

GOUGAR

ROAD STUDY

Public Information Meeting 2

October 4, 2022

SECTION 4(f) RESOURCES

Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development.

Section 4(f) properties along the Gougar Road corridor include properties owned by the Joliet Park District and Will County Forest Preserve District, such as Pilcher Park, Bird Haven Greenhouse and Conservatory, Potawatomi Woods, Higginbotham Woods, and Old Plank Road Trail.



Pilcher Park



Old Plank Road Trail



Bird Haven Greenhouse & Conservatory

The WCDOT is also seeking public comments on the effects that proposed improvements to Gougar Road will have on properties, which are under the jurisdiction of the Joliet Park District and Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC). These properties are significant, publicly owned city parks, trails, and/or forest preserve. As such, they are subject to protection under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966. For the Gougar Road project, WCDOT intends to seek a Section 4(f) "de minimis" impact finding from the Federal Highway Administration based on a determination that the project will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities that qualify the following properties for protection under Section 4(f).

Joliet Park District

Pilcher Park

Bird Haven Greenhouse Park

Higginbotham Woods

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Old Plank Road Trail

Effects of the Gougar Road project on these properties will include right-of-way impacts for the construction of a new shared use path, sidewalk, a new traffic signal at the Gougar Road and Francis Road intersection, roadway widening, and the replacement of the existing storm sewer. Mitigation will include enhancements to the Joliet Park District and FPDWC properties. The proposed shared use path will connect the Old Plank Road Trail to Pilcher Park and Bird Haven Greenhouse Park. This provides a regional path connection that is consistent with the Will County Bikeway Plan, Village of New Lenox 2018 Comprehensive Plan, and the Village of New Lenox Bicycle/Pedestrian Facility Master Plan. In addition, the Joliet Park District facilities will benefit from parking lot upgrades and access to the new traffic signal at the Gougar Road and Francis Road intersection. Detailed documentation describing the impacts and mitigation associated with the effects of the Gougar Road project on these properties are available for review at this Public Information Meeting and at the Will County Office from Wednesday, October 5, 2022, to Friday, November 4, 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

This project is being developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (or NEPA). During the NEPA process, the Purpose and Need of the proposed project is identified, project limits are established, transportation impacts are identified, and the affected environment is studied.

Cultural, Human, and Natural Resources are present along Gougar Road. These resources were considered and impacts to them were avoided or mitigated in the proposed improvements.

STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Within the study area, there are no drainage concerns outside of the already existing floodplains. The project team is aware of flooding concerns in areas

outside of the study area and we are not exacerbating the problem. Some BMPs include:

- Implementing grass lined swales for water quality
- Stormwater detention for sensitive areas
- Erosion and sediment control measures



Hickory Creek



Hickory Creek Bridge

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND INFORMATION

Your comments are valuable to us. To submit a comment, fill out the comment form provided at this meeting, online at **GougarRoadStudy.com**, or pick up a printed copy from the Will County Department of Transportation office and send or email to:

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Visit the project website
for more information:

GougarRoadStudy.com