

## **FOREST PRESERVE**

### **How can Forest Preserve District property be used for a project like this?**

*Under Illinois law, forest preserve property is sometimes sold or used for purposes such as this project. Generally a Forest Preserve District must be compensated fairly when its land is sold or used other than as forest preserve property. This compensation can be in terms of cash, additional land, or facilities. For every acre of land that the City acquired from the area of the Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve, three acres of land adjacent to the Norton Creek were added to the Kane County Forest Preserve District. By working with the City in this way, the Forest Preserve District increased its holdings and acquired significant wetland acreage along Norton Creek.*

### **Why are the proposed stormwater collection areas in the forest preserves and not within the roadway Right-of-Way?**

*Stormwater needs to be collected and treated in an area near the bridge. As water flows by gravity toward the river, an area near the Fox River is needed. The Forest Preserve District owns all of the land adjacent to the river in this area that is most suited for stormwater collection. Part of the agreement with the Forest Preserve District allows the City to use forest preserve property for temporary and permanent easements. Temporary easements are used for things like access to the site during construction. Permanent easements are used for construction activities that will permanently alter the landscape, such as building stormwater detention areas. Any forest preserve property that is permanently or temporarily disturbed by construction activities will be restored using appropriate native wetland and upland species to establish native plant communities.*

### **Are there plans to restore and preserve Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve?**

*Restoration of the entire Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve is under the authority of the Kane County Forest Preserve District. However, several enhancements to the Forest Preserve are planned to be built as part of this project. In addition to the wetland and upland plant communities described above, trails will be added to connect the Forest Preserve with the Fox River Trail on the east side of the river as well as connecting the north and south portions of the Forest Preserve. The trails will enhance access to the newly created ecosystems as well as to the existing woodlands along the river, and the rich diversity of the wetland and upland plant communities will attract and harbor a variety of wildlife.*

### **The project will split the Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve into two parts. How will people, dogs, and wildlife have access to both the north and south halves of the forest preserve?**

*An underpass will be created near the river to allow access between the north and south portions of the forest preserve for people, dogs, and wildlife.*

### **Will the Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve remain an off leash dog area?**

*The use of the Fox River Bluff West Forest Preserve is under the authority of the Kane County Forest Preserve District. The City is not aware of any change to the use that would limit the off leash dog use area. However, the proposed project will include fences along the roadway to prevent children and off-leash dogs from accidentally running onto the roadway. An underpass will be created near the river to allow access between the north and south portions of the forest preserve for people, dogs, and wildlife. Additionally, the project will include a pedestrian/bike bridge across the river so that dog owners east of the river will have convenient access to the forest preserve.*