



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

**SPONSOR:** City of Lino Lakes

# Public Notice

**ISSUED:** April 09, 2025

**EXPIRES:** May 09, 2025

**REFER TO:** MVP-2019-01892-BBY

**SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act**

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL
2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**SPONSOR'S ADDRESS:** City of Lino Lakes  
POC: Mike Grochala  
600 Town Center Pkwy  
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

**SPONSOR'S AGENT** WSB  
POC: Tony Havranek  
178 9<sup>th</sup> St. E Unit 200  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located in Section 13, Township 31 North, Range 22 West, Anoka County, Minnesota. The approximate center coordinates are Latitude 45.178159 / Longitude - 93.024670.

**BANK SERVICE AREA:** The proposed bank service area (BSA) is BSA 7.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** The sponsor is proposing to develop the Winter's Wetland Bank. The proposed bank site is approximately 106.8 acres in size, including upland buffer areas.

**NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT:** The sponsor states that the proposed project is located in a region of the state that contains less than 50% of pre-statehood wetlands. The site is located within the Mississippi (metro) Watershed (20), which is within the Twin Cities metro area and is located in a high impact area that would benefit from enhanced water quality controls and biological diversity within a highly fragmented system. The sponsor expects that restoration and enhancement of this site will provide exceptional wetland mitigation options for development that is occurring within the City of Lino Lakes and aligns with the goals of the Rice Creek Watershed District Watershed Management Plan, where banked wetland credits are vital to District Projects. The sponsor expects restoration of the site in this location will significantly increase habitat diversity, provide refuge for wildlife amongst a developing city, and improve water quality and overall watershed conditions within the Clear Creek minor watershed.

The sponsor states that the goal of the project is to restore wetland hydrology in order to establish a self-sustaining, highly functioning wetland and upland community dominated by native vegetation which will provide water quality benefits, habitat diversity, and provide refuge for wildlife within a sub watershed that is dominated by agricultural and urban land uses. Restoration of the site from agricultural use will occur to establish a highly diverse wetland community consisting of fresh wet meadow, shallow marsh, shrub carr, and seasonally flooded forest wetlands. In addition to the

wetland areas proposed to be restored, a mesic prairie upland buffer will also be established surrounding the site to protect wetland systems.

Hydrology and vegetation have been removed and altered to allow for agricultural production within the proposed easement boundary. Pattern drain tile systems and ditching within the proposed easement have been installed to allow for agricultural practices. Historical aerial photographs indicate that the majority of the site has been farmed for at least 70 years. Restoration of the site will occur through breaking drain tile to restore hydrology to the site and rehabilitation of existing vegetation, similar to historical conditions.

**ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT:** The sponsor's concept plan for the mitigation bank proposes to use minimally invasive, typically effective techniques for restoration hydrology to the site. The site has an extensive functioning subsurface drainage system in place which is proposed to be disabled within the mitigation bank easement based on the technical guidance information provided within the *MN Wetland Restoration Guide*. Following this hydrology restoration work, the sponsor would establish native vegetation using BWSR-approved seed mixes for each community. Based on the conceptual design, the sponsor anticipates fresh wet meadow, floodplain forest, shallow marsh, and scrub/carr wetlands establishing within the restored wetland basin. In addition, the sponsor will establish native prairie in the uplands surrounding the restored wetland basin to provide buffer functions from adjacent land uses. The breakdown of acres and proposed associated credit yield is summarized here:

**Table 6.1. Proposed credit actions for Winter's Wetland Bank.**

Map ID <sup>1</sup>	Type of Credit	Credit Action	Projected Acreage <sup>3</sup>	Proposed Credit	
				% Credit Potential	Credit Amount
Credit Area 1: Restoration of Completely Drained Wetland	Fresh Wet Meadow (38.11)	USACE: Reestablishment	44.28	100	44.28
	Shallow Marsh (3.62 ac)	WCA: MN Rules Subp. 3			
	Shrub/Carr (1.43 ac)				
	Floodplain Forest (1.12 ac)				
Credit Area 2: Restoration of Partially Drained Wetland	Fresh Wet Meadow (5.03 ac)	USACE: Rehabilitation	13.71	50	6.86
	Shallow Marsh (7.04)	WCA: MN Rules Subp. 4			
	Shrub/Carr (0.63 ac)				
	Floodplain Forest (1.01 ac)				
Credit Area 3: Buffer	Upland Buffer (44.74 ac)	USACE: Buffer	44.74	25	11.19
	Reduced Credit Area – Wetland in Buffer (4.07 ac)	WCA: MN Rules Subp. 2	4.07	15	0.61
		Total Easement Size:	106.8	TOTAL:	62.94

