



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

SPONSOR: City of Rochester

REFER TO: 2015-00344-PRH

Public Notice

ISSUED: March 31, 2016

EXPIRES: May 2, 2016

SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL
2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE, Suite #108
Rochester, MN 55904

SPONSOR'S AGENT Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.
Attn: Jeff Olson
3535 Vadnais Center Drive
St. Paul, MN 55110-5196

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 36, Township 106 North, Range 14 West, Olmsted County, Minnesota. The approximate coordinates are Latitude: 43.94273, Longitude: -92.44436.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed wetland compensatory mitigation bank service area is the Lower Mississippi River Basin, Zumbro River Watershed in Minnesota (Bank Service Area 8). However, the intent of the proposed wetland bank is to serve the mitigation needs of the City of Rochester.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Gamehaven (WR-4) Wetland Mitigation Bank (hereafter, the site). The proposed bank site is composed of four parcels totaling approximately 198.8 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

Current land use – Presently, the 198.8 acre site is comprised of 107.4 acres of agricultural land and 91.4 acres of uncropped, undeveloped land, which is completely or partially drained by an extensive network of drain tiles installed in 1970's. Much of site was in row crop production from the 1930's until the early 1990's where the low lying areas of the site were placed into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The drawing labeled MVP-2015-00344-PRH Page 9 of 10 shows the location and extent of the tile system. The approximate boundaries of the existing wetland areas are illustrated by the figure labeled MVP-2015-00344-PRH Page 7 of 10. Since acquisition by the City of Rochester, none of the land in the site is currently enrolled in the CRP. The site extends to the northeast to include part of Gamehaven (WR-4) Reservoir, which was created in 1988 as a result of the impoundment of the East Branch of Willow Creek by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Rochester Flood Control Project. The Corps is also reviewing the materials to determine whether authorization is required under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408 for potential impacts to a Corps Civil Works project.

Operations - Regulatory (2015-00344-PRH)

Proposed credit generation activities include restoration via re-establishment, rehabilitation, creation and/or preservation of wetlands on the bank site. The sponsor proposes to re-establish 50.15 acres of completely drained wetlands, rehabilitate 32.80 acres of partially drained wetlands, and create 2.87 acres of wetland. Lastly, the sponsor proposes to maintain and restore a combination of 89.27 acres of creditable upland buffer for the site. The sponsor proposes to receive credits for both wetland and upland buffer components. The Concept Map Plan View Rendering labeled MVP-2015-00344-PRH Page 8 of 10 illustrates the proposed plant communities.

Three sources of hydrology would be used to restore wetland conditions at the site; the south agricultural ditch, the west agricultural ditch and the disablement of the extensive drain tile system. The ditches and drain tile systems were constructed in the past to remove water from the site in order to increase agricultural production. Ditch plugs and drain tile disablement will allow much of the land to revert to wetland conditions. The sponsor also proposes the meandering of the existing agricultural ditches located on the site, in conjunction with constructed berms and forebays, for the capturing of sediment entering the site. MVP-2015-00344-PRH Page 10 of 10 illustrate the proposed construction plan.

Prior to seeding, a suitable seedbed will be prepared via herbicides and prescribed burning; herbicides will be applied the following spring to remove undesirable invasive species. Vegetation management is anticipated to consist of mowing, controlled burns and herbicide application. A planting plan will involve a potential combination of seed drilling and hand scattering, plug planting, and live stakes for shrubbery along portions of proposed ditch meanders. An adaptive management approach will be implemented during the establishment of native vegetation on site.

Long-term management of the site: If approved, the established bank site would be managed by the sponsor or their successors in property ownership. The site would be adaptively managed for development of herbaceous and emergent communities dominated by native species common to the bank area. Credit sales would be tracked by the sponsor and reported to the state as required by state law. The reported credit releases and sales would be tracked on both Corps and state databases using ledger data supplied by the state. By state law, long-term management of the property would be the responsibility of the landowner and the sponsor until all released credits have been debited. After all credits are debited, long-term management obligations would become the sole responsibility of the identified landowner under state law. Additional protections and management limitations would be spelled out in both a conservation easement and in an approved bank plan.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: Surrounding land use in the vicinity of the proposed wetland bank property includes Olmsted County Public Works facility to the north, private agricultural land surrounding the western, southwestern, southern and southeastern boundaries of the site, the Gamehaven Boy Scout Camp to the east, and public property of the City of Rochester to include much of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gamehaven Reservoir along the northeast boundary of the site.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project is undergoing coordination with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Swift County, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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. A copy of the full prospectus submitted by the Sponsor is available to the public for review upon request.

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 or email Paul Hauser at the at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number 651-290-5324 or at paul.r.hauser@usace.army.mil.

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

4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the bank sponsor or are known to exist in the action area. However, Olmsted County is within the known historic range for the following Federally-listed species:

Northern Long-Eared Bat	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.
Leedy's roseroot	Cool, wet groundwater-fed limestone cliffs.
Prairie bush clover	Native prairie on well drained soils.

This notice 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 Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Any regulated discharges associated with implementation of a final approved bank plan could likely be authorized by regional general permit if the bank plan is approved before any regulated discharge occurs. Any required compensatory mitigation would be accounted for in the credit yield calculations because this is a mitigation bank project.

6. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

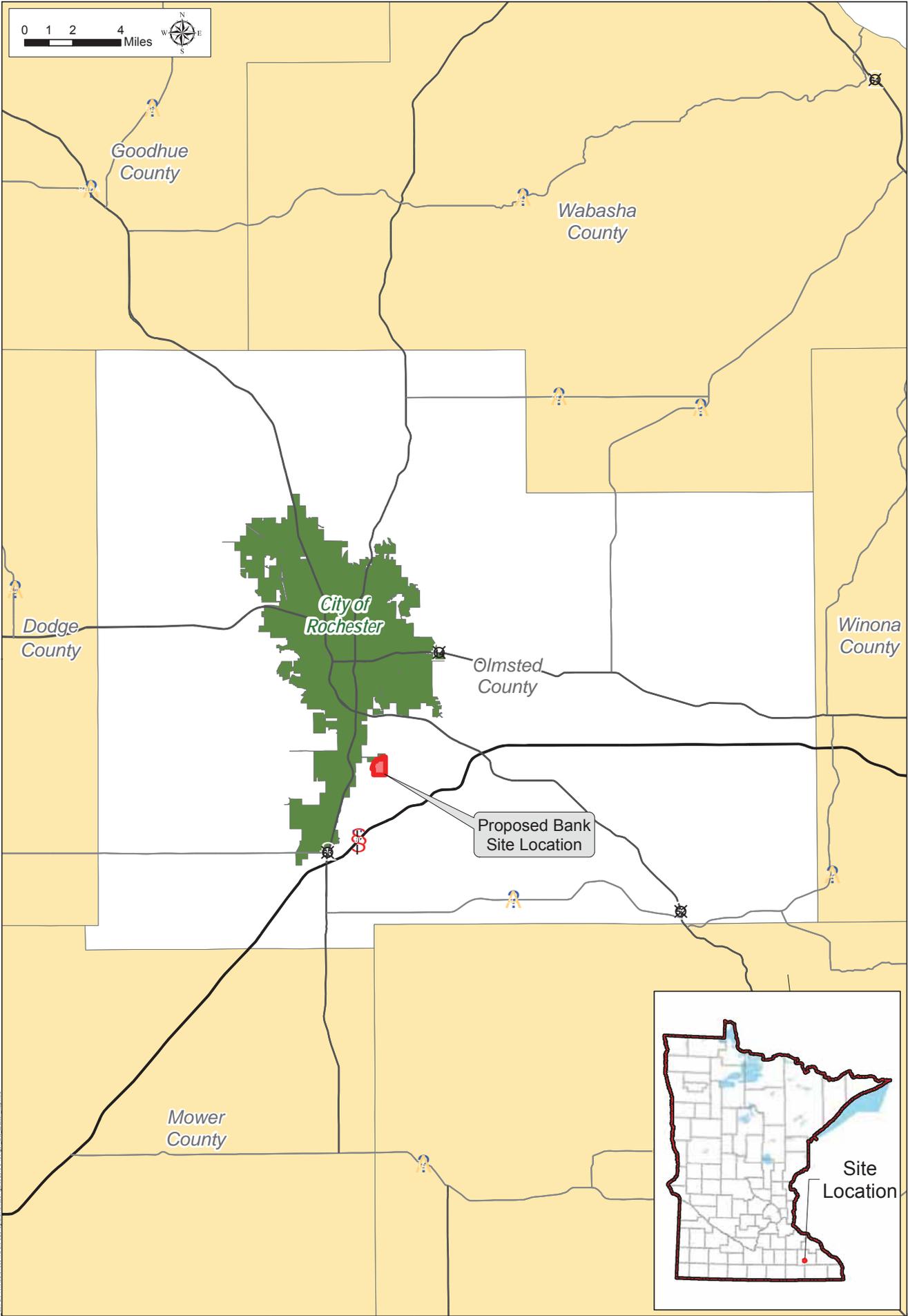
The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination 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.

7. 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.

