



The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, along with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, is working with the Chicago-Rockford International Airport to relocate material from Bell Bowl Prairie. Prior to resuming construction, the airport agreed to set aside the top layer of prairie soil that would need to be removed to finish the road for the current airport expansion project. The soil removed from Bell Bowl Prairie still contains valuable roots, seed, fungi, and microorganisms that will help restore prairie at the nearby Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve. This work is expected to begin early next week.

The Airport has also committed to allowing the FPWC to access to airport grounds to harvest seed from Bell Bowl Prairie for use in prairie restorations throughout the County.

For questions, please contact Director of Natural Resources Mike Brien at mbrien@winnebagoforest.org