



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St Paul District

APPLICANT: City of Northfield

Public Notice

ISSUED: June 12, 2015

EXPIRES: July 13, 2015

REFER TO: 2010-01608-DAS

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO discharge dredged and fill material into a total of 3.462 acres of wetlands adjacent to the Cannon River for the purpose of constructing a 1.8 mile recreational trail identified as the Greenway East Cannon River Corridor Trail in the City of Northfield, Minnesota.

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Sec. 1, 2, 10, and 11, T. 111N, R. 20W, Rice County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are Zone 15, X Coordinate: 484669.84, Y Coordinate 4920895.37.

BACKGROUND: The northern part of the Greenway East Cannon River Trail included the discharge of dredged and fill material into 0.46 acres of wetland adjacent to the Cannon River and was permitted and constructed in 2011.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The applicant has proposed the construction of a 1.8 mile, at-grade, ten-foot-wide, bituminous surface recreational trail considered in this notice as the final segment of the Greenway East Cannon River Trail. The trail would be for multi-use, non-motorized transportation and recreation that would form a six-mile loop on either side of the Cannon River with connections to the community of Northfield, the city of Dundas, and the state trail system. The proposed trail would also include the discharge of fill material for the development of three observation areas located in different habitat types with interpretive signage to provide educational opportunities for trail users.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: A total of 2.19 acres of wetland would be permanently impacted by the discharge of dredged and fill material for the construction of the trail and observation areas. The 2.19 acres of impact would consist of 1.07 acres of floodplain forest wetland and 1.12 acres of shrub-carr wetland.

In addition, 1.272 acres of wetland would be temporarily impacted associated with two proposed construction access routes connecting from Honey Locust Drive and the city maintenance facility, and temporary construction zones along the trail. The temporary wetland impacts would be restored to pre-construction contours after construction is completed.

Operations - Regulatory (2010-01068-DAS)
SUBJECT: Notice of Application for Permit

VEGETATION IN AFFECTED AREA: The floodplain forest wetland is dominated by box elder, silver maple, green ash, reed canary grass, white mulberry, wood nettle, jewelweed, buckthorn, common hackberry, and creeping jenny. The shrub-carr wetland is dominated by quaking aspen, Bebb's willow, and reed canary grass.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: It is anticipated that the fill material would be provided from commercially available sources. Permit conditions would require the applicant to notify the Corps before the start of work if the project would obtain off-site fill material that is not obtained from a licensed commercial facility.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The project is located on property owned by the City of Northfield and private parties. Portions of the land were previously used for agricultural purposes, but have been out of production since the mid-1990's. The project site is largely undeveloped with the Cannon River to the west and commercial development to the east.

THE FOLLOWING POTENTIALLY TOXIC MATERIALS COULD BE USED AT THE PROJECT SITE: It is anticipated that toxic materials that could be used at the project site would be consistent with general construction activities.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANT: Best Management Practices would be used and site restoration would occur in areas identified as temporary impacts to protect water quality.

MITIGATION: The applicant would purchase 2.141 acres of floodplain forest wetland credit and 2.24 acres of shrub-carr wetland credit as compensatory mitigation for the permanent wetland impacts described above from a mitigation bank located in the same bank service area.

3. REPLIES/COMMENTS.

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1678.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Mr. David Studenski at the La Crescent office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290 - 5902.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: http://mvp-extstp/list_server/ and add your information in the New Registration Box.

Operations - Regulatory (2010-01068-DAS)
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4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the applicant or are known to exist in the permit area. However, Rice County is within the known or historic range of the following Federally-listed threatened (T) and endangered (E) species:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Northern long-eared bat (T)	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
Dwarf trout lily (E)	North facing slopes and floodplains in deciduous forests.
Prairie bush clover (T)	Native prairie on well drained soils.

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

5. JURISDICTION.

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 08-02. We have made an initial determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The Corps will prepare an approved or preliminary jurisdictional determination prior to making a permit decision. Approved jurisdictional determinations are posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

THE APPLICANT HAS STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATE, COUNTY, AND/OR LOCAL PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR/ISSUED: The Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District has approved the replacement plan for the project in accordance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act. A Shoreland Zoning permit and a Conditional Use Permit may be required for the project.

