Illinois Wetland Data

Wetlands cover about 3.5 percent of Illinois. The largest acreage of wetlands is in the bottom-land forests and swamps along the State's major rivers. Northeastern Illinois also has a large concentration of wetlands. Illinois has lost as much as 90 percent of its original wetlands over the last 200 years; most of the losses have been due to drainage for conversion to agricultural and other uses. The primary State law governing wetlands is the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989, which sets a goal of no net loss of wetlands due to projects funded by the State. Wetlands can be owned and protected by the public as County Forest Preserve Districts.

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetlands Inventory produced [ ] digital data for Illinois with [ ] contributions from [ ]. Using the FGDC Wetlands Data Standard, wetlands were classified by System, Subsystem, Class, water regime and special modifiers. Digital Wetlands Data are available for almost all of the state (99.9%). Seventy-six percent of the imagery data is over 20 years old with 24% of it from the late 1980s. Color infrared imagery was used for 100% of the maps. Most of the imagery used to make the wetland maps was at a scale of 1:50,000.