



Illinois
Department of
**Natural
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

www.dnr.illinois.gov

Dear Governor Pritzker and members of the Illinois General Assembly:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is pleased to present the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program's annual report for fiscal year 2025.

The OSLAD program is one of IDNR's most popular grant programs. With continued support by the legislature, OSLAD received \$54 million of funds in FY25 for acquisition and development of recreation projects in Illinois. This program has become a vital resource for local agencies as they try to keep pace with the growing demands for additional open space land and new outdoor recreation opportunities while rehabilitating aging recreation facilities.

The OSLAD program has enabled local governments, individually and cooperatively, to commit to large-scale, long-term recreation, and open space and natural resource preservation initiatives, often transcending jurisdictional boundaries. As such, the OSLAD program not only forges state-local partnerships but also helps foster local, intergovernmental partnerships.

Your support and expansion of the OSLAD program has improved the quality of life in many Illinois communities by providing public recreation, securing perpetual open space for future generations, and increasing the benefits on citizens' health through exercise. IDNR is committed to the continued administration of this program in a manner responsive to the changing outdoor recreational needs of local governments throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Natalie Phelps Finnie
Director