

# What is Section 4(f)?

Section 4(f) refers to a section of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for conservation of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development. This law is implemented by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration

Section 4(f) comes into effect any time a project that receives federal funding will impact any of the above-mentioned types of properties to any extent. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, is publicly owned, open to the public and is used for recreation and as a refuge. As such, it qualifies for protection under section 4(f), and a small portion of Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is proposed to be taken for the development of a roundabout and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations at the intersection of Illinois 148 and Old Illinois 13. As such, IDOT is seeking a *de minimis* impact finding from the FHWA.

## What is *de minimis* impact?

A *de minimis* impact means that the activities, features, or attributes of the property under protection of section 4(f) (for this project, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge) will not be adversely affected by the transportation project. For this project, IDOT is seeking a *de minimis* impact because we believe that Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge will not be adversely affected, and instead will be enhanced by the improved safety and access to the park for pedestrians and cyclists provided by the roundabout.

Due to the refuge's proximity to this intersection, it was not feasible to design the roundabout safely without taking a small portion of the refuge. This is due to the required diameter of the circle to allow the operation of the roundabout, the addition of the shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists, and for the preservation of safe angles of entry to the roundabout for those traveling along Illinois 148.

For more information of the section 4(f) process, please visit:

[https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env\\_topics/4f\\_tutorial/default.aspx](https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_topics/4f_tutorial/default.aspx)