

Arroyo Trails Project Status

As the Foundation works to raise the necessary funds to provide for the development of Arroyo Trails, planning work for the park is also underway.

Naperville based Hitchcock Design Group has been retained by the Foundation to perform design work for the park. Their flagship project is the Naperville Riverwalk development. They also designed the Hawks Hollow Nature Playground for Geneva Park District and the Children's Garden at the Morton Arboretum, both of which contain elements that are proposed to be incorporated into Arroyo Trails.

Hitchcock has also previously worked with the Park District on the 2011 improvements to Community Park, and proposed improvements in Central Park that await release of a grant to proceed.

Depending on funding availability, construction at the site is tentatively scheduled to begin in the second half of 2016, with completion in 2018.

10.26.2015

The Arroyo Trails site contains wetland, floodplain, and floodway areas, and is contiguous to the DuPage River, a navigable waterway. As a result, review of the project and the issuance of permits by several State and Federal regulatory agencies are necessary.

Joliet's Robert E. Hamilton Engineering has been hired by the Foundation to work with Hitchcock Design Group to prepare plans and documentation for the permitting processes.

Hamilton survey teams are on site in the park now into mid-September, performing wetland identification and topographic survey work that is needed for permit submittals.

11.16.2015

Hitchcock Design Group and R.E. Hamilton staff presented their work to date on the trail portion of the project.

Significant findings:

- depending on the final routing, the primary east-west trail is almost exactly a mile long. There is approximately 40 feet of net rise along the trail from east to west.

- the wetland areas are predictably throughout the ravine stream corridor, and the eastern property as it approaches the DuPage River. By the soils, hydrology, and plant materials present, the wetlands are all of very high quality.

- only about 1/10th of an acre (+/- 4,500 sf) of wetland areas are impacted in the current plan, primarily at ravine stream crossings. As a result mitigation requirements will be relatively minimal.

- 1,528 trees with trunk diameters of 5 inches or larger were identified within the 75 foot trail corridor. There are 24 different tree species present. Somewhat unexpectedly, many more are of poor quality than fair or good quality.

- the habitat on the site potentially supports two threatened/endangered species: the Northern Long Eared Bat and the River Redhorse (a fish).

Hamilton staff will next do some modeling based on the topographic platting to calculate anticipated flood levels during storms of varying intensity and frequency. That information will continue to help identify a final trail route, the number and elevation of ravine stream crossings, and the effects on different trail surface options (unimproved/wood chips/limestone screenings/asphalt).