



**Capital
Development
Board**
Building a Better Illinois

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Illinois State Police Breaks Ground on New Canine Training Facility

Pawnee – The Illinois State Police (ISP) and Capital Development Board (CDB) today broke ground on a new canine training complex. The \$8.9 million state investment consists of two new buildings, including upgraded kennels, training areas, and office space.

“Here in Illinois, we’re proud to support our State Police as they take innovative steps to reduce crime and protect the People of Illinois,” said Governor JB Pritzker. “Upgrading ISP canine training facilities ensures officers and canines alike are well-equipped to keep drugs and guns off the street, solve missing persons cases, and make our communities safer.”

With steady and supportive funding from the Pritzker administration and the General Assembly, the ISP canine training facilities, which support law enforcement agencies across the state, will be upgraded for the first time in decades.

“The Illinois State Police Academy provides the best training to our officers, and the new canine training complex will ensure our canine partners receive the best training as well,” said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. “As our focus has expanded from traffic to trafficking, we’ve increased the tools in our toolbox, including the use of canines. Our canine partners are integral in our work to combat crime, conduct search and rescue missions, and protect the public.”

As methods used by criminals have evolved in recent years, ISP has responded by incorporating new technology and techniques to combat crime, including the increased use of canines. ISP provides a 10-week, full-service canine training course to both ISP Troopers, as well as local law enforcement agencies. Included in those 10 weeks, canines are trained to track human odors. This allows canines to locate criminals attempting to evade arrest and help in missing persons cases. ISP currently has 64 canine teams that assist with missing person searches, drug and gun interdiction, officer protection, and evidence recovery. In 2025, ISP canines assisted in almost 100 criminal apprehensions, 225 searches for items, more than 330 building searches (narcotics, person, explosives), almost 200 stolen vehicle recoveries, 117 firearm seizures, and the seizure of more than 3,600 pounds in illegal drugs.

Upgrades to the canine training complex include construction of an administrative building with office space for up to 80 personnel and additional classroom areas, as well as a kennel that can house up to 20 canines and allow for both indoor and outdoor training.

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WSP is serving as the architectural and engineering firm for the project, with CAD Construction leading as the General Contractor. CDB will oversee the project, providing management and oversight throughout construction in accordance with the protocol for state-funded projects.

“Supporting our sister agencies and their operational needs through strategic infrastructure investments is central to our mission,” said TJ Edwards, Executive Director of the Illinois Capital Development Board. “CDB is proud to partner with ISP to deliver new facilities that enhance their training environments.”

CDB is also managing a separate project currently in design to renovate the pistol and rifle ranges at the Pawnee site, further supporting long-term improvements to ISP training infrastructure. These efforts reflect the state’s commitment to modernizing facilities that improve public safety.

Video of the news conference is available on ISP’s Facebook page [ILStatePolice](#).



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About the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB)

The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) oversees the construction of new state facilities, such as correctional centers, state parks, mental health facilities, and college and university projects. In addition, CDB is responsible for renovation and rehabilitation projects at over 8,770 state-owned buildings spread over more than 100 million square feet of floor space.