Facilities
The Institute office is located in the Natural Resources Building on the University of Illinois campus. The Surveys have research labs and field study sites in Champaign-Urbana and strategically located throughout the state. Facilities include specialized laboratories for energy and engineering research and areas dedicated to curating and storing its world-class archives and physical collections.

Collections and Data
Institute scientists and staff collect, organize, and interpret data and samples to provide a foundation for basic and applied research as well as economic development in Illinois. The biological, geological, and archaeological collections and databases provide extensive records of weather, mineral resources, groundwater, energy, and biota dating back centuries—a priceless resource for students, researchers, and the private sector. The library puts the published record of the Surveys, databases, and related material at the public’s fingertips, increasingly online. Currently, Institute scientists are leading a consortium to digitize biological collections which will transform the way researchers and the general public gain access to information on specimens, species, and biodiversity.

Outreach and Education
As part of its scientific and public service mission, the Institute and individual Surveys maintain an active schedule of public talks, seminars, classroom lectures, field trips, events, and workshops each year. The Naturally Illinois Expo presents the breadth of our research to thousands of school children and the public. The Prairie Research Institute Lecture Series features speakers offering fresh perspectives on the science and issues underlying our work. Events are free and open to the public.
The Prairie Research Institute is a multidisciplinary research unit charged with providing objective research, expertise, and data on the natural and cultural resources of Illinois. The Institute is the home of the Illinois State Scientific Surveys at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Surveys have been helping keep the state’s economy, environment, and people prosperous and secure for over 160 years.

Supporting Agriculture
Numerous Institute projects support farmers in Illinois, from the comprehensive weather, water, and soil data programs, to the management of crop diseases, pests, and invasive species, to the development of new technologies.

Protecting the Public
Scientists provide timely expertise and long-term planning around major public hazards such as floods, droughts, and earthquakes. They help communities and decision-makers develop and implement policies and practices to deal with these risks. They also monitor groundwater quality for contaminants and rainfall for air pollutants.

Guiding Transportation Development
The Illinois Department of Transportation calls on interdisciplinary teams of Institute scientists to help understand and protect natural and cultural resources affected by its expanding transportation network.

Understanding Cultural Resources
Archaeologists with the Institute excavate, document, and research historic and prehistoric sites in the path of road construction. One such project uncovered one of the most significant Native American Urban Centers in North America in East St. Louis.

Institute expertise spans the resource sciences, including the biological and earth sciences, archaeology and cultural resource management, and sustainability. Scientists work individually and in interdisciplinary teams to develop and deliver objective, timely, and relevant information necessary to make efficient, effective decisions. Federal, state, and local governments; industry; farmers; businesses of all types and sizes; energy and water utilities; nonprofits; and the public rely upon Institute expertise and data.