



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

