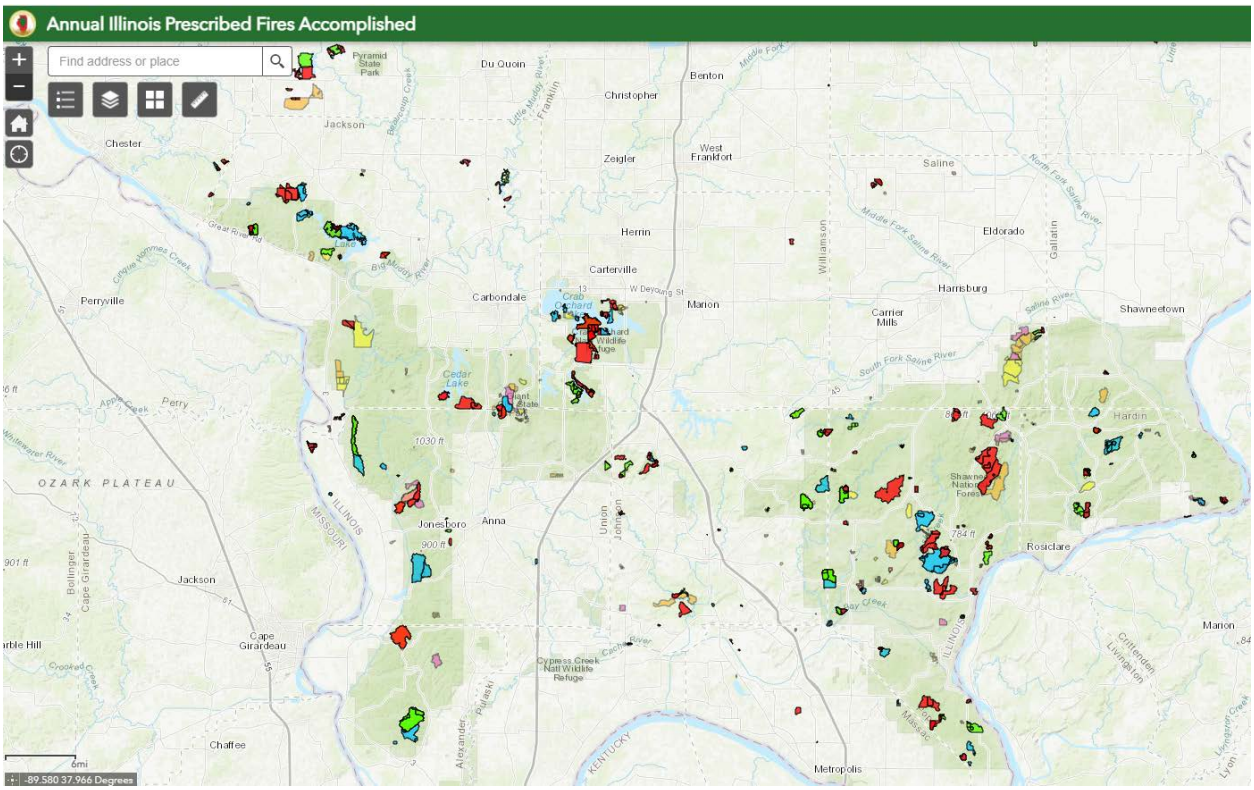
Below: DNR Crew briefing with Terry Esker, Roger Jansen, Wade Bloemer and site staff with Superintendent Tom Hintz

Below: Erik Esker, Site Technician, igniting.

