



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Orland Tract Perimeter Restoration, IL

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration Habitat and Species Focus Area

Project Location: The Orland Tract is a 949-acre property owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). It is located in the Village of Orland Park, in southwestern Cook County, Ill., approximately 25 miles southwest of the city of Chicago. The entire 949-acre site is an important resting and forage site for the Lake Michigan migratory flyway.

Project Description: Various restoration activities on the 949-acre site have been ongoing for many years by others including the Audubon Society, CorLands (non-profit preservation group), volunteers and the FPDCC. USACE has a separate project under construction authorized by Section 206, WRDA 1996 within the interior of the 949-acre site. The Orland Perimeter project is a 275-acre restoration which includes hydraulic repair and the selective removal of secondary forest species and invasive woody species on wet savanna and wet prairie through the use of a brush hog, chain saws, herbicide application and prescribed burns. Native plants will replace the removed invasive plants by seeding and planting plugs, trees and shrubs.

Non-Federal Partner: Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Project Benefits: Immediate ecological benefits include the elimination of invasive species and their seed sources on 275 acres of land providing open space, water and sunlight for native species of a globally rare plant community. Removal of the trees will also help raise the water table at the entire site by reducing water loss by evapotranspiration. A population of Sand Hill Cranes uses Orland Tract as a stopover point during migrations and will benefit from this project. The mandatory operation and maintenance of this project by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County will ensure permanent long term sustainable benefits to these resources.

Project Status: Project is under construction and expected to be complete in Oct 2015. The project is expected to support 60 jobs in private industry. The project has been funded with the USEPA managed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Appropriations.



Restored
wetland and
pool



Total Project Costs	
Federal	\$2,937,000
Nonfederal	\$2,937,000
Total	\$4,519,000

Project Milestones	
Initiate construction	Nov 2011
Complete construction	Oct 2016

Point of Contact
Kirston Buczak, (312) 846-5552 Kirston.A.Buczak@usace.army.mil