

The 565th National Wildlife Refuge

Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area was formally established on May 25 with acceptance of a 66-acre donation from the nonprofit Friends of the Kankakee. The refuge is in the Kankakee River basin of Iroquois County, IL,

The Kankakee River Basin has the biological foundation necessary for a highly significant contribution to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources. National wildlife refuges not only sustain and enhance natural resources, but they can also add to communities' economic vitality and quality of life.

The acquisition of the 66-acre tract in Iroquois County was funded, in part, by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, which works to improve energy efficiency, advance the development and use of renewable energy resources, and protect natural areas and wildlife habitat in communities across Illinois.

As part of the foundation's commitment to working closely with the community, it has joined nine other organizations to begin creating a sustainability plan in the Hopkins Park/Pembroke Township area in Kankakee County. This plan allows local residents and organizations to collaborate and shape the future of conservation.

Learn more about Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge: <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/kankakee/>