

## Clean Water Act History

Americans today are enjoying the benefits of a farsighted law, the Clean Water Act, passed in 1972. For 30 years this landmark legislation has been central to our country's endeavors to improve the quality of the environment. Under this law, all levels of government—federal, state, and local—and the private sector have worked together to curb pollution problems caused by untreated wastewater and industrial effluents and to tackle the difficult problems presented by runoff from farmlands, city streets, and other so-called nonpoint sources.



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### Illinois Accomplishments

Since 1972, assessed stream miles rated "good" has increased from 34.7 percent to 62.5 percent and inland lake acres rated "poor" have decreased by 25 percent.

Over \$1 billion has been invested in Illinois for sewer systems.

Uncontrolled industrial pollution has been virtually eliminated.

Over 100 citizen watershed planning groups are working to protect local rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater.

In 2002, Illinois committed \$70 million to help un-sewered communities install sewer systems.

Between 1992 and 2000, there has been a 20 percent increase in the number of assessed streams with no use impairments from nonpoint source pollution.

