

East Branch DuPage River Trail (EBDRT): Frequently Asked Questions

Updated July 30, 2025



Where is the EBDRT project study area?

The study area is in central DuPage County near the East Branch DuPage River (EBDR). In its entirety, the EBDRT is a planned 28-mile regional trail that runs north-south. The DuPage County Division of Transportation (DuDOT) is developing routes to extend the EBDRT from St. Charles Road to Butterfield Road (IL 56) as two separate projects: one from St. Charles Road to the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) and another from the IPP to Butterfield Road (IL 56). This FAQ focuses on the project from the IPP to IL 56. See the project website link here for information on the separate project from [St. Charles Rd. to IPP Project | EBDRT Project](#).

What kind of trail is expected to be built?

DuDOT intends for the EBDRT path to be built to a similar design standard as the Illinois Prairie Path or Great Western Trail with either compacted earth and limestone screenings or paved. There are sections of wide floodplain and floodway where elevated trail or boardwalk are being considered. The exact design and materials will be determined as the project develops.

What was the purpose of this project's first Public Information Meeting (PIM) on April 29, 2025?

DuDOT held PIM #1 to present potential trail alternatives for public review and comment. PIM #1 was held on April 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Butterfield Park District, located at 21W730 Butterfield Road, Lombard, IL 60148. This meeting had an open-house format, meaning members of the public could attend the event at any time. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with project team members, view exhibit boards, provide feedback on aerial maps, and submit comments or questions. If you were unable to attend the meeting, materials are available on the project website at <http://www.ebdrt.com/ipp-to-il-56>

What are the trail alternatives being considered?

IPP to Roosevelt Road (IL 38): One alternative was identified north of Roosevelt Road as the most practical and feasible alternative. The other alternatives identified are not considered practical or feasible based on flood frequency, potential impacts, and constructability. DuDOT is currently conducting additional engineering analyses and agency coordination to refine this option.

IL 38 to IL 56: It was determined that safety, constructability, flooding, and environmental issues near the EBDR limited the range of alternatives in this area. A [2021 Alignment Study Report](#) identified two alternatives to carry forward: the West Alternative and the East Alternative. The West Alternative would be located primarily along IL 53, while the East Alternative would be located closer to the EBDR near residential/open-space areas. [Please click here to learn more.](#) The study team sought public input on the trail issues, needs, and alternatives at the first PIM to help the County further evaluate the alternatives and determine preferred locations. Based on public input, a third alternative near the ComEd Property and EBDR was added to the Alternatives Evaluation: "ComEd Alternative."

How will the trail route be ultimately decided?

Although final decisions on the selected alternative and proposed improvement plans for the EBDRT are DuDOT's responsibility, continuing opportunities for public input are being provided through the project [website](#). An additional public information meeting is anticipated before completion of Phase I Engineering. Ultimately, preferred trail routes will be decided based on a careful evaluation of the following factors:

construction and maintenance costs, environmental impacts, route feasibility near roadways, proximity and ease of access to destinations, flooding potential, and public feedback.



How is the project being funded?

The engineering phase of this project (Phase I) is being funded through Congressional Appropriations. DuDOT is actively seeking funding for Phases II and III of this project, which involve design engineering and construction respectively.

When is the trail expected to be finished?

This project is currently in Phase I (preliminary engineering and environmental studies), which is anticipated to continue through 2026. From there the project will go into Phase II (design engineering, contract plan preparation, and land acquisition) anticipated to begin in 2027 and continue through 2028. Actual construction timing (Phase III) will depend on plan readiness, funding availability, and the status of any necessary land acquisition.

Will there be environmental impacts?

DuDOT is committed to minimizing environmental impacts while meeting the goals of the project. If any impacts are unavoidable, DuDOT will follow all federal, state, and local regulations and implement required mitigation measures to reduce those effects.

Will there be residential property impacts?

DuDOT has not yet selected a specific route for the south section (IPP to Butterfield Road), so detailed design plans and land acquisition needs have not yet been developed. If land acquisition is needed, DuDOT will work with directly affected property owners to try and reach a fair and negotiated agreement. While the County aims to avoid using eminent domain, it may be considered if an agreement cannot be reached.

What are the next steps?

In terms of the project's next steps, DuDOT will continue evaluating alternatives in the coming months. DuDOT will host a second public information meeting, likely in 2026, to present the preferred alternative and gather more public feedback. More project and land acquisition information will be made available at that time. The project team will share information about the meeting with the public leading to the event, and details will be posted on the project website.

Why were some organizations involved in early planning discussions while residents were not?

The EBDRT project builds upon decades of DuDOT planning and coordination with a wide range of stakeholders including municipalities, park districts, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, townships, the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and the public.

The [County's 2021 Alignment Study](#), which DuDOT specifically conducted to identify potential constraints, trail alternatives, and stakeholders, utilized a steering committee for the project, which consisted of the following community organizations:

- DuPage County Division of Transportation
- Village of Glen Ellyn
- Village of Lombard
- Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
- DuPage County Stormwater Management



- Commonwealth Edison
- Glen Elly Park District
- Lombard Park District
- Butterfield Park District
- The Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail

The Steering Committee helped DuDOT identify a range of trail alignment alternatives and stakeholders. Prior to the Alignment Study, there were no potential trail alternatives and therefore not able to identify potentially impacted residents.

DuDOT is committed to transparency and has made all project information publicly available on the EBDRT website. The project team welcomes, and encourages, participation from all members of the public through the duration of this project.

Why were trees cleared along IL 53 and IL 56?

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is conducting a separate roadway construction project to add lanes along IL 56 and the IL 53 signalized intersection. [You can learn more about this project on IDOT's website.](#)

Please note there are ComEd distribution lines within the study area (along IL 56, IL 53, & IL 38). ComEd regularly prunes or removes “volunteer trees” (weed trees) and invasive species underneath their aerial power lines to protect the power grid.

Is it true that 1,000 trees will be removed with this project?

No. While environmental impacts have not yet been determined, DuDOT does not anticipate removing a significant number of trees. DuDOT is committed to minimizing environmental impacts during this project and will work to preserve existing trees.

Who will maintain the finished trail? What trail facilities will be included (e.g., benches, trash receptacles, lighting, bathrooms)?

This information will be determined later in the project development process. DuDOT welcomes public feedback on potential trail amenities.

Where can I learn more about the EBDRT? How can I share my feedback and ask questions?

Please visit <http://www.EBDRT.com> to learn more about the project, view upcoming public events, and contact the project team.

Thank you for your interest in this important project!