



Forest Preserve District
OF WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together

Project Fact Sheet

Messenger Woods Nature Preserve – Habitat Restoration

Messenger Woods Nature Preserve is a 441 acre preserve in Homer Glen owned by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. It is located north of Bruce Road, west of Parker Road, south of 167th Street, and east of Cedar Road.

Habitat restoration in the northwestern portion of the preserve (90 acres) was funded by the O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account (OMMA) administered by Openlands in conjunction with the City of Chicago and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This project consisted of restoring hydrology to 30 acres of wetlands, protecting eroding ravine heads, and re-creating a 60-acre mosaic of woodland, savanna, and prairie adjacent to the high quality woodland at Messenger Woods. The primary restoration activities were completed between 2009 and 2010, and the initial five-year management period was successfully completed in 2014. Native trees and shrubs were planted in the fall of 2014, funded by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.

Ongoing management activities, including prescribed burn management, invasive species control, enrichment seeding, and erosion repairs are being funded by the OMMA administered by Openlands for up to an additional five-year period (until approximately 2019).

Additional details will be provided on the Forest Preserve's website, ReconnectWithNature.org.

Project Cost: \$2,630,000 (Openlands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Chicago, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority)

Project Contractors: Homer Environmental, LLC, Natural Resource Management, Inc., and V3 Construction Group, Ltd.

Forest Preserve District of Will County

17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433

815.727.8700 / fax 815.722.3608

ReconnectWithNature.org