

# PROJECT UPDATE: ILLINOIS ROUTE 62

Illinois Route 25 to Illinois Route 68 • Cook & Kane Counties



DECEMBER 2020

## PROJECT OVERVIEW AND STUDY AREA

The project study area is within the Village of Barrington Hills in Cook and Kane Counties. Other municipalities potentially affected by this improvement include the Villages of Algonquin, Carpentersville, Barrington, and South Barrington. Land use is primarily forest preserve and residential.

The IL 62 Phase I Study was initiated to address existing safety concerns and accommodate existing and projected year 2050 travel demands. IL 62 has one lane in each direction with narrow shoulders within the project study area. IL 62 widens to two lanes in each direction with exclusive turn lanes at the intersections on the eastern and western project limits. The proposed improvements will be determined through the evaluation of identified transportation issues and the public involvement process.



Figure 1: Hines Emerald Dragonfly

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

The project team has been working to move the project forward. The presence of federally listed threatened and endangered species increases the analysis and evaluation required to select the preferred alternative. This will delay the original schedule, but the project team is still working to advance the project.

### Agency Coordination

Over the last year, the project team has coordinated with agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPDCC), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS). Due to the presence of two federally endangered species found within the project area, **Hines Emerald Dragonfly (Figure 1)** and Rusty Patched Bumblebee, additional studies are necessary along with further coordination with USFWS.

As the project advances, we anticipate additional meetings with the agencies listed above as well as Cook and Kane Counties and the Village of Barrington Hills. We will continue to work closely with local agencies and stakeholders as we move forward.

### Biological Assessment

When the CAG met in November, the project team discussed the need for a Biological Assessment, or BA. A BA document is required due to the presence of federally listed endangered species – the **Hines Emerald Dragonfly (Figure 1)** and the Rusty Patched Bumblebee. A BA will analyze and determine the project's effect on these species and/or their critical habitat, and document the measures taken to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate the impacts. The BA, and necessary alternatives analysis and studies that are required as part of the documentation, is anticipated to delay the project schedule by approximately 24-30 months.



# WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



*Figure 2: Spring Creek Nature Preserve Prescribed Burn  
Photo by John McCabe, FPDCC*

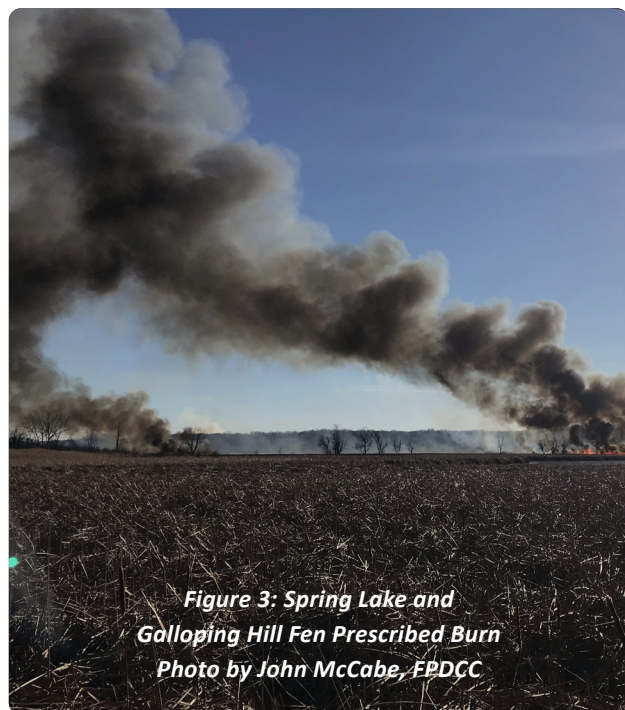
## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

As we look ahead, the focus of the project team and the Phase I Study will be on Endangered Species and their presence within the project corridor.

### **Prescribed Burn of Spring Lake Forest Preserve (Figures 2,3)**

As some of you might have noticed, there have been fires burning in the Spring Creek Forest Preserve recently. These fires are called prescribed burns and are conducted to restore and manage natural areas. They are carefully planned and implemented for two reasons: to prevent an uncontrolled fire that can be extremely damaging, and to enhance wildlife habitat.

