

Video Transcript

Station 4: Subarea 2 – Mining area south of Klasen Road and Fox Bluff Conservation Area Algonquin-Cary Subarea Plan Virtual Open House

Subarea 2 focuses on the area east of Route 31 and south of Klasen Road, including the mining area and Fox Bluff Conservation Area. Once gravel mining ceases over the next few years, the lake and surrounding land present an opportunity for restoration, recreation, and complementary development.

The plan's market study found that the land near the lake could be suitable for a mix of housing types, which could drive demand for commercial development near Route 31. The plan recommends that the Village of Algonquin engage the community to create a redevelopment site plan that includes trails and open space, recreation, and protection of the lakes. It also recommends that the Villages weigh the infrastructure and fiscal costs against potential revenue gains. Ideas shared by the residents for all three subareas include a nature preserve, a recreation area or adventure park, lakefront condos, a wedding venue, and businesses with outdoor seating.

Across Cary-Algonquin Road is Fox Bluff Conservation Area. The McHenry County Conservation District has a long-term plan to restore habitat, construct new amenities, and create new opportunities for education, events, and camping at the former Camp Algonquin site. An amenity like Fox Bluff will help attract new residential development to the area. Efforts to conserve and restore grassland prairie and oak woodlands on the mining site can enhance the wildlife habitat found in Fox Bluff, which will benefit not only the communities, but the Chicago region as a whole.