Below: Southern Illinois Fires



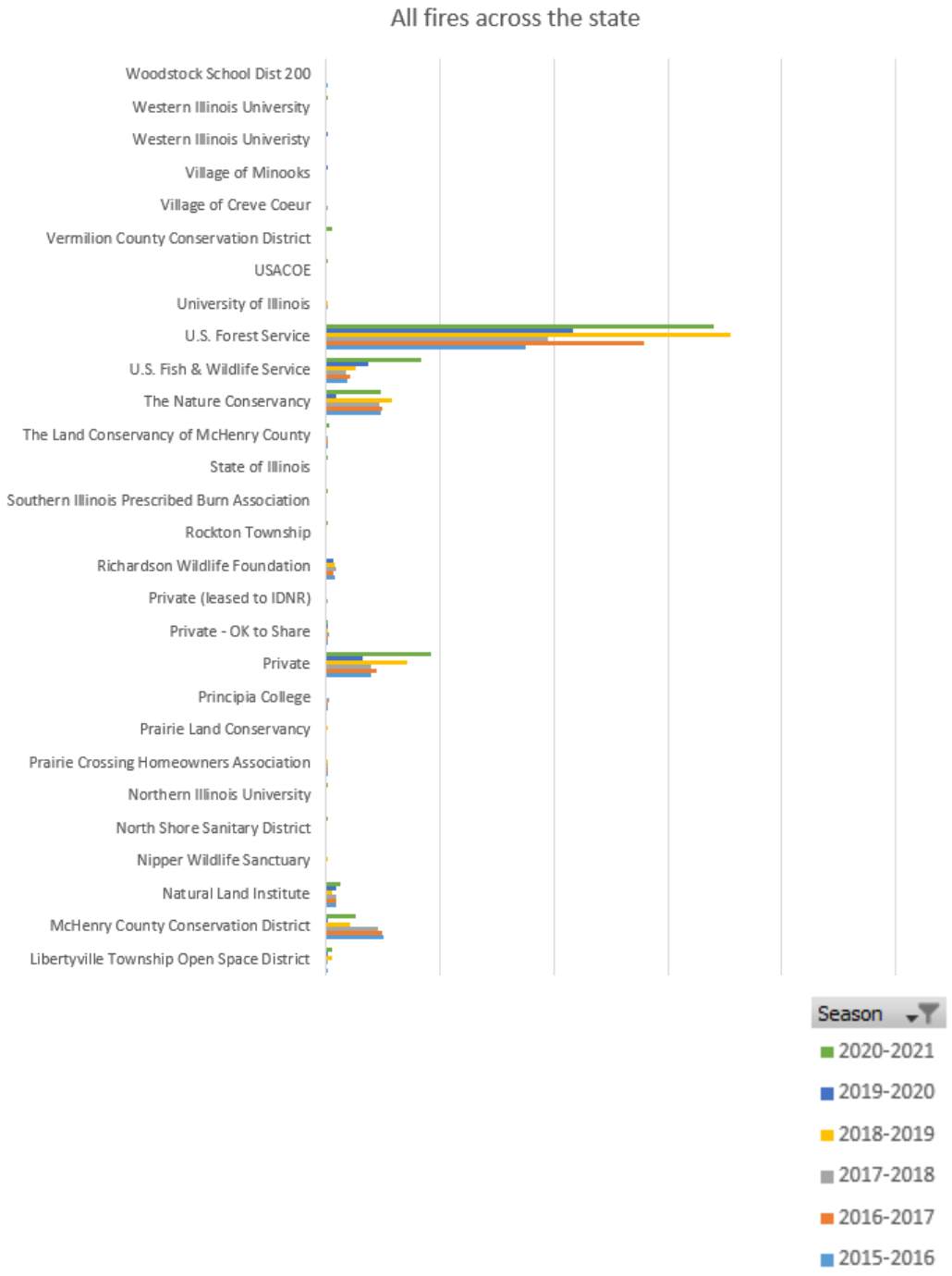
Below: Fires of Southern Illinois with various partners such as the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, USFS, USFWS, DNR, SIU Fire Dawgs, and The Nature Conservancy.



Emma Ensley ignites perimeter

Left to right: Makenna Baxter, Ruth Campos and Emma Ensley assisting the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association on private lands in Pope County.

