

RICE CREEK WATERSHED CHANGING CLIMATE AND FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCY PROJECT





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June 29, 2023

Prepared for: Rice Creek Watershed District



In Cooperation with:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Freshwater Society







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June 29, 2023

Date

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All elevations in this report are in reference to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88) unless otherwise noted.

1 BACKGROUND

The Rice Creek Watershed consists of 186 square miles in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties in the north metro of the twin cities. The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has a long history of coordinating regional surface water management activities. Its ongoing development of hydraulic and hydrologic models for the watershed have proven a vital resource for its member communities as they plan for future land use changes amid rapid development pressure. While the lower portion of the Rice Creek Watershed is mostly developed, the middle and upper portions of the watershed contain some of the most rapidly growing communities within the metro area. The District has rules in place to limit the increased runoff volume and runoff rates; however, the rules are related to current hydrology standards. RCWD's rules were implemented after significant development had already occurred in many areas of the watershed. The land development occurring prior to the District's implementation of its rules occurred with minimal, if any, stormwater management projects, which in turn has led to increased flooding vulnerability in many established communities, including areas of environmental justice concern. Identifying current and future risk due to hydrologic climate change and developing resiliency plans would allow the District and local communities to implement strategies including capital improvement storage practices on the landscape prior to potentially losing these storage locations due to development and addressing flood storage shortfalls in existing developed communities.

In 2022, the RCWD was awarded a *FY22 Planning Grant for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resiliency* by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The grant's work plan was targeted to augment the existing district-wide hydrologic and hydraulic model to simulate larger rainfall depths, identify vulnerable locations by mapping the future conditions hydrology floodplain, and to identify potential capital improvement storage projects. RCWD also facilitated workshops through the assistance of Freshwater Society during the project. The workshops invited local community leaders to engage the communities in climate adaptation and resiliency planning. All communities under their individual authorities will need to communicate regarding potential projects to address effects of climate change. This report documents the study and outcomes.

2 FUTURE CLIMATE HYDROLOGY (FCH)

A key component of this stormwater resiliency project is developing future conditions hydrology simulations, consistent with climate driven extreme weather patterns, modeled through the existing district wide hydrologic and hydraulic model. The RCWD previously had developed a district-wide hydrologic and hydraulic model for the watershed. The district-wide model is updated annually with projects that are implemented along the public drainage system and regional scale projects.

There are various entities that have studied the climate related to extreme weather and hydrologic changes. For this project, the following four sources were considered.

- Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREATE) US Environmental Protection Agency
- National Stormwater Calculator US Environmental Protection Agency
- Equipping Municipalities with Climate Change Data to Inform Stormwater Management –
 University of Minnesota County Specific Atlas 14 Replication Tables U of MN Noe et al
- U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit United States Global Change Research Program

For the RCWD, the CREATE source predicts a 16.3% increase in average annual rainfall under a warm/wet future climate and predicts an average of 15.8% increase for the 100-year storm intensity. For the 100-year storm intensity, the National Stormwater Calculator predicts a 18.9% increase under hot/dry conditions and an 18.7% increase under warm/wet conditions. The U of M Atlas 14 Replication Table for the counties within RCWD predicts an 44% increase in the 100-year storm intensity. The U of M Atlas 14 Replication Table for Anoka County appears to be an outlier compared to the other source data, therefore, that source was excluded from consideration in this study.

After reviewing these available future climate hydrologic condition forecasts, a 19% increase in storm intensity was utilized for this project to simulate future climate hydrology conditions. The rainfall depths for simulation of current Atlas 14 conditions and for the Future Climate Hydrology (FCH) are provided in **Table 1**.

100-year, 24-500-year, 24-100-year, 10-**Return Period** hour hour day **Probability (% Chance)** 1% Chance 0.2% Chance 1% Chance Current Hydrology^[1] 7.1 9.7 7.2 Future Climate Hydrology (FCH) 8.5 8.6 11.5

Table 1: Modeled Rainfall Depths

3 FUTURE CLIMATE HYDROLOGY SIMULATIONS

The 100-year FCH events for both the 24-hour and 10-day snowmelt events presented in Section 2 were simulated in the district-wide model. RCWD typically simulates a 100-year, 10-day snowmelt runoff event as part of the modeling products and outputs. The floodplain related to the future climate hydrology was remapped for the watershed. The mapped floodplain elevation is based on the critical event (higher elevation) between the 24-hour and 10-day event. Figures showing the current RCWD 100-year floodplain and the future climate hydrology floodplain are provided in **Figures 1a-e**. Please note that the RCWD's District Wide Model is a regional model, with a level of detail consistent with FEMA flood mapping of this region. Mapped floodplain generally follows the RCWD's public drainage systems and small streams within the watershed. The district-wide model and resulting floodplain are not to the scale of

^[1] The Current Hydrology source for the 24-hour events is NOAA Atlas 14.

local city storm sewer networks. The model is available to public and private parties to use in their individual analyses via a license agreement.

The floodplain shown on **Figures 1a-e** identifies vulnerable locations related to future climate hydrology. In general, there are increases to the floodplain footprint throughout the watershed. Areas with flatter landscape tend to show greater increases in the future climate hydrology floodplain. Middle Rice Creek (between Baldwin and Long Lake) shows large increases as well. Further down in the watershed the additional volume resulting from a 19% rainfall depth increases begins to compound from the various systems.

Changes to the modeled 100-year Lake Level for larger lakes in the watershed are shown in **Table 2**. Long Lake has a history of flooding and has been a known flood risk in the future. Results in Table 2 indicate that future climate hydrology could potentially increase the 100-year flood levels on the lake by 1.3 feet.

Table 2: 100-year Lake Levels

	100-year Current	100-year Future	Increase in 100-year
Lake	Hydrology	Climate Hydrology	Lake Level
	(feet, NAVD 88)	(feet, NAVD 88)	(feet)
Bald Eagle Lake	912.27	912.47	0.20
Baldwin Lake	886.88	887.57	0.69
Centerville Lake	887.32	887.75	0.43
Clear Lake	892.26	892.60	0.34
Golden Lake	890.17	890.33	0.16
Howard Lake	890.05	890.31	0.26
Johanna Lake	881.11	882.18	1.07
Long Lake	871.95	873.25	1.30
Marshan Lake	886.99	887.69	0.70
Otter Lake	913.93	914.12	0.19
Peltier Lake	887.41	887.83	0.42
Pike Lake	871.89	871.90	0.01
Reshanau Lake	886.98	887.68	0.70
Rice Lake	886.97	887.68	0.71
Rondeau Lake	887.89	888.30	0.41
Silver Lake	935.67	936.38	0.71
Moore Lake	879.23	879.89	0.66
Turtle Lake	892.61	892.70	0.09
White Bear Lake	923.72	924.05	0.33

4 POTENTIAL STORAGE PROJECTS SITE SCREENING

There are several ways to address the increases in peak flood identified in **Figures 1a-e** and **Table 2**, including but not limited to programs to encourage infiltrative land cover and soil practices and implementation of stormwater management rules. The RCWD and its municipal partners may consider further investigation to creating new or modifying existing programs to encourage site- level changes that reduces downstream discharge and volume related to the cumulative effects of additional impervious surface.

Consistent with the Workplan, this report identifies potential storage project locations and evaluates the feasibility of these locations in mitigation future flood impacts related to climate change. Due to the substantial size of the watershed, it is infeasible to evaluate all land parcels and depressional areas in the District for feasibility. To reduce the number of locations evaluated to a reasonable number and target the areas with the most likely characteristics required for a regional BMP partnership, a screening process was developed to identify potential storage project locations. There were three main geographic datasets used in the screening process: a) parcel data; b) NWI wetlands, and c) the Crop Productivity Index dataset developed by NRCS.

Any potential storage project will require either acquisition or an easement from the landowner. In order to reduce potential hurdles for project implementation, the parcel dataset was screened to identify public parcels. Public parcels were defined as parcels where the landowner is a city, county, state, or the Watershed District.

The Crop Productivity Index dataset provides a rating for soil productivity. The rating system is between 0 and 100, 0 being least productive and 100 being highest. For the screening process two limits were set, CPI < 20 and CPI < 40.

The initial screening consisted of merging the various datasets. The merging intended to identify wetland areas on public parcels that could potentially be enhanced, and public parcels with a low crop productivity rating. The merged datasets are shown on **Figures 2a-e** and include the following:

- Public Parcels & NWI Wetlands
- Public Parcels & CPI < 20
- Public Parcels and CPI < 40

The initial screening identified numerous areas throughout the watershed for potential storage projects. These areas ranged in size and geographic location. A second desktop screening process was completed that included manually verifying potential project locations using the merged datasets and aerial imagery to target areas with larger potential project areas and appropriate proximity to known flooding locations. The second screening resulted in a total of 29



potential project locations. The potential project sites are shown as polygons in blue and orange on **Figures 3a-e**.

The third and final screening process involved looking at LiDAR data to determine the storage potential of the area. This included looking at elevations of surrounding infrastructure (i.e. road and buildings) to determine if valuable storage is available below the critical elevations of the infrastructure. The screening also included looking at existing culvert sizes in the immediate area. If the current controlling structure was small (i.e., 24" culvert), then a storage project wouldn't have much potential to further meter out runoff compared to the existing condition.

The third screening resulted in 7 potential primary storage projects. The projects are shown in orange on **Figure 3a-e** and are indicated by the title "Primary" in the legend. A meeting was held between HEI and RCWD staff to review and receive concurrence on the sites that were to be pursued as potential capital improvement storage projects.

Sites that were not prioritized in the second and third screening processes are considered "Secondary" and may be further reviewed at a later date. These locations may be more suitable for target storage for smaller, more frequent events and/or provide water quality treatment.

5 IDENTIFIED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The potential CIP sites identified through the third round of screening discussed in Section 4 were carried forward for conceptual design. The sites were assumed to be earthen embankment dams with a low flow principal spillway and a high flow emergency, or auxiliary spillway. The outlet structures and critical elevations for each site were determined based on reviewing available LiDAR data and aerial imagery. The sites were designed to a top of dam elevation that would not impact structures in the flood pool upstream of the flood control berms.

The general design criteria were to determine the critical elevation upstream of the site based on impacts to infrastructure or buildings. The top of dam elevation was set below the critical flood elevation. The auxiliary spillway elevation was set to 1-foot below the top of dam elevation. The 100-year event (current hydrology) was simulated to size the low flow outlet. The outlet structure was sized to pass the 100-year event below the auxiliary spillway. The 500-year event was then simulated to determine the size of the auxiliary spillway to keep the 500-year event below the top of dam elevation. The site locations are described below. Project portfolios were developed for each site and are shown in **Appendix A**. Statistics for each site including critical elevation, storage volumes, and inundated acres are provided in a table in **Appendix A**.

- Site 1 Oasis Pond; RCD 4 Main Trunk; Roseville, MN; Upstream (south) of Little Johanna Lake; Modification of existing outlet control structure and berm.
- Site 2 Jones Lake; RCD 5 / RCD 2 Main Trunk, New Brighton, MN; Upstream (south) of Hansen Park; Modification to outlet structure and earthen berm construction



- Site 3 South Hansen Park; RCD 2 Main Trunk, New Brighton, MN; Upstream (south) of Hansen Park; Earthen berm construction
- Site 4 Poplar Lake; Upstream of ACD 25 Main Trunk; White Bear Township and Shoreview, MN; Road Raise and smaller outlet structure
- Site 5 ACD 53-62 Branch 5 and Branch 5 Lateral 2; Blaine, MN; Earthen berm construction and outlet control structure
- Site 6 ACD 53-62 Branch 5 Lateral 1; Blaine, MN; Earthen berm construction and outlet control structure
- Site 7 JD 2 Main Trunk; Forest Lake, MN; Earthen berm construction and outlet control structure

A Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost range (POPCC) was developed for each of the storage sites. The POPCC range was based on a base cost for outlet structures and a unit price cost on the cubic yards of embankment required to construct the dams. The POPCC range is shown on the table in **Appendix A**.

5.1 RESULTS

The seven identified potential capital improvement storage projects were added to the district-wide model and the 100-year, 24-hour event was simulated. The models were simulated with all sites implemented, individual runs with only specific sites were not completed as part of this analysis. Hydrographs at the outlet of each individual site for the 100-year event are shown in **Appendix B**. The hydrographs show the peak flow reduction provided by the sites. Reduction in peak flows for the 100-year, 24-hour event range from 3% to 90%. In addition to peak flow reductions, reduction in peak water surface downstream of the sites were analyzed. **Table 4** presents peak water surface elevations at critical locations downstream of the sites.

Table 3: Peak Water Surface Elevations

Site(s)	Flooding Location Potentially Impacted by Project	Peak Flood Elevation Current Hydrology (100-year, 24-hour) (feet, NAVD 88)	Increase in Peak Flood Elevation due to Future Climate Hydrology (feet)	Project Impact of Lowering Peak Flood Elevation (Current Hydrology) (feet)
1	RCD 4 Main Trunk: Little Johanna Lake	883.33	+0.59'	-0.22'
2 & 3	RCD 2 Main Trunk: Hansen Park	881.29	+0.82'	-1.26'
2 & 3	RCD 2 Main Trunk: Upstream of I694 (~1,300' downstream of Hansen Park)	877.55	+0.70'	-1.72'
4	ACD 25 Main Trunk: Upstream of Birch St.	886.80	+0.64'	-0.00'
5 & 6	ACD 53-62 Branch 1: Upstream of Lexington Ave.	897.30	+0.58'	-0.08'
5 & 6	ACD 53-62 Branch 1, Lateral 2: Upstream of Sunset Ave. NE (Blaine/Lino Lakes Boundary)	897.23	+0.60'	-0.08'
7	JD2 Main Trunk: Upstream US61 [1]	917.51	+1.14'	-1.64'

^[1] Overtopping elevation ~ 921.5

Site 1 shows a reduction in water levels by 0.2' downstream at Little Johanna Lake. Although the reduction is not large, it could make the difference between structures being flooded for some rainfall event. Due to the size and volume of Johanna Lake, water level reductions downstream of Johanna Lake are insignificant.

Sites 2 and 3 show a large reduction peak water levels downstream of the site, at a location with a prior history of major flood damage in an Environmental Justice area. Both of these sites are projects that would add storage to existing areas that store and attenuate runoff. Because these sites are on the Main Trunk of a mostly linear ditch system, the benefits are realized for a significant distance downstream in the system.

Sites 4, 5, and 6 are all in the headwaters of the system. Peak water levels downstream of these sites remain nearly unchanged. This is due to the location of these projects and the relatively small drainage area. The smaller drainage areas result in less runoff volume that the sites can potentially store. Sites 5 and 6 are on the ACD 53-62 system. This is a very dendritic, or branched, system. Targeting storage in a system with multiple branches and laterals is

challenging. It is difficult to time the storage correctly to reduce the peak water levels downstream. Storage in these systems may still be beneficial for water quality purposes and may reduce inundation duration to locations downstream.

Stie 7 is the largest site that was identified. The first major roadway crossing downstream from Site 7 is US Highway 61. The site reduced the 100-year peak water levels downstream by 1.6'. This reduction is greater than the anticipated increase in water level related to future climate hydrology. The site, as currently identified, would have a footprint of approximately 0.75 square miles. This analysis showed that storing runoff at this location does result in a reduction in water levels downstream. Variations of the site with a smaller footprint could be explored to still provide flood damage reduction benefits downstream while resulting in a smaller flood pool footprint.

The simulations in this study analyzed the 100-year event. These sites could be designed to target storage for smaller, more frequent events. Sites 1, 4, 5 and 6 may show a greater reduction in peak flows downstream if designed to target the smaller, more frequent events.

The sites were analyzed to determine how well they would react to Future Climate Hydrology if they were implemented today based on current hydrologic design standards. Peak water surface elevations in the flood pool upstream of the sites are presented in **Table 4**. The model results indicate that will future climate hydrology the 100-year event upstream of the site would be between 0.3 and 1.1 feet higher than compared to the current Atlas 14 hydrology. This indicates that if structures were implemented now with current design standards, by the mid to end of century small improvements may need to be made to meet the design standards and hydrologic events of the future.

Table 4: Proposed	l Capital Improvement	t Projects: Peak Water S	Surface Elevation (ft, NAVD 88)
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		100-year			500-year	
Site	Atlas 14	FCH [2]	Change	Atlas 14	FCH [2]	Change
1	897.85	898.32	(+0.47)	898.99	899.62	(+0.63)
2	899.05	900.16	(+1.12)	901.82	903.03	(+1.21)
3	881.33	882.14	(+0.81)	883.31	884.27	(+0.95)
4	893.81	894.14	(+0.34)	894.40	894.74	(+0.33)
5	897.93	898.48	(+0.55)	899.09	899.60	(+0.52)
6	897.66	897.96	(+0.29)	898.41	898.69	(+0.28)
7	919.23	919.91	(+0.67)	920.32	921.03	(+0.71)

^[1] NOAA Atlas 14 Rainfall Depths, current standard for hydrologic modeling

^[2] Future Climate Hydrology developed as part of this study, see Section 2

^{*}All elevations are in feet, NAVD 88 vertical datum.

6 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Results from this study will be shared at the District's city-county partner meetings, with the RCWD Citizen Advisory Committee, other stakeholders and elected officials, and in other communication efforts (including newsletters).

As part of this project, RCWD engaged Freshwater Society to facilitate a series of two community resilience building workshops. The purpose of the workshops was to identify opportunities within the watershed to build resilience related to local climate change. There were approximate 40 participants at the workshop from various city, county, and state agencies as well as other interested local stakeholders. Workshop participants identified infrastructure, social, and environmental features across the watershed that may be vulnerable to a changing climate. Strategies on how to address those features were then developed. The strategies were grouped in 18 different themes. The results from the community resilience building workshops are presented in the Freshwater report in **Appendix C**.

A number of the climate resiliency building strategies are not under the umbrella of work that RCWD performs (i.e., ensure drinking water systems all have a backup/resilience plan in place). A lead agency and potential project partners were identified for each strategy. The purpose of the workshops and subsequent report was to have a collaborative discussion around creating a resilient community, and to develop and prioritize strategize for resiliency. The report in **Appendix C** is not intended to be a plan of action but is intended to communicate the issues identified by community members. It will be up to the lead agencies or identified partners to carry this information forward and develop a plan of action.

7 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The purpose of this project was to determine the likely effects of future extreme rainfall and runoff events related to a changing climate and identify capital improvement projects to curb these effects. These efforts were accomplished through a combination of modeling, engineering analysis, and community engagement via workshops facilitated by Freshwater Society. The following list summarizes the findings of the study.

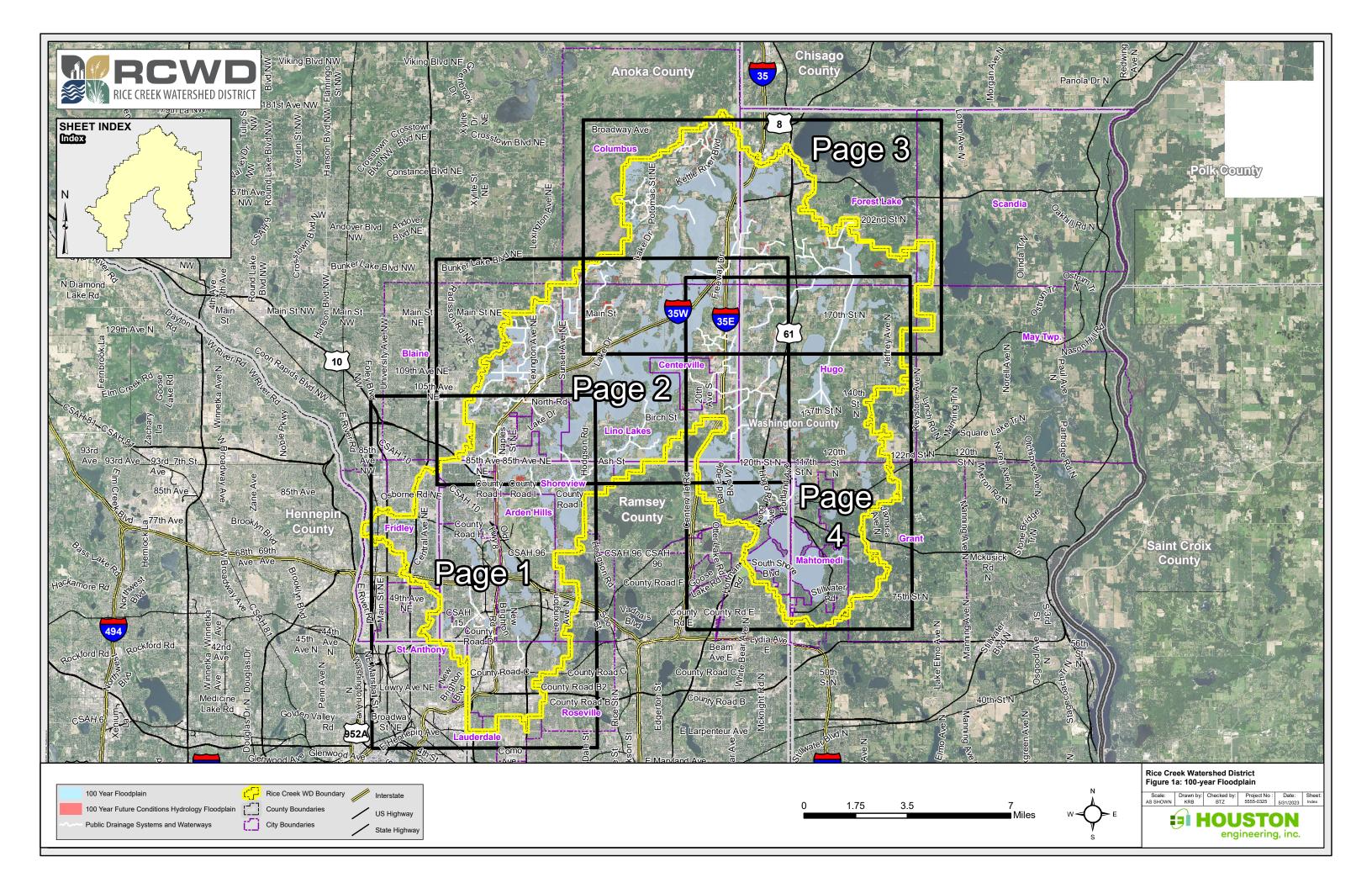
- 1. The District Wide Model, in conjunction with outside research on predicted precipitation patterns, indicates that some areas of the District will be at increased risk for flooding for low frequency, high magnitude flooding events. The locations with the greatest risk increase are generally JD 2, Middle Rice Creek, and Long Lake. Of these areas, Lexington and Mounds View in Middle Rice Creek are identified as areas of concern related to Environmental Justice.
- 2. Based on the screening exercises completed, mapping of climatic-related changes of floodplains, and evaluation of projects at these sites, Sites 2, 3, and 7, provide the greatest opportunity for reducing the negative impacts of climate change on flood risk. We recommend the RCWD and its municipal partners pursue the development of

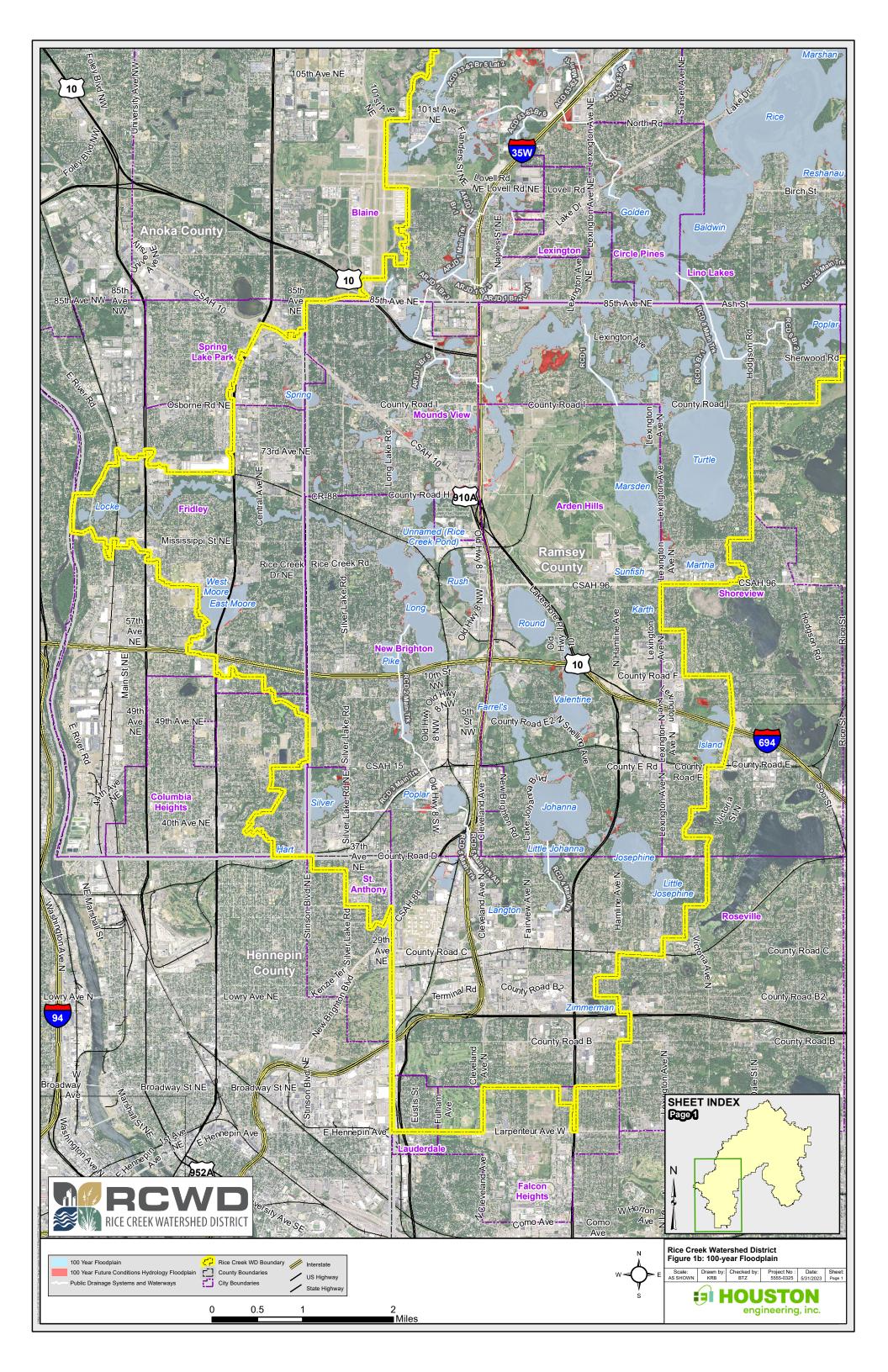
- projects at these sites to mitigate the potential for increased flood risk. As the scale of these projects is large, outside grant funding is likely necessary to proceed with further project development. Multiple funding opportunity opportunities exists supported by the state and federal government to further the addition of storage on the landscape, and the RCWD and its partners may consider pursuing multiple funding streams given the projects' likely multiple benefits.
- 3. Though the screening process did not identify significant reductions in flood risk for low frequency high magnitude events at Sites 1, 4, 5, and 6, there may be other benefits to completing projects at these sites that are outside of the scope of this study including water quality improvement or reduction in flood risk for higher frequency lower magnitude events.
- 4. The investigated sites are not the only locations in the RCWD providing opportunity for future flood risk mitigation. Though additional potential project site locations were not identified during the community outreach phase of this study, future opportunities may surface through other District efforts and outreach that may justify feasibility study at these locations. The modeling prepared from this study provides a launching point with which to efficiently evaluate other sites in the future at a relatively low effort. We recommend continued engagement with municipal partners in seeking out potential regional storage project locations.
- 5. There are several takeaways from this analysis for prioritizing future project site evaluations. See the additional discussion in Section 5.1.
- 6. The study did also identify a significant risk to increased water levels at Long Lake due to climate change for low-frequency, higher magnitude rainfall events. These increased peak flood elevations have the potential to result in severe flood damage to dozens of structures surrounding the lake and further upstream. Additional investigation is warranted regarding the outlet of Long Lake and modifications which may help alleviate the current and future flood risk.

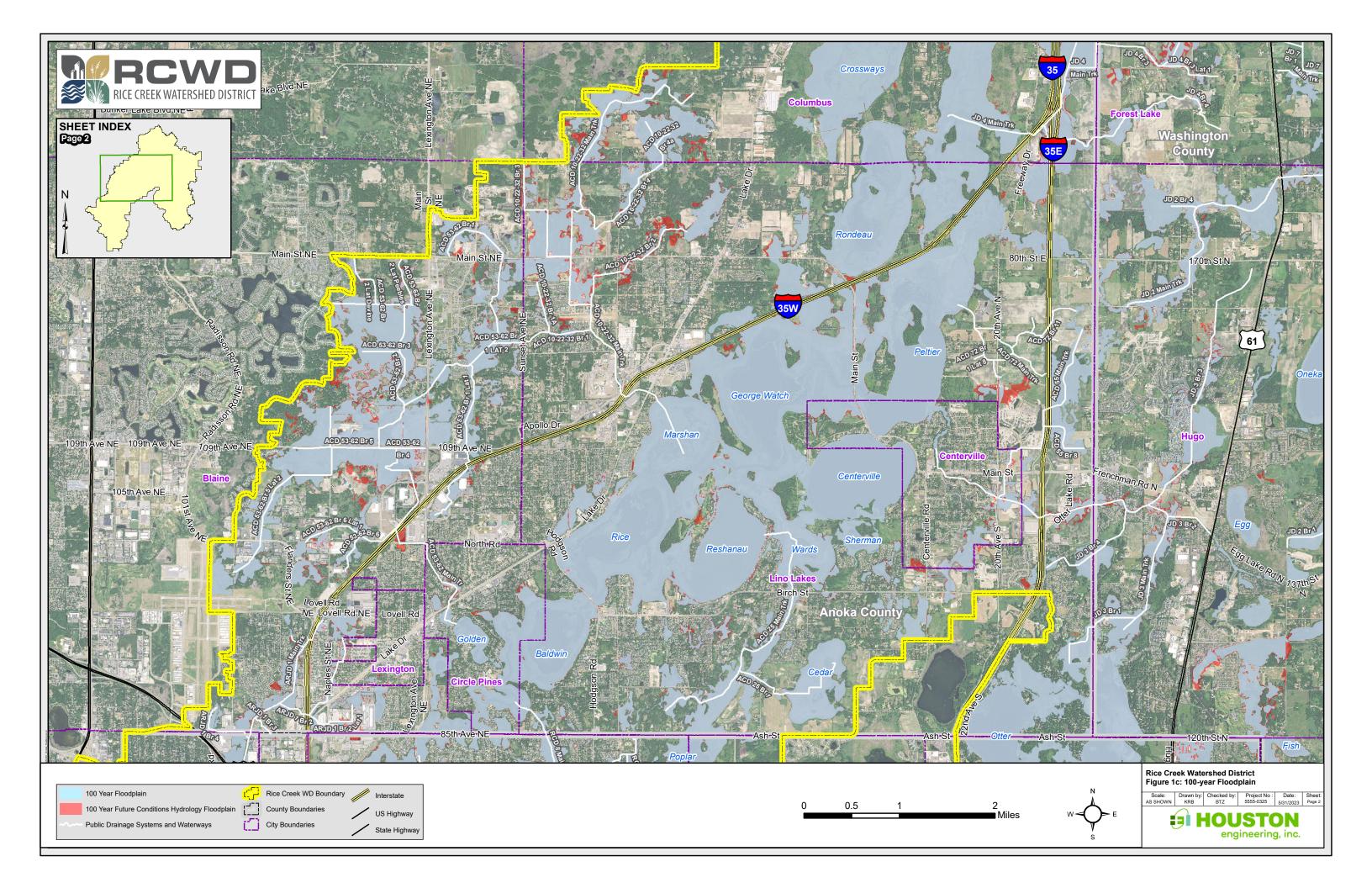
Figures

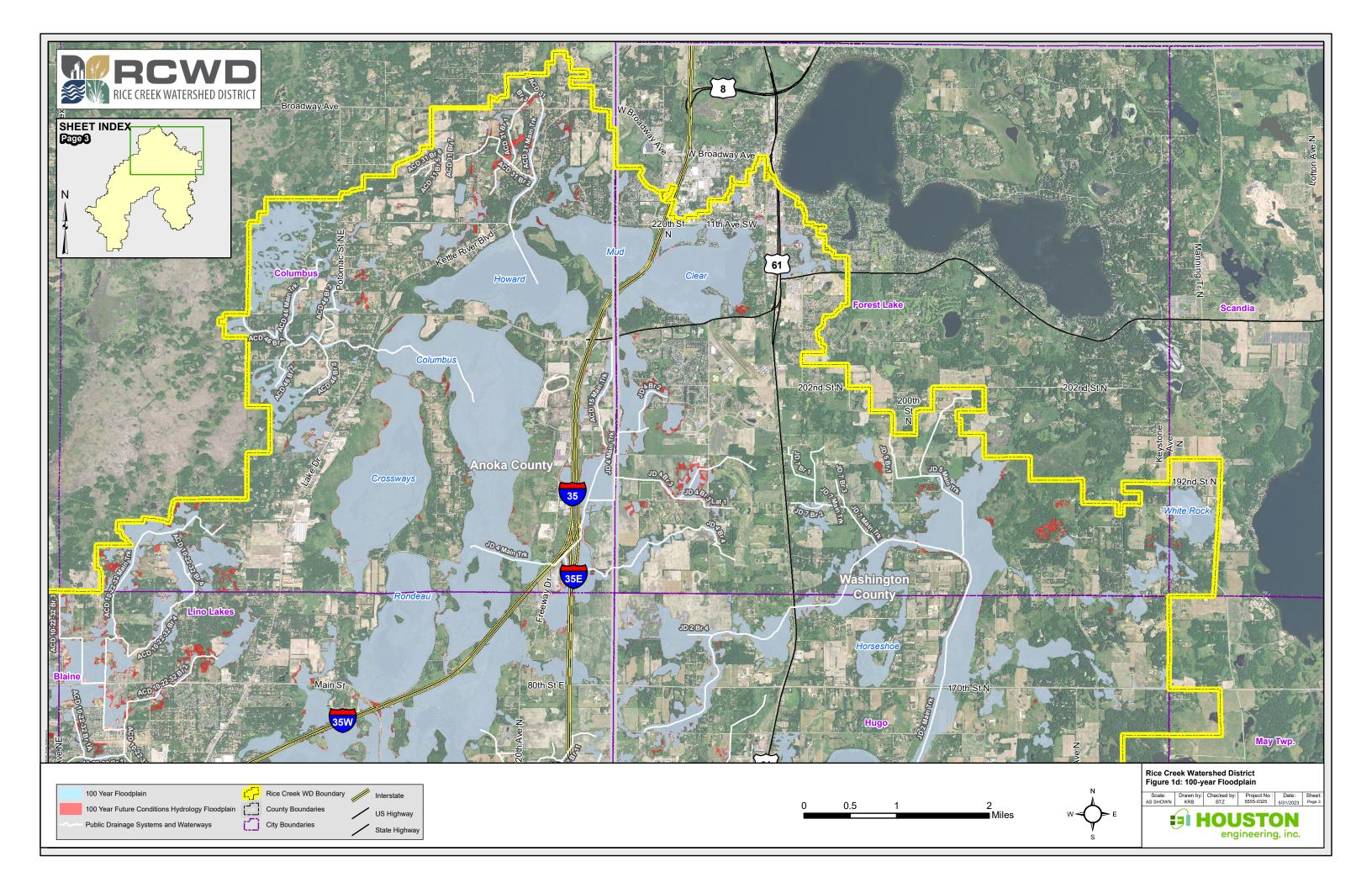
Figure 1a-e 100-year Floodplain Figure 2a-e Preliminary Screening Figure 3a-e Potential Site Identification

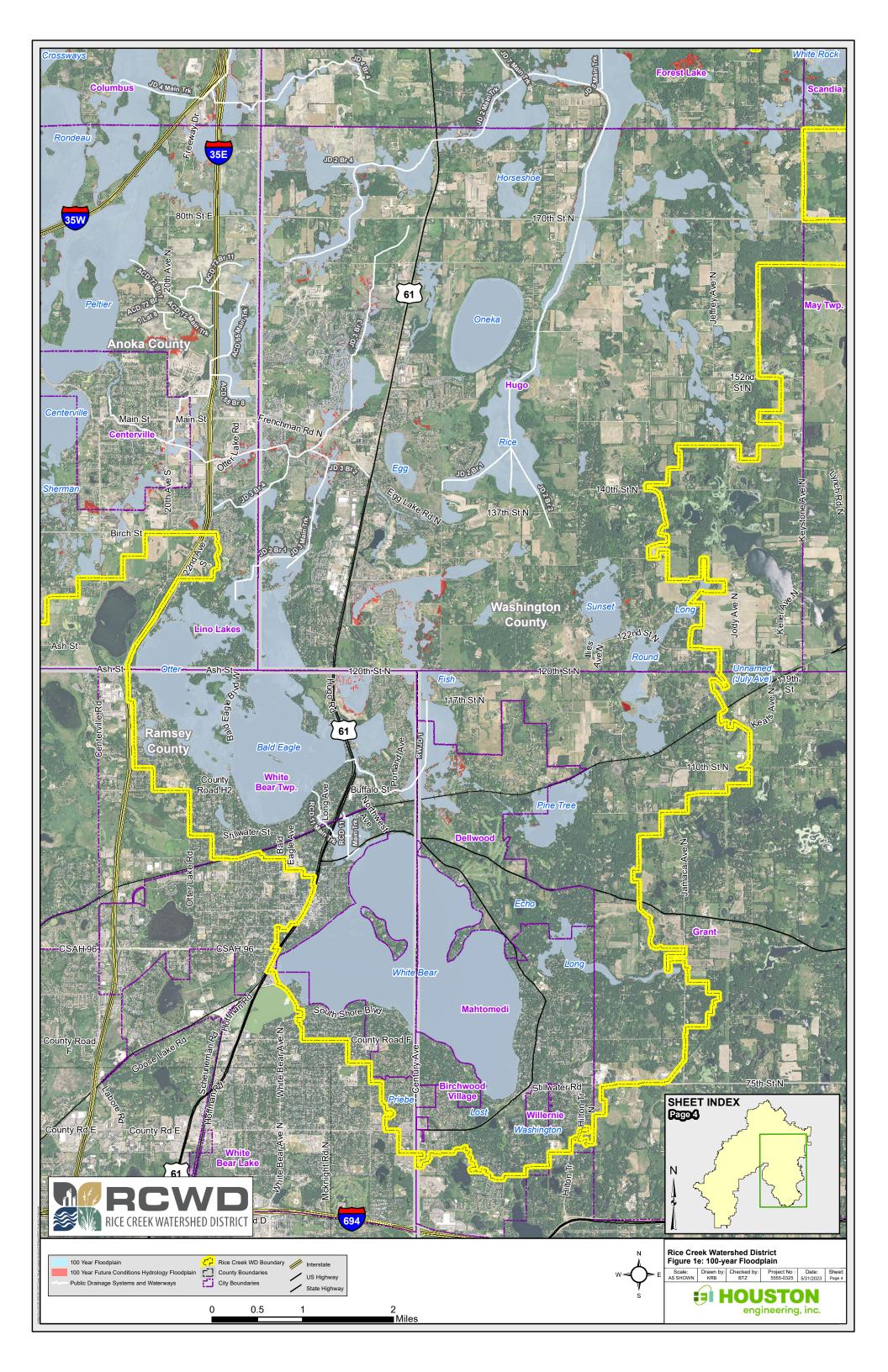


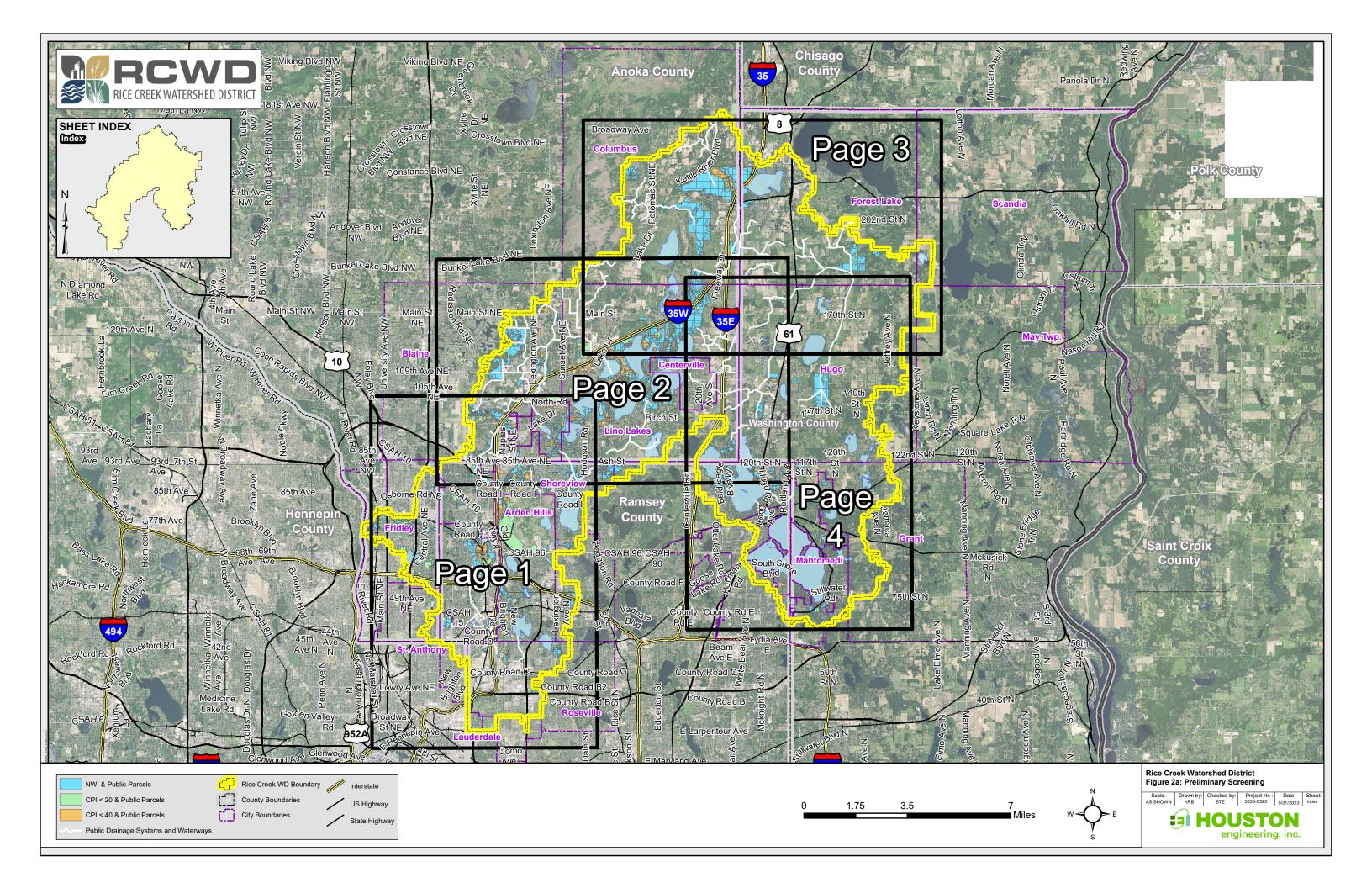


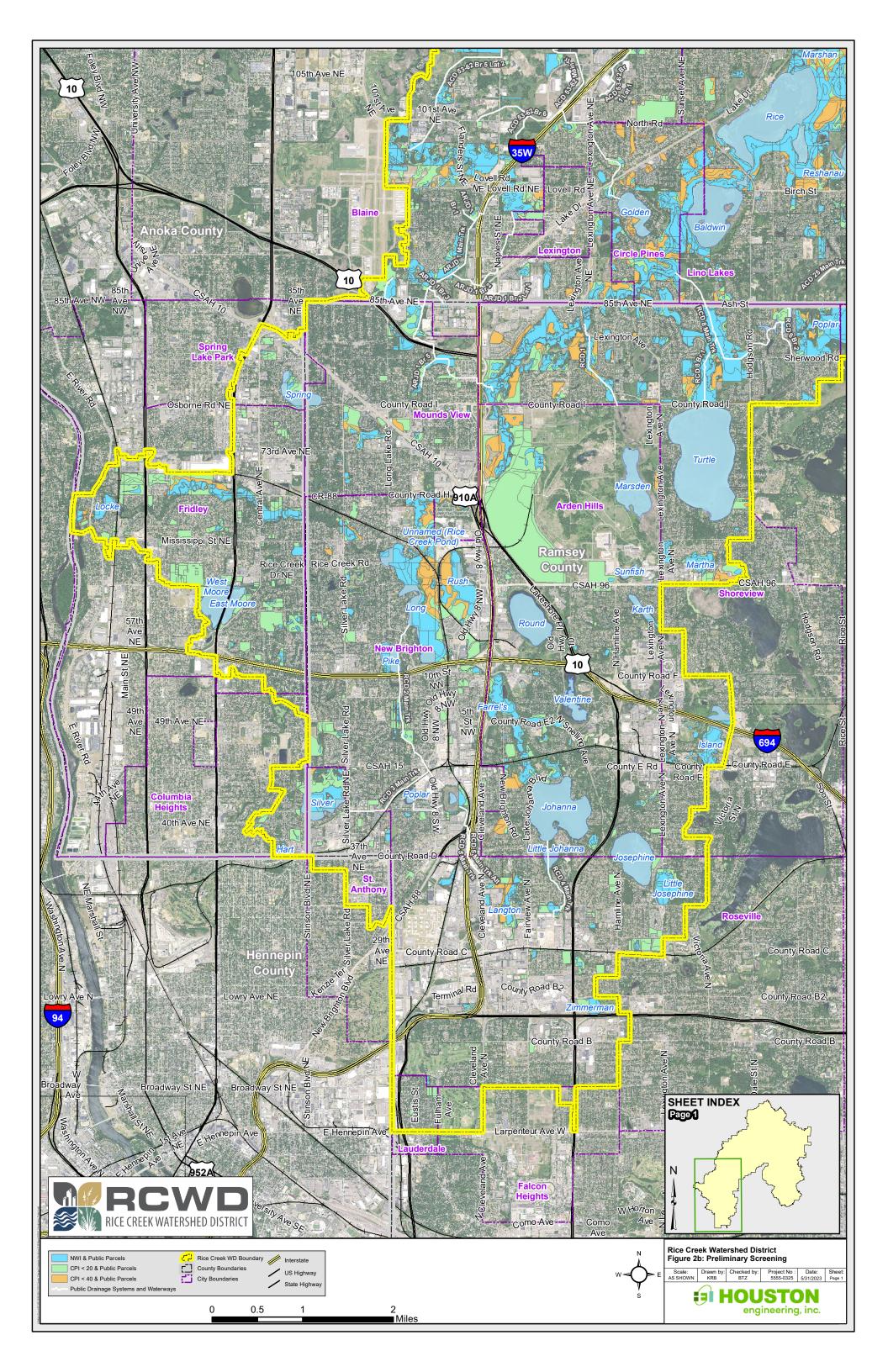


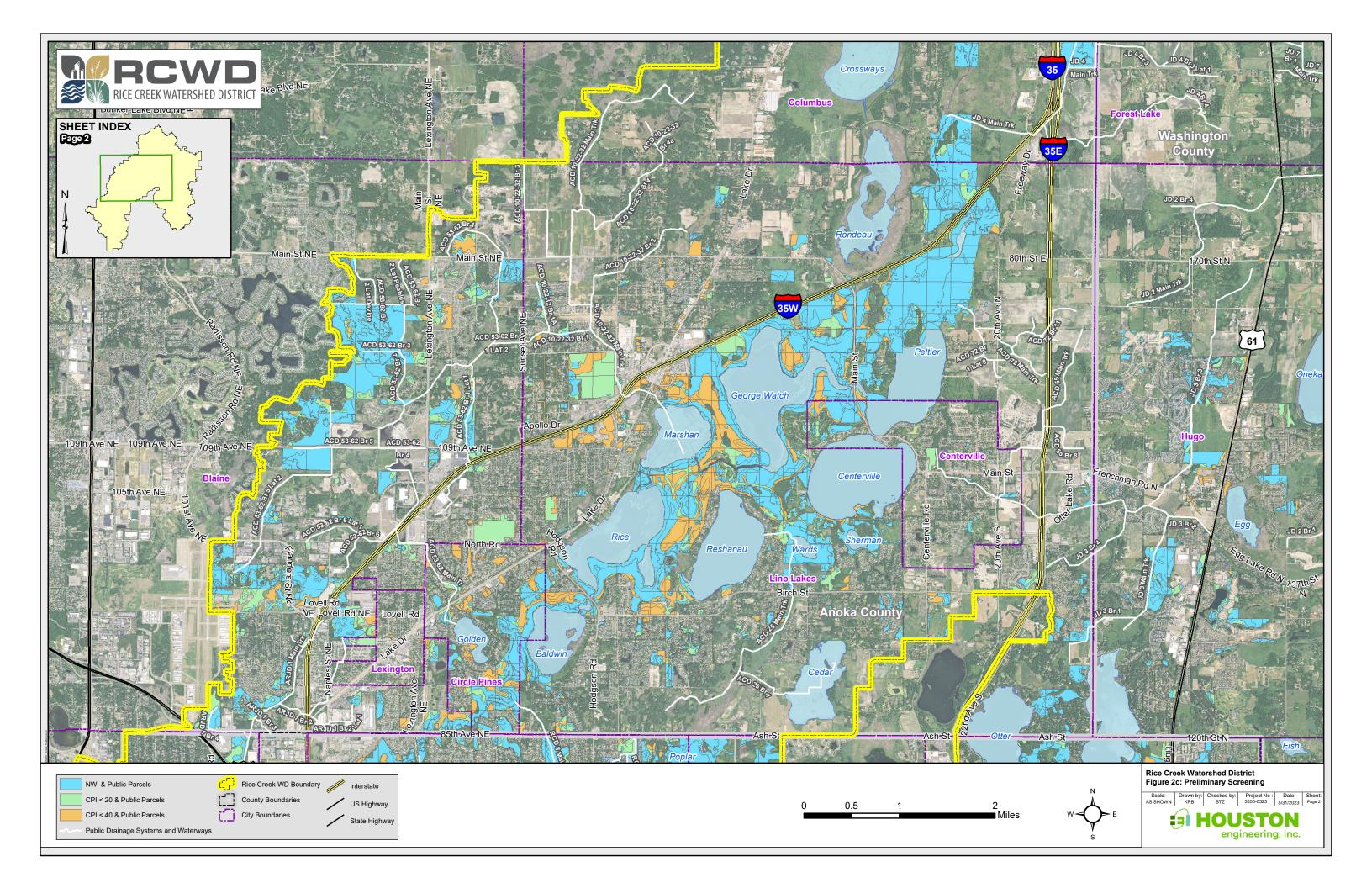


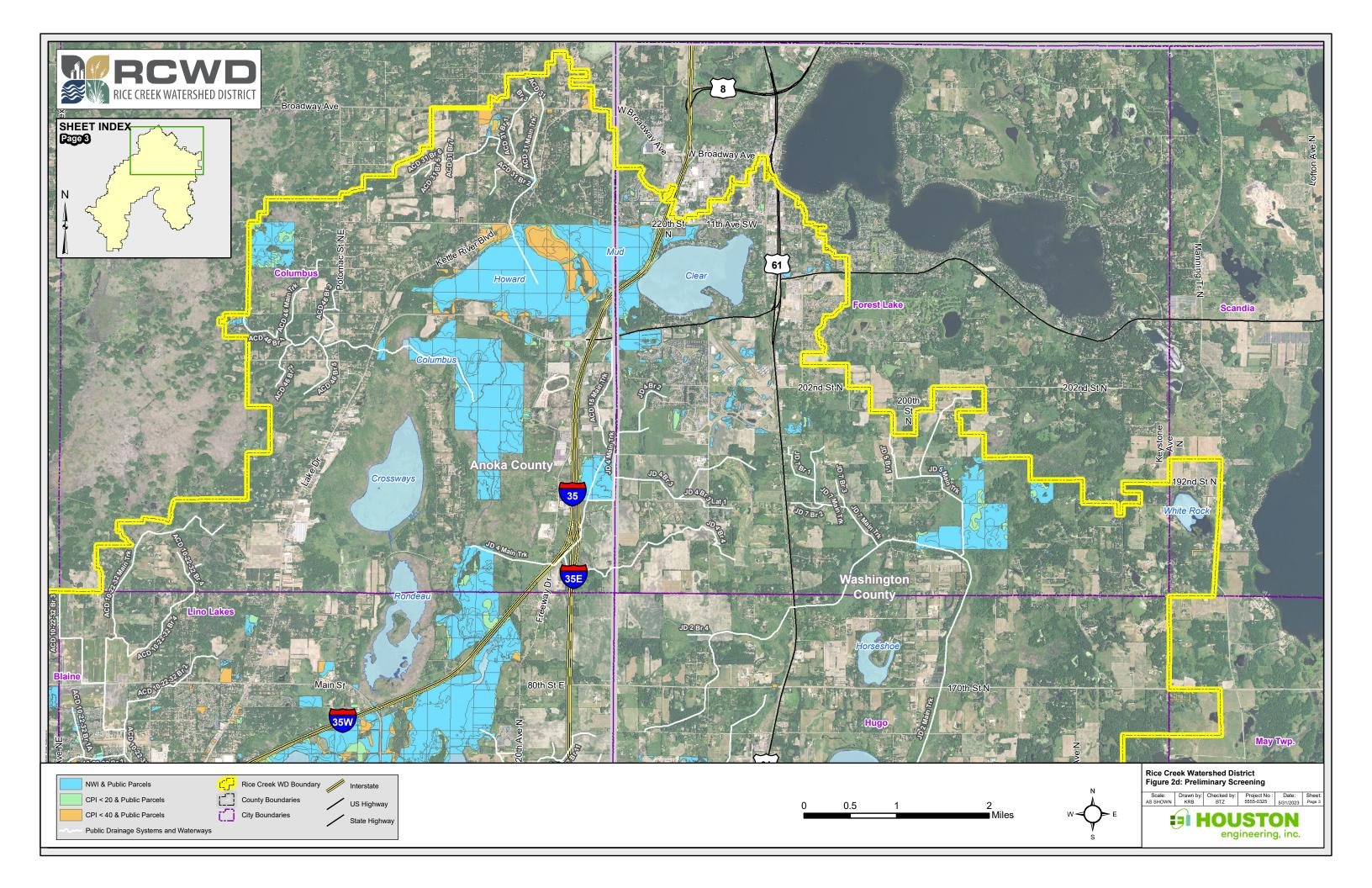


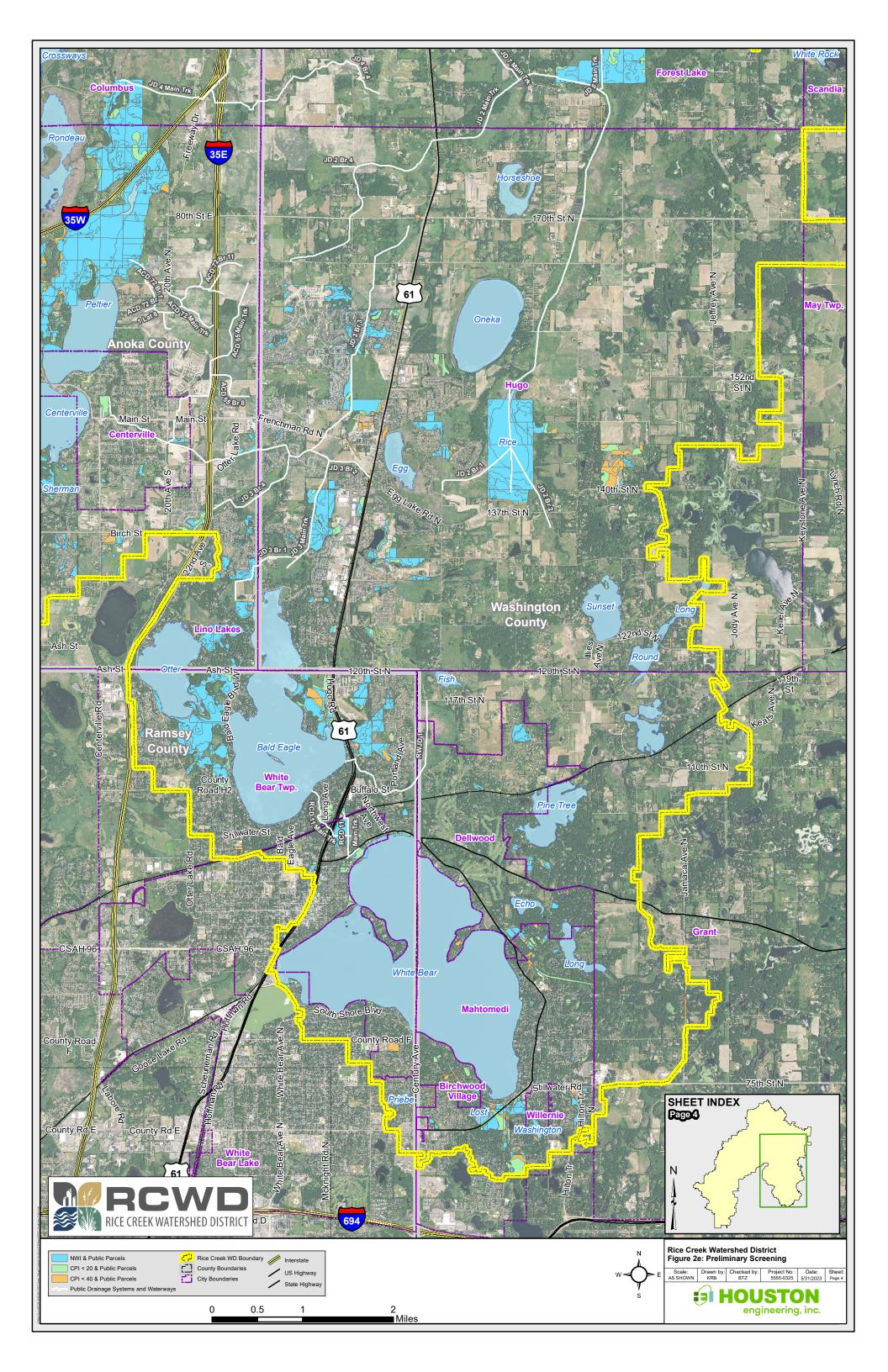


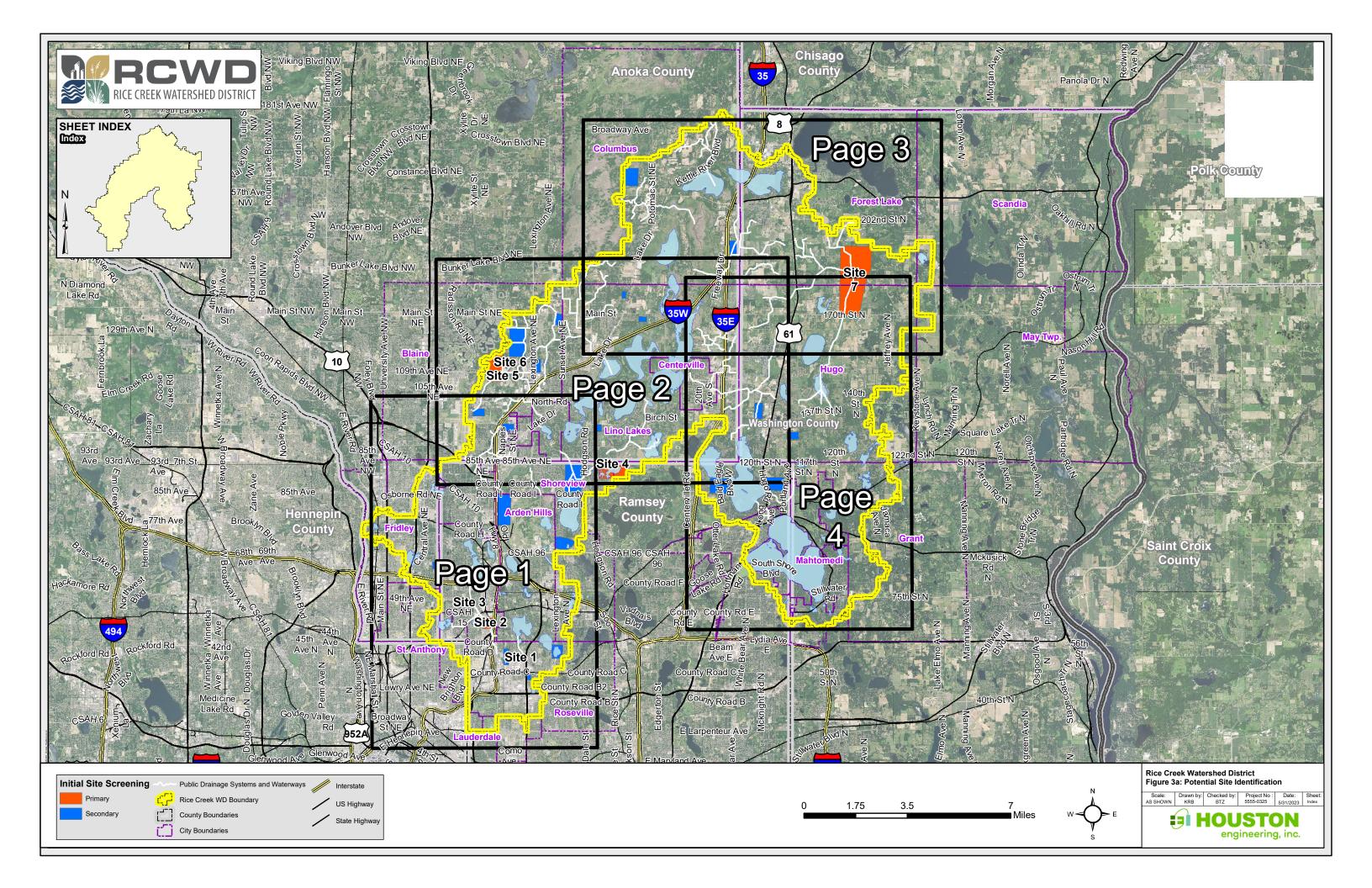


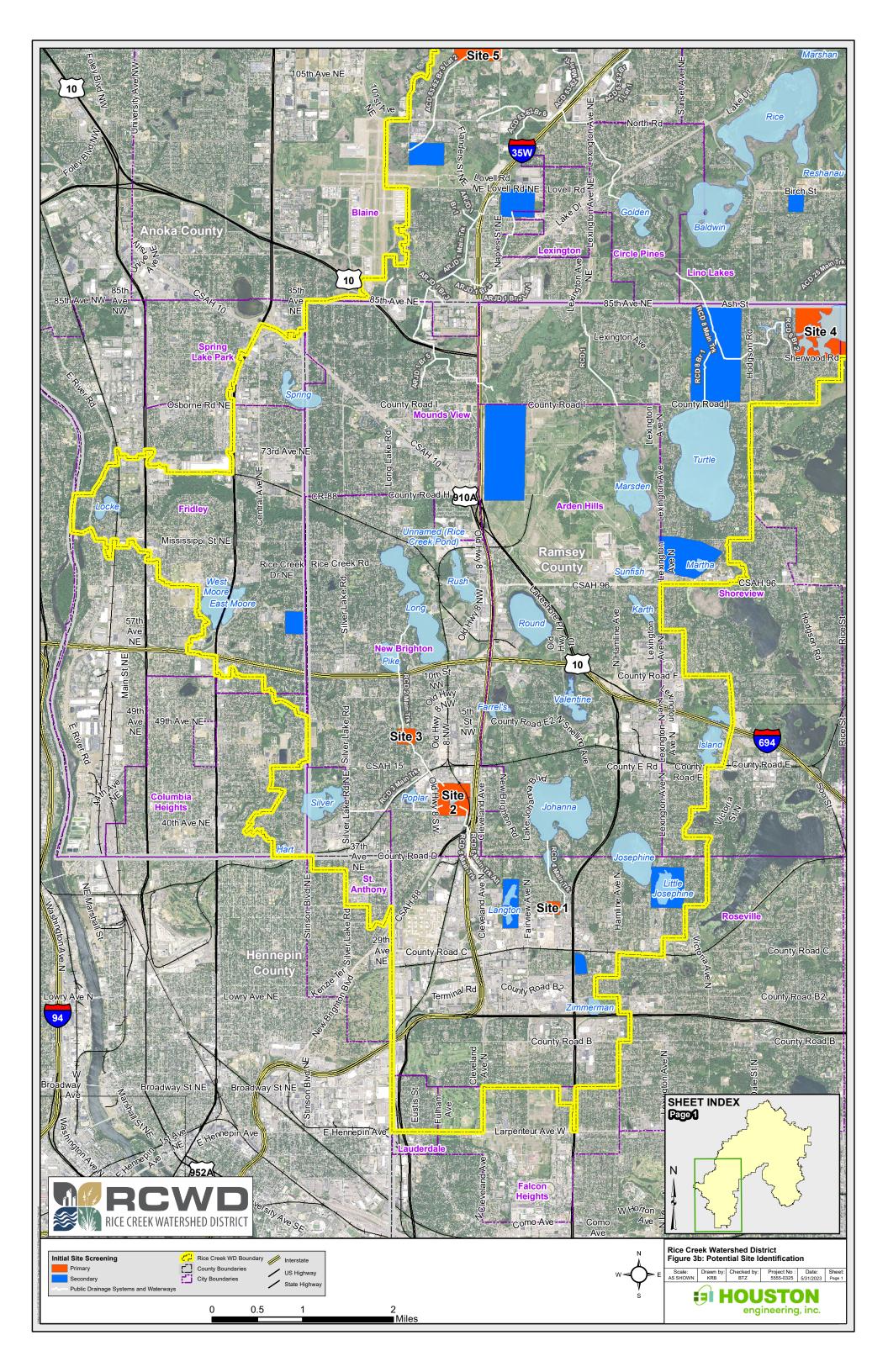


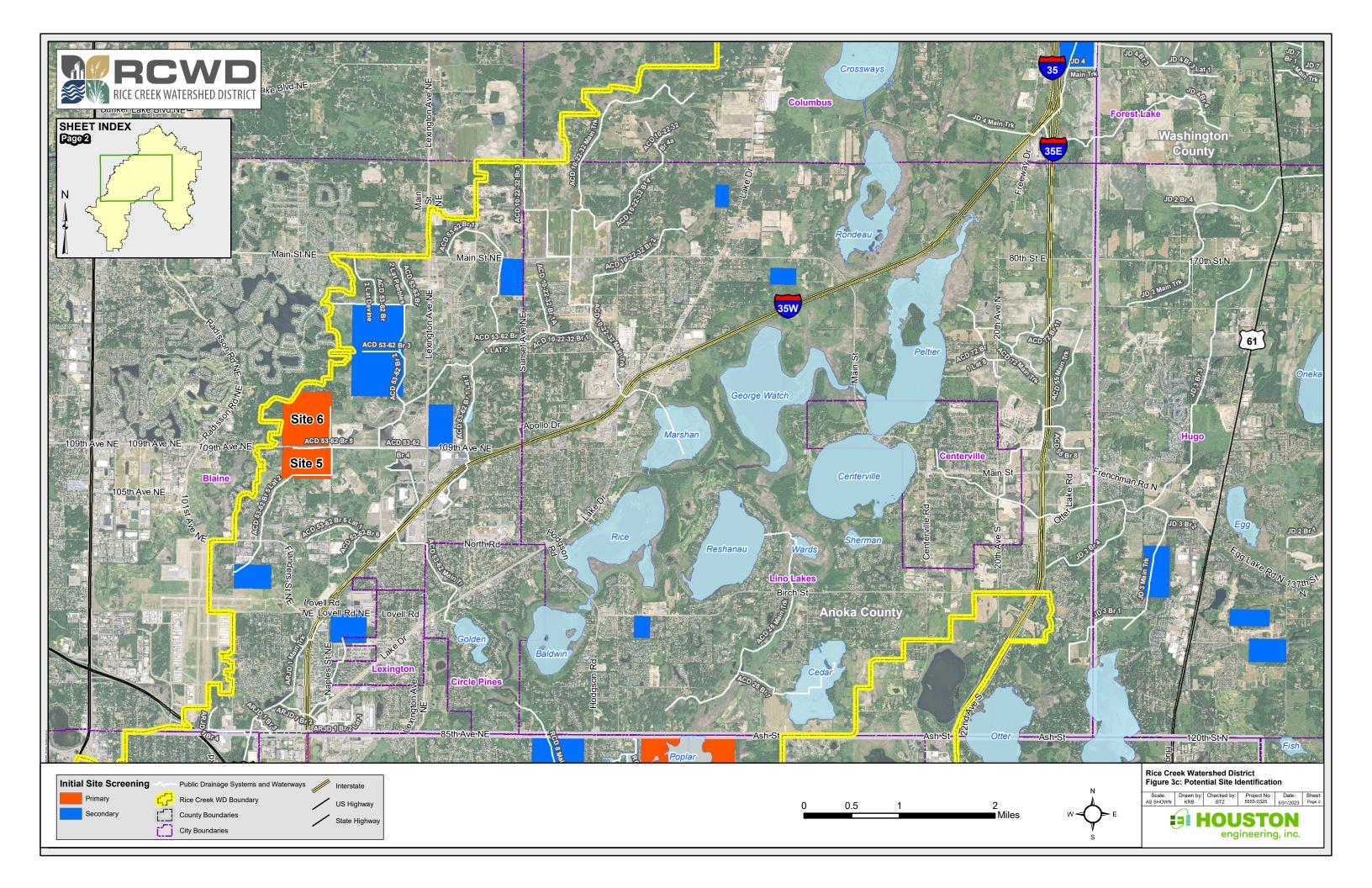


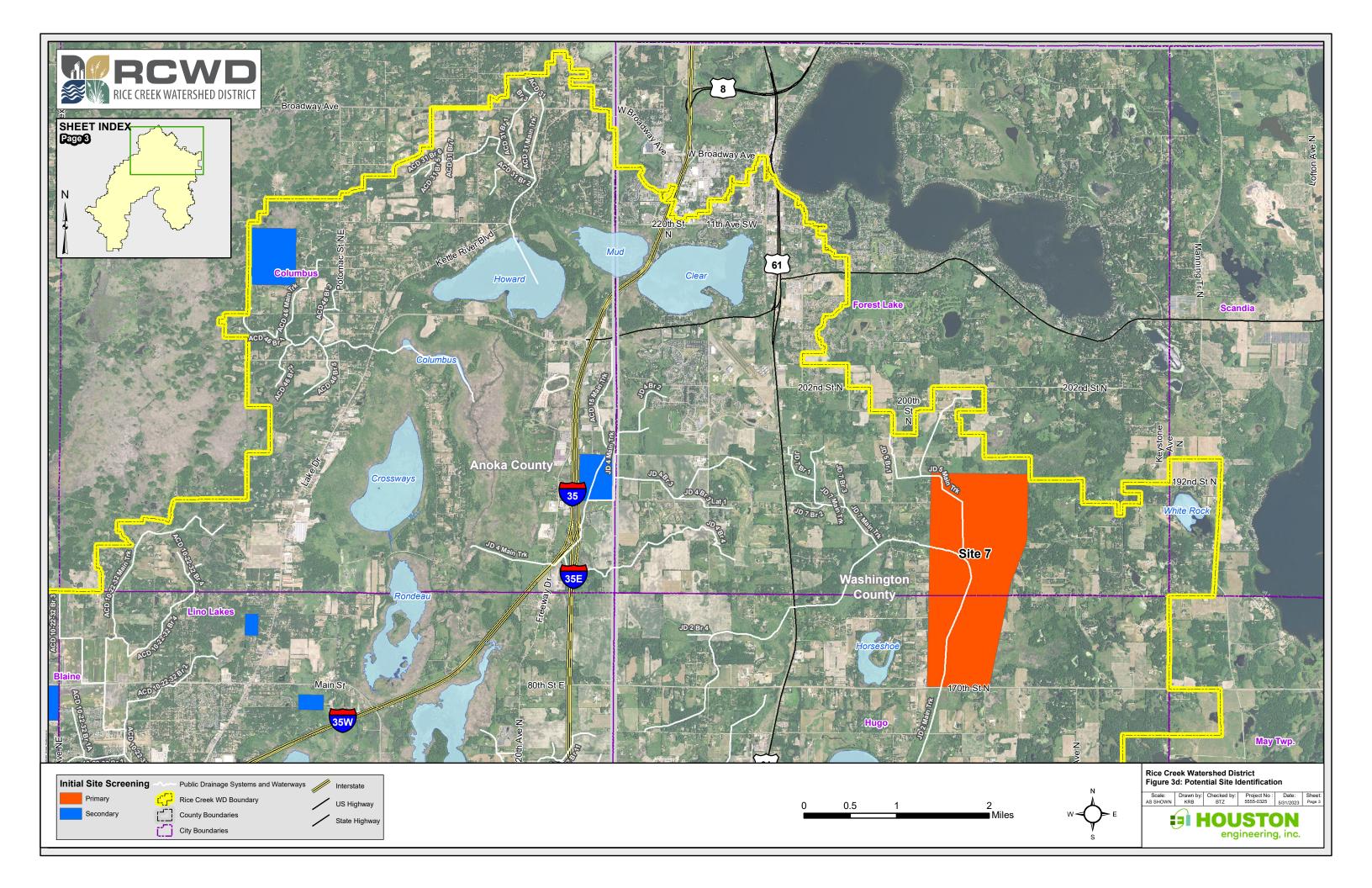


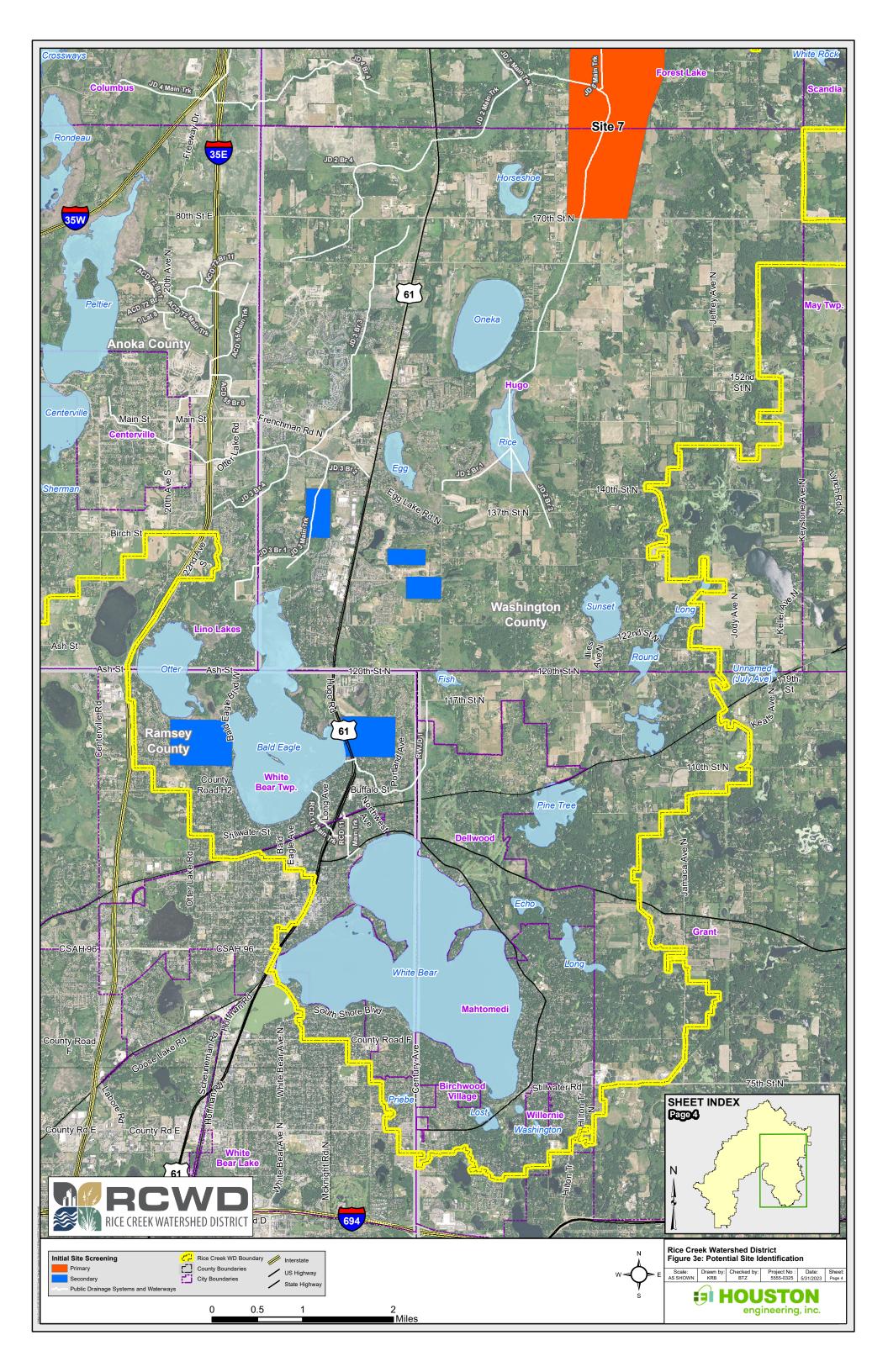












Appendix A

Project Portfolios and Site Statistics

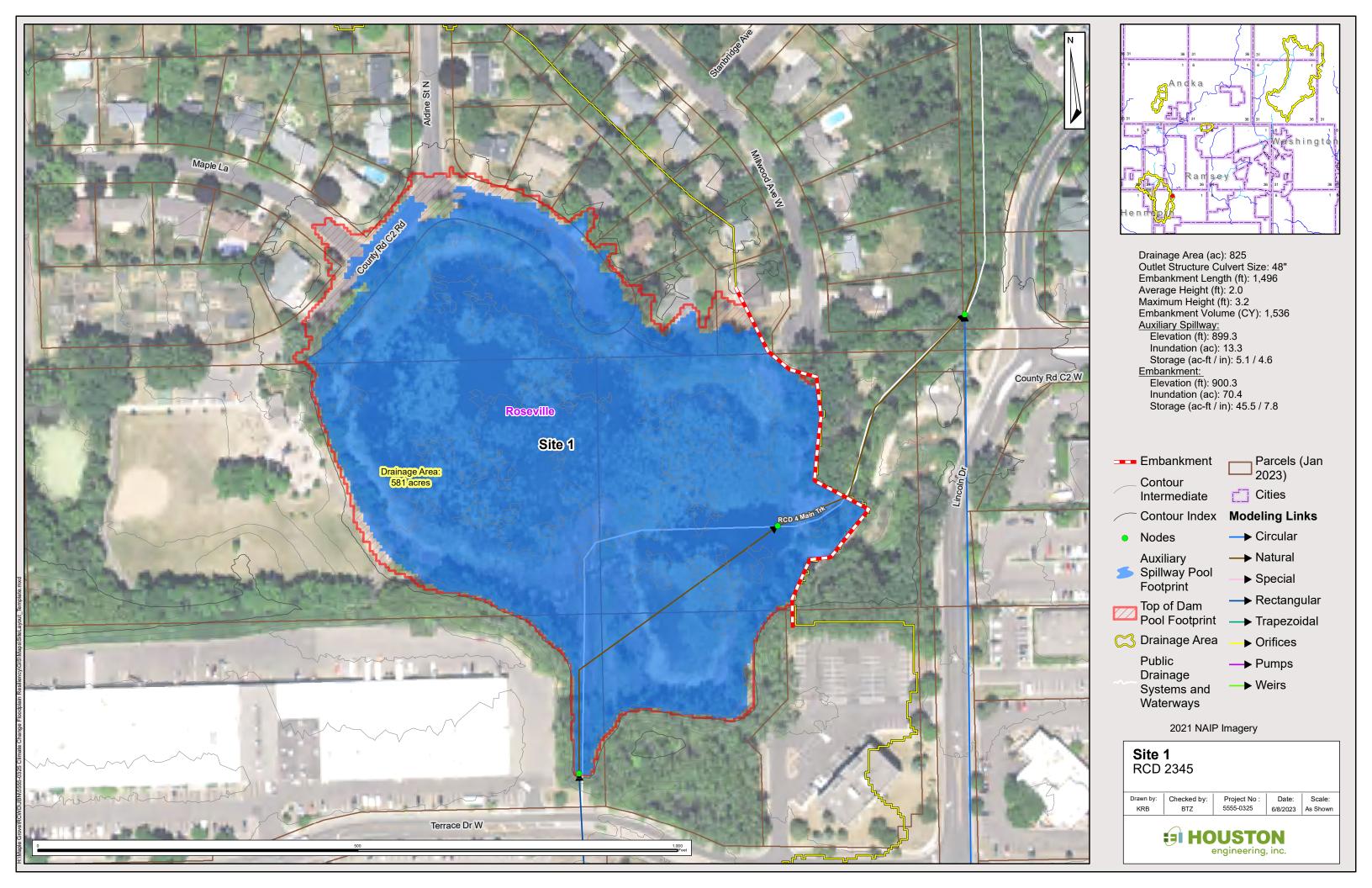
Proposed Site Statistics

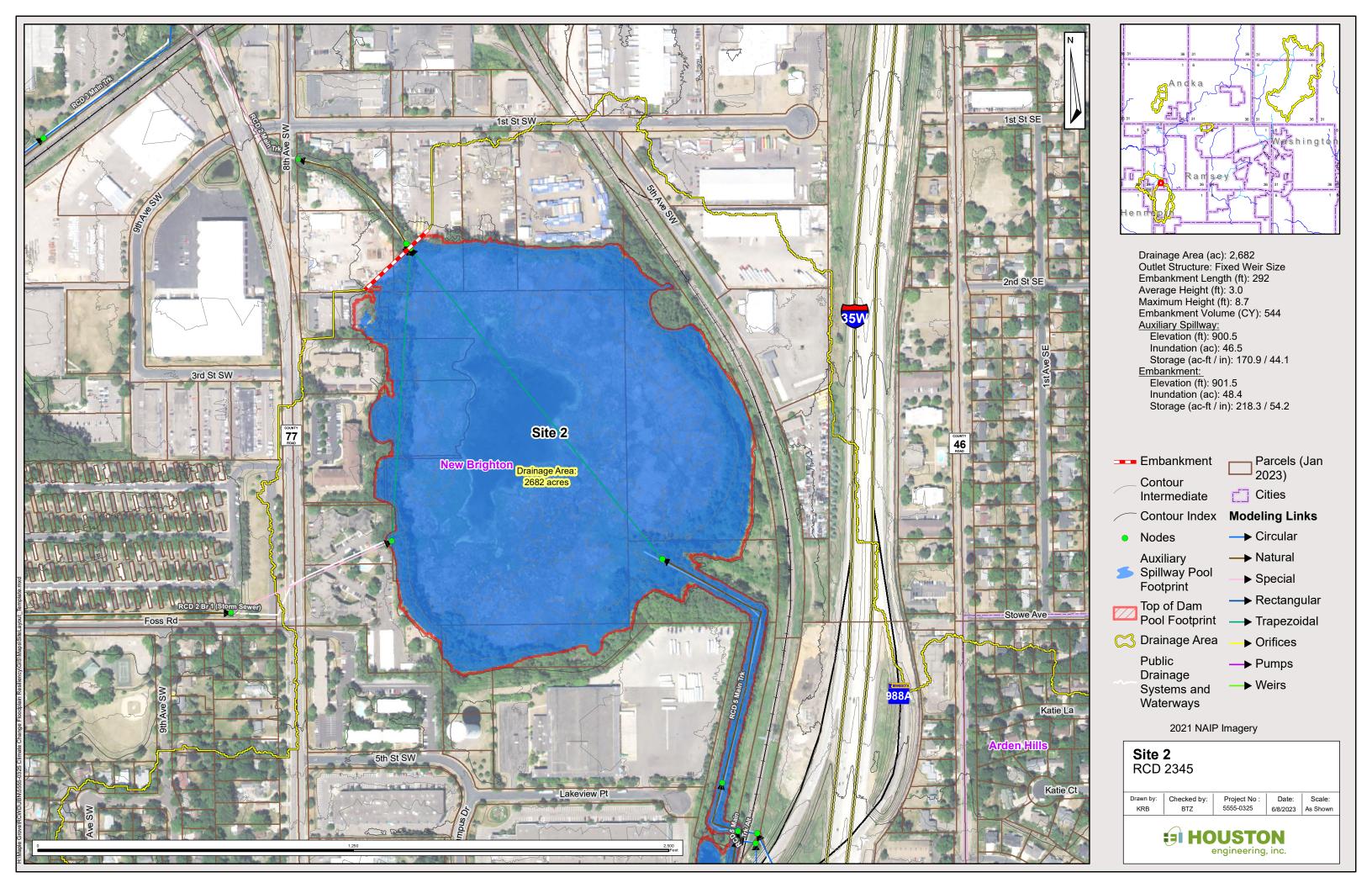
Site	Drainage Area (acres)	Principal Spillway Outlet Structure Size	Max Height (feet)	Spillway Elevation (feet, NAVD 88	Top of Dam Elevation (feet, NAVD 88)	Spillway Inundation Area (acres)	Top of Dam Inundation Area (acres)	Spillway Storage (ac-ft)	Top of Dam Storage (ac-ft)	Spillway Storage (inches)	Top of Dam Storage (inches)	POPCC ¹
1	581	6.5' weir	9.4	897.8	898.8	8.7	9.2	17	26	0.3	0.5	\$150k – \$425k
2	2,682	weir	8.7	899.0	900.0	46.5	48.4	171	218	0.8	1.0	\$150k - \$300k ²
3	4,454	18" Culvert + weirs	6.4	881.3	882.3	6.4	7.7	14	21	<0.1	0.1	\$150k - \$330k ³
4	361	24" Culvert	1.5	893.8	894.8	111.8	162.1	156	295	5.2	9.8	\$140k - \$250k
5	825	48" Culvert	3.2	897.9	898.9	13.3	70.4	5	46	0.1	0.7	\$170k - \$600k
6	235	12" Culvert	2.6	897.7	898.7	51.3	104.0	28	108	1.4	5.5	\$150k – \$390k
7	12,047	36" Culvert	9.3	919.2	920.2	356.6	483.1	362	788	0.4	0.8	\$180k – \$630k

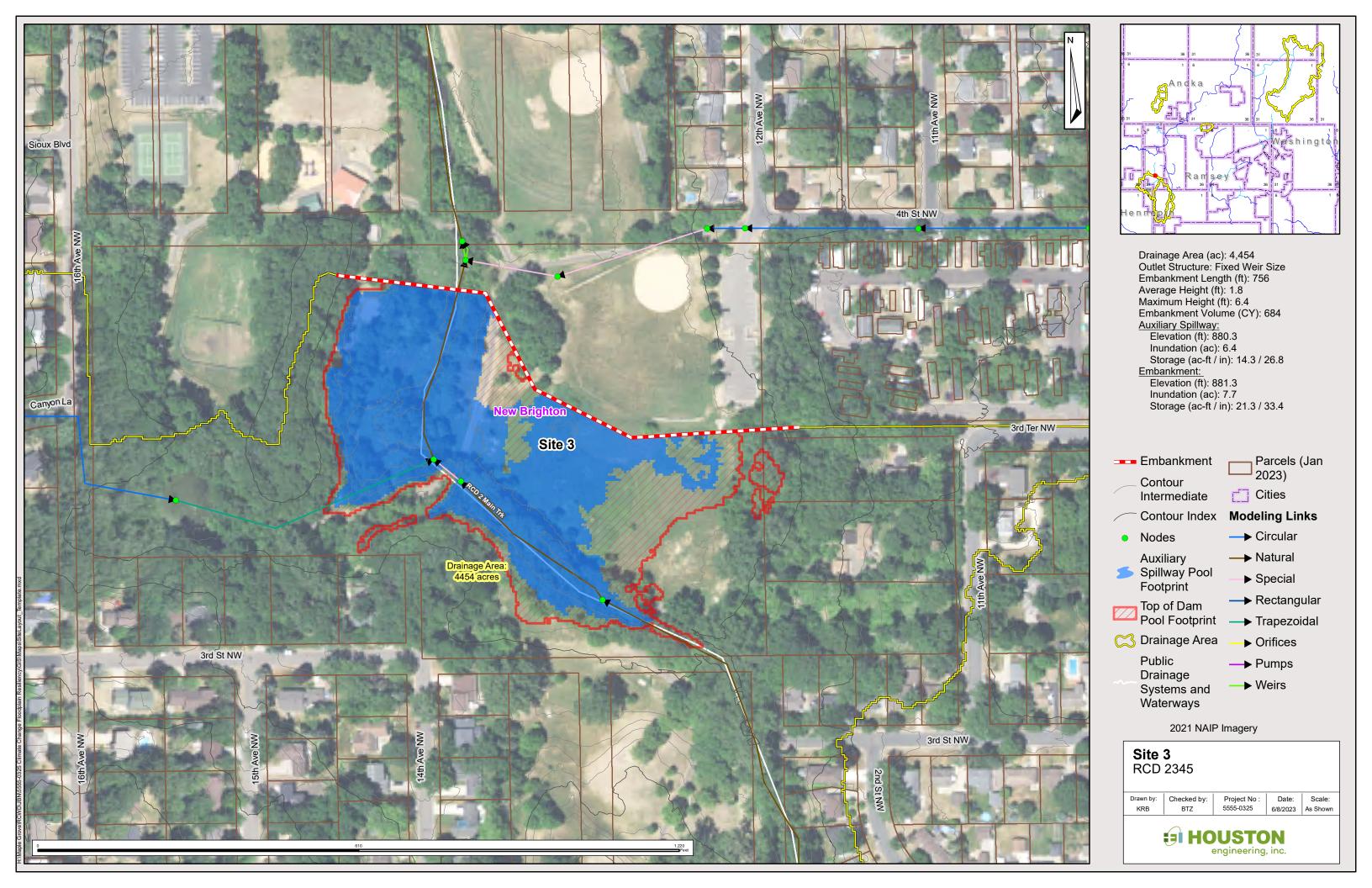
^[1] Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (POPCC) includes cost for construction only. Does not include permitting, final design, land acquisition, etc.

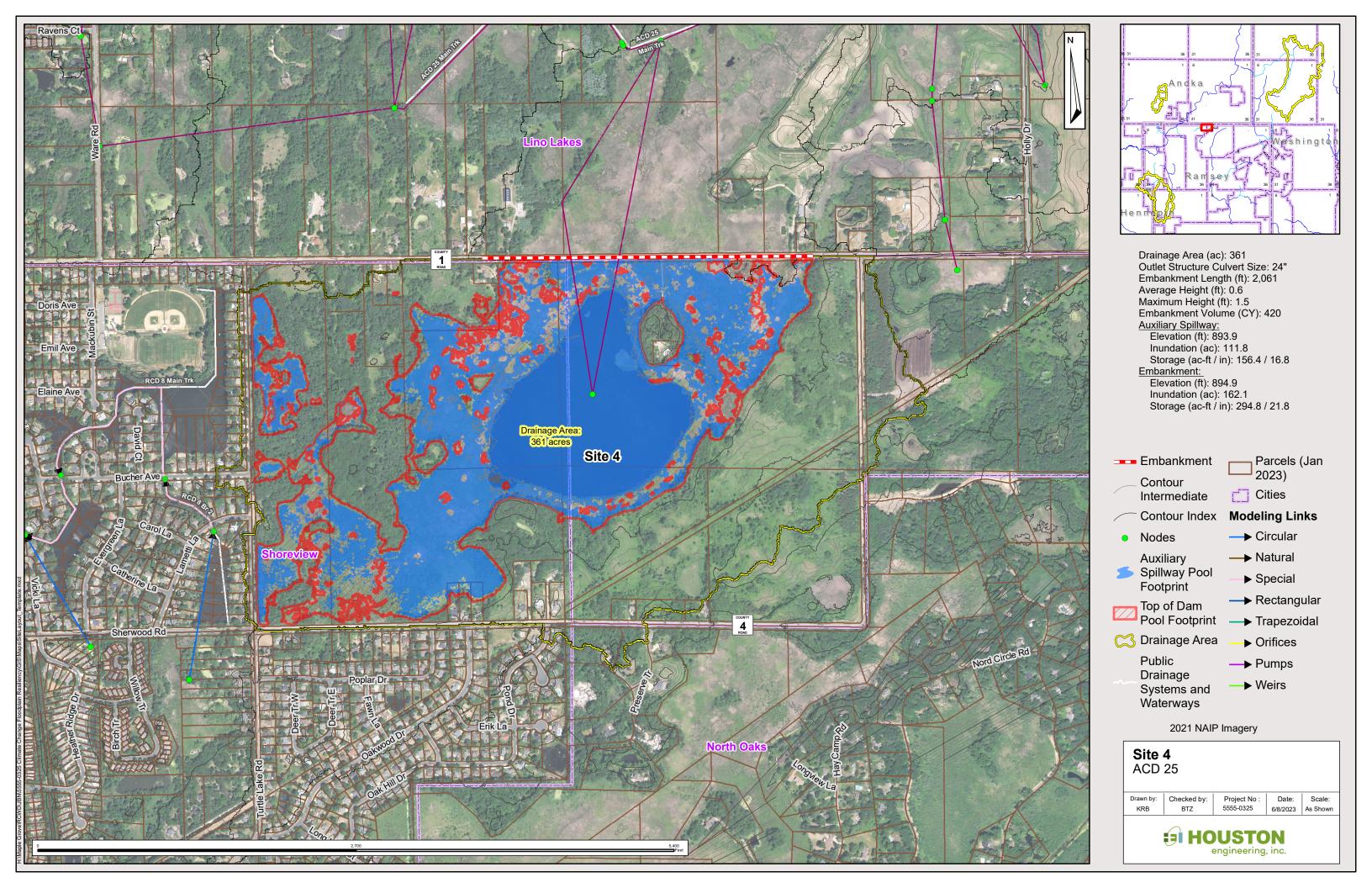
^[2] POPCC including hydraulic dredging of material = \$5,180,000

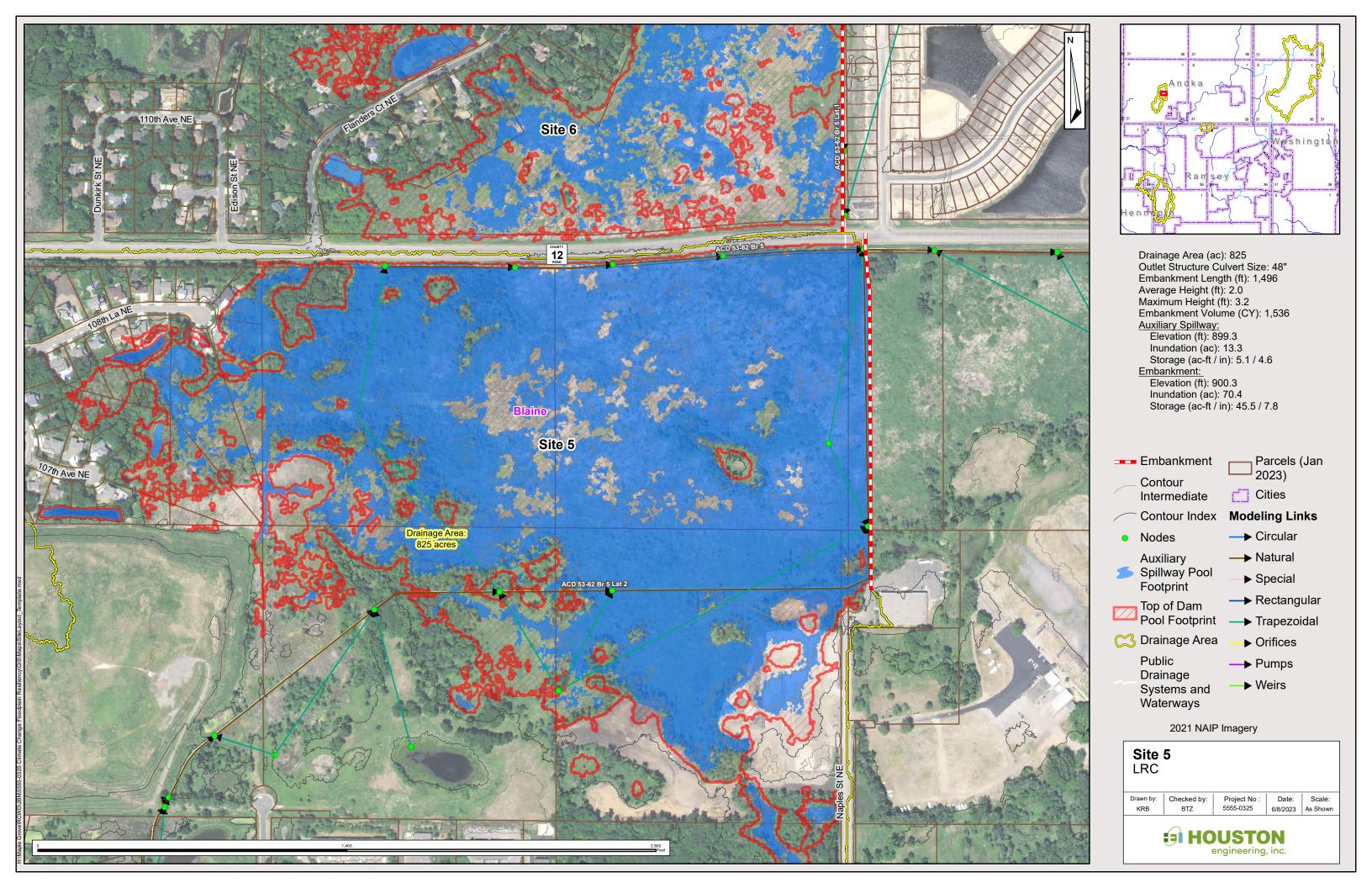
^[3] POPCC including hydraulic dredging of material = \$2,200,000

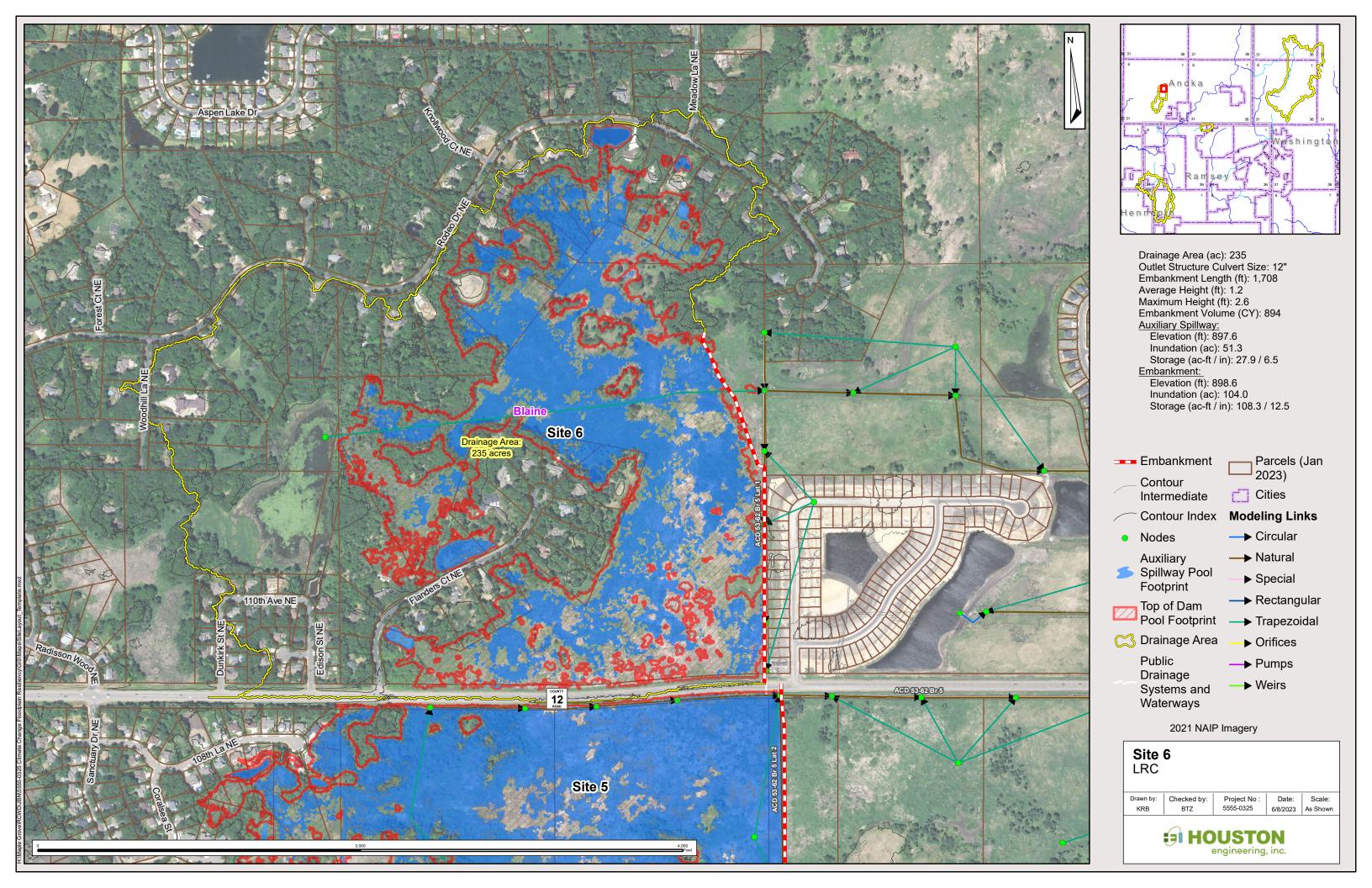


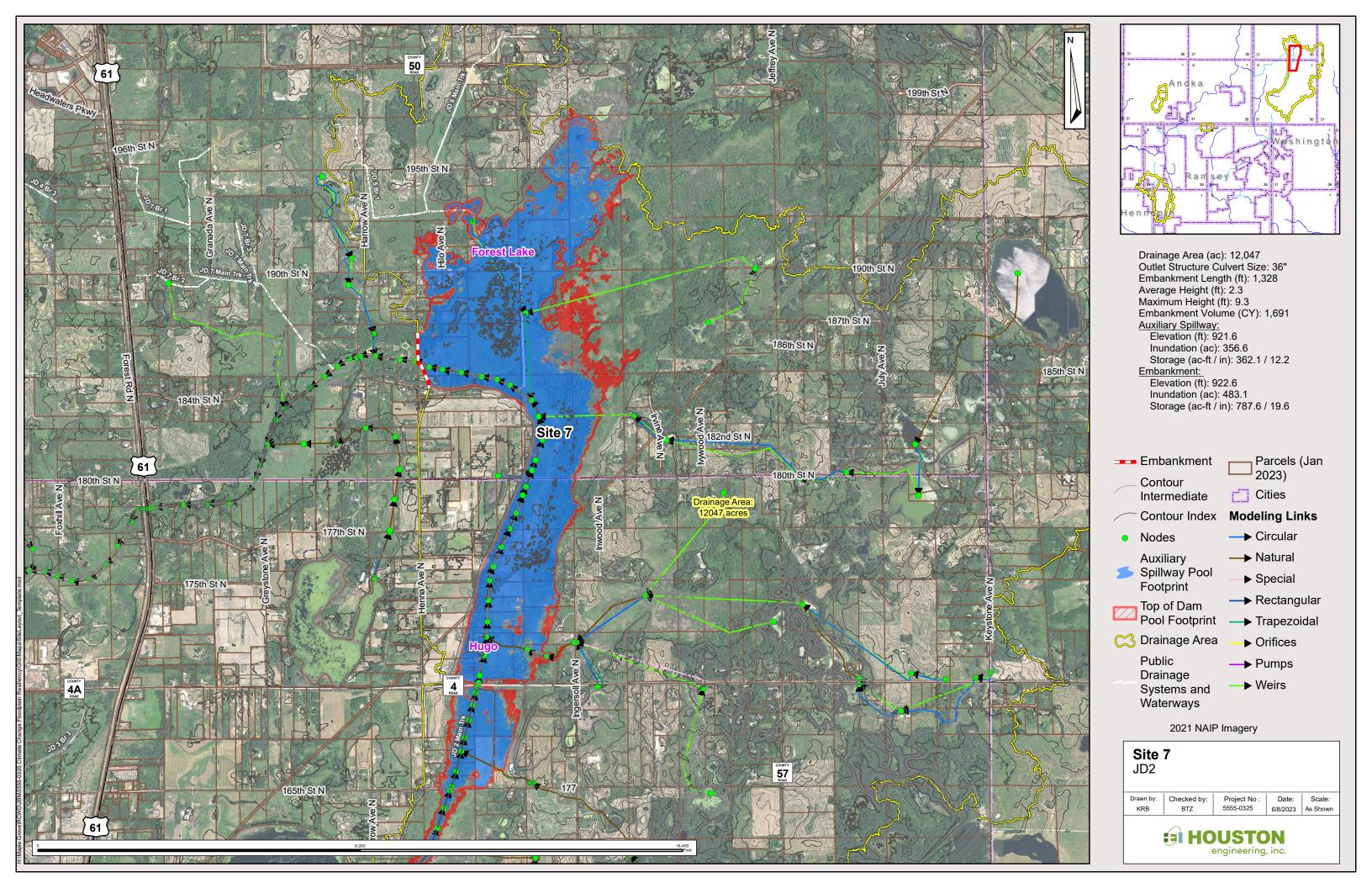






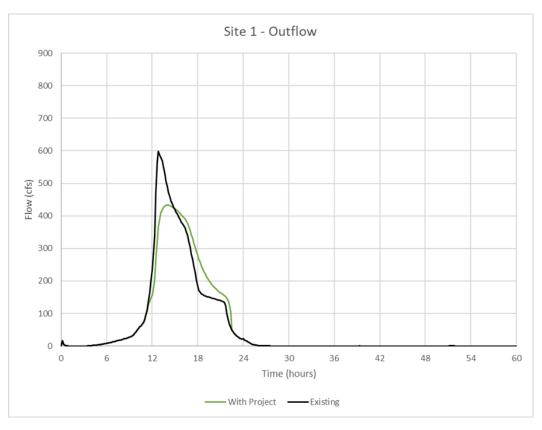


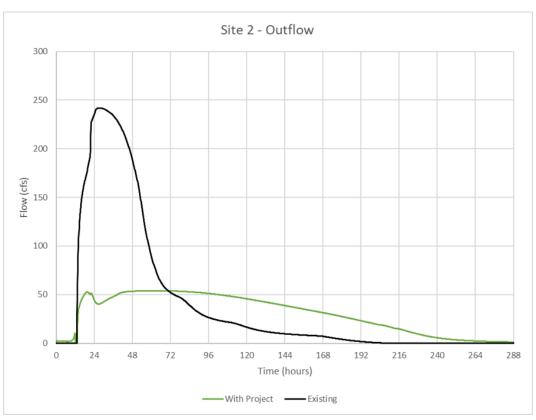


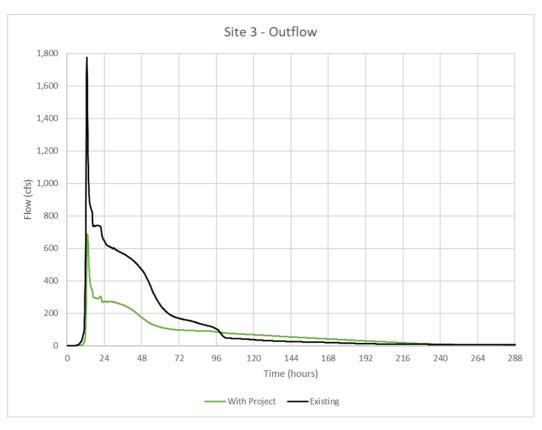


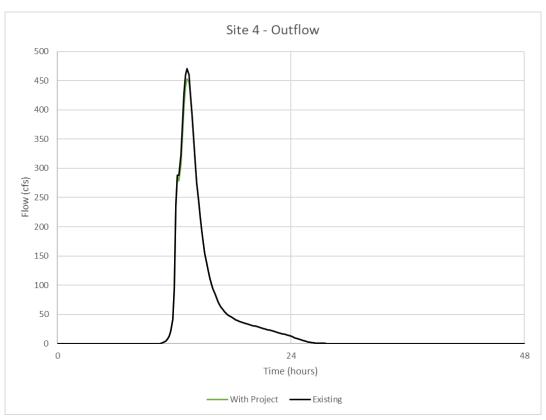
Appendix B

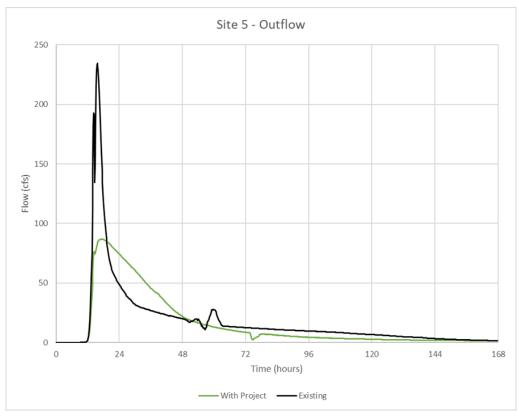
Proposed Site Outflow Hydrographs

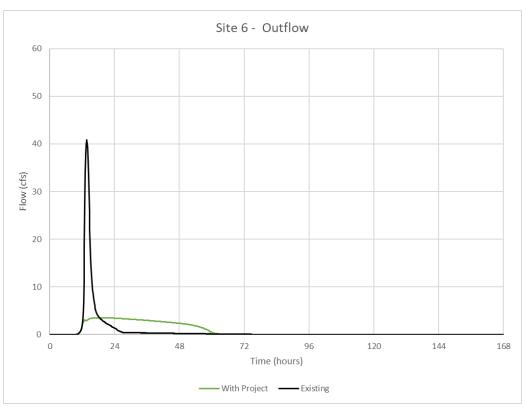


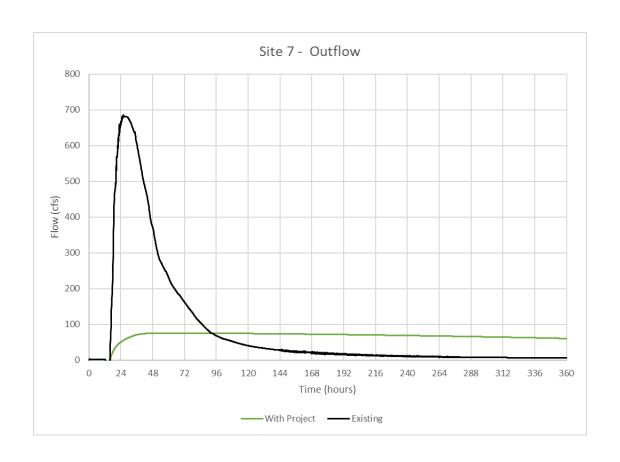












Appendix C

Community Resilience Building Workshop Series Summary Report

Prepared by: Freshwater Society



Rice Creek Watershed District Community Resilience Building Workshop Series Summary

Shoreview Community Center, February 2023 + March 2023



Summary prepared by

FRESHWOTER

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Funding for this work made possible by:





Introduction

Background

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) received a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2022 to pursue a project that would move the watershed toward more climate resilient practices. RCWD invited Freshwater to convene and facilitate a series of two Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshops to connect local insights with hydraulic models that mapped flooding locations (produced by Houston Engineering) to identify opportunities to build resilience in the watershed related to local climate change. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing society today. In Minnesota, there is a risk due to increases in extreme heat, extreme rainfall, higher summertime dew points, warmer winters, and the intensity of severe storms.

Many different topics and issues were broached as workshop participants worked together to brainstorm how to create a more resilient Rice Creek watershed. While many of the strategies proposed are directly related to the hydraulic models and flooding issues, there are also opportunities to pursue co-benefits that address other climate hazards, like extreme heat and warming winters, in addition to flooding. From structural solutions to social ones, the following report documents how key stakeholders are thinking about climate resiliency in the watershed. What emerges are exciting opportunities for the RCWD, cities, counties, and other collaborators to pursue.

Process & Methodology

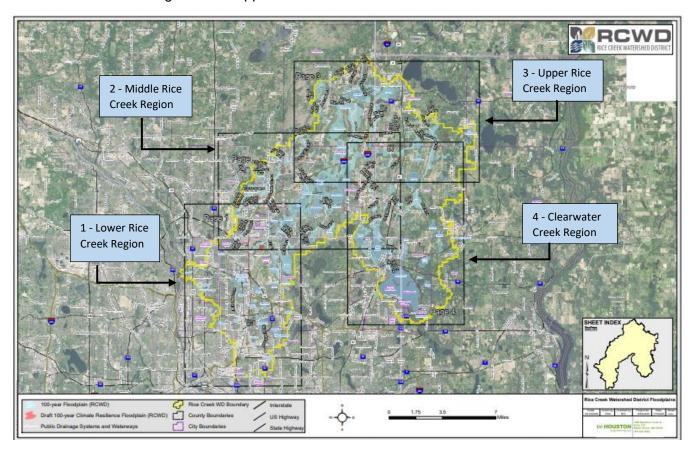
In early 2023, staff and volunteers from entities across the Rice Creek Watershed District came together in-person at the Shoreview Community Center to engage in conversations about climate resiliency in the district. The first workshop, held in February 2023, began with participants hearing a brief presentation from RCWD about the impacts of climate change in the watershed. Participants were then asked to rank which hazards they feel are most pressing to address in the watershed – with the following being the collective ranking, from most pressing to least pressing as thought by participants:

- 1. Flooding and extreme precipitation
- 2. Drought
- 3. Extreme heat
- 4. Warming winters and ice

Next, participants were asked to identify infrastructural, social and environmental **features** across the watershed that may be vulnerable to climate hazards. These features ranged from specific roadways in the watershed to nursing homes and power stations. This exercise set up the group well for the second workshop, held in March 2023, to consider what specific **strategies** could be pursued to protect the identified features from climate hazards, particularly flooding and extreme precipitation, now and in the future.

Process/Methodology (cont.)

The Rice Creek watershed covers 186 square miles and encompasses parts of Washington, Ramsey, Anoka and Hennepin counties, including all or portions of 28 cities and townships. Since this watershed encompasses a large surface area and has many unique attributes, the core workshop planning team decided to split up the watershed by **planning region** so that participants could explore a smaller area of the watershed more completely. The below image shows how the watershed was broken up for the purposes of the workshops. You can read more about each region in the appendix.



Once the workshops were complete, all the features and their corresponding strategy suggestions were compiled into a spreadsheet, and then analyzed and synthesized by **themes**. The body of this report reflects all the strategy suggestions that came out of the workshop as categorized by themes, and includes **where** to consider targeting the strategy, **how high a priority** the strategy was ranked in the workshops, and which **entities** might be best positioned to pursue the strategy.

Themes + Strategies for Climate Resilience

The following sections outline the key themes that came up throughout the workshops, and the action recommendations provided by participants to address the issues/themes. The sections are ordered alphabetically, and do not reflect an overall priority. While broken out into separate sections in this report, the themes are not mutually exclusive and there is a lot of interplay between them.

Each table below has a column that identifies the general or specific locations/populations to target or prioritize for the implementation of the suggested strategy, and an indication of whether the suggested strategy was ranked as High, Medium or Low Priority within the workshop. The number of dots included in the priority ranking column correlate to an exercise conducted in the workshop, where participants were given a sheet of five sticky dots and asked to place the dots next to strategies they felt were most important. The higher the number of dots next to a strategy, the more people felt it should be prioritized, so dot number is another indication of how the strategies could be prioritized.

The tables also include a column indicating the agency partners who may be engaged with potentially implementing the strategy. The most likely agency to lead the strategy, if implemented, is indicated in **bold**. Generally, strategies that involve land use management are led by Cities due to their zoning and land use authorities. Cities are also the likely lead for most community engagement efforts due to their close relationship with their constituents. The RCWD is the most likely lead for regional stormwater management efforts. Multiple road authorities (Cities, Counties, and MnDOT) are likely to lead efforts involving the transportation systems. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are most often the first point of contact regarding rural land practices and soil conservation.

Accessibility

A top issue workshop participants considered was accessibility. While equal accessibility of services and opportunities should always be pursued no matter the conditions, the importance of accessibility becomes more crucial in times of emergency. For example, during flooding events, emergency routes should always remain accessible and predesignated alternative routes should provide redundancy to the system so people have multiple options to get around. There was also an awareness of improving accessibility of information. Various parts of the watershed, like around Bald Eagle Ave, are home to immigrant populations who may not speak English as a first language. Ensuring that communications are disseminated in multiple languages and in a variety of ways, like via TV/Radio, print, etc., means that messages will have a greater likelihood of reaching more people in times of stress. Lastly, accessibility to public indoor spaces is important during times of inclement climate events. Identifying areas where people can congregate safely and describing how to get to these safe zones could be important information to communicate to the public ahead of hazard events.

Accessibility Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Ensure communication and engagement is in multiple languages and cultural approaches	 Nine North Radio Station Immigrant, low-income and BIPOC populations – around Bald Eagle Ave and Oneka Lake area 	High Priority, 10 dots	Multiple Agencies

Designate alternative routes for roads that tend to flood during extreme precipitation events, and communicate these alternate routes to the public	 Frenchman Road Roads around medical facilities 	High Priority, 4 dots	Cities, Counties, MnDOT / RCWD
Create accessible areas for people to congregate in times of emergency that offer shelter, basic supplies, and other resources	Community centersLibraries	Not ranked in workshop, 1 dot	Cities, Counties
Offer alternative transportation in emergencies, like school buses or paratransit			Cities, Counties / School Districts

Agricultural BMPs

According to workshop participants, there is some agricultural land in the North and East portions of the Clearwater Creek planning region, specifically east of Oneka Lake. This agricultural land may be negatively impacted by several climate-related hazards, including drought and extreme precipitation. To make these landscapes more resilient to these hazards, the farming community may consider increasing agricultural best management practices (BMPs), which may include planting of perennial and/or cover crops, engaging in more frequent crop rotation, and focusing on maintaining good soil health. In the event of more extreme heat waves, it might become important for food producers to explore indoor farming as well.

Ag BMP Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Increase ag best management practices adoption, including crop rotation, perennials, and focusing on soil health	North and east portions of SE watershed area East of Oneka Lake	High priority	SWCD / NRCS, BWSR, MDA
Explore indoor farming opportunities	 North and east portions of SE watershed area East of Oneka Lake 	Not ranked in workshop	Cities / MDA

Chlorides

Road salt use is on the rise, especially as warming winters and more frequent freeze/thaw patterns lead to more ice accumulation in communities. While road salt is the most frequently used method to melt ice, chloride runoff into water bodies is detrimental to surface water and aquatic habitat health. To lessen the use of chloride in the watershed, some approaches include finding salt alternatives, collecting excess salt before it washes into storm drains, and more education efforts on smart salting and salt alternatives. The following suggestions could be pursued through RCWD's Watershed Communication and Outreach Program.

Chloride Strategies from	Locations and/or populations to	Priority Ranking from	Lead Agency /
Workshop	target for the implementation of	Workshop	Partners
	this strategy		

Reduce road salt usage, and collect excess salt	 Areas adjacent to chloride impaired water bodies Hwy 96 which drains into Ditch 14 Roadways – 36 & Fairview, Mississippi Street 	High Priority	Cities, Counties, MnDOT
Educate about smart salting practices	 Community groups - FFA, FH, Scouts, Sports teams, Do Good Roseville Seniors/Assisted living homes – around Bald Eagle Ave and Oneka Lake area Residential homes, especially near lakes and rivers 	Medium Priority, 1 dot	Cities / RCWD / Counties
Investigate salt alternatives		Medium Priority, 3 dots	Cities, Counties, MnDOT / RCWD

Collaboration

One of the benefits of conducting the community resiliency workshops is for professionals to come together and brainstorm how they can better work together towards a resilient community amongst themselves and with the broader watershed. Many ideas were brought forth highlighting opportunities for collaboration across various professional and community groups.

Collaboration Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Work through trusted community members to spread information about climate hazards in a culturally appropriate way (See Trusted Messengers program)	Immigrant/ESL communities Faith communities & cultural groups	High Priority, 13 dots	Cities / RCWD
Create "wholesale" incentives for people who install green infrastructure or stormwater BMPs as a group rather than individually	Locke Lake – dredged wetland	High Priority, 13 dots	RCWD / Cities, Counties, BWSR

Pursue mutual aid opportunities and agreements across groups	Low income or EJ communities – ex. By East Moore Lake Emergency management facilities/systems – ex. RTMC, Sheriff's department, Army Reserve Center Community Groups – ex. FFA, FH, Scouts, Sports Teams, Do Good Roseville	High Priority, 4 dots	RCWD, Cities, Counties
Recruit, mobilize and support people to help in hazards	 Faith communities and cultural groups Community Groups – ex. FFA, FH, Scouts, Sports Teams, Do Good Roseville 	High Priority, 3 dots	Cities, Counties / RCWD
Recruit volunteers to protect historic developments from hazards through maintenance and installation of BMPs	 Faith communities and cultural groups Community Groups – ex. FFA, FH, Scouts, Sports Teams, Do Good Roseville 	Medium Priority	Cities / RCWD, Counties

Communication + Community

While collaboration with various groups may be important, communicating threats, news, and knowledge is also an important aspect of a well-connected and well-prepared watershed, and can further build trust between community members and professional services working on climate resiliency. As noted above in the Accessibility section, it may be important to broaden messaging, and to provide more than just one-way communications. Establishing a system where people can alert professionals to issues or concerns could be beneficial and creates a two-way communication stream.

It was recognized by those in the room that they don't have nearly all the answers, and why recognition of this fact implores professionals to truly listen to and incorporate needs and solutions communicated by the broader community to inform plans of action. When entities show that they are committed to citizen wellbeing, this builds more trust between community and governmental entities.

Communication + Community	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from	Lead Agency /
Strategies from Workshop		Workshop	Partners
Create more 2-way streams of communication – where listeners/viewers not only take in information but can also easily and accessibly share their own thoughts and feedback and engage in dialogue	 Nine North TV station Radio stations Websites 	High Priority, 7 dots	Cities / Counties, RCWD

Tree up from community to service providers to communicate need – explore a grassroots approach		High Priority, 6 dots	Cities / Counties, RCWD
Hire consultants to do translations of messaging and material	Immigrant/ESL communities	High Priority, 5 dots	Cities / Counties, RCWD
Coordinate neighborhood check-in protocols, where community members check-in on each other before, during and/or after a hazard event	 Senior/Assisted Living Bald Eagle Ave, Oneka Lake Area 	Low Priority	Cities / Counties, RCWD
Add more demonstration sites to the watershed district – that is, experimental projects at a site that demonstrate a best management practice to the community. RCWD may look to their Public Drainage System or Groundwater Management and Stormwater Reuse programs in the RCWD 2020 plan to justify and fund this action	Community centers – Anpetu Teca, Shoreview Community Center, Fridley Community Center, Circle Pines Community Center	Not ranked in workshop	RCWD / Cities, Counties, SWCDs

Emergency Planning and Response

For institutions like schools, medical facilities and nursing homes, it's imperative to have an emergency response plan in place, and to ensure those who may be impacted by an emergency are familiar with the plan and can act on it if a hazard event does occur. Some specific planning suggestions include establishing a formal sandbag distribution center so there is a one stop hub for supplies in the event of a flooding emergency. Another suggestion is to look at the ICS emergency communication system and determine if there are capabilities to create greater efficiencies, or if natural resource emergencies can be integrated into the system.

Emergency Planning and Response Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Ensure drinking water systems all have a backup/resilience plan in place and execute this plan efficiently and effectively if necessary	DWSMADrinking water infrastructure	High Priority, 17 dots	Cities / MDH, Met Council, HSEM
Ensure emergency plans are in place for a variety of community buildings and services	 Power Stations Prisons Community Centers Medical facilities (Allina) Restaurants, Bars, Grocery stores Schools Senior/Assisted living homes 	High Priority, 11 dots	Cities / HSEM

Get involved with ICS alert	•	Emergency	High Priority, 8 dots	Cities / HSEM,
system – investigate if there are		management system		Counties
more efficiencies possible with				
using this system and if there is				
an opportunity for natural				
resource integration into the				
system				

Funding + Incentives

Workshop participants spent time thinking about funding mechanisms for hazard mitigation work, and possible incentive programs that could be leveraged to encourage people to implement climate solutions in their work and lives. A couple of suggested actions include prioritizing investment in green infrastructure, applying for more planning grants, and subsidizing tree plantings in the watershed. Incentives could be explored to encourage people to protect trees, pursue climate resilient development and going beyond code, and homeowner transitions from traditional lawns to native/pollinator lawns. A handful of the below suggestions may be pursued through the Water Quality Grant Program or Mini-Grants Program as outlined in the RCWD 2020 Watershed Management Plan.

Funding + Incentives Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Invest in green infrastructure – find areas to implement more of these projects	 Parks and trails systems Low income and/or EJ communities 	High Priority, 11 dots	Cities / RCWD, Counties, BWSR, SWCDs
Explore incentives and planning money for getting groups involved in developing climate resiliency projects	 Community groups – FFA, FH, Scouts, Sports teams, Do Good Roseville, etc Faith communities and cultural groups 	High Priority, 11 dots	Cities / RCWD
Pursue grant funding for water quantity projects – invest in drinking water systems	• DWSMAs	High Priority, 7 dots	Cities / RCWD, MDH
Incentivize installation of more drain tile to promote infiltration	Parking lots	Medium Priority, 4 dots	SWCDs / RCWD
Incentivize developers and builders to go above and beyond the standard building codes to promote greener development		High/Medium Priority, 4 dots	Cities / RCWD, BWSR
Incentivize or require community gardens	Food shelves	High Priority, 1 dot	SWCDs / MDA, NRCS
Incentivize or require keeping trees – adopt fines		High Priority	Cities
Subsidize tree planting in the watershed		High Priority	Cities / SWCDs

Provide relocation assistance during flooding events	 Mobile home communities Low income/EJ communities Homes situated in a floodplain 	High priority	Cities / HSEM, Counties
Incentivize lawn transition from grass to native/pollinator plants		Medium Priority	RCWD / Cities
Increase funding to expand and maintain parks and trail systems before and after hazard events	Parks and trails systems	2 dots	Cities / Counties

Land Use + Landscape Resiliency

How cities and townships develop the land has broad implications on the ability to adapt to climate hazards. Some suggested actions for the watershed include not siting any new development in a floodplain, especially emergency or community hubs like schools and medical facilities. Exploring ways to develop more densely was another suggestion made to preserve natural areas, like woodlands and wetlands. This may warrant exploration of a building/zoning code change.

A resilient landscape is one that alleviates negative impacts of hazards like flooding and extreme precipitation, extreme heat, drought, and warming winters and ice. Workshop participants identified multiple ways for the RCWD to move toward a resilient landscape through the installation of additional green infrastructure. The term "green infrastructure" means infrastructure that is built with nature to diminish negative impacts of natural hazards. Some examples of green infrastructure are rain gardens, vegetative buffers, and bioswales. RCWD may look to their Public Drainage System or Groundwater Management and Stormwater Reuse programs in the RCWD 2020 plan to justify and fund these actions.

Land use + Landscape Resiliency Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Rethink parking lots as opportunities to lessen impacts of climate hazards • Parking lots covered with solar panels or shaded by trees • More green space in parking lots with native plantings; infiltration areas, including permeable pavers and tree trenches	Any new development parking lots	Medium Priority, 16 dots	Cities / RCWD
Preserve floodplain, woodlands, and wetlands – restrict building in these and other vulnerable areas		High Priority, 4 dots	Cities / RCWD
Educate about and encourage turf alternatives, like through the Lawns to Legumes program		High Priority, 4 dots	SWCDs / RCWD

Design parks to flood	Island Lake ParkRice Creek Park	High Priority, 3 dots	Counties / Cities, RCWD
Pursue installation of vegetated buffers around lakes, rivers, and streams in the watershed	 Impaired lakes Stream at County Highway 10 Lino Lakes Creek People who own land on lakes, rivers or streams 	High Priority, 2 dots	SWCDs / RCWD
Promote mixed use development; pursue the "15-minute city" concept		5 dots	Cities / Counties

Monitoring + Data Collection

It's difficult to understand how a system operates unless it is consistently monitored, and its behavior is documented over a period of time. Monitoring uncovers trends from system activity and lets us know what interventions might be working in a system, and which ones may not be. Since water professionals have limited capacity, time, and money to monitor certain areas, there may be solutions to gather more data by encouraging volunteer citizen monitoring, like through the CAMP program that's managed by the Metropolitan Council. Additionally, there may be several sites around the watershed that will want to be especially targeted for monitoring. This might include sites of historic contamination and/or superfund sites. In the Clearwater Creek planning region, these potentially contaminated areas might be around Hwy 61 and Bald Eagle Ave, and some roads and railroad tracks near Hwy 96. It could be beneficial to monitor plumes of contamination from sites such as these to better understand contaminant migration potential.

In addition, a copious amount of data questions arose from the workshop crowd, in particular questions about what data is currently available and what data it might make sense to collect to communicate back to the public, and to help professionals understand which work ought to be targeted and prioritized first. The following suggested strategies could be justified and funded through the Public Drainage System Inspection, Maintenance and Repair program, the Modeling and Planning Program, or the Surface Water Monitoring and Management Program as outlined in RCWD's 2020 Watershed Management Plan.

Monitoring + Data Collection Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Study capacity and structural soundness of stormwater systems throughout watershed	 MNDOT stormwater around Hwy 96 which drains into ditch 11 	High Priority, 8 dots	RCWD / Cities, Counties, MnDOT
Use maps to identify networks of people who weren't in the room for these workshops – and work to better understand how they can be engaged in this topic	Low income/EJ communities – By East Moore Lake	High Priority, 6 dots	Cities / RCWD
Encourage citizens to become water monitoring volunteers	 Impaired lakes Stream at County Highway 10 Lino Lakes Creek 	High Priority, 3 dots	RCWD / DNