



Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

www.friendsofillinoisnaturepreserves.org

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Governor J.B. Pritzker
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

December 6, 2021

Support for the Illinois Nature Preserves System

Dear Governor Pritzker,

Congratulations on fulfilling your commitment to Illinois Nature!

Since 2015, the governing Commission of the Illinois Nature Preserve System – once a global model in biodiversity conservation – had lacked an Executive Director, crippling vital work that safeguards our state's natural heritage. In June you supported reopening the position in the Department of Natural Resources. Last week it was announced that the position has been filled and that Todd Strole will begin his work in that capacity next month. We are thrilled to have someone with a long history of working with the Illinois Natural Areas and Endangered Species programs and is a skilled collaborator and communicator in the position.

Illinois' System works well because it is collaborative. By design, responsibility for managing these precious Preserves is shared between the State, local governments, non-profits, private landowners, and volunteer stewards. It works because Illinoisans across the state put time, effort, and resources into caring for its irreplaceable nature, lightening the burden on State government. We applaud the decision to hire appoint someone to this position that will collaborate with many partners of the Nature Preserves System for a fiscally responsible, practical, and effective approach for biodiversity conservation statewide.

The leadership shown in this by you, DNR Director Colleen Callahan, Assistant Director John Rogner, and soon by Nature Preserve System Executive Director Todd Strole is just the kind of leadership the Nature Preserves Community has long hoped for from Springfield. Illinois' finest prairies, woodlands, and wetlands thank you dearly – and we do too.

With deep appreciation,
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

Cc: Colleen Callahan, DNR Director

John Rogner, DNR Assistant Director

Todd Strole, Executive Director of the IL Nature Preserves System