The proposed bank site will be monitored for at least five years and the sponsor would provide a monitoring plan showing all vegetation monitoring plots and/or transects as well as the location of hydrology monitoring wells. The sponsor will submit annual mitigation monitoring reports by December 31st following each growing season for at least five years or until the regulatory agencies no longer require annual reports or the site has received final release of credits. Necessary long-term maintenance will continue as required indefinitely.

**OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT:** The City of Lino Lakes is the project Sponsor responsible for completing the project and will own the credits established by the project. The Sponsor will assume responsibilities associated with managing the construction of the site. The responsibility of long-term management activities for the project will be assumed by the Sponsor. The sponsor may request assistance from third parties to conduct specialized conservation management strategies to ensure the long-term success of the project and in meeting standards required by the conservation easement.

**TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS:** The sponsor states that they have designed several successful wetland banks and wetland replacement areas through a diverse array of landscapes. Their staff includes soils scientists, geologists, biologists, ecologists, water resources specialists and engineers with local experience in habitat restoration and reclamation of mining lands. WSB states they have extensive experience in completing mitigation banks on similar landscapes and watershed conditions. Hydrology will be restored to the site through tile breakage. WSB has developed several wetland bank plans and designed tile breakage plans that have been successful. Four examples of recent wetland banks that incorporated similar design methods include: Oehlke Wetland Bank (Olmsted County), Schultz Wetland Bank (Rice County), Mueller Wetland Bank (Winona County) and Pickerel Site #10 Wetland Bank (Freeborn County).

The sponsor states that site investigations revealed that the site is very suitable for wetland restoration with minimal construction elements. The site's hydrology has been altered by a pattern tile drainage system that outlets into the existing county drainage ditch in numerous locations within the proposed bank limits removing hydrology. Full restoration of the site is anticipated within minimal constraints and adverse effects on adjacent properties.

**ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY:** The sponsor states that site investigations concluded that the site is very suitable for restoration due to poorly drained organic soils, natural hydrology present that has been drained from common agricultural drainage practices, and due to the location within the landscape and adjacent natural features. The goal of the project is to restore hydrology to the site through disabling existing drainage practices to restore wetlands that were naturally occurring prior to agricultural use and restore existing wetlands within the site. It is expected restored wetlands will provide long-term sustainable conditions with limited maintenance. Restoration of the site will also remove a portion of land from agricultural use.

**HYDROLOGY:** The sponsor provides the following comment on hydrology:

Watershed Information

The site is located in the Clearwater Creek minor watershed (ID 20078) which encompasses approximately 8,344 acres of the Mississippi River (20) major watershed. It is estimated that the immediate contributing watershed area for the project is 479 acres which is primarily developed or used as agricultural land, with the exception of 49 acres of tributary drainage area coming from the Heritage Ponds residential development to the east. Contributing drainage to the site discharges to the drain tile (ACD 55) leaving the site to the west under Interstate 35E. Surface water flows into the project site from the north, east, and south. Surface flows come from the north and south based on the existing topography. Surface flows come from the east via an 18-inch RCP culvert below 24th Ave. Review of surrounding topographic and geologic information indicate that subsurface hydrology flows from east to west in clayey sand glacial till subsoils to a depth of over 10 feet and clayey sand topsoil above.

On-Site Hydrology Alteration

The site is actively drained by subsurface drainage tile. The clay drain tile of the ACD 55 Main Trunk running through the middle of the site was constructed in 1919 based on historical records. Drain tile size and profile information based on a 2012 historical review completed.

**CURRENT LAND USES:** The proposed easement consists of 122.73 acres. The southern half of the easement area is actively farmed by row crops and hay production. The northern half of the easement area is undeveloped and is comprised of Type 2, 3, 6, and 7 wetlands as well as deciduous upland wooded areas. The site is actively drained by subsurface drainage tile to allow for agricultural uses. Surrounding property of the proposed easement includes developed residential to the east, agricultural to the north, Interstate 35E and developed residential to the west, and agricultural land to the south that is planned to be developed for industrial uses.

**COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES:** The Corps is coordinating this proposal with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Board of Water and Soil Resources.

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

The sponsor stated that the range of one Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife species is within Anoka County (listed below).

Monarch Butterfly	Proposed Threatened
Salamander Mussel	Proposed Endangered
Tricolored Bat	Proposed Endangered

We will obtain a full species list in IPAC and use the d-keys to make effects determinations for any Federally-listed species. The Corps is coordinating this notice with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Corps will consider any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat in our final assessment of the described work.

### 4. JURISDICTION

This proposal 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.

### 5. 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 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 of the work in connection with this project.

### 6. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that the Corps hold a public hearing to consider this proposal. 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.

### 7. REPLIES/COMMENTS

Regulatory Division (File No. MVP-2020-02101-BBY)

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections by the expiration date above. 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 sponsor. Interested parties can find a copy of the full prospectus in the RIBITS Cyber Repository at the following link:

[https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:11366033962164:::278:P278\\_BANK\\_ID:7160](https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:11366033962164:::278:P278_BANK_ID:7160)

Comments can be electronically submitted at the following link

<https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs/public-notices> or by email to [brian.b.yagle@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.b.yagle@usace.army.mil)

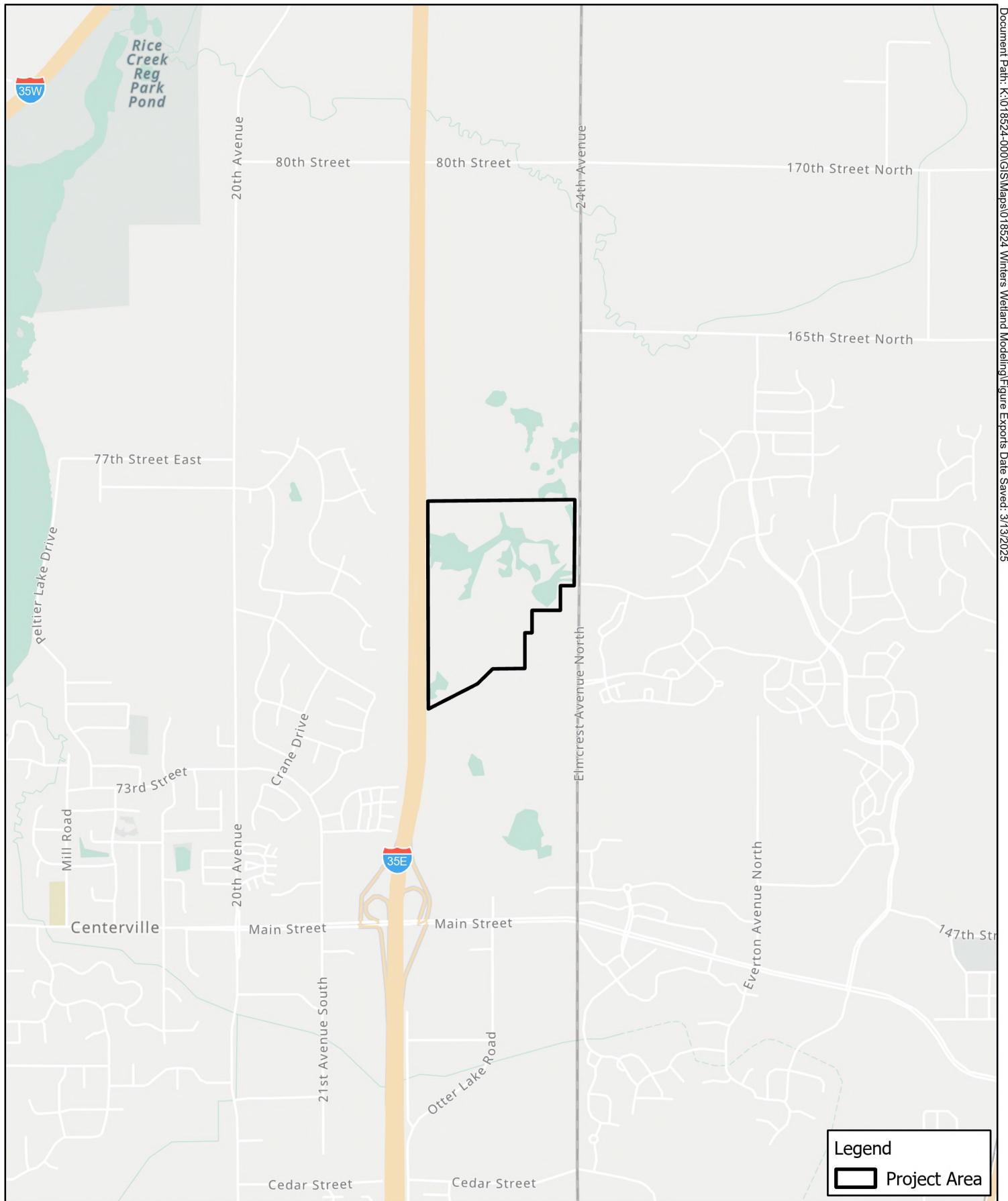
If electronic submittal is not available, commenters should address replies to:

Regulatory Division  
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers  
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1323

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, contact Brian Yagle at the St. Paul District office at 651-290-5975

To receive Public Notice notifications, go to: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Contact/RSS/> and subscribe to the RSS Feed for which you would like to receive Public Notices.

Enclosure(s): Project Figures from the Prospectus



**Figure 1 - Project Location**

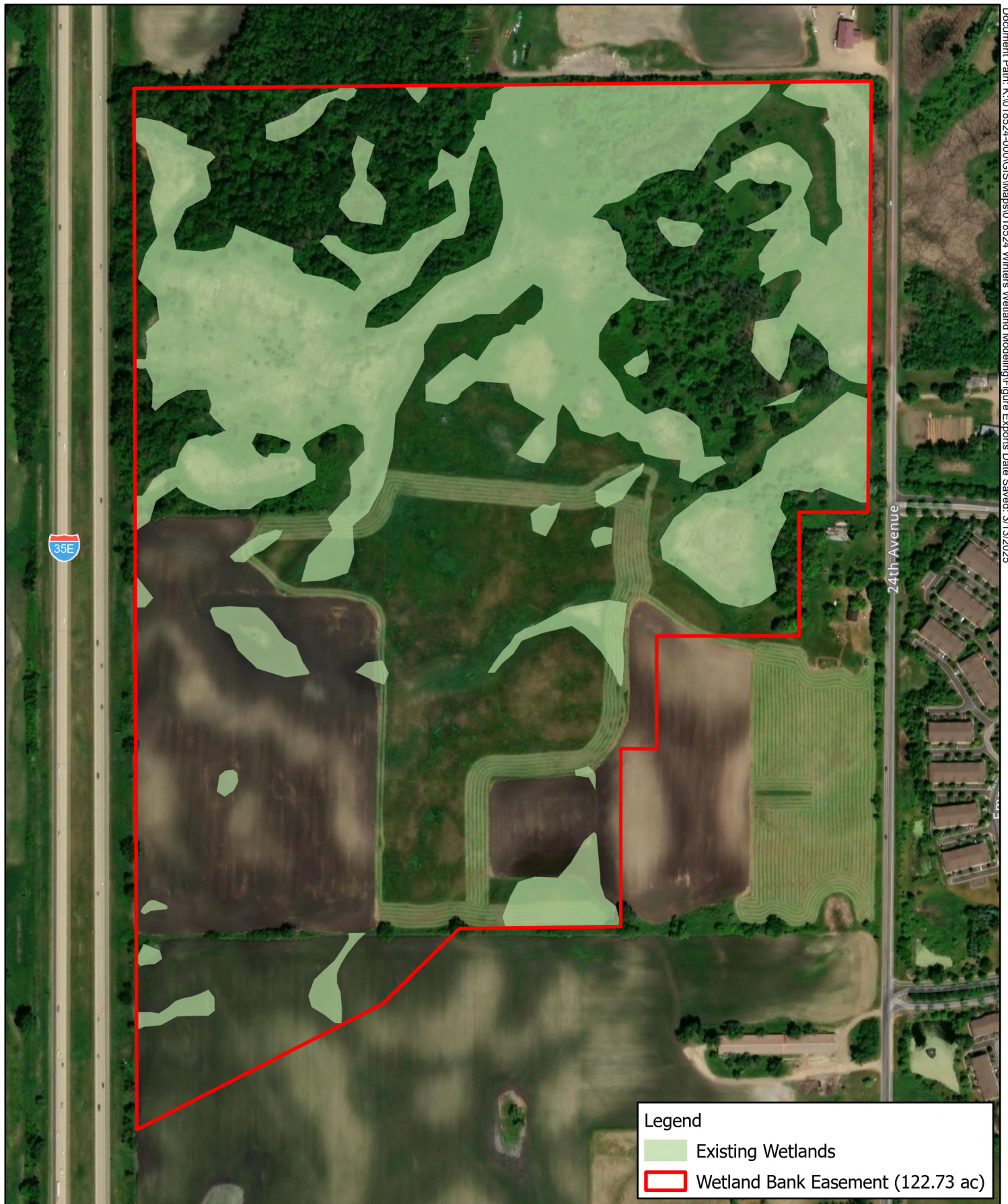
Winters Wetland Bank  
City of Lino Lakes, MN



0 2,000  
Feet  
1 inch = 2,000 feet







**Figure 5 - Existing Wetlands**

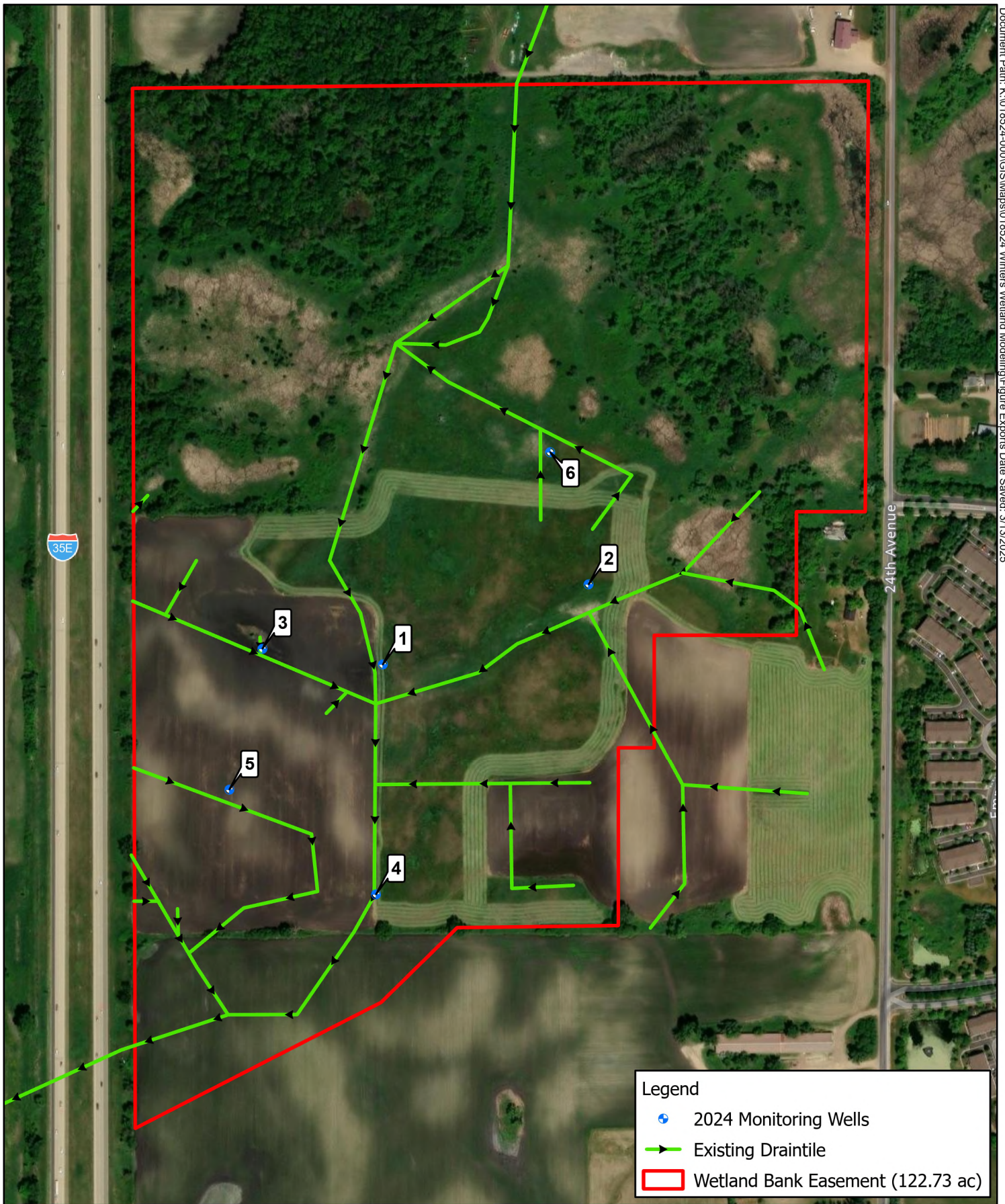
Winters Wetland Bank  
City of Lino Lakes, MN



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1 inch = 400 feet







**Figure 13 - Monitoring Wells**

Winters Wetland Bank  
City of Lino Lakes, MN



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Feet  
1 inch = 400 feet





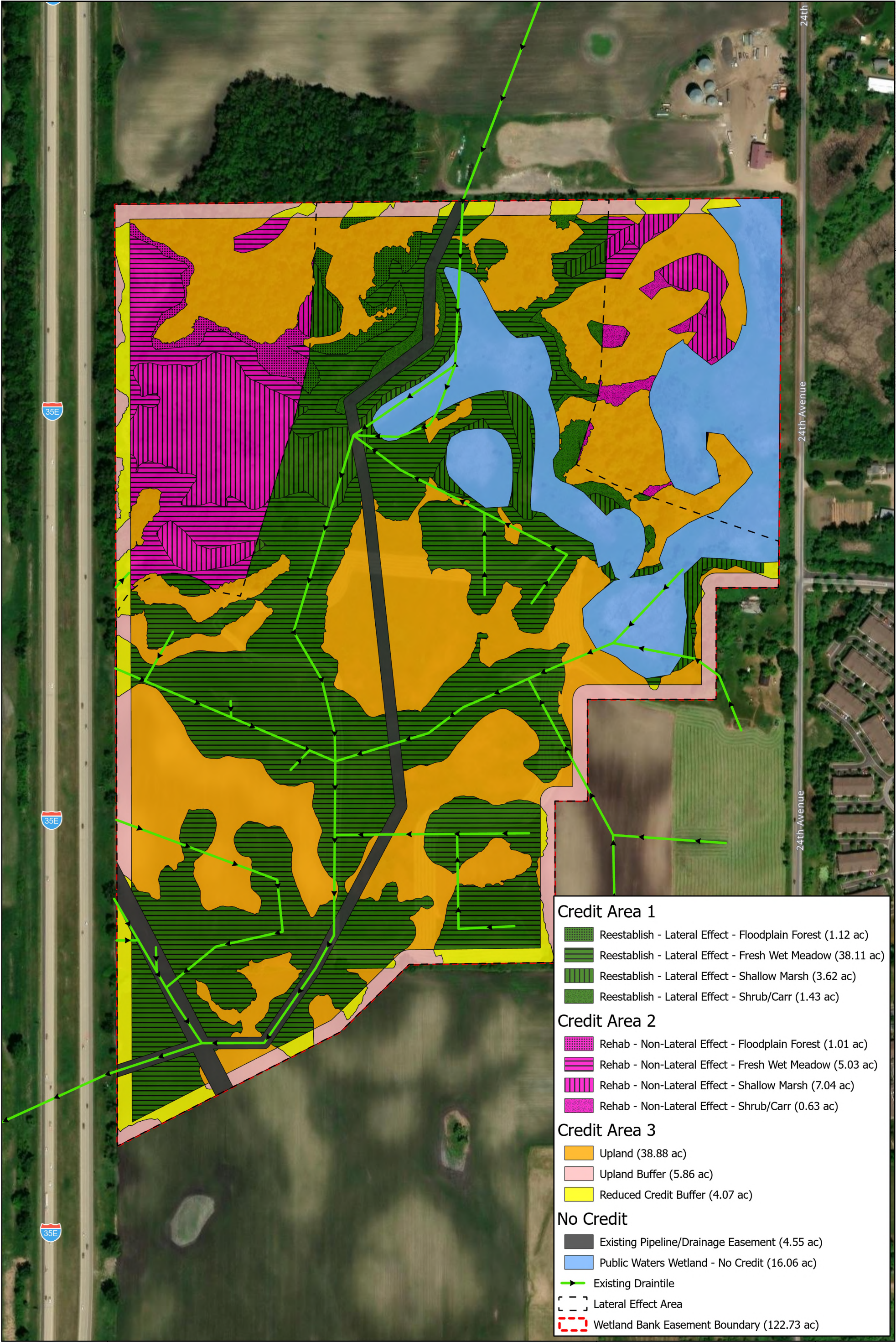
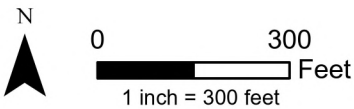


Figure 15 - Credit Summary Map

Winters Wetland Bank  
City of Lino Lakes, MN





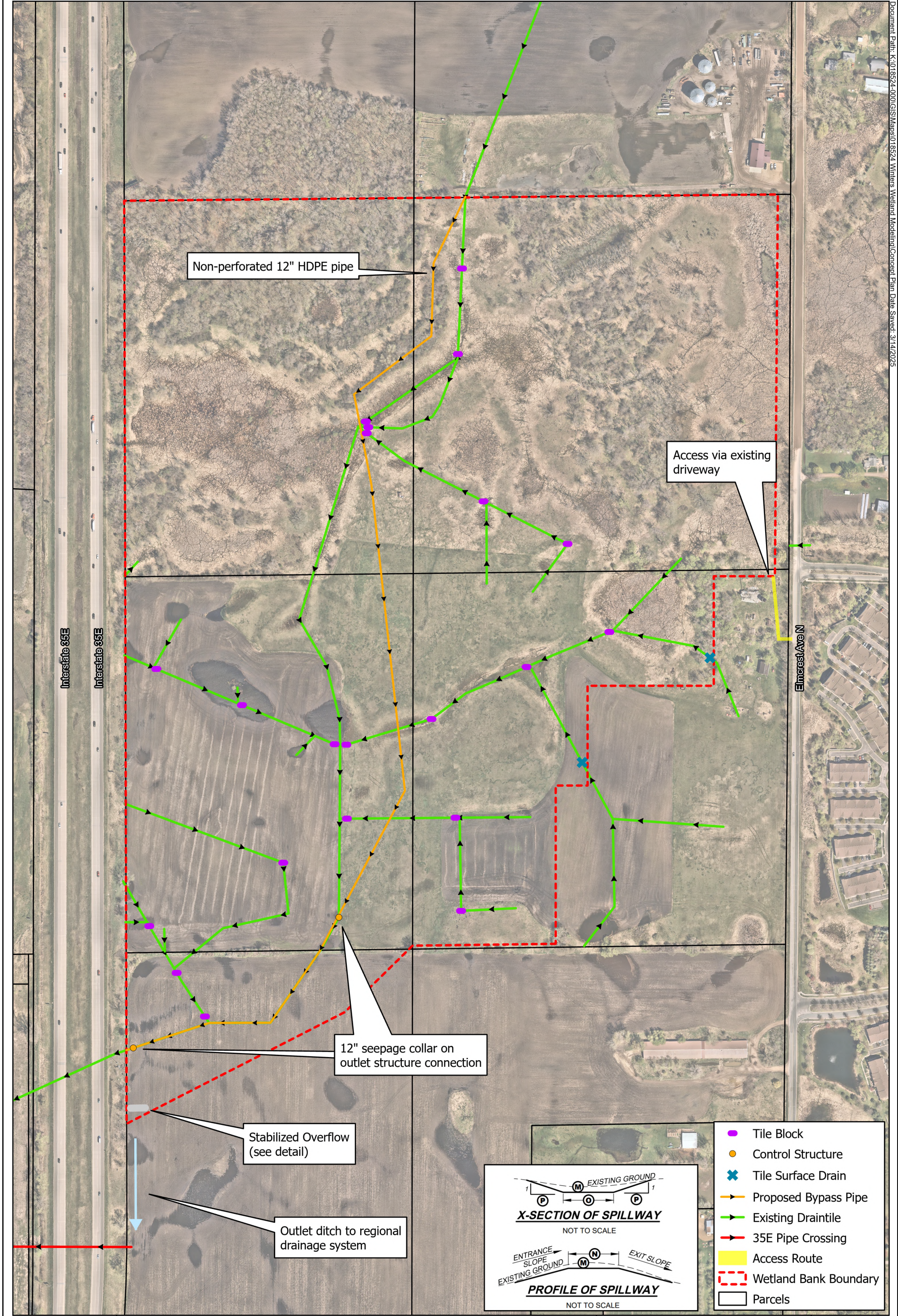


Figure 16 - Proposed Construction Plan

Winters Wetland Bank  
City of Lino Lakes, MN



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Feet  
1 inch = 300 feet

