



*The Illinois Tollway
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May 21, 2010

Mr. Leon Rockingham, Jr.
City of North Chicago
1850 Lewis Avenue
North Chicago, IL 60064

Dear Mayor Rockingham:

As you are aware, the Illinois Tollway is implementing a plan to restore 153 acres of environmentally sensitive property located within the City of North Chicago. The 153 acre site is located south of Illinois Route 137 and between Illinois Route 43 and U.S. Route 41. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has owned the site since 1966 and the Tollway worked collaboratively with IDOT to develop a wetland mitigation plan to protect and restore natural resources. The current restoration efforts include removal of invasive woody vegetation, herbicide application and prairie burns to prevent the re-growth of the invasive vegetation along with seeding and planting of native species.

Attached for your information is the Tollway's fact sheet which provides an overview of the project. The Tollway scheduled an informal open house/public meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, May 27th at the North Chicago Public Library. The Library is located at 2100 Argonne Drive in North Chicago. Staff from the Tollway, contractor and construction management team will be available to answer questions and explain project details. All residents and city officials are invited to attend.

The Illinois Tollway appreciates the participation and involvement of your staff over the last few years and we look forward to strengthening our working relationship. Please feel free to share this information with your staff, council members and residents of the city. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 630-241-6800 extension 3963 or alaporte@getipass.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Angela C. La Porte'.

Angela C. La Porte
Senior Environmental Planner

cc: Josh Wheeler, North Chicago
John Fortmann, IDOT
Tom Brooks, IDOT
Mike Cullian, IDOT
Doug Milligan, MACTEC
Sarah McMaster, McMaster Drake Inc.
Debbie Nissen, Burkson and Sons
Stratford Court Macks, LLC
The Sanctuary #159 c/o Lieberman Management
Deer Valley
Forest Pointe



Wetland Restoration Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Illinois Tollway is conducting a Wetland Restoration Project on a 160-acre site owned by the State of Illinois in North Chicago. The site is located just south of Buckley Road (IL Route 137) between IL Route 41 and IL Route 43 and east of the Tri-State Tollway (I-94).

The location was chosen due to the presence of State protected species as well as high quality wetlands in need of restoration. This work is part of the Tollway's \$6.3 billion Congestion-Relief Program – *Open Roads for a Faster Future*.

Construction Update (5-5-10)

Work began in spring 2010 with removal of invasive woody vegetation. Work will continue into winter and the Tollway will manage and monitor the site until 2015.

PROJECT INCLUDES

Clearing Brush

Ongoing work includes removal of shrubs and other invasive woody vegetation. The cleared brush will be burned on site. The work involves minimal earth disturbance. Trucks accessing the site will enter off Brompton Avenue or Buckley Road, outside of residential areas to prevent impacts to local residents.

Planting and Seeding

Once invasive vegetation is removed, remaining stumps will be treated with herbicide to prevent a re-growth. By removing invasive vegetation, native plants within the existing wetlands will flourish and the surrounding buffer areas will be seeded with prairie plants, grasses, sedges and other native species.

Wetland Restoration

One goal of the restoration effort is to allow high quality native plants to thrive in the existing wetlands by providing a sustained water source. Existing agricultural drainage tiles will be removed to restore hydrology to the site's wetlands.

Maintenance and Monitoring

The Tollway will monitor and manage the site for a minimum of five years or until the site meets the requirements of Federal, State and local environmental laws. Maintenance activities will include a combination of mowing, burning, seeding and herbicide applications.

PURPOSE

Pertinent Details on Why and How

The restoration of this wetland site's natural resources was developed to replace wetlands that were impacted during the recent Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294) Rebuild & Widen Project, as well as the Illinois Department of Transportation's recent work on IL Route 47.

This project was coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the University of Illinois, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, the Forest Preserve District of Lake County and the City of North Chicago.

WORK ZONE SAFETY

Construction zone speed limits are in effect in all construction zones 24/7 and drivers should continue to watch for changing traffic patterns and use caution, especially when workers are present. A 45 m.p.h. speed limit will be in place on the mainline. See the Tollway's Work Zone Safety page at www.illinoistollway.com.

Tri-State Tollway (I-94) Wetland Restoration Project

