CHICAGO ROCKFORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

MIDFIELD AIR CARGO ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

BY

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ON BEHALF OF

SAVE BELL BOWL PRAIRIE ADVOCATES
Why is the prairie expendable and the parking lot untouchable?

Truck route and visitor entry/exit can be realigned.
About 61 percent of Illinois, approximately 22 million acres, once was prairie. Now less than one percent remains, about 2,500 acres. Most of the land once occupied by prairie is now farmland.

50.7 acres of Grade B gravel prairies remain

The original Illinois Natural Areas Inventory states:

There are 21.8 acres of Grade A gravel prairies left in the state of Illinois.

All can fit within this project site with plenty of room to spare.
USUAL, CURRENT BIG PICTURE STRATEGY

1. Metrics of efficiency - lowest cost
2. Tactics - reduce amount and cost of materials (value engineering)
3. Strategies - Compress dimensions and scope.
4. Goals - Create the smallest space that can accommodate use.
5. Principles - too late!!! - metrics, tactics and goals already established.
6. Human values - unexpressed.

VALUE-BASED STRATEGY

1. Establish values for engaging the world.
2. Work with teams to establish principles.
3. Develop goals to realize values.
4. Develop strategies to meet goals.
5. Develop tactics to execute strategies.
6. Develop metrics to measure effectiveness of tactics.
The cumulative areas of employee parking lot and stormwater management areas proposed in the official plan shown here overlayed on the existing Grade A and Grade B 10,000 year-old gravel prairie.

In effect the plan being proposed by the Rockford International Airport is swapping a precious remnant rare ecosystem into one large parking lot and three holes in the ground.
Chicago Rockford International Airport
Midfiels Air Cargo Alternative Concept Development Plan (2021)
by Domenico D’Alessandro

By constructing an employee parking garage and employing state of the art porous paving and an underground cistern system to capture runoff, we can save the rare gravel prairie from being obliterated. The areas designated for employee parking and stormwater management in the plan proposed by airport authorities constitute an economic drain in perpetuity for the airport. This overlay illustrates the amount of land that can be converted into income-generating land use with minimal impact on the remnant, rare, irreplaceable prairie. The upfront costs associated with these changes would be recuperated over time as additional cargo aircraft accommodation is made possible by the alternate design. The parking garage would be beneficial to employees, especially during winter months, and save substantial costs over time in snow removal and deicing.
Proposal to dedicate Bell Bowl Prairie as a living memorial to all the men and women who were stationed at Camp Grant and sacrificed their lives in WWI and WWII.