Operations - Regulatory (2010-01068-DAS)
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6. STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.

Valid Section 404 permits cannot be issued for any activity unless state water quality certification for the activity is granted or waived pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The state Section 401 authority in Minnesota is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The St. Paul District has provided this public notice and a copy of the applicant's Section 404 permit application form to the MPCA. If MPCA needs any additional information in order for the Section 401 application to be considered complete by MPCA, the MPCA has indicated that it will request such information from the applicant. It is the permit applicant's responsibility to ensure that the MPCA has received a valid, complete application for state Section 401 certification and to obtain a final Section 401 action from the MPCA.

The MPCA has indicated that this public notice serves as its public notice of the application for Section 401 water quality certification under Minnesota Rules Part 7001. The MPCA has also indicated that the Section 401 process shall begin to commence upon the issuance date of this public notice unless the MPCA notifies both the St. Paul District and the permit applicant to the contrary, in writing, before the expiration date of this public notice.

Any comments relative to MPCA's Section 401 Certification for the activity proposed in this public notice may be sent to:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Resource Management and Assistance Division,
Attention: 401 Certification, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194.

7. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service and the State Archaeologist for their comments. The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

8. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

9. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the

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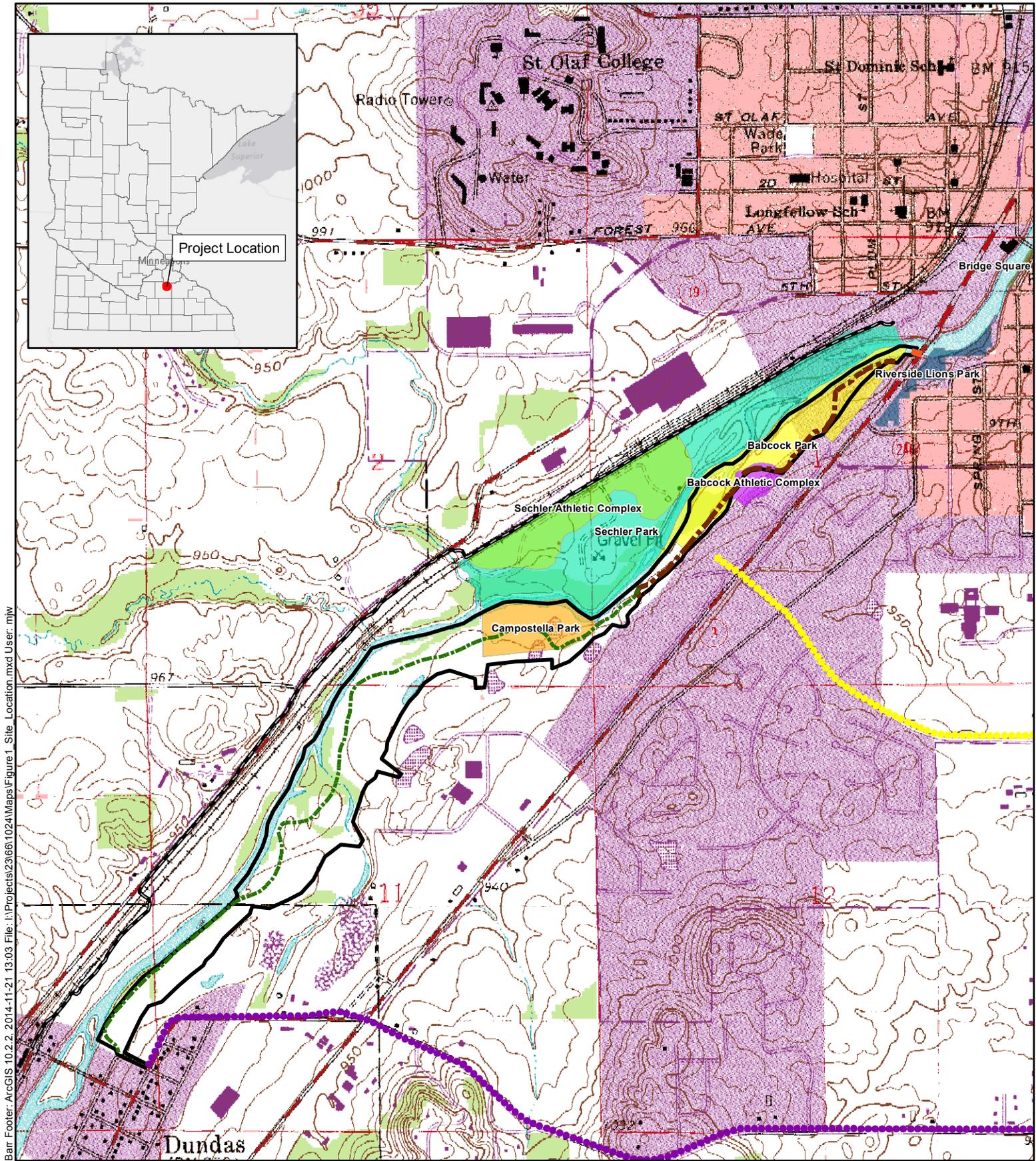
national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Environmental and other documents will be available for review in the St. Paul District Office.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Kathleen Dadey
Acting Chief, Southwest Section

