

EMIQUON

...the restoration of a flood-pulse river ecosystem



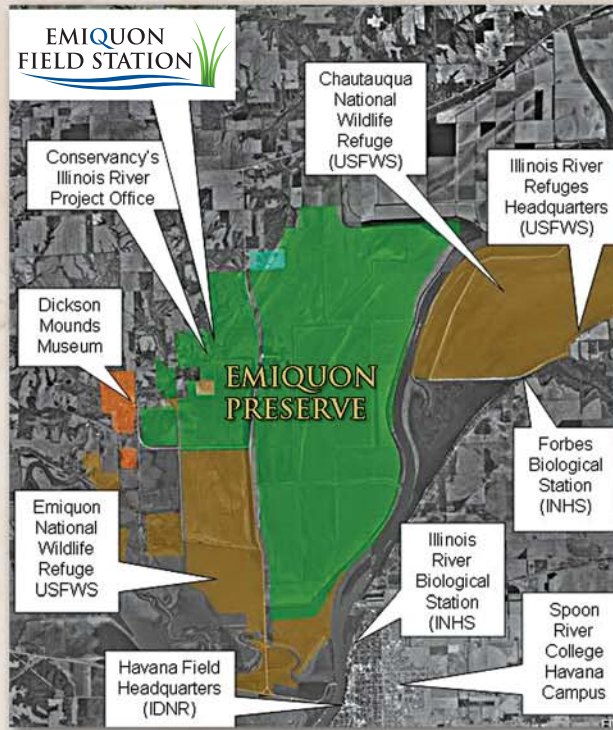
...the Illinois River is part of one of the world's great, large-floodplain river ecosystems...

...in 2007, 7,100 acres of land on the Illinois River began to be transformed from farmland to a natural state...

...one of the nation's largest river reclamation projects...

The Emiquon Field Station provides opportunities for research and education about this restoration.

The Emiquon Field Station is located northwest of Havana on Illinois State Route 78/97.



EMIQUON FIELD STATION

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT SPRINGFIELD

EMIQUON FIELD STATION



"Perhaps no phenomenon of life...is more remarkable than the steady balance of organic nature." – Stephen A. Forbes

The nucleus for education and research of the Illinois River floodplain

MISSION OF EFS

The Emiquon Field Station is a nucleus of activity and exchange of ideas about floodplain ecology, with the primary focus on the Emiquon floodplain.

The EFS provides resources to:



Teach natural sciences and train students of all ages in field biology techniques.



Learn more about natural floodplain processes, freshwater ecology, and restoration and management strategies.



Research cooperatively with regional, national and international experts intimately familiar with the river and floodplain restoration.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- hands-on field experience in restoration ecology.
- field courses on restoration ecology, conservation biology, aquatic ecology.
- interaction with researchers and natural resource professionals.
- study of the long-term environmental and cultural changes in the region.
- on-line courses to link to students in distant locations.
- interact with local educators, such as Lincolnland Community College and Spoon River College.
- exchange program with the State University of Maringa in Brazil.



BENEFITS TO RESEARCHERS

- opportunities for research in restoration ecology, anthropology and history.
- collaboration with regional, national and international researchers.
- access to growing data sets at www.uis.edu/emiquon



Current research includes:

- comparison of soil carbon storage of croplands and restored wetlands.
- analysis of effects of burning on prairie plant diversity.
- analysis of the water quality and microbial community of lake restoration.

PROJECT PARTNERS

The Nature Conservancy
Dickson Mounds Museum
Illinois Natural History Survey
Spoon River College
Lincolnland Community College
University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service