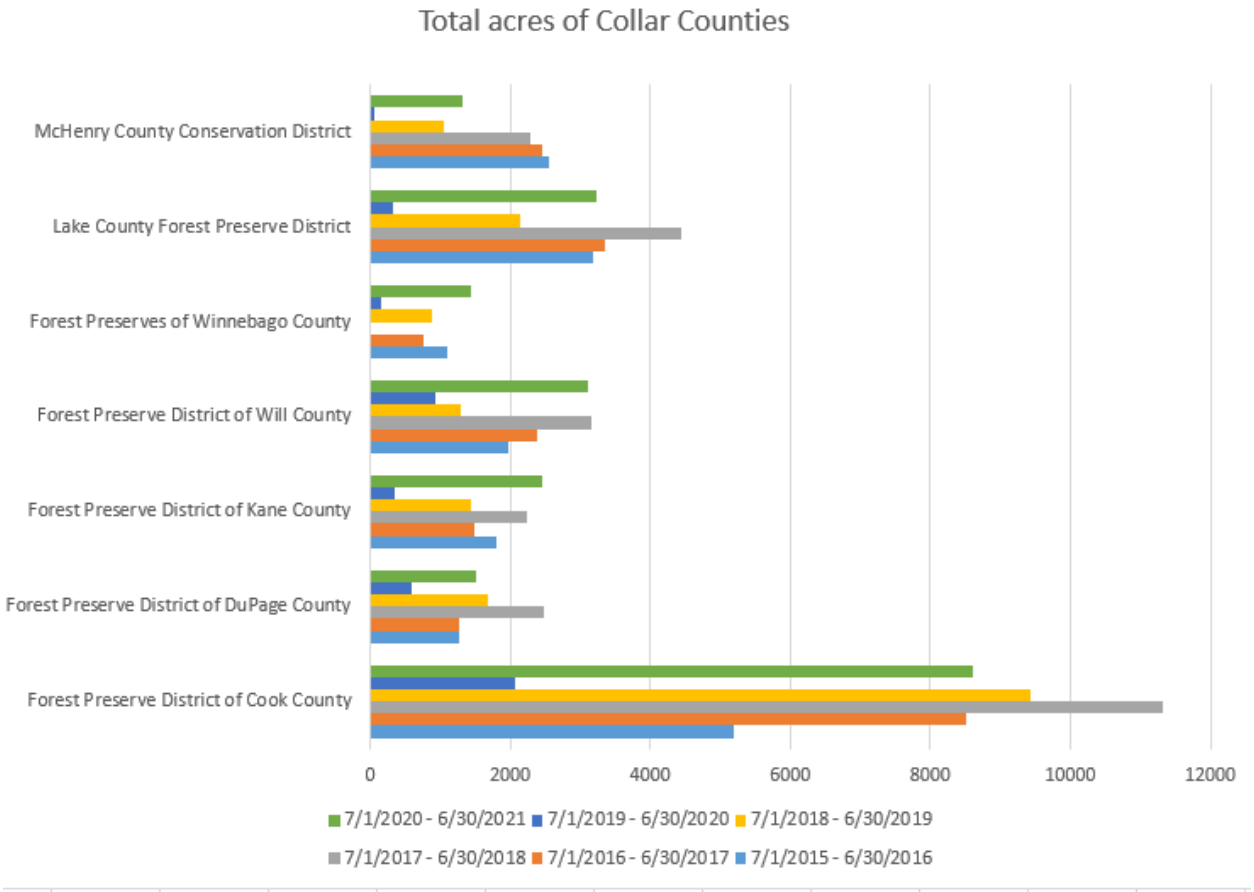
Graphs and Data follows


All fires across the state
Woodstock School Dist 200
Western Illinois University
Western Illinois Univeristy
Village of Minooks
Village of Creve Coeur
Vermilion County Conservation District
USACOE
University of Illinois
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
The Nature Conservancy
The Land Conservancy of McHenry County
State of Illinois
Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association
Rockton Township
Richardson Wildlife Foundation
Private (leased to IDNR)
Private - OK to Share
Private
Principia College
Prairie Land Conservancy
Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association
Northern Illinois University
North Shore Sanitary District
Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary
Natural Land Institute
McHenry County Conservation District
Libertyville Township Open Space District
Season
2020-2021
2019-2020
2018-2019
2017-2018
2016-2017
2015-2016

Owner
Lake County Public Water District
Lake County Forest Preserve District
Kincaid Conservancy
Kendall County Forest Preserve District
Jane Addamsland Park Foundation
Institutional
Illinois Eastern Community College
Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Audubon Society
Great Rivers Land Preservation Association, Inc.
Grand Prairie Friends
Franklin Creek Conservation Association
Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
Forest Preserve District of Will County
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Dixon Park District
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
ComEd
Clifftop NFP & Heartlands Conservancy
Clifftop NFP
City of Woodstock
City of Litchfield
Chicago Park District
Champaign County Forest Preserve District
Calumet Memorial Park District
Byron Forest Preserve District
Bureau County SWCD
Boone County Conservation District
Ballard Nature Center
Augustana College
0
5,000
10,000
15,000
20,000
25,000
Season
2020-2021
2019-2020
2018-2019
2017-2018
2016-2017
2015-2016

Owner	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Augustana College				10		
Ballard Nature Center				13		3
Boone County Conservation District	154	359	228	274	73	438
Bureau County Soil and Water Conservation District						97
Byron Forest Preserve District	817	1,045	1,329	922	947	1,175
Calumet Memorial Park District						43
Champaign County Forest Preserve District		528	242	558	241	363
Chicago Park District				58		
City of Litchfield						219
City of Woodstock	84	14	30			22
Clifftop NFP		68	143	114		3
Clifftop NFP & Heartlands Conservancy		30	30			
ComEd						7
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District		85		157	39	6
Dixon Park District				132		
Forest Preserve District of Cook County	5,198	8,519	11,322	9,423	2,080	8,597
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County	1,259	1,279	2,478	1,673	583	1,508
Forest Preserve District of Kane County	1,800	1,477	2,246	1,448	353	2,445
Forest Preserve District of Will County	1,973	2,378	3,154	1,283	926	3,121
Forest Preserves of Winnebago County	1,096	749	172	891	159	1,429
Franklin Creek Conservation Association			31	10		
Grand Prairie Friends				43	27	
Great Rivers Land Preservation Association, Inc.		12				
Illinois Audubon Society	93	257	143	183	33	440
Illinois Department of Agriculture						2
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	12,749	8,598	14,107	8,345	11,660	20,557
Illinois Department of Transportation						33
Illinois Eastern Community College						20
Institutional	1			1		
Jane Addamsland Park Foundation	5					
Kendall County Forest Preserve District		2	18		58	50
Kincaid Conservancy						513
Lake County Forest Preserve District	3,191	3,356	4,450	2,134	328	3,227
Lake County Public Water District						11
Libertyville Township Open Space District	3		39	250	18	271
McHenry County Conservation District	2,541	2,454	2,279	1,059	69	1,322

Natural Land Institute	474	419	478	275	472	638
Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary				21		
North Shore Sanitary District						10
Northern Illinois University						48
Prairie Crossing Homeowners Association	52	61	46	79		
Prairie Land Conservancy				16		
Principia College	52	82	145			
Private	1,993	2,238	1,953	3,544	1,606	4,630
Private - OK to Share	9	25	115	28	24	31
Private (leased to IDNR)			25			
Richardson Wildlife Foundation	401	303	462	383	307	
Rockton Township						5
Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association						68
State of Illinois						18
The Land Conservancy of McHenry County	88	66	5			121
The Nature Conservancy	2,391	2,479	2,368	2,923	462	2,425
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	916	1,052	863	1,276	1,869	4,173
U.S. Forest Service	8,738	13,956	9,766	17,768	10,861	17,034
University of Illinois			38	80		
USACOE						26
Vermilion County Conservation District						264
Village of Creve Coeur			1			
Village of Minooks					11	
Western Illinois University					5	
Western Illinois University						103
Woodstock School Dist 200	8					
Grand Total	***46,084***	***51,890***	***55,377***	***55,376***	***33,211***	***75,517***



Keep making a difference!

Share this report with your colleagues.

End