Stacey M. Jensen
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures



Map by: B. Tolcser
Projection: NAD83 UTM15N
Source: MNDNR, SEHinc, MnDOT



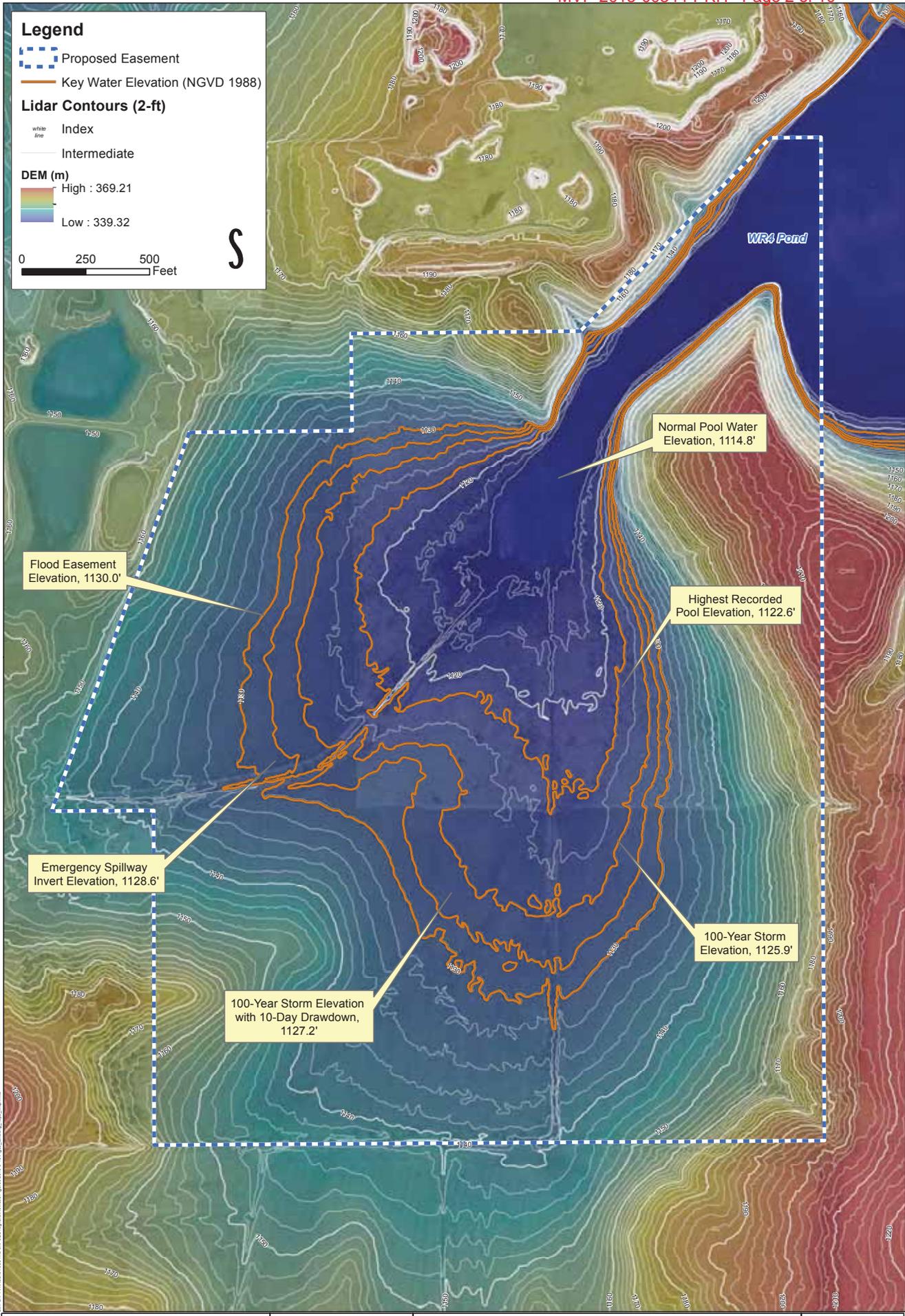
3535 VADNAIS CENTER DR.
ST. PAUL, MN 55110
PHONE: (651) 490-2000
FAX: (651) 906-8166
TF: (800) 325-2055
www.sehinc.com

Project: ROCHE 130814
Print Date: 3/18/2016

SITE LOCATION MAP
Gamehaven Wetland Bank
Rochester, Minnesota

Figure
1

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey map and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information, and data gathered from various sources listed on this map and is to be used for reference purposes only. SEH does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and SEH does not represent that the GIS Data



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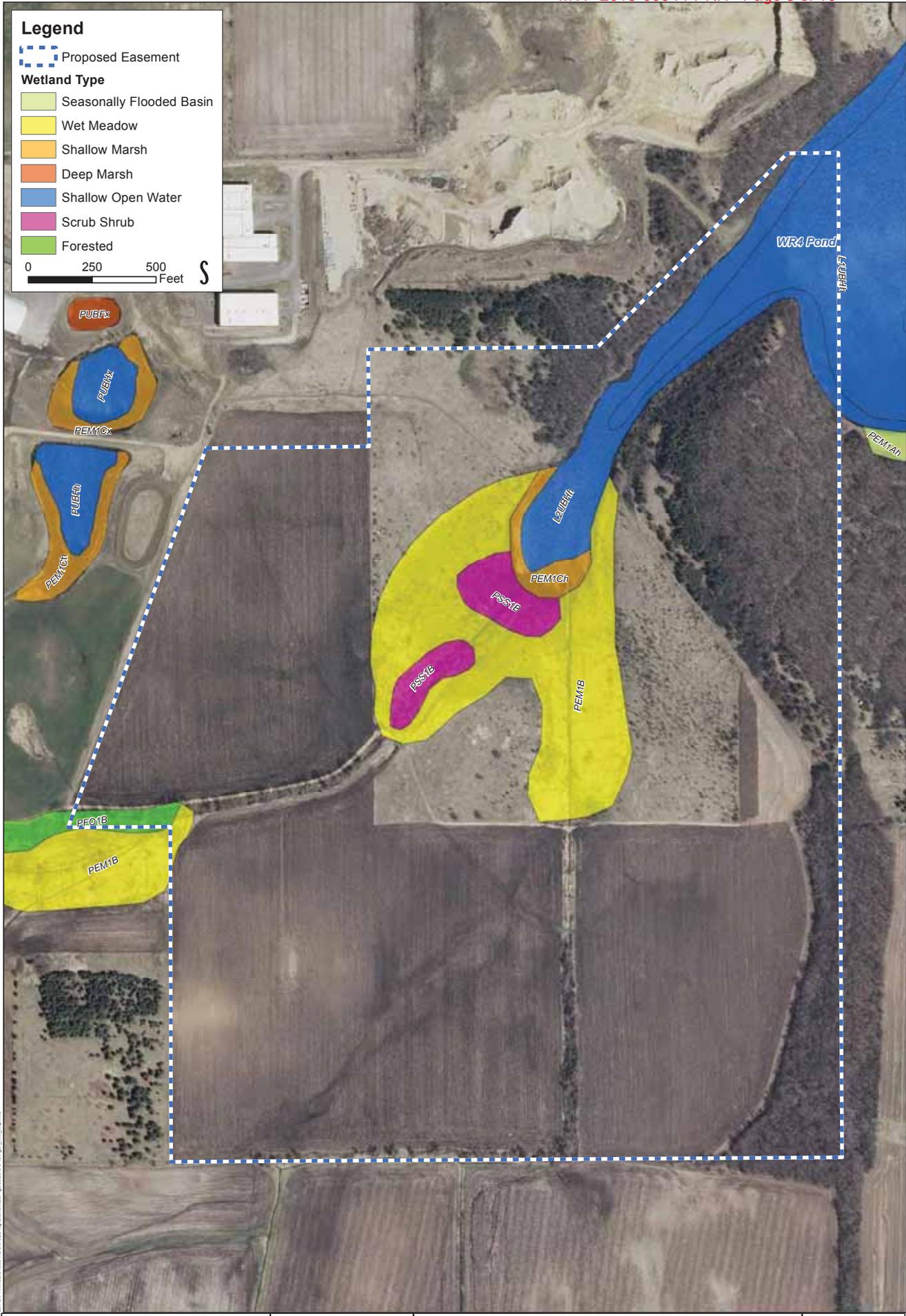
Map by: B. Tolcser
Projection: NAD83 UTM15N
Source: MNDNR, SEHinc, MnDOT
Background: 2011 MNDNR

EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY MAP

Gamehaven Wetland Bank
Rochester, Minnesota

Figure
5

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Legend

Proposed Easement

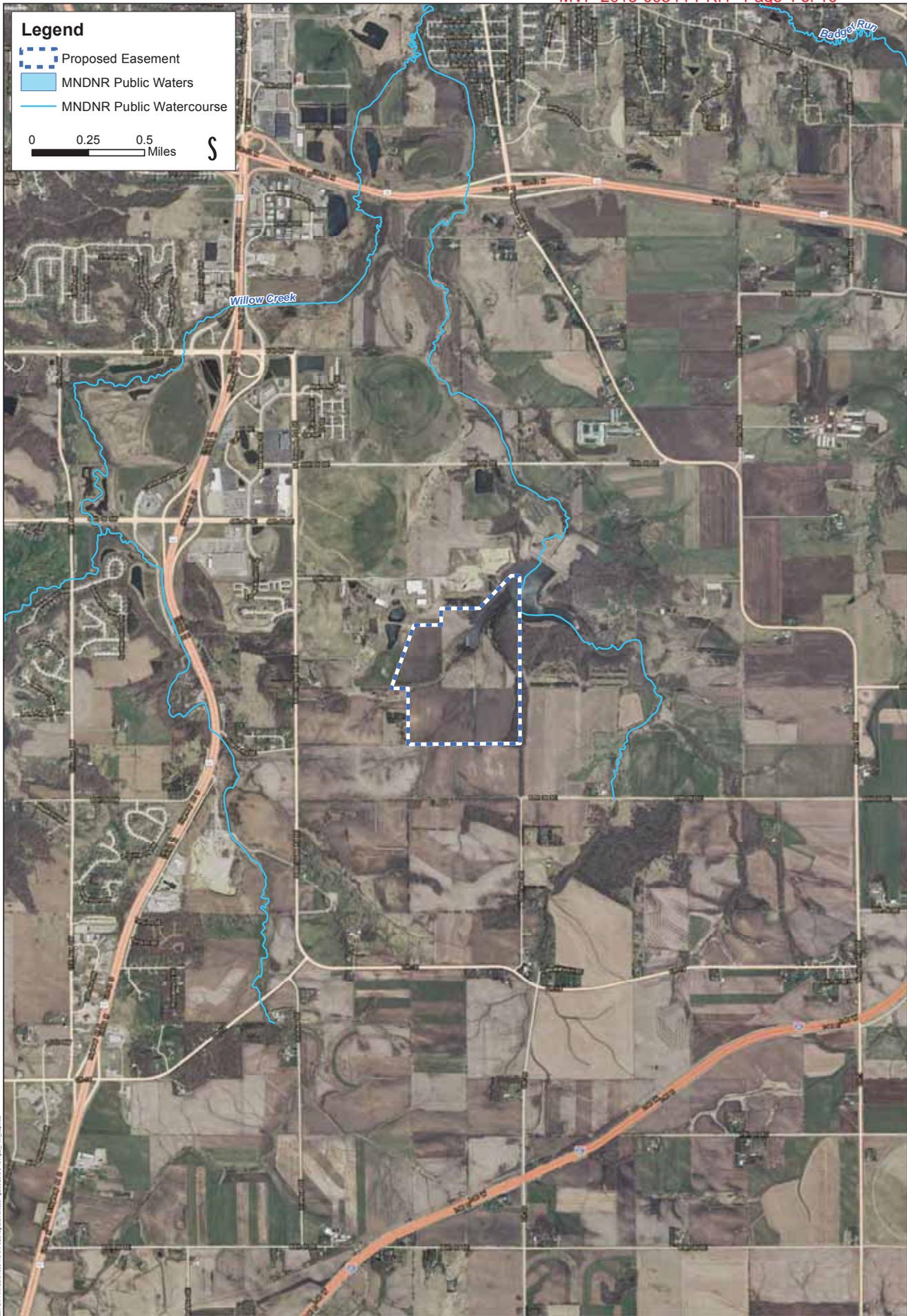
Wetland Type

- Seasonally Flooded Basin
- Wet Meadow
- Shallow Marsh
- Deep Marsh
- Shallow Open Water
- Scrub Shrub
- Forested

0 250 500 Feet

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Legend

-  Proposed Easement
-  MNDNR Public Waters
-  MNDNR Public Watercourse

0 0.25 0.5 Miles 

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Print Date: 3/18/2016

Map by: B. Tolcaer
Projection: NAD83 UTM15N
Source: MNDNR, SEHinc, MnDOT
Background: 2011 MNDNR, ESRI StreetMap

MNDNR PUBLIC WATERS INVENTORY MAP

Gamehaven Wetland Bank
Rochester, Minnesota

Figure
8

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Symbol	Map Unit Name	Symbol	Map Unit Name
176	Garwin silty clay loam	340B	Whalan loam, 1-6 % slopes
378	Maxfield silty clay loam	340C	Whalan loam, 6-12 % slopes
468	Otter silt loam, channeled	42E	Salida gravelly sandy loam, 12-35 % slopes
479	Floyd silt loam, 1-4 % slopes	472C	Channahon loam, 6-12 % slopes
1846	Kato silty clay loam, depressional	473D	Dorerton loam, 12-25 % slopes
11C	Sogn loam, 4-12 % slopes	473F	Dorerton loam, 25-40 % slopes
1812B	Terril loam, sandy substratum, 1-6 % slopes	476B	Frankville silt loam, 1-6 % slopes
244C	Lilah sandy loam, 6-12 % slopes	477B	Littleton silt loam, 1-4 % slopes
251F	Marlean silty clay loam, 25-40 % slopes	483B	Waukee loam, 2-6 % slopes
251G	Marlean silty clay loam, 40-80 % slopes	484E	Eyota loamy sand, 12-25 % slopes
27B	Dickinson sandy loam, 2-6 % slopes	488F	Brodale flaggy loam, 25-40 % slopes
299B	Rockton loam, 1-6 % slopes	488G	Brodale flaggy sandy loam, 40-80 % slopes
299C	Rockton loam, 6-12 % slopes	489A	Atkinson loam, 0-1 % slopes
2A	Ostrander silt loam, 0-2 % slopes	491B	Waucoma loam, 2-6 % slopes
2B	Ostrander loam, 2-6 % slopes	516B	Dowagiac silt loam, 2-6 % slopes
301C	Lindstrom silt loam, 6-15 % slopes	973D	Brodale-Sogn complex, 12-25 % slopes
30B	Kenyon loam, 2-5 % slopes	99B	Racine silt loam, 1-6 % slopes
312C	Shullsburg silt loam, 6-12 % slopes	99C	Racine silt loam, 6-12 % slopes

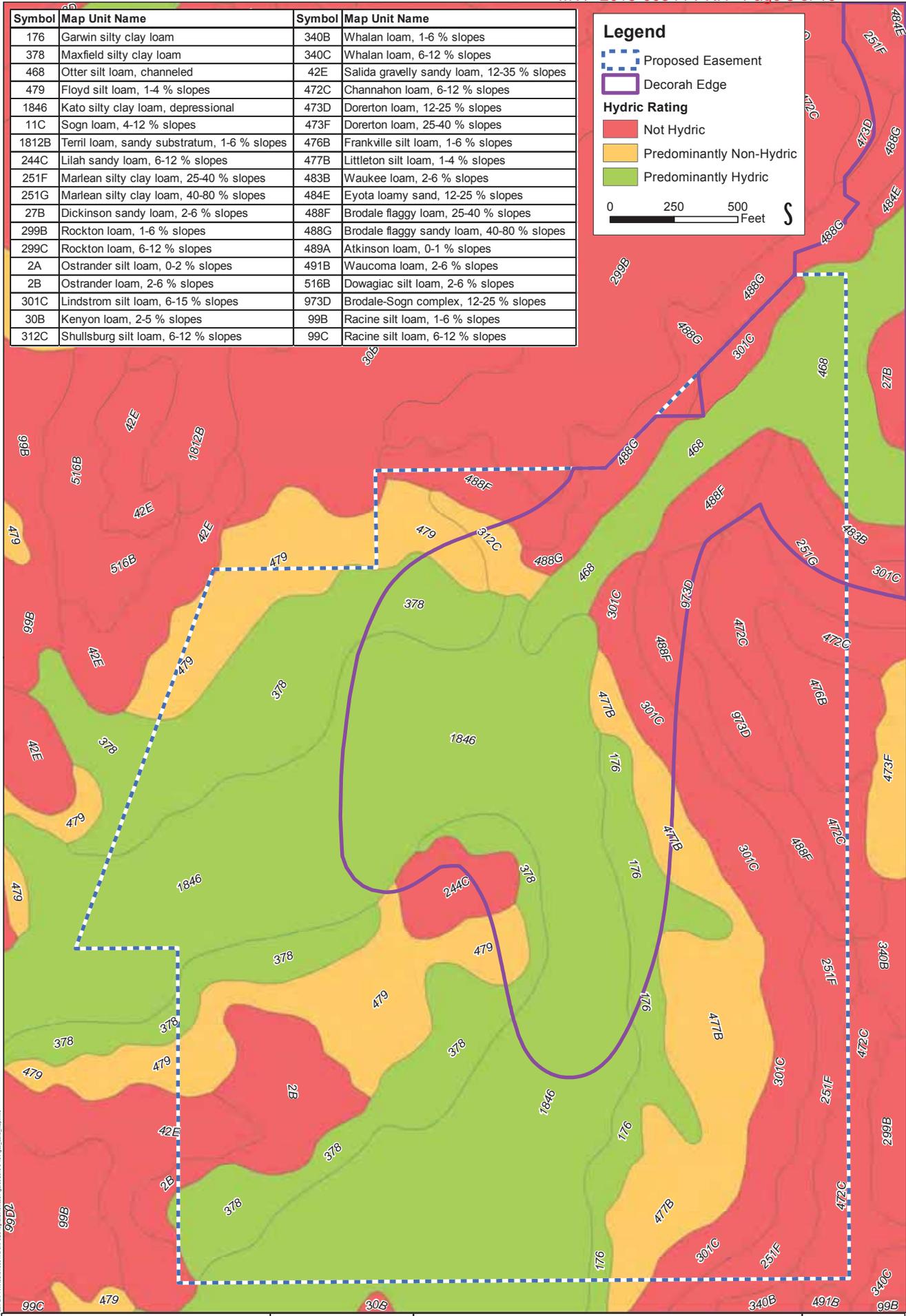
Legend

- Proposed Easement (dashed blue line)
- Decorah Edge (solid purple line)

Hydric Rating

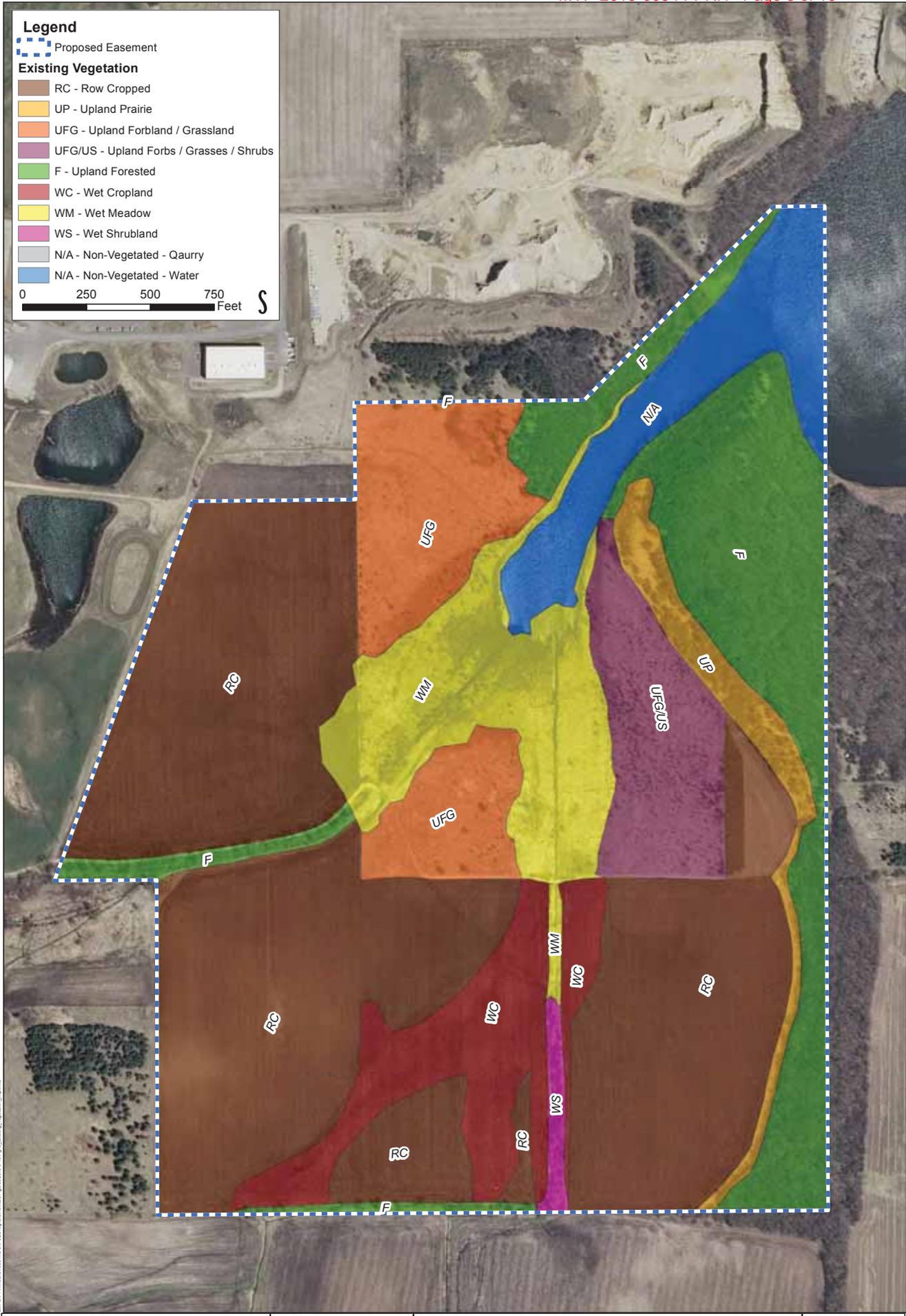
- Not Hydric (Red)
- Predominantly Non-Hydric (Yellow)
- Predominantly Hydric (Green)

0 250 500 Feet



	3535 VADNAIS CENTER DR. ST. PAUL, MN 55110 PHONE: (651) 490-2000 FAX: (651) 906-8166 TF: (800) 325-2055 www.sehinc.com	Project: ROCHE 130814 Print Date: 3/22/2016	OLMSTED COUNTY SOIL SURVEY (SSURGO) Gamehaven Wetland Bank Rochester, Minnesota	Figure 9
		Map by: B. Tolcser Projection: NAD83 UTM15N Source: MNDNR, SEHinc, MxDOT Background: 2011 MNDNR		

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Legend

Proposed Easement

Existing Vegetation

- RC - Row Cropped
- UP - Upland Prairie
- UFG - Upland Forbland / Grassland
- UFG/US - Upland Forbs / Grasses / Shrubs
- F - Upland Forested
- WC - Wet Cropland
- WM - Wet Meadow
- WS - Wet Shrubland
- N/A - Non-Vegetated - Quarry
- N/A - Non-Vegetated - Water

0 250 500 750 Feet

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Map by: B. Tolcser
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 Source: MNDNR, SEHinc, MnDOT
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EXISTING VEGETATION MAP
 Gamehaven Wetland Bank
 Rochester, Minnesota

Figure
 10

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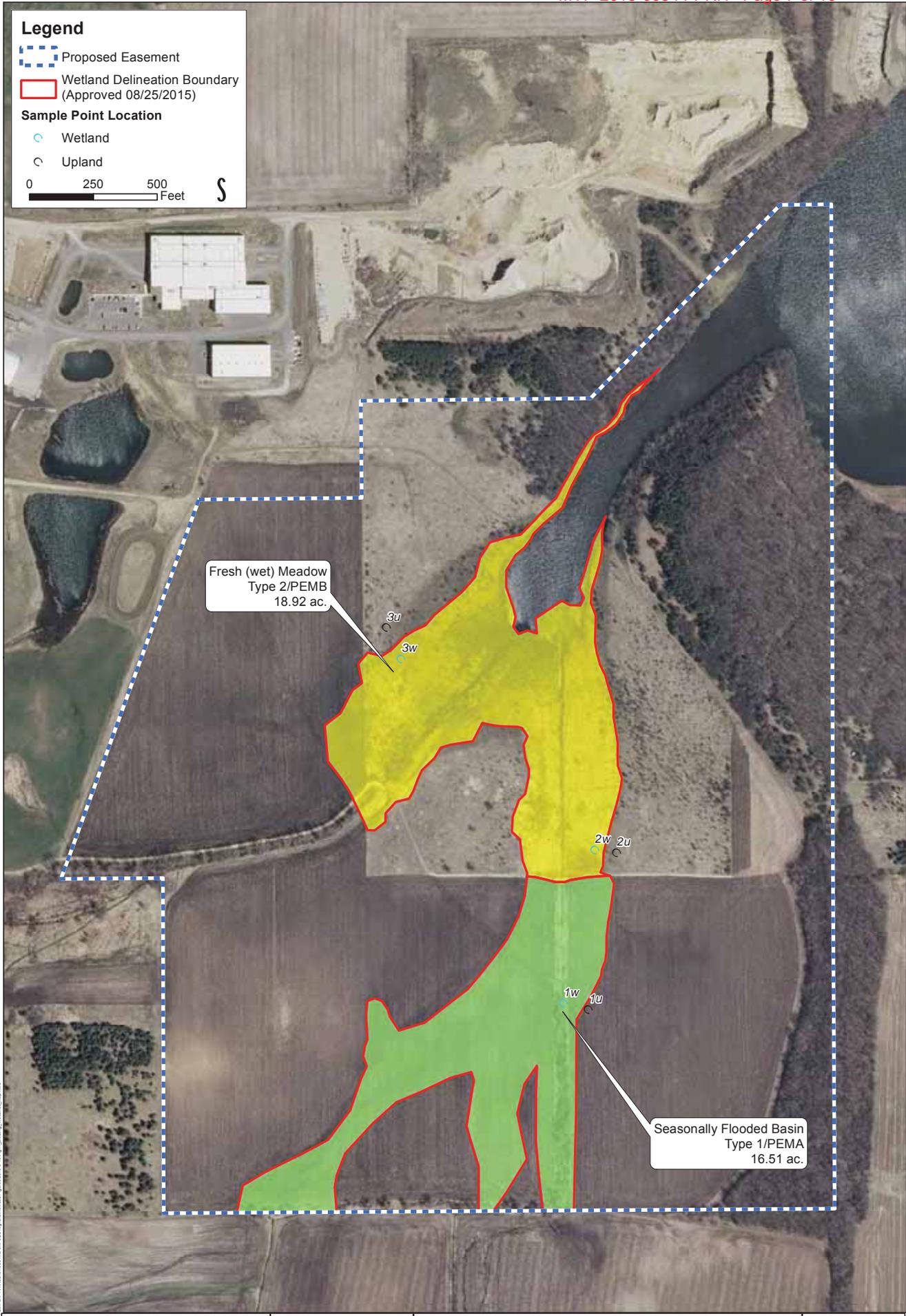
Legend

-  Proposed Easement
-  Wetland Delineation Boundary (Approved 08/25/2015)

Sample Point Location

-  Wetland
-  Upland

0 250 500 Feet 



Fresh (wet) Meadow
Type 2/PEMB
18.92 ac.

Seasonally Flooded Basin
Type 1/PEMA
16.51 ac.



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Background: 2011 MNDNR

EXISTING WETLANDS MAP
Gamehaven Wetland Bank
Rochester, Minnesota

Figure
11

Legend

-  Proposed Easement

Proposed Vegetation

-  Emergent Wetland
-  Wet Meadow
-  Wetland Prairie
-  Mesic Prairie
-  Mesic Prairie - Maintain
-  Upland Forest - Maintain
-  Non-Vegetated - Quarry
-  Non-Vegetated - Water

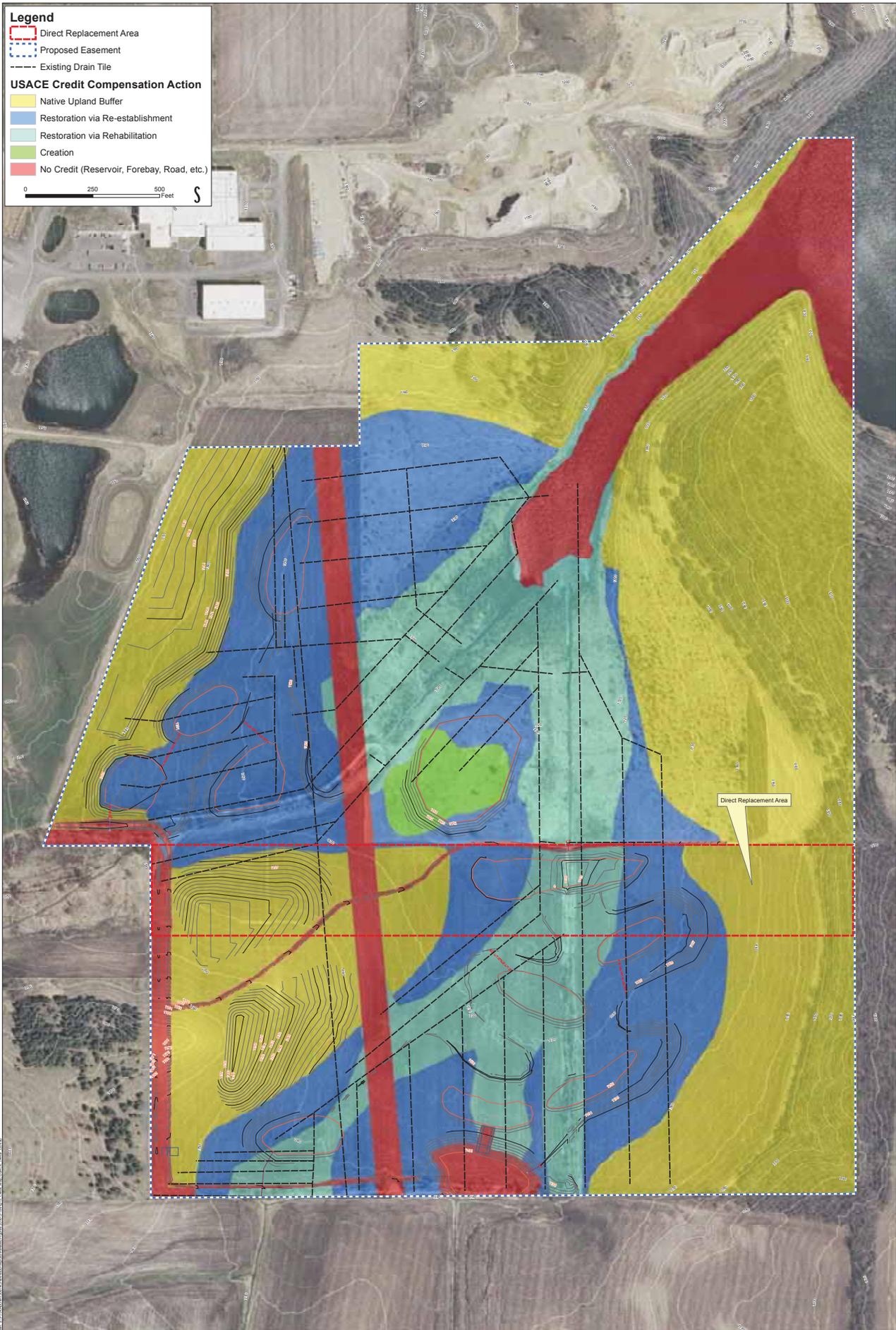
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Project: ROCHE 130814
Print Date: 3/22/2016

Map by: B. Tolcer
Projection: NAD83 UTM15N
Source: MinDNR, SEHinc, Olmsted Co.
Background: MinDNR Lidar, 2011 MinDNR

CREDIT AREA MAP - USACE
Gamehaven Wetland Bank
Rochester, Minnesota

Figure 15

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