



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

SPONSOR: Kenneth Oehlke

Public Notice

ISSUED: September 23, 2020

EXPIRES: October 23, 2020

REFER TO: MVP-2016-04080-DJM

SECTION:404 - Clean Water Act

1. WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL
2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION

SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: Kenneth Oehlke
5337 Highway 30 Southwest
Stewartville, Minnesota 55976

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 18, Township 105 North, Range 14 West, Olmsted County, Minnesota. The approximate UTM coordinates are N 4860511.274743, E 536580.923649. Latitude 43.896185, Longitude -92.544622.

BANK SERVICE AREA: The proposed bank service area is Zumbro River major watershed of the Upper Mississippi River basin in Minnesota, also referred to as Bank Service Area (BSA) 8.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The sponsor is proposing to develop the Oehlke Wetland Bank, which is comprised of two separate parcels owned by Ingrid and Chester Oehlke (Parcel ID: 541841034216) and Kenneth Oehlke (Parcel ID: 541843034 217) totaling 27-acres, including upland buffer. The project is further described below and shown on the enclosed figures labeled MVP-2016-04080-DJM, Page 1 of 7 through 7 of 7.

NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT: The credits generated from this project are for the public to debit to provide compensatory mitigation required by DA authorizations. BSA 8 has a high average annual demand for credits and this bank would help fulfill shortages of wetland credits in Olmsted County and the larger watershed. The Oehlke Wetland Bank is in an area that has experienced considerable wetland loss over time, mainly due to drainage for the purpose of creating land suitable for farming. The proposed site is located in the Zumbro River minor watershed which encompasses approximately 9,050 acres within the Zumbro River major watershed. It is estimated the immediate contributing watershed area for the project encompasses roughly 365 acres that is primarily used for agricultural purposes. As of 2012, agricultural production comprised 63% of the land within Olmsted County. Drainage from the watershed flows into the natural drainage channel along the western border of the proposed easement and ultimately drains into the Zumbro River located to the north of the site. The wetland credits generated at the proposed bank site would also help to meet future demand for compensatory mitigation in this area. Many of the wetlands impacted within Olmsted County and the larger watershed are partially drained wetlands that were once likely shallow and deep marshes prior to drainage, but have been converted to wet meadow or farmed seasonally flooded basins. The proposed Wet Meadow wetland type at the Oehlke Wetland Bank is intended to replace the historic wetlands types that existed in this area.

The ecological goals for the project include flood storage, water quality treatment for downstream waters, wildlife habitat improvements and overall improvement in the vegetative/ecological integrity of this basin. The objective of this wetland bank project is to restore wetlands within the bank site in order

to generate wetland credits that would be available for the public to debit to offset unavoidable impacts to wetlands associated with DA authorized projects occurring within Olmsted County and the larger watershed. Restoration of the site will remove a portion of land from agricultural use and provide a buffer area and a critical floodplain connection before discharging to the Zumbro River.

The proposed Oehlke Wetland Bank would include the following restoration actions and acreages, and would generate the following potential wetland credits. (Map ID column corresponds with the enclosed Figure MVP-2016-04080-DJM, Page 6 of 7):

WCA and 404 Wetland Bank Credit Allocation Table				
Map ID	Credit Action	Acres	% Credit	Credit
Credit Area 1 (Fresh Meadow)	Reestablishment	21.2	100%	21.2
Credit Area 2 (Fresh Meadow)	Rehabilitation	1.0	50%	0.5
Credit Area 3 (Upland Buffer)	Buffer	4.8	25%	1.2
-	TOTAL EASEMENT SIZE:	27.0	TOTAL:	22.9

ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT: The site consists of partially and fully drained farmed wetlands and has an extensive functioning subsurface drainage system. The sponsor proposes to restore the hydrology to the site by disabling existing drainage practices. All existing tile lines (3' to 4' below ground) will be marked prior to disabling the tile. The tiles are proposed to be disabled with the use of excavation trenches and removed a minimum of 50 feet within each specified tile break location. Upon locating, excavating, and removing existing tile, exposed tiles at each end of the trench will be blocked to prevent water from entering or exiting the tile. All of the remnant plastic drain tile fragments and larger fragments of clay and concrete tile will be removed from the excavated material prior to backfilling. All excavated areas will be backfilled and compacted in 12-inch lifts using a mechanical device or by hand at a minimum of 2 feet before compaction. No work is proposed to be completed within the wetland onsite or within existing ditch located east of the mitigation bank site to ensure no negative impacts would occur to adjacent farmland.

Vegetation establishment and maintenance: The proposed vegetation communities include upland mesic prairie and fresh (wet) meadow wetlands. All areas dominated by reed canary grass will be managed prior to the initial seeding. State seed mixes used would include: Mesic Prairie Southeast, Wet Meadow South and West. The five year management plan would focus on the control of non-native species using clipping, herbicide application, and prescribed burns. Mowing would be utilized if conditions allow that prevent rutting or soil compaction. Some of the non-native perennials that are anticipated included Reed canary grass, non-native cattails, Canada thistle, Smooth brome grass, and Kentucky bluegrass. Imazapyr and/or aquatic glyphosate herbicides would be used in wetland areas while a Milestone herbicide would be used in the upland areas to treat Canada thistle.

OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT: The sponsor and fee title owner will be Kenneth Oehlke. The sponsor will be responsible for design and implementation of the bank plan and will manage the project in accordance with the bank plan during the 5-year monitoring phase. After project implementation and the 5-year management phase of the project is complete, the long-term management responsibility, as a condition of the conservation easement, lies with the fee title owner. However, the sponsor will utilize the services of a professional ecologist to take an active role in working with the landowners to ensure long-term management and sustainability of the site. Credit debits would be tracked by the sponsor and reported to the state as required by state law. The reported credit releases and debits would be tracked on both Corps and state databases using ledger data supplied by the state. After all credits are debited, long-term management obligations would fall to the landowner under state law.

TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS: This project has a large contributing watershed with a functional drainage system. When the current drainage system is disabled, the natural wetland conditions will be restored.

The sponsor's agent is staffed by professional engineers, hydrologists, soil scientists and vegetation specialists who have had experience completing several wetland restoration projects in Minnesota.

ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: This site is in a landscape position that receives overland flow. Dismantling the drainage network would allow overland flow to be held on site for longer periods of time than current conditions. The existing soils on-site support the development of the proposed wetland community. The soils within the bank site consist of more than 90% hydric soils. The areas proposed for restoration are within mapped hydric soils, which include the Palms, Garwin, and Maxfield soil series. The uplands areas consist of the Floyd soil series.

HYDROLOGY: The site consists mainly of very poorly drained mucks soils, and in order to effectively farm the site, an extensive drain tile system was installed between 1955 and 1980. The drainage system is still effective at the current time. The project seeks to disable the pattern drain tile and return hydrology to the site similar to the non-drained reference wetland. The adjacent drainage channels will also provide additional hydrology to the bank site during heavy precipitation events and spring runoff.

CURRENT LAND USES: The proposed mitigation bank site and the surrounding lands are in annual row crop production. The land-use in the areas surrounding the bank site is agricultural with a few residential home sites.

COORDINATION WITH RESOURCE AGENCIES: This project has been coordinated with the following members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and other resource agencies: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, the sponsor has forwarded project information to the Rochester International Airport (RST) on February 4, 2019 as coordination to investigate if restoration of the site will present an increased risk to aviation by attracting wildlife to areas where aircraft-wildlife strikes might occur. The analysis was forwarded to the Federal Aviation Administration, which concluded the proposed project will not increase wildlife hazards to air operations at RST.

3. 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 (Threatened)	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 (Threatened) Prairie	Cool, wet groundwater-fed limestone Cliffs
bush-clover (Threatened)	Native prairie on well-drained soils

4. JURISDICTION

Regulatory Branch (File No. MVP-2016-04080-DJM)

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 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 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 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.

7. 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.

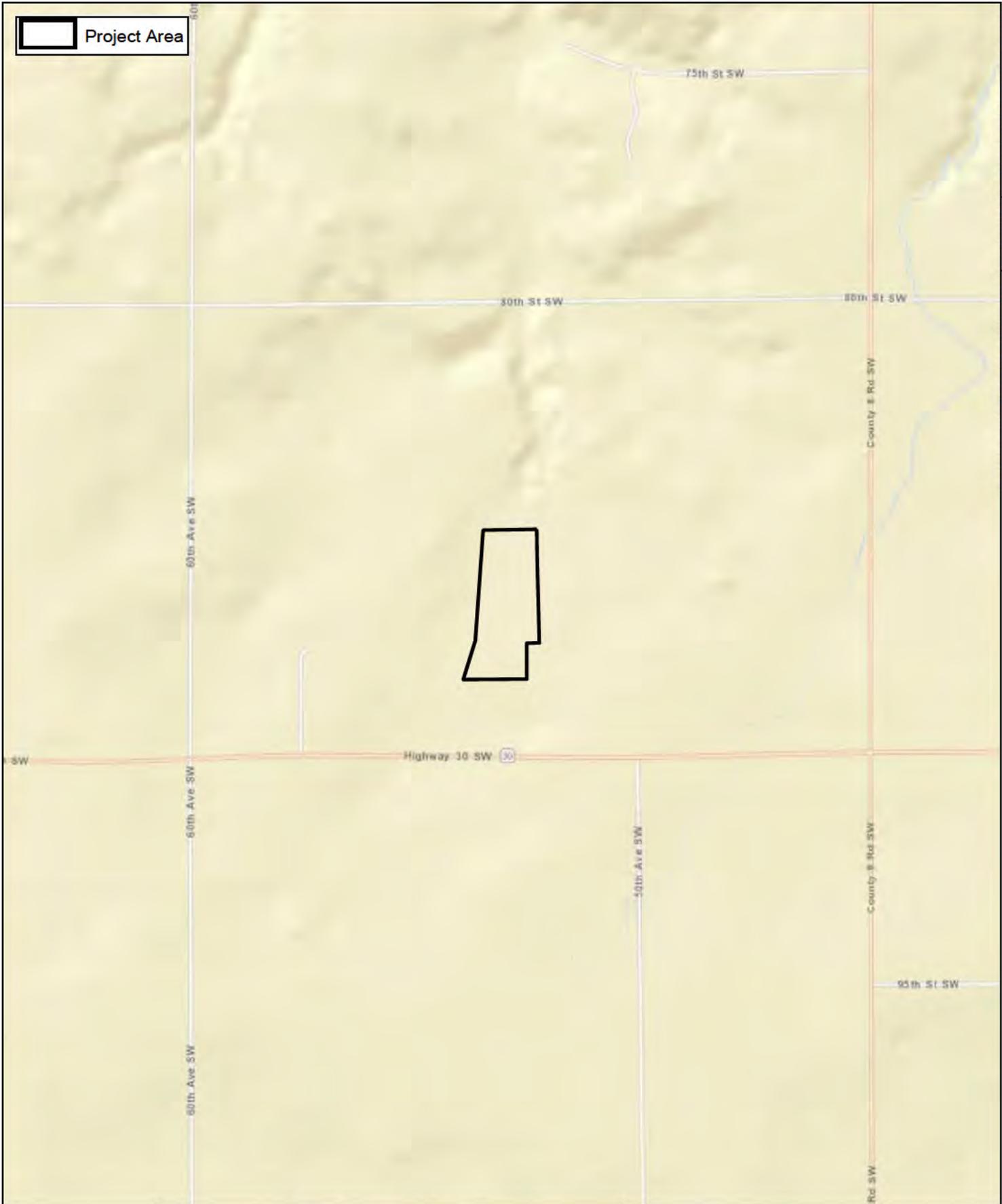
Replies may be addressed to:

Regulatory Branch
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Daniel Munson at the St. Paul office of the Corps, telephone number 651-290-5191 or email daniel.j.munson@usace.army.mil.

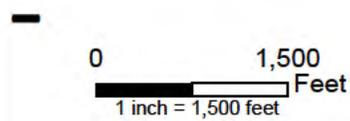
To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: http://mvp-extstp/list_server/ and add your information in the New Registration Box.

Enclosures: MVP-2016-04080-DJM, Public Notice Figures 1-7 of 7



Project Location

Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
Olmsted County, Minnesota

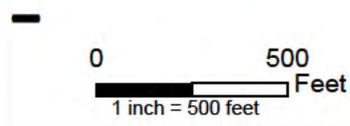


 Project Area
 Parcels (2018)

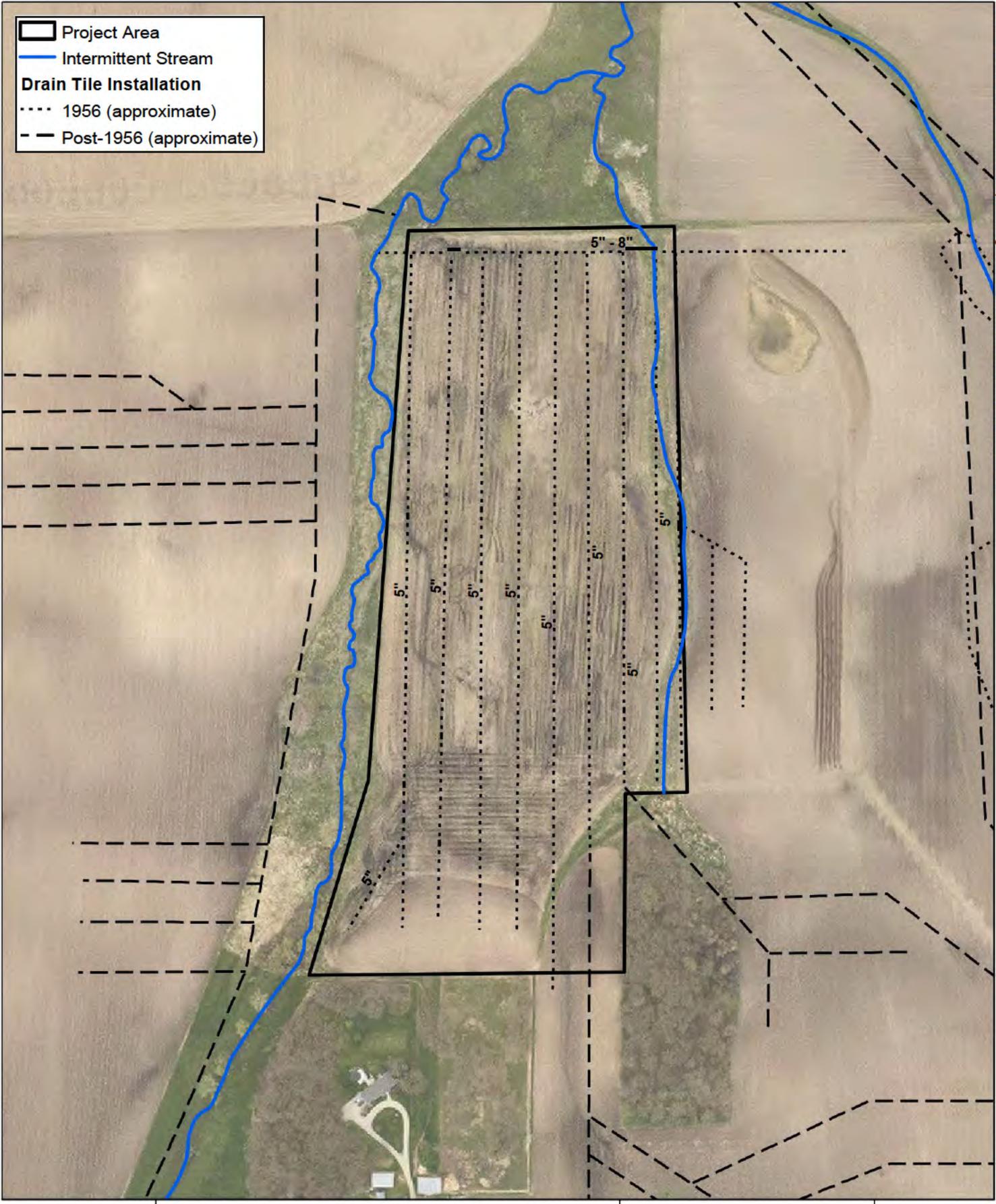


Adjacent Property Information

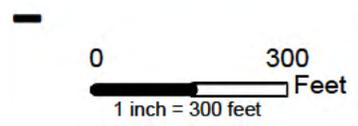
Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
Olmsted County, Minnesota

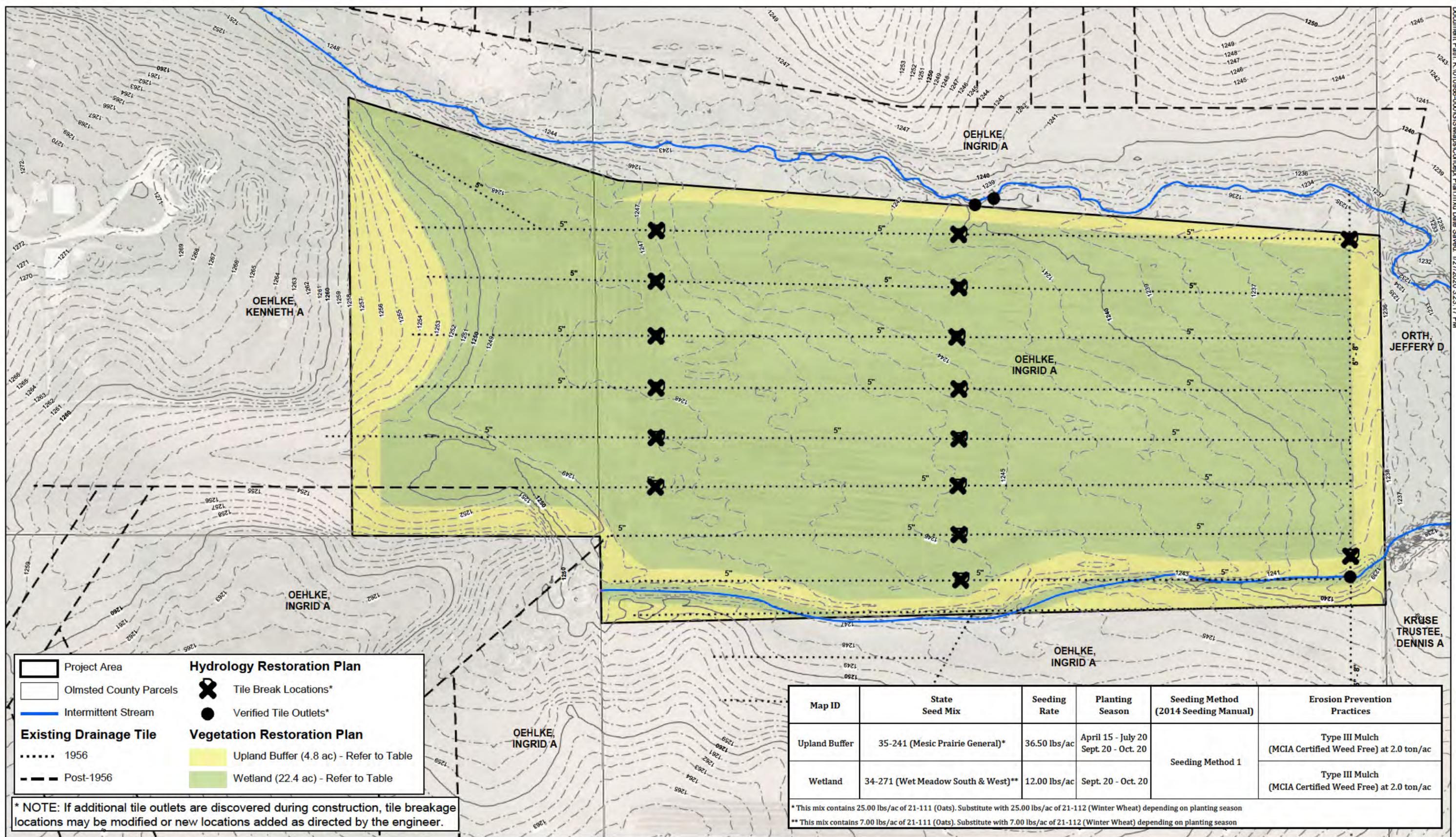


- Project Area
- Intermittent Stream
- Drain Tile Installation
 - 1956 (approximate)
 - Post-1956 (approximate)



Drainage Features
Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
Olmsted County, Minnesota





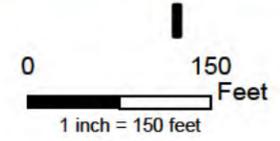
	Project Area		Tile Break Locations*
	Olmsted County Parcels		Verified Tile Outlets*
	Intermittent Stream	Vegetation Restoration Plan	
	Existing Drainage Tile		Upland Buffer (4.8 ac) - Refer to Table
	1956		Wetland (22.4 ac) - Refer to Table
	Post-1956		

* NOTE: If additional tile outlets are discovered during construction, tile breakage locations may be modified or new locations added as directed by the engineer.

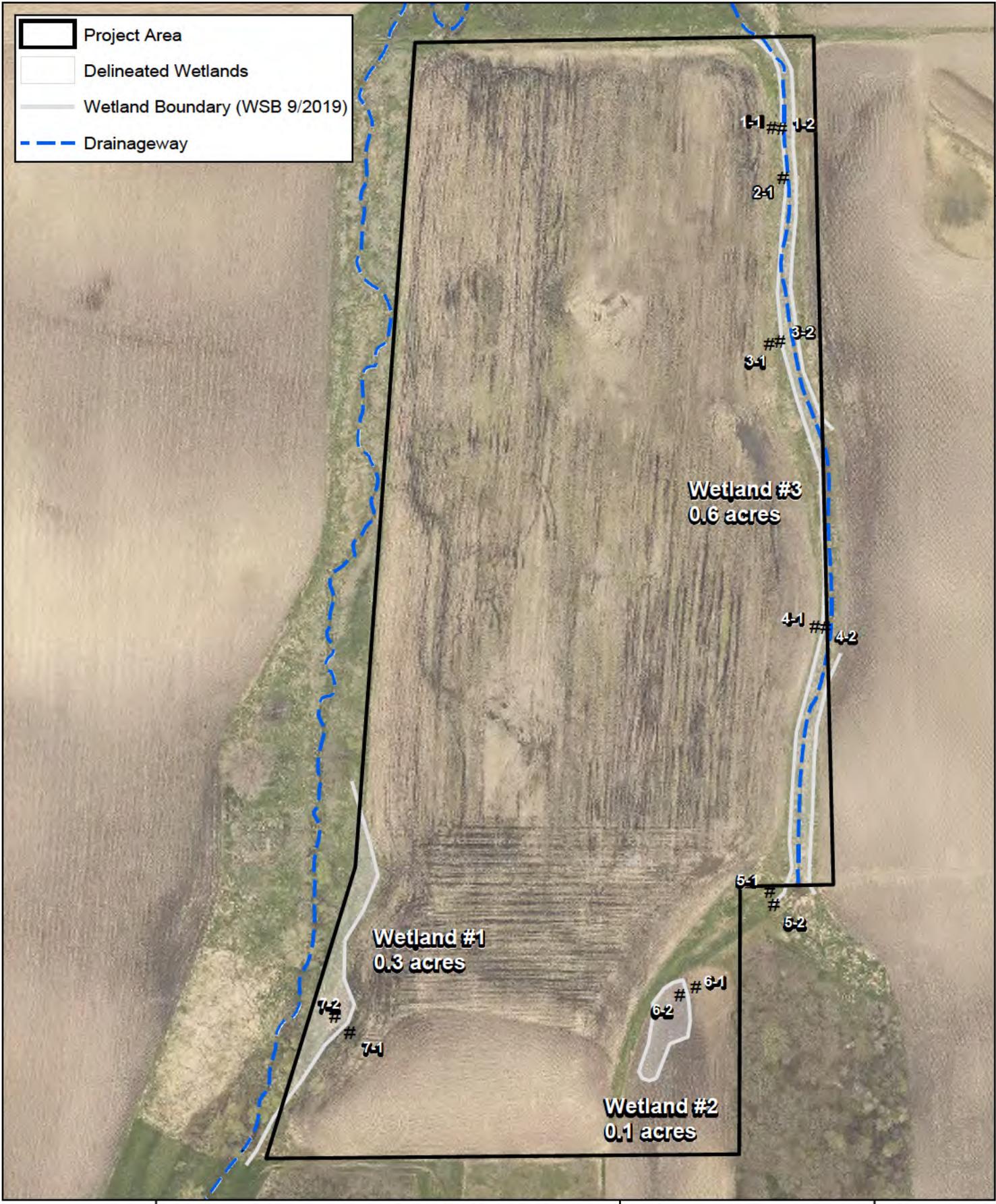
Map ID	State Seed Mix	Seeding Rate	Planting Season	Seeding Method (2014 Seeding Manual)	Erosion Prevention Practices
Upland Buffer	35-241 (Mesic Prairie General)*	36.50 lbs/ac	April 15 - July 20 Sept. 20 - Oct. 20	Seeding Method 1	Type III Mulch (MCIA Certified Weed Free) at 2.0 ton/ac
Wetland	34-271 (Wet Meadow South & West)**	12.00 lbs/ac	Sept. 20 - Oct. 20		Type III Mulch (MCIA Certified Weed Free) at 2.0 ton/ac

* This mix contains 25.00 lbs/ac of 21-111 (Oats). Substitute with 25.00 lbs/ac of 21-112 (Winter Wheat) depending on planting season
 ** This mix contains 7.00 lbs/ac of 21-111 (Oats). Substitute with 7.00 lbs/ac of 21-112 (Winter Wheat) depending on planting season

Concept Plan
 Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
 Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
 Olmsted County, Minnesota

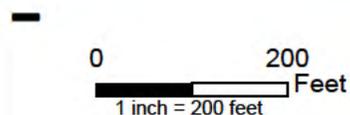


Project Area
Delineated Wetlands
Wetland Boundary (WSB 9/2019)
Drainageway



Wetland Exhibit

Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
Olmsted County, Minnesota



 Project Area (27.0 ac)

 Intermittent Stream

Credit Allocations

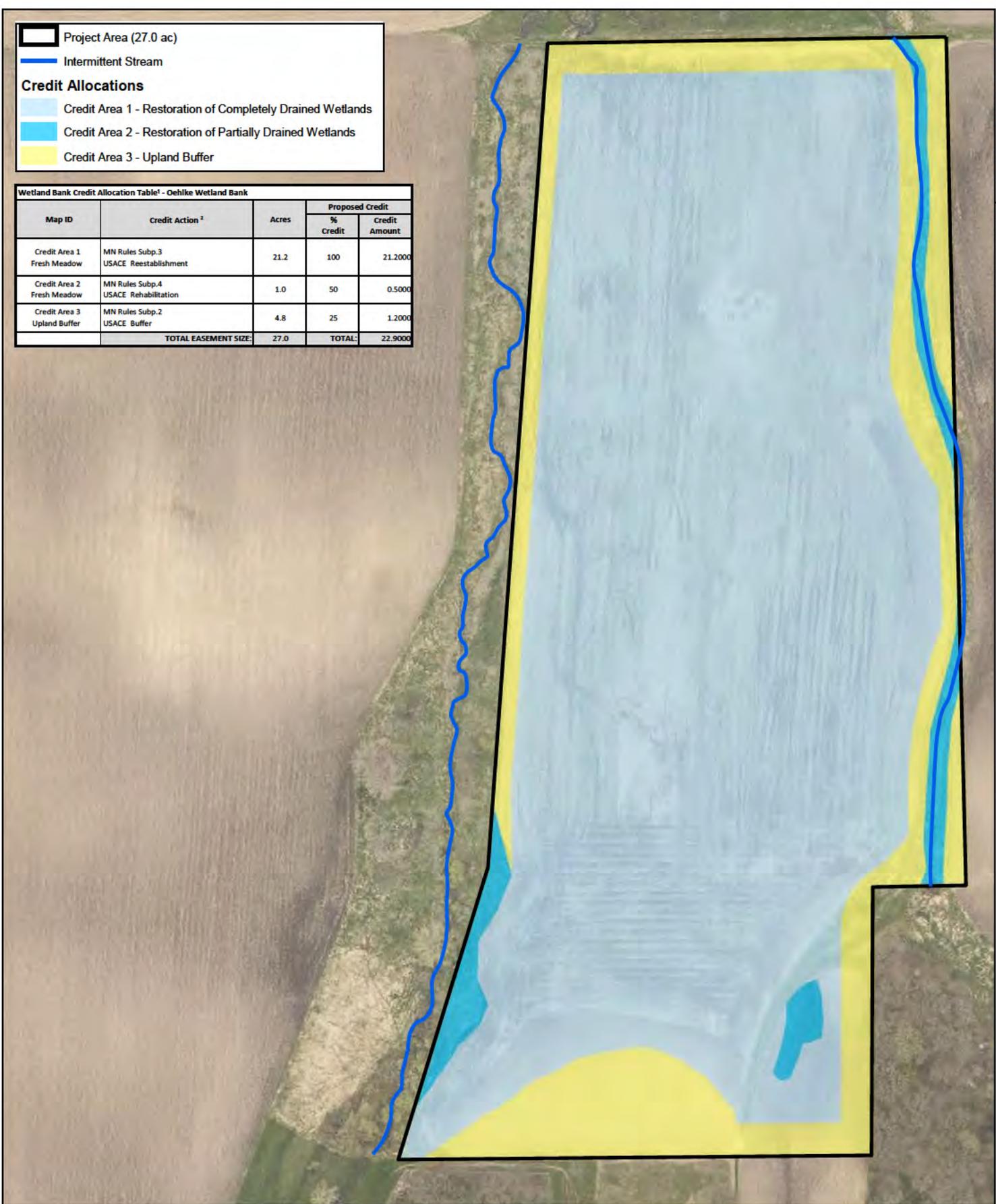
 Credit Area 1 - Restoration of Completely Drained Wetlands

 Credit Area 2 - Restoration of Partially Drained Wetlands

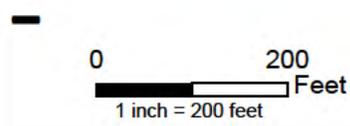
 Credit Area 3 - Upland Buffer

Wetland Bank Credit Allocation Table¹ - Oehlke Wetland Bank

Map ID	Credit Action ²	Acres	Proposed Credit	
			% Credit	Credit Amount
Credit Area 1 Fresh Meadow	MN Rules Subp.3 USACE Reestablishment	21.2	100	21.2000
Credit Area 2 Fresh Meadow	MN Rules Subp.4 USACE Rehabilitation	1.0	50	0.5000
Credit Area 3 Upland Buffer	MN Rules Subp.2 USACE Buffer	4.8	25	1.2000
TOTAL EASEMENT SIZE:		27.0	TOTAL:	22.9000



Credit Allocation
 Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
 Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
 Olmsted County, Minnesota



 Project Area

 Intermittent Stream

Planting Plan

 Seed Mix 35-241 (Mesic Prairie General)

 Seed Mix 34-271 (Wet Meadow South & West)



Planting Plan

Oehlke Farm Wetland Bank
Sec. 18, T105N-R14W
Olmsted County, Minnesota

