

The background of the slide is a light beige color with a repeating pattern of botanical illustrations in a golden-brown hue. The illustrations include various types of flowers, such as daisies and lilies, along with leaves and stems. The text is centered over this pattern.

# **SAVE BELL BOWL PRAIRIE**

Public Meeting

December 7, 2021

A photograph of a field of tall, dry grasses with some green plants in the foreground. The background shows a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

December 7, 2021

1. Welcome and Recap
2. Legal Update
3. Monitoring Update
4. State Funding Update
5. Action Items
6. Next Public Meeting - January 11, 2021

## How Did We Get Here:

- 2018 - Environmental Assessment Conducted
- 2019 - Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Issued
- Summer 2021 - Construction work begins
- August 2021 - Rusty Patched Bumble Bee found on site
- September 2021 - Conservation advocates form Save Bell Bowl Prairie group
- September 2021 - Temporary hold on construction until November 1st
- October 2021 - Public pressure builds, much local, regional, and national media attention on Bell Bowl Prairie
- October 26 - Natural Land Institute files for injunctive relief
- October 28 - Airport releases a statement halting destruction of prairie until March 1 and reopening consultation with FAA

## Updates Since November 2nd Public Meeting:

- November 9- Airport states they plan to continue construction as planned
- November 16 - Governor Pritzker visits airport
- November 18 - IDNR consultation letter to FAA
- November 18 - GRAA board meeting - several speak
- November 19 - NLI files 60-day notice of violations of the ESA to federal agencies
- December 1 = IDOT announces Rebuild IL funding for Rockford Airport

# Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

We want to hold a space of healthy dialogue and community for as many people as possible to see a place for themselves as advocates for Bell Bowl Prairie. Differences of opinion are welcome, however, mean-spirited, abusive, hateful, or racist comments will only hinder building support and therefore are not acceptable.

We believe that race, inclusivity, Black Lives Matter, and intersectionality with environmentalism are appropriate conversations. They are interconnected and relevant to our goal of saving Bell Bowl Prairie.

We encourage everyone to broaden their understanding of these ideas and to engage in broad respectful discussion. If we are able to learn and grow together we'll have a stronger, more inclusive, and thus more effective team. This is how we will keep Bell Bowl Prairie safe.

## Legal Update:

- Complaint for injunctive relief
- Motion for temporary restraining order
- TRO withdrawn after airport agrees to stop construction
- Airport denies request to demarcate the BBP, give monitoring access to BBP, and to meet with consultants
- Intent to sue federal agencies

## Legal Update - Next Steps

- 12/28/2021 - Deadline for Airport to respond to the complaint
- 1/2/2022 - Deadline for federal defendants to respond to the complaint
- Continue pressing federal and state agencies
- Continue seeking a meeting between NLI and Airport
- Be prepared to file another TRP
- Amend complaint to add ESA claim after 60 day notice period ends



Link to Google Doc to sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/46ceuyww>

Thank you for signing up to monitor Bell Bowl Prairie. If you see construction equipment moving **on the prairie**, please contact **Jessie at (815) 955-0653** to alert authorities. Binoculars are helpful if you have them. Please also report if security is blocking you from monitoring. You don't have to stay for any length of time, just pass through and monitor. If Cessna Dr. is blocked, you should be able to view the prairie from Beltline Rd. right by the intersection of Cessna Dr.





