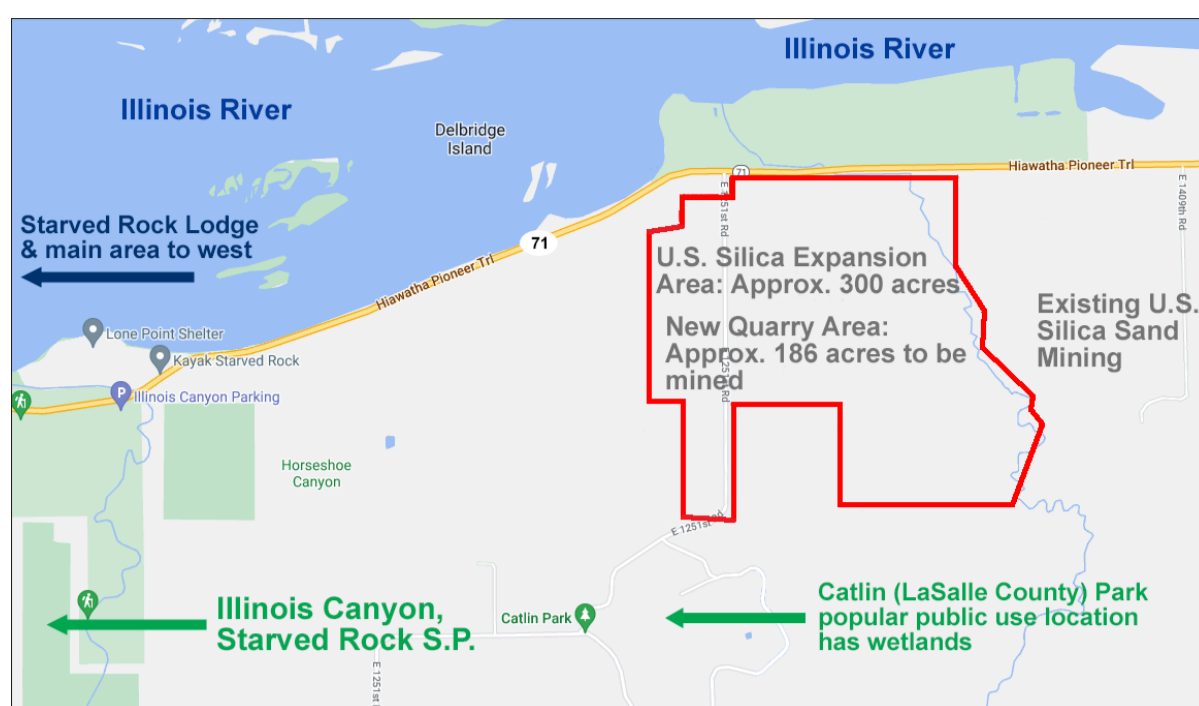




Sand Mine Quarry Application Withdrawn East of Starved Rock State Park



Proposed U.S. Silica mine expansion area near Starved Rock State Park, which has recently been withdrawn.

This article takes a pause to look back and reflect. Good things can happen. Over 90 comments were made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the November, 2022, deadline regarding the proposed expansion of silica sand mining east of Starved Rock State Park. The U.S. Silica Company (not a governmental entity) had filed for a Corps permit to impact wetlands and habitat areas with a new quarry. [More »](#)

In Progress: Kickapoo Creek Watershed Study



The hills and floodplains that make up Kickapoo Creek Watershed were set in place by the last glacier to depart this area ten thousand years ago, its moraine and meltwater making a wider valley than could have been created by the present-day stream, and depositing layers of sand and silt. The watershed drains over 309 square miles of Peoria county and bits of surrounding counties, before emptying into the Illinois River at Bartonville. The future of this much-overlooked and neglected watershed is the focus of a major study in progress by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TRPC) and environmental consulting firm of Baxter-Woodman. [More »](#)

New Solar Zoning Regulations Coming to Peoria



The Tuesday, July 9th, Peoria City Council meeting will include a proposal for added restrictions on ground mount solar in the city of Peoria. The Council will vote on a new zoning ordinance which states, "Ground mounted solar energy devices shall be prohibited from being placed in front and corner-side yards." [More »](#)

Will Peoria City/County Have a New Landfill to Replace the One Filling Up?



Comments at the most recent Solid Waste Committee meeting made progress on a new landfill sound possible. The existing City/County landfill is expected to reach capacity by the end of 2024 or early 2025. [More »](#)

New State CO2 Pipeline and Storage Rules



Thanks to all who phoned state legislators, emailed, wrote, attended a lobby day, or in other ways helped on environmental protection legislation in Springfield! While the much-needed Wetlands Protection legislation was stalled, the SAFE CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) Act was passed by the Legislature. [More »](#)

Fly Fishing Instruction at Wildlife Prairie Park



June 29th and 30th were two days of clean water awareness and new fishing skills at the Wildlife Prairie Park Outdoor Fun Extravaganza. The Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club coordinated with the Oakbrook Chapter of Trout Unlimited to provide fly fishing basic instruction and the use of equipment to learn the basics of fly fishing and casting a fly line. [More »](#)

Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club Celebrates and Honors Juneteenth, 2024!



HOI Group members Alisha Granderson, Robert Rowe, and Dave Grebner.

HOI Group joined the all-day Juneteenth festivities Saturday, June 15th, by tabling from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the YANI Collective event held at John H. Gwyn, Jr. Park and the George Washington Carver Community Center, downtown Peoria. The event had a large variety of displays, vendors, activities, and public health and services displays. The goal for the day was to celebrate freedom, diversity, equality and community spirit.

Make Your Voice Heard!



Above: 1) Rally, Climate Change Lobby Day, April 2023. 2) Rep. Ryan Spain office visit April 17, 2024

Every Voice Counts! Make your voice heard today by volunteering with your Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club. Join us on the front lines of the fight to save endangered wildlife, protect our nation's forests and public lands, defend clean air and water for all, block the fossil fuel industry's destruction, and much more.

Go with us as a group to meet with legislators in Springfield and local municipal officials. Work with local Sierra Club members and meet members across the State as we work to advance legislation and lend support to campaigns for candidates in critical races in this fall's elections.

If you are unsure how to reach out to politicians, Sierra Club has free on-line webinars on how to lobby for issues, with details on how to file witness slips and specifics on how bills move through the legislative calendar. I became active with the Sierra Club relatively recently and it has taught me a lot about how our government works. We need your help. Together we can make a difference.

Robert Rowe
Chair, Heart of Illinois Group, Sierra Club

[Fill Out Our Volunteer Survey Today!](#)



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