



*Bringing People and Nature Together*

# Forest Preserve District

## OF WILL COUNTY

### MESSENGER WOODS NATURE PRESERVE HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

## FACT SHEET

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### **Natural Area Restoration**

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is undertaking a habitat restoration project at Messenger Woods Nature Preserve located south of 167<sup>th</sup> Street between Parker and Cedar Roads in Homer Township. Native oak trees, prairie grasses and wildflowers will be planted in the upland areas. Wetland areas will be graded with earthmoving equipment and native sedges and grasses will be planted in these areas. Weed control work, including prescribed burning, will follow the planting work.

The goal of this project will be to return the current landscape, which historically has been drained, grazed and farmed, to diverse and ecologically functional wetlands that will cleanse waters, help reduce flooding in the surrounding area and enhance groundwater recharge.

This project is made possible by cooperative agreements between the Forest Preserve District of Will County, OpenLands, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority. A portion of the project is intended to serve as compensation of wetland impacts and associated buffer areas as a result of the O'Hare Modernization Program.

### **Project Timeline:**

- Removal of existing vegetation, earthwork and erosion control will begin in August of 2009.
- Native seed will be broadcast in the spring and fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010.
- Wetland planting work will be done in the spring of 2010 and 2011.
- Weed control work including mowing, herbicide applications and prescribed burning will be conducted from 2009 to 2014.
- Tree planting work will be done in 2012 and 2013.

**Project Cost:** \$2,301,414 (O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account Funds = \$1,900,000; Tollway Funds = \$401,414)

**Project Consultant:** V3 Construction Group, Ltd. (Engineering and Contractor) and OpenLands (Grant Administrator)

### **Restored Habitat:**

- 54 acres of upland prairie and savanna
- 32 acres of wetland
- 4 acres of enhanced woodland habitat