Enclosures

NOTICE TO EDITORS: This public notice is provided as background information and is not a request or contract for publication.



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- Southern_Corridor
- — — Hwy 3 Underpass
- Jefferson Parkway Link Trail
- Mill Towns State Trail
- — — South Trail Centerline
- — — North Trail
- ▭ Wetland Evaluation Area

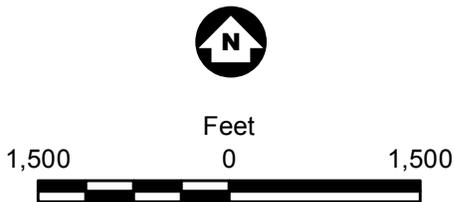
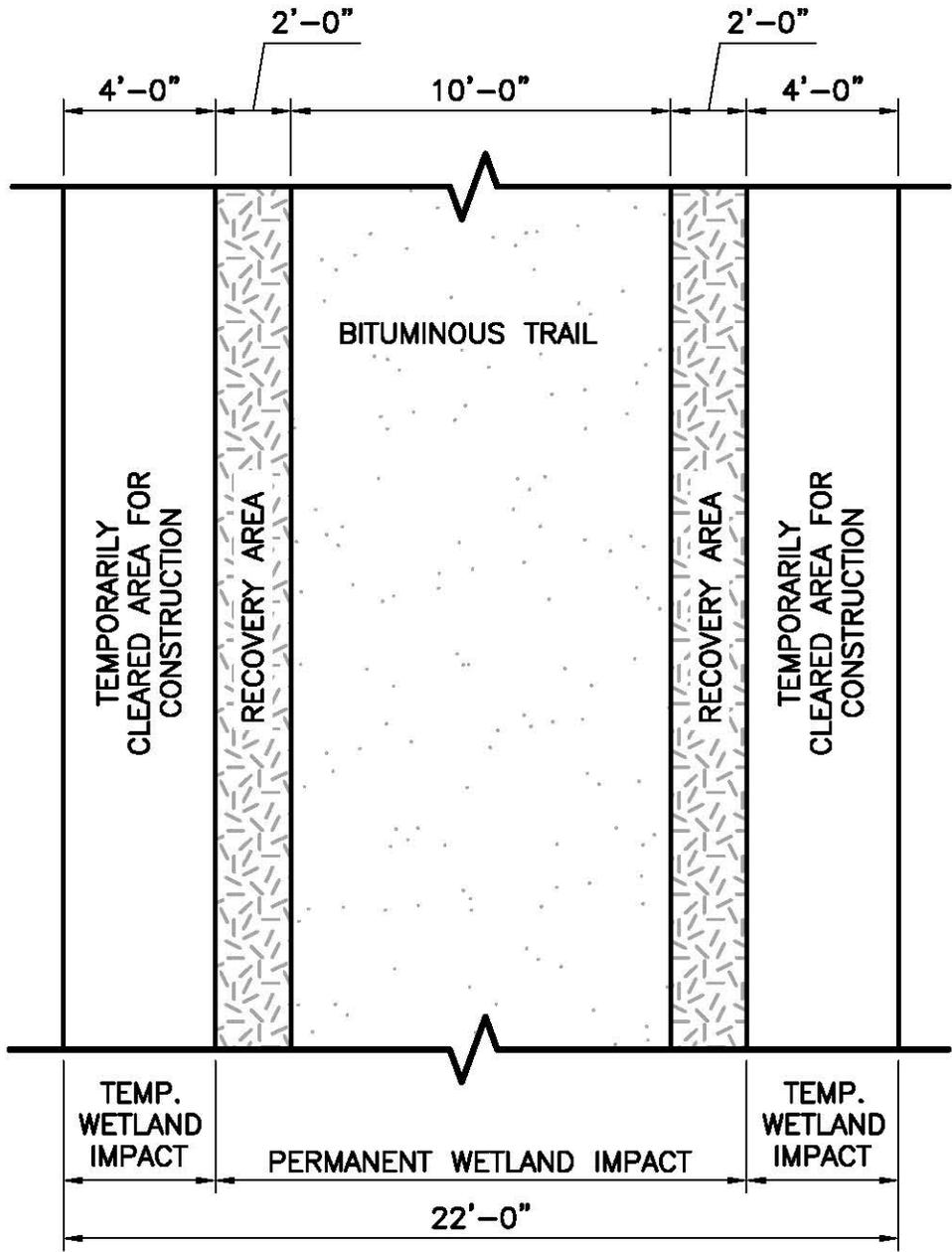


