



US Army Corps of Engineers®

# Powderhorn Lake & Prairie, Cook County, IL

## Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration

### Habitat and Species Focus Area

**Project Location:** The Powderhorn Lake and Prairie restoration area is located in northeast Illinois in Cook County, primarily in the Village of Burnham and secondarily within the City of Chicago.

**Project Description:** The project area is one of the few remaining examples of the dune and swale habitat that once characterized the Calumet Region along the south shore of Lake Michigan. The feasibility study would allow a better understanding of the site's hydrology and soil chemistry and explore ways to improve the lake and restore the site's unique ridge and swale communities. The project design would seek to restore high quality wet-mesic sand prairie, dry-mesic sand prairie, sand savannas and marshes by removing unnatural runoff, eliminating invasive species and reestablishing native plant communities.

**Non-Federal Partner:** Forest Preserve District of Cook County

**Ecosystem Benefits:** This 192-acre project would restore approximately 50 acres of marsh within the swales, 59 acres of prairie/savanna on the ridges and 83 acres of lentic habitat within Powderhorn Lake. The restoration will be accomplished by restoring former groundwater levels, restoring natural hydrologic regimes, removing invasive species, increasing species richness and abundance of native plants, and restoring habitat for migratory birds, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. One hundred and thirty acres of this preserve have been designated as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The mandatory operation and maintenance of this project by the non-Federal sponsor will ensure permanent long term sustainable benefits to these resources.

**Status:** The study is in the feasibility phase and with optimal funding, construction can be initiated in 2015.



Estimated Range of Project Costs	
Federal	\$1.625M - \$3.250M
Nonfederal	\$875K - \$1.75M
Total	\$2.5M - \$5M

Project Milestones	
Approve feasibility study	Mar 2015
Award construction contract	Sep 2015

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Proposed restoration site