

# Waukegan National Airport

# SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



## WHAT WOULD CHANGE AT THE AIRPORT?

- ✓ A new 7,000-foot replacement runway would be about 1,000 feet longer than the current one and meet all federal safety laws and regulations
- ✓ New runway safety areas would extend the airport boundary and act as buffers at the ends of the runway to enhance safe operations
- ✓ New taxiways would be located at required distances from the runway for safe operations

## WHAT WOULD NOT CHANGE AT THE AIRPORT?

- ✗ No commercial passenger operations (No United, American, Southwest, etc.)
- ✗ No large cargo operations (No UPS, FedEx, Amazon, etc.)
- ✗ No significant increase in flights. Today's rate of takeoffs and landings may increase two or three per day over the next 10 years.
- ✗ No change in type of aircraft using the airport

**Waukegan National Airport**  
2601 Plane Rest Drive  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
(847) 244-0055



## Keeping Lake County's economic engine running

Runway 5/23 has reached the end of its useful life. The airport is required to update its infrastructure to meet today's federal safety regulations.

The airport is a foundational pillar of Lake County's economy, as it is used by law enforcement and emergency responders, U.S. Military and Coast Guard, critical healthcare providers, flight training schools, and local businesses, all of whom depend on the airport.

Fortunately, due to careful planning, the airport can complete the project while continuing to operate by building the replacement runway alongside the existing Runway 5/23.

## Waukegan Airport's impact on the local economy

**\$181 million**

Annual contribution to the local economy (estimated)

**\$236 million**

Annual contribution to the local economy by 2030 (estimated)

**900 jobs**

Number of jobs the airport currently supports.

**25,000+ people**

Number of people who work for companies that depend on the airport for business operations

**\$11 million**

Annual tax revenue to state and local governments generated by the airport

*(Data collected by Illinois Department of Transportation)*



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## WOULD OPERATIONS CHANGE AT THE AIRPORT?

Airport operations would not change. The existing airport layout does not allow for cargo or commercial flights, nor is the proposed replacement runway. The airport is not large enough for these operations. Also, the Chicago area's need for large-scale flights is adequately covered by other airports in the region.

## WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PROCEEDING?

The airport must meet FAA standards. Without the runway replacement project, the airport could be closed for 3 years to reconstruct the existing runway, significantly reducing its economic contributions to the region. Businesses that depend on the airport may go elsewhere and not return when the airport reopens. Emergency responders and critical healthcare users would lose an important asset.

## HOW MUCH LAND WOULD BE ACQUIRED?

To create the FAA-required runway safety areas, new land needs to be purchased by the airport. The airport has been purchasing land for many years as part of this plan. However, the purchase of 52 acres of Forest Preserve land, 34 properties and 6 businesses are needed for the project to be completed.

## Funding the project

**\$186 million**

Total cost for the Safety Improvement Project

**\$0.00**

No local taxes required or raised to pay for this project.

Funding would come from federal and state capital grants. The remainder would be paid by the users of the airport.