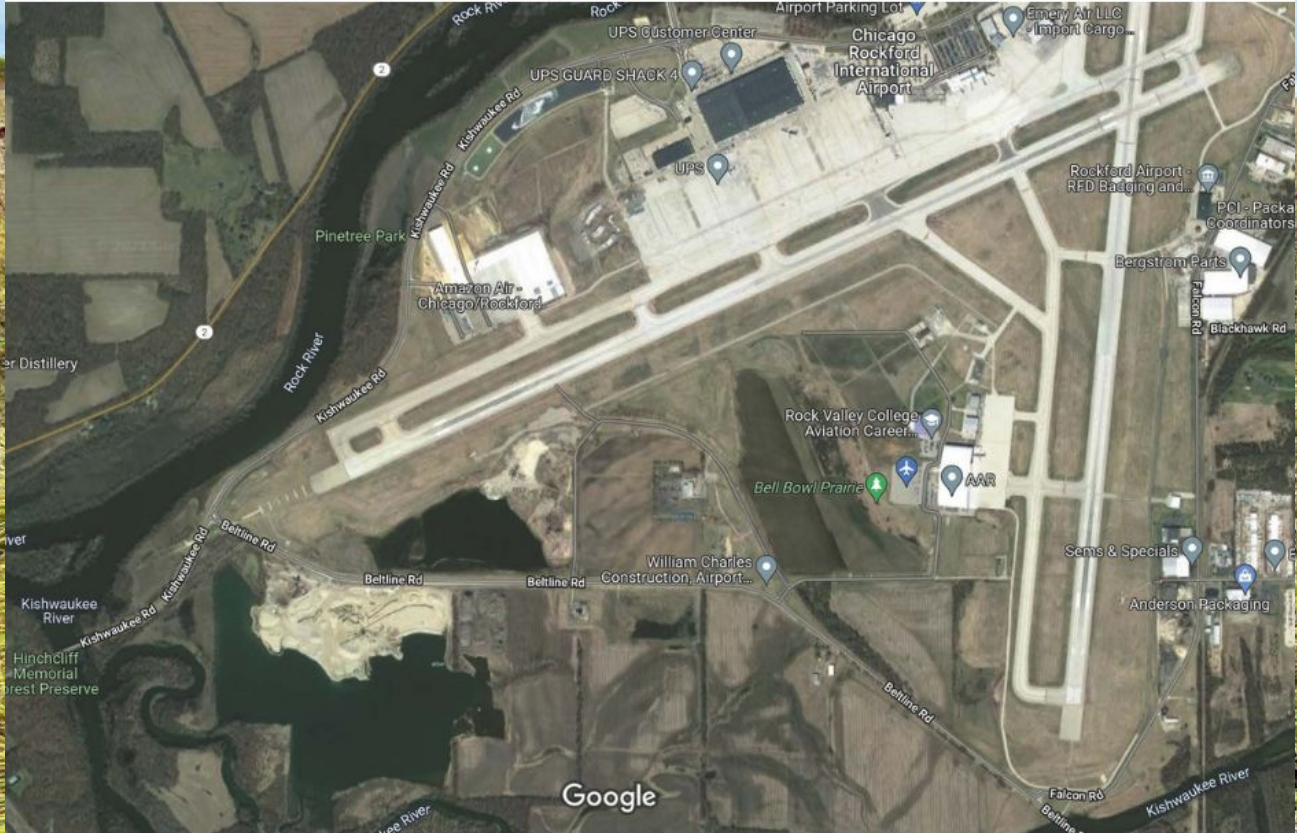
Rock River

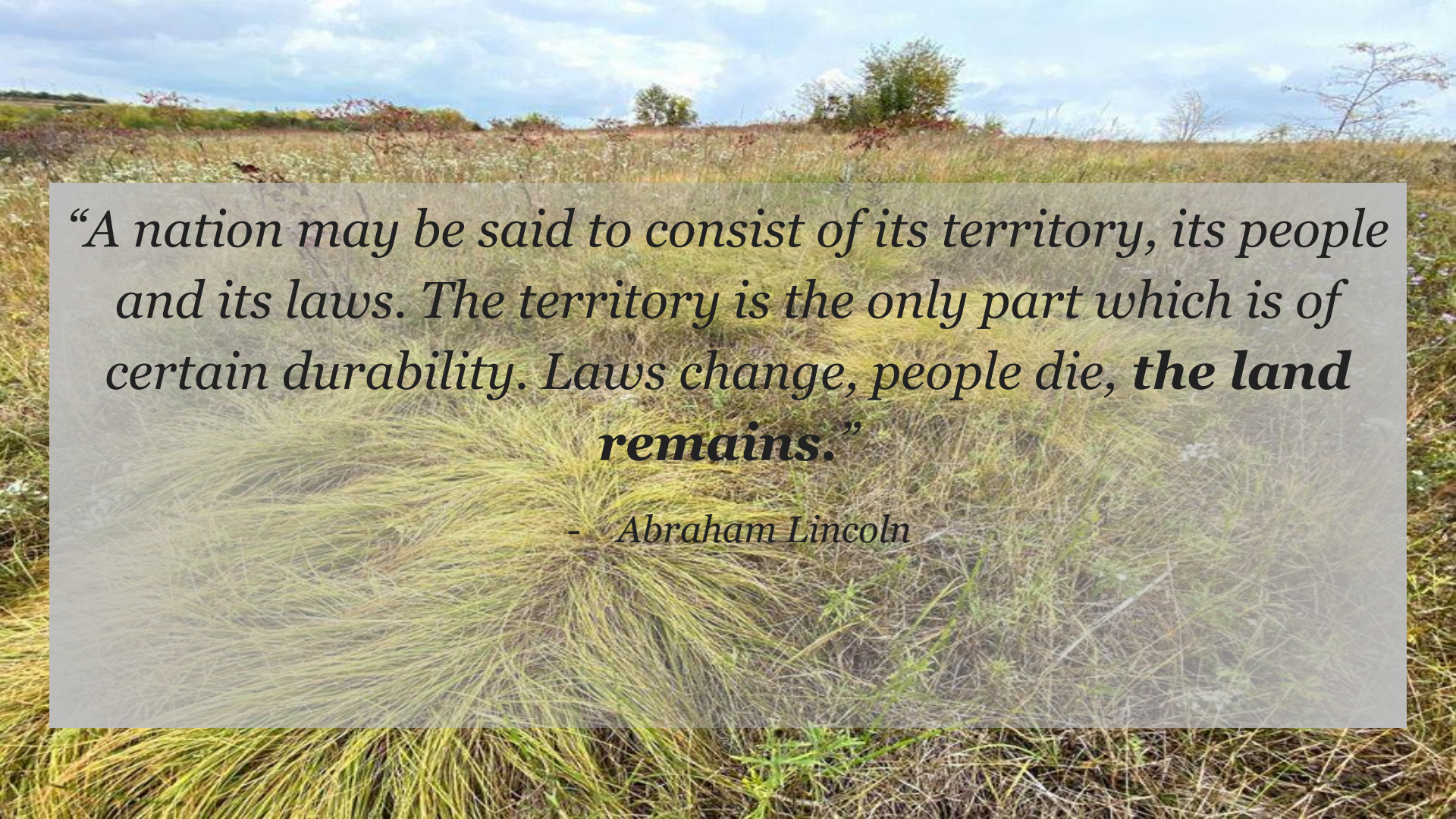
Chicago Rockford  
International Airport

Planned Midfield Air Cargo  
Development Area

Bell Bowl Prairie





A photograph of a field of tall, dry grasses under a cloudy sky. The grasses are a mix of yellow and green, and the sky is blue with white clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the center of the image.

*“A nation may be said to consist of its territory, its people and its laws. The territory is the only part which is of certain durability. Laws change, people die, **the land remains.**”*

*- Abraham Lincoln*



## Restore IL Airport Capital Improvement Program Awards

- \$3.6 million to Rockford Airport for Midfield Road Construction
- Not guaranteed to be funded
- IDOT Aeronautics staff have said it can be used for redesign
- <https://idot.illinois.gov/Assets/uploads/files/Doing-Business/Reports/Aero/RBI/RBI-Airport-Improvement-Capital-Program-awards.pdf>

- Letter before the holidays to Governor with SBBP Message (Available on website)
- Stay Connected!
  - <https://www.savebellbowlprairie.org/>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/savebellbowlprairie>
- Keep following up
  - **Ask Airport Commissioners to change their plan**
  - Ask federal and state legislators to not allow federal and state dollars to be used to destroy the prairie
  - Duckworth is the chair of the US Senate Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
- Donate for legal expenses

A photograph of a prairie landscape with tall, dry grasses in the foreground and middle ground, and a few trees in the distance under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent grey boxes.

# Action Items

- We need action teams to get ready now! We can't wait until February to organize!
- We know that the bulldozers are ready to start again to destroy the prairie .... We need to work now!
- Where will you help?
- Share in chat!

# Action Teams

- Share in chat:
  - Name and contact
  - How do you want to help?
    - Federal legislator communication campaign
    - State legislator communication campaign
    - Local legislator communication campaign
    - Federal agency (FAA, USF&W) communication campaign
    - State agency (IDNR, IDOT) communication campaign
    - Social media
    - Media
    - Other?

A photograph of a field with tall, golden-brown grasses in the foreground and a line of trees in the background under a blue sky with white clouds. Two semi-transparent grey boxes are overlaid on the image, containing text.

# Next Public Update Meeting

January 11, 2021