Figure 1
 SITE LOCATION MAP
 Greenway East Cannon River
 Corridor Trail
 Northfield, MN

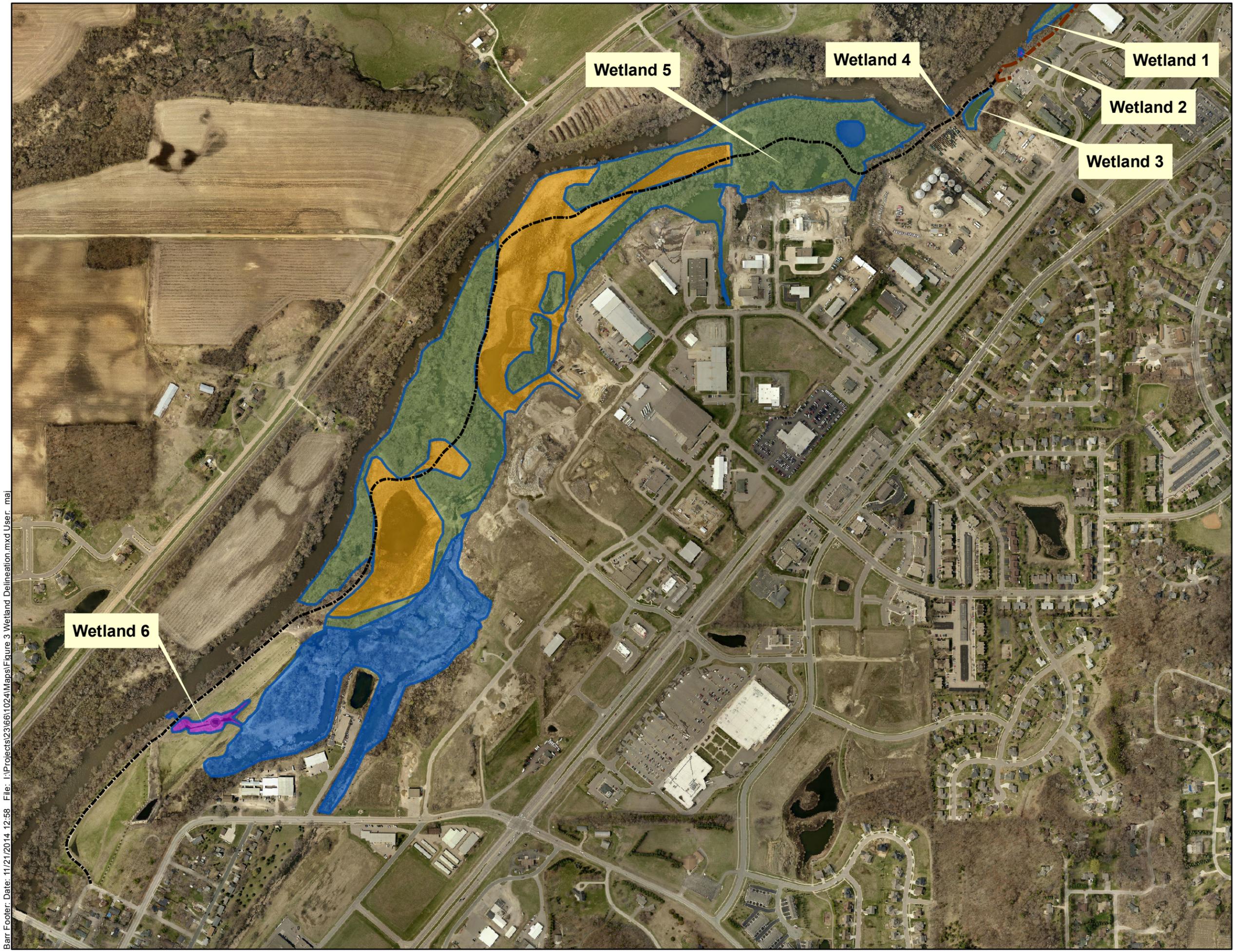


Project Office:
BARR ENGINEERING CO.
 4700 WEST 77TH STREET
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN.
 55435-4803
 Ph: 1-800-632-2277
 Fax: (612) 832-2601
 www.barr.com

Scale	1"=5'-0"
Date	10-30-14
Drawn	RLG
Checked	MAJ
Designed	JNB
Approved	

CITY OF NORTHFIELD
NORTHFIELD, MN
CANNON RIVER TRAIL
TYPICAL

BARR PROJECT No.	
23861024.00	
DWG. No.	
SHEET No.	REV. No.
FIG. 2	A



- North Trail
 - South Trail Centerline
 - Wetland Boundary
- Eggers and Reed Wetland Type**
- Floodplain forest
 - Shallow marsh
 - Shrub-carr
 - Wet meadow

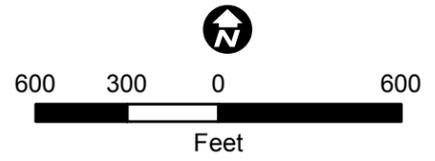
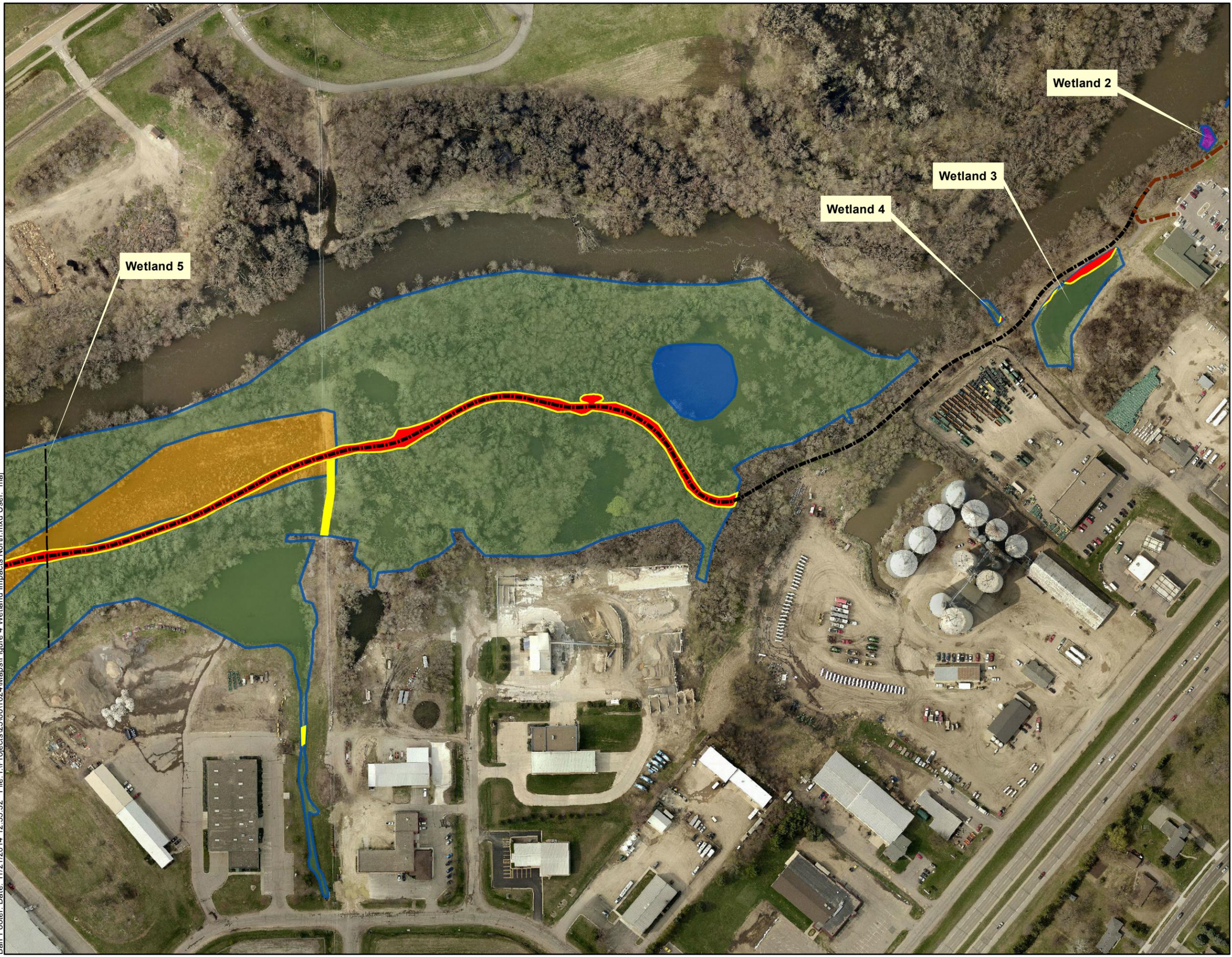


Figure 3
WETLAND DELINEATION MAP
 Greenway East Cannon River Corridor Trail
 Northfield, Minnesota

2014 Spring Aerial Imagery

Barr Footer: Date: 11/21/2014 12:55:32 File: I:\Projects\231661024\Maps\Figure 4 Wetland Impacts North.mxd User: mai



- Legend**
- North Trail
 - Match Line
 - South Trail Centerline
 - Wetland Boundary
- Trail Wetland Impacts**
- Permanent Wetland Impacts
 - Temporary Wetland Impacts
- Wetland Classification**
- Eggers and Reed Wetland Type**
- Floodplain forest
 - Shallow marsh
 - Shrub-carr
 - Wet meadow

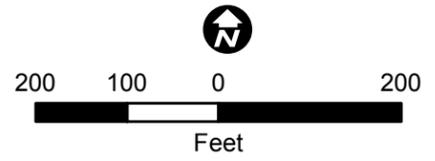
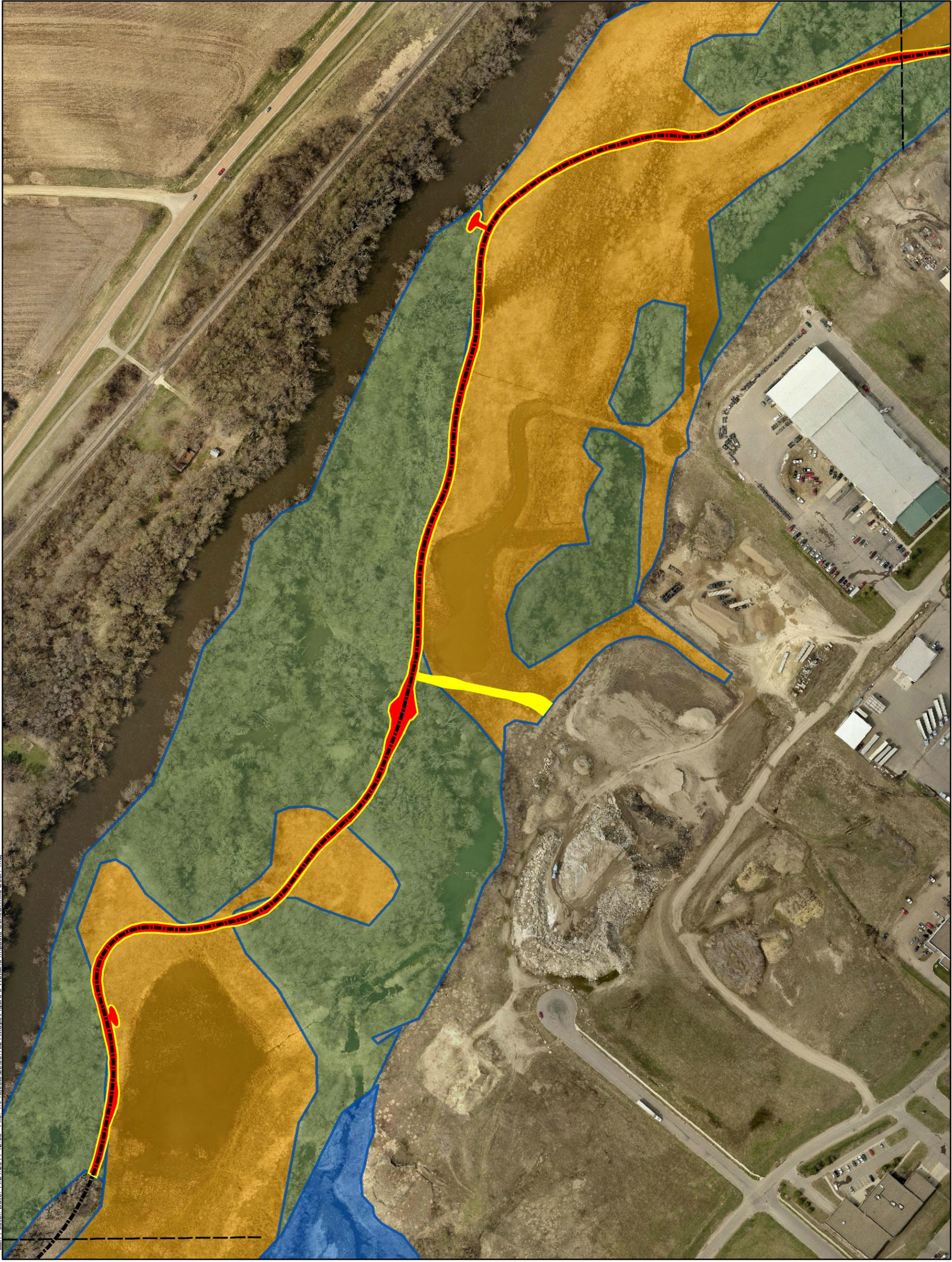


Figure 4
WETLAND IMPACTS - NORTH
Greenway East Cannon River Corridor Trail
Northfield, Minnesota

2014 Spring Aerial Imagery

Barr Footer Date: 11/21/2014 12:59 File: I:\Projects\236661024\Mapns\Figure 5 Wetland Impacts Central.mxd User: mjl



Legend

- Match Line
- South Trail Centerline
- Wetland Boundary
- Trail Wetland Impacts**
- Permanent Wetland Impacts
- Temporary Wetland Impacts
- Eggers and Reed Wetland Type**
- Floodplain forest
- Shallow marsh
- Shrub-carr
- Wet meadow