For the IL 62 project, prescribed burns have another purpose. They will allow environmental specialists to perform required surveys by clearing out overgrowth giving them a better look at habitat conditions. Marshes near Spring Creek and its tributary have been overrun with dominant non-native plant communities. Cattails have overwhelmed the natural wetland plant communities near the roadway replacing native species of plants that once inhabited the area. The federally endangered **Hines Emerald Dragonfly (Figure 1)** has been identified near IL 62 in the marshes near Spring Creek. To determine if suitable breeding and foraging habitat is present, the Forest Preserves of Cook County conducted prescribed burns in the degraded marshes to determine if the sensitive habitat that supports the **Hines Emerald**



*Figure 3: Spring Lake and  
Galloping Hill Fen Prescribed Burn  
Photo by John McCabe, FPDCC*



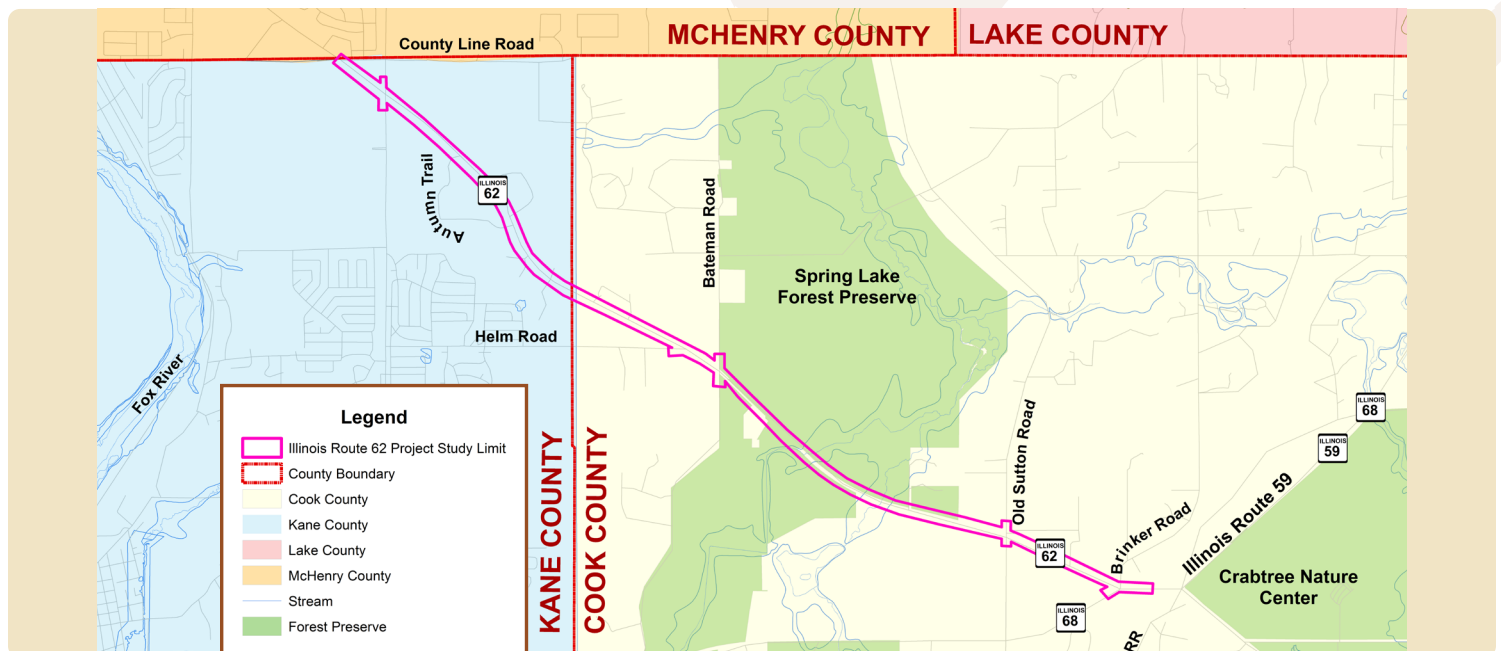
**Dragonfly (Figure 1)** is present at this location. If the habitat is deemed suitable, future management plans will be developed to support the dragonfly communities. This plan will help to restore their populations with the eventual goal of removing the dragonfly from the endangered species list.

*They [prescribed burns] will allow environmental specialists to perform required surveys by clearing out overgrowth giving them a better look at habitat conditions.*

#### Groundwater Modeling

Groundwater is the water that exists and flows below the earth's surface in aquifers and is important to the **Hines Emerald Dragonfly (Figure 1)** and its habitat. The dragonfly relies on groundwater during its larval (just hatched) stage, so creating a model of the groundwater and its characteristics is needed to determine the quality of habitat along IL 62. The groundwater models and evaluation are underway with the help of ISGS who are in the process of installing monitoring equipment in the forest preserve. As recommended by the USGS and ISGS, these monitors will need to gather data for one calendar year to provide the information necessary to move forward with the BA and our continued evaluation of proposed improvements for IL 62.

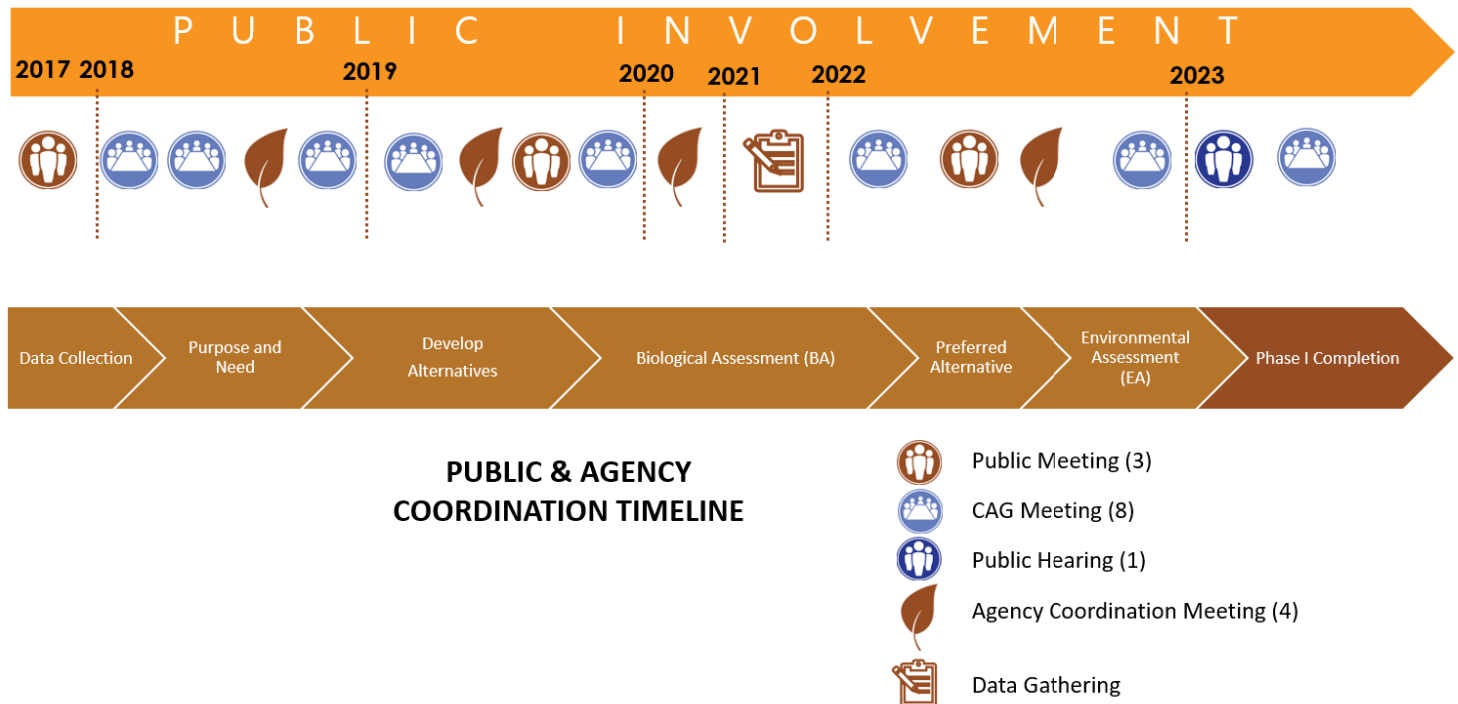
The analysis of the data collected by ISGS and the evaluation of the presence of habitat for the **Hines Emerald Dragonfly (Figure 1)** will begin once the year-long monitoring is complete. While the monitoring is taking place, the project team will continue to coordinate with ISGS, USFWS, and other agencies as necessary, gathering information for the BA document.



# SCHEDULE

## IL 62 PROJECT SCHEDULE

As noted, the schedule will be delayed by approximately 24-30 months while the groundwater monitoring is conducted, and the BA is completed. This means that Phase I completion is anticipated in 2022. Our next meeting with the CAG will take place once additional information is available to share with the group in 2021. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to Stay Involved.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit the project website at [idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL62Study](http://idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL62Study).  
The project email address is [IL62Study@clarkdietz.com](mailto:IL62Study@clarkdietz.com).

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## STAY INVOLVED

Stay involved with the IL 62 Phase I Study by visiting the project website at [idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL62Study](http://idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL62Study).

Interested stakeholders can sign up to receive project notifications and newsletters via mail or email. Materials presented at the public meetings and CAG meetings will be made available on the project website once the meeting has been held.