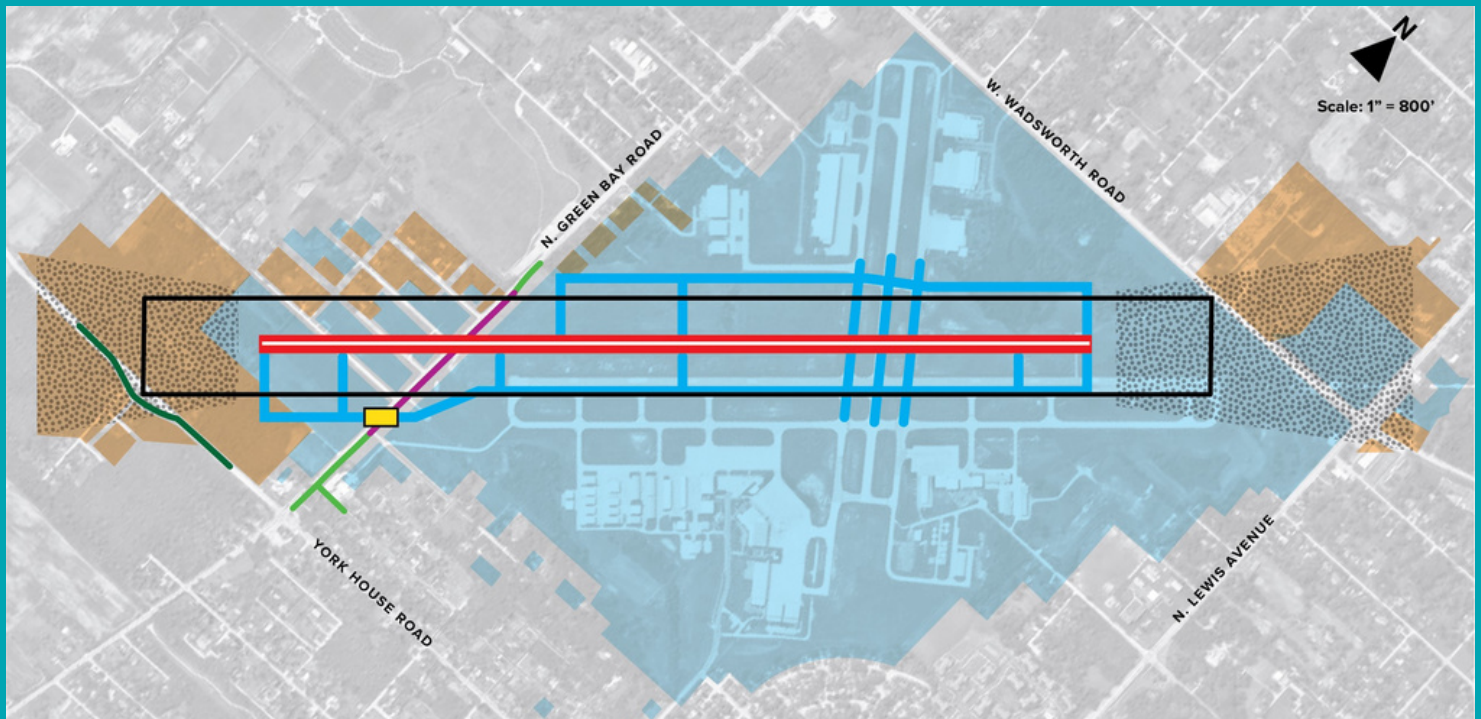
## Community Benefits

### Five-lane road

The long-sought widening of Green Bay Road near the airport would take place at the same time as the airport project, ending a traffic bottleneck. The five-lane road would go under the replacement runway and through traffic would be maintained during construction.

### Multi-use trail

The Safety Improvement Project can help make possible one of the Lake County Forest Preserve's long-planned trail connections for neighboring communities. A multi-use trail is envisioned on a portion of the Waukegan Savanna south of York House Road.



- |                           |                         |                      |   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Existing Airport Property | Runway Protection Zone  | Taxiway Improvements | Green Bay Roadway Realignment (To be completed by IDOT) |
| Land Acquisition          | Replacement Runway      | Taxiway Bridge       | Roadway Tunnel  |
|                           | Runway Object Free Area |                      | York House Road Realignment                             |



# Connecting Nature Trails, Making Improvements

Conceptual rendering of the proposed trail looking northwest towards the tunnel at York House Road

**Should the Waukegan National Airport's Safety Improvement Project move forward, it could provide support for a section of a new multi-use trail connector and revitalize a portion of the natural savanna.**

Due to careful planning, the Safety Improvement Project can help make possible one of the Lake County Forest Preserve's long-planned trail connections for neighboring communities.

## INCREASING COMMUNITY ACCESS

A new trail is envisioned to run east to west on the Lake County Forest Preserve land adjacent to the Airport's proposed purchase. This trail, along with the completion of other sections, will eventually connect existing regional trails – the Robert McClory Bicycle Path, the Des Plaines River Trail and the Lyons Woods Forest Preserve. Connecting these trails is part of the Lake County Forest Preserve's long-term plans, which could be expedited with funding from the sale of the land to Waukegan National Airport.

The trail could provide access to communities who have historically not been linked to the county's regional trail system. This trail is one segment of the Lake County Forest Preserve and other agencies' ongoing effort to provide underserved communities with access to regional trails.

Currently, it is estimated that about 20,000 residents in the area are not connected to the regional trail system. Additionally, the completion of this section of trail, along with other trails currently being planned by the Lake County Forest Preserve, will link together two municipal parks, three forest preserves and will pass through three municipalities.



Conceptual path of the proposed trail in yellow

# A multi-use trail for everyone to enjoy

Due to careful planning, the Safety Improvement Project can help make possible one of the Lake County Forest Preserve's long-planned trail connections for neighboring communities.

When complete, this trail connector will provide improved access to the new Waukegan Savanna Dog Park and include an underpass beneath York House Road. Patrons may use the trail for hiking, cycling and cross-country skiing. This trail connector could look and operate similar to Lake County Forest Preserve's existing trails. With a 12'-wide crushed stone path and frequent benches, the trail connector will wind its way through a portion of the Waukegan Savanna.

## Improvements to the land

The Waukegan National Airport's Safety Improvement Project would require the purchase of 52 acres of land from the Lake County Forest Preserve. The land proposed to be purchased would be used for safety areas for aircraft operations. No pavement will be on this area, and most of this land would remain as open space for aviation clear zones. The land closest to the runway, north of York House Road, would be fenced, raised and sloped, per federal regulations.

The majority of this area is currently overgrown with invasive plant species such as buckthorn trees, honeysuckle and phragmites. These invasive species compete and crown out native plants and animals. The airport is committed to making this land suitable for native species and any necessary mitigation measures.



Conceptual rendering of the proposed trail underpass looking northwest towards York House Road

## WORKING TOGETHER TO MITIGATE WETLANDS

Currently, a portion of the Lake County Forest Preserve land that would be acquired for the Safety Improvement Project is wetlands. The Waukegan National Airport will follow all federal, state and local regulations for wetland mitigation and work closely with regulatory agencies. If the Waukegan National Airport's Safety Improvement Project is environmentally cleared by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Airport will pursue mitigation actions approved by federal, state and local environmental resource agencies.

## WHAT ARE THE WILDLIFE IMPACTS?

As part of the airport's Environmental and Biological Assessments, the land has been surveyed for plants and animals that may live in the area. The project is committed to following all federal, state and local mitigation and conservation efforts to protect the natural ecosystem.



Current state of the land proposed for purchase



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