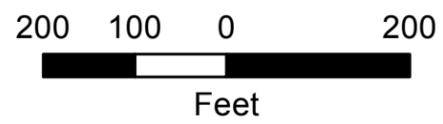
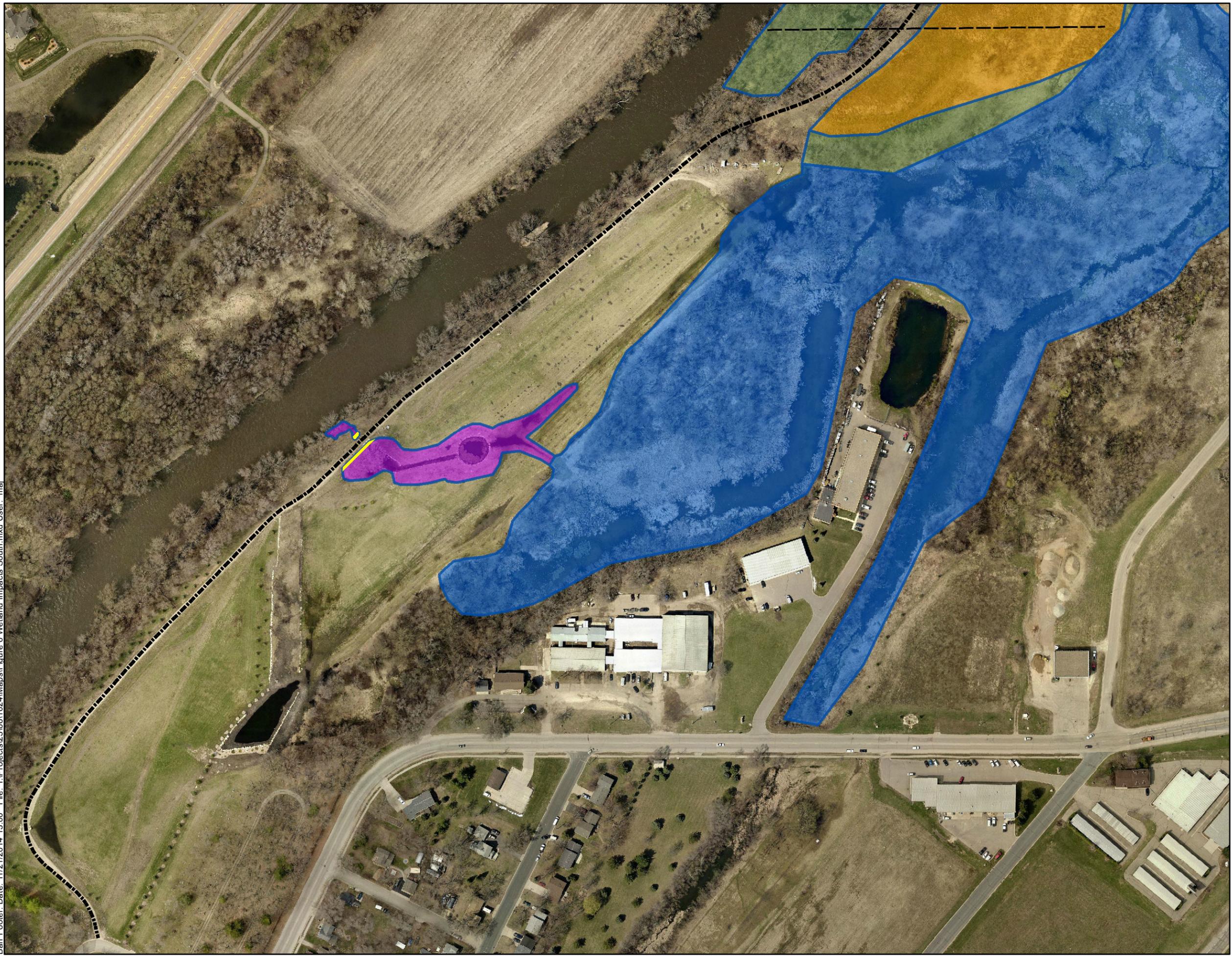


Figure 5
WETLAND IMPACTS - CENTRAL
Greenway East Cannon River Corridor Trail
Northfield, Minnesota

Barr Footer: Date: 11/21/2014 13:00 File: I:\Projects\23166\1024\Maps\Figure 6 Wetland Impacts South.mxd User: mja



- Match Line
- - - - South Trail Centerline
- Wetland Boundary
- Trail Wetland Impacts**
- Permanent Wetland Impacts
- Temporary Wetland Impacts
- Eggers and Reed Wetland Type**
- Floodplain forest
- Shallow marsh
- Shrub-carr
- Wet meadow

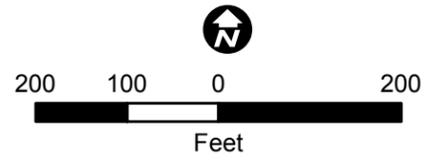


Figure 6
WETLAND IMPACTS - SOUTH
Greenway East Cannon River Corridor Trail
Northfield, Minnesota

2014 Spring Aerial Imagery