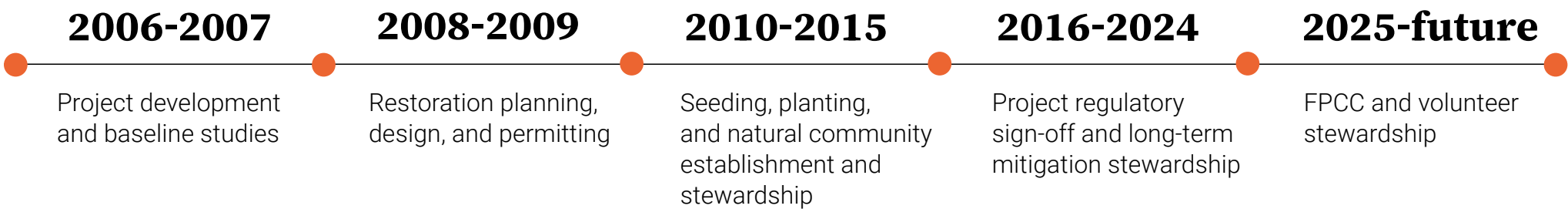


Deer Grove East Habitat Restoration

This project was part of a series of ecosystem restorations across the Des Plaines River Watershed, undertaken in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Chicago Department of Aviation. Funding was made available by the O’Hare Modernization Mitigation Account (OMMA) to offset impacts to aquatic resources caused by the expansion of O’Hare International Airport.

The project site was historically degraded by agricultural activity. Openlands worked closely with the Forest Preserve of Cook County (FPCC)—the property owner—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), other partner agencies, and Stantec to plan and implement the project over a 19-year period. The site is an Illinois Land and Water Reserve and is actively stewarded by the FPCC and the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers.



Project Highlights

185 acres near the Village of Palatine, Illinois	\$5.1M overall project cost	28 acres of wetland restoration	400 native plant species	25 bird species of greatest conservation need
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A volunteer group was formed in 2010 to assist with the restoration project, including weed scouting and invasive species control. Today, that group, now the Deer Grove Natural Area Volunteers, is leading ecological stewardship activities at both Deer Grove East and Deer Grove West.

Restoration Partners

Rehabilitated Oak Woodland



Restored Prairie



Restored Wetland



Project Fast Facts

94.7 native Floristic Quality Index score

the site attained this exceptional score within 5 years of the start of restoration, reflecting the diversity and richness of native plants re-established at the site.

225 acres

the area of degraded habitat replaced with healthy oak ecosystems, prairies, and wetlands through the restoration and volunteer stewardship adjacent to the project area.

25 species

the number of bird Species of Greatest Conservation Concern observed using site within 5 years of the start of restoration.

20 million gallons of stormwater

is the additional amount of water the site can absorb each year thanks to deep-rooted prairie plants and restored wetlands.

\$10.6 million in short-term economic impact

is how much the local economy benefited from the restoration at Deer Grove East, over twice the restoration investment.

\$27.52 post-restoration value

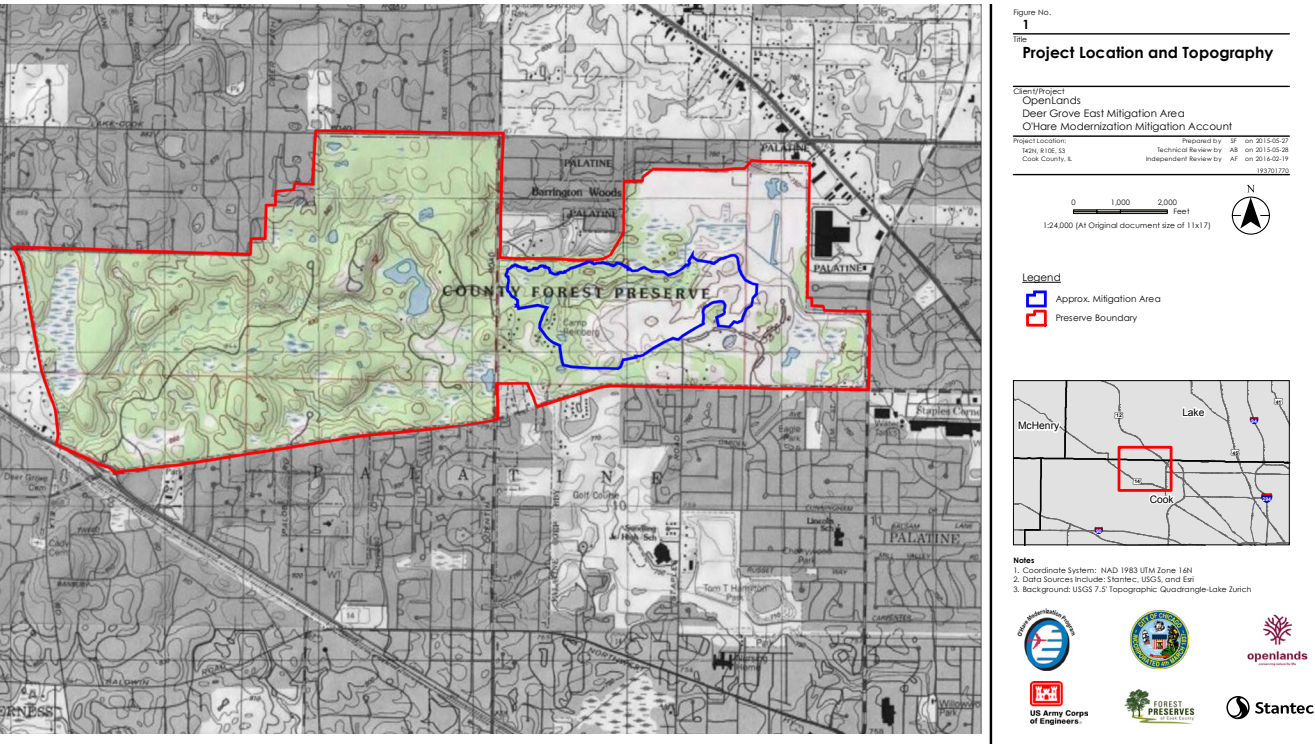
is how much residents were willing to pay for recreational experiences at the forest preserves, up from \$19.37 before restoration.

\$33.5 million in ecosystem services benefits

is the projected return over the next 20 years from improved recreational experiences and enhanced water and natural resource quality, delivering a 6:1 return on the restoration investment.

\$44 million in total benefits

is the projected value of restoring Deer Grove East, combining both short-term and long-term economic returns.



Additional Resources

For more information, scan here:

For more information on the habitat restoration at the 430-acre Deer Grove West project area, scan here: