



Proclamation

WHEREAS, America's system of public lands includes parks, unique landscapes, forests, wildlife refuges, historic trails, natural streams and wetlands, nature centers, community gardens and other landmarks throughout the nation that individually and collectively represent our shared irreplaceable national resources; and,

WHEREAS, public lands provide locally accessible natural and cultural resources for environmental learning, wildlife appreciation and recreation; and,

WHEREAS, public lands promote civic ideals that include shared stewardship and recognition of public ownership; and,

WHEREAS, shared stewardship requires the goodwill, cooperation and active support of citizens, community, local and state officials, business leaders, youth and adults; and,

WHEREAS, recreation opportunities offered by public lands help families and individuals lead active lifestyles and reduce the risk of childhood obesity; and,

WHEREAS, land conservation efforts improve access to public lands for urban residents and work to break down the barriers that prevent Americans from actively utilizing their public lands; and,

WHEREAS, a collaboration among state and local residents, land managers and community leaders improves the condition of publicly held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans; and,

WHEREAS, National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands and is coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation, State and City Park systems throughout the nation join with federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service to deliver an annual celebration of local participation on publicly held lands in this great State of Illinois;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2015 as the 22nd ANNUAL NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY and call upon the people of Illinois to recognize and participate in this special observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capital in the City of Springfield,

this FOURTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER, in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

FIFTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,

one hundred and NINETY-SEVENTH.

Bruce Rauner

Bruce Rauner

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR