

WEST RIDGE NATURE PRESERVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



ESI provided construction engineering services for the Chicago Department of Transportation's West Ridge Nature Preserve. The 20.5 acre site is adjacent to and outside of the Western Avenue right-of-way and consists of primarily wooded land with rolling topography and a 5-acre pond.

Prior to purchase by the City of Chicago, this parcel of land was used for the drainage detention of the Rose Hill Cemetery

property storm water and as a dumping area for burial plot spoils. The result was a parcel that was full of invasive tree species, a stagnant pond and poor drainage that often led to flooding of the adjacent Western Avenue.

ESI helped to turn this once unusable and overgrown site into an inviting nature preserve where visitors can enjoy the many plants and animals that call this area home. The once stagnant pond was transformed into a breathtaking lagoon complete with boardwalk and bird / wildlife lookout stations. Nearly a mile of HMA and PCC paths and trails were strategically placed around the property leading wanderers to explore the grounds more thoroughly. At the highest point of the nature preserve a "council ring" was built which serves as a small outdoor gathering space for educational and meeting purposes.

As is common with repurposed sites, there were utility, storm sewer and other drainage issues that needed to be addressed with as little disruption to the native plants and animals as possible.

Additionally, ESI coordinated debris and tree removal; clearing and grubbing; earth excavation; utilities, storm sewer and water; fence repair and installation; tree installation; seeding and plugging.



Services Provided:

- Prepare all project documentation, including daily reports, pay estimates, change orders and close-out documentation
- Full time inspection of contractor's operations
- Chair weekly progress meetings
- Public coordination

This project reflects Firm
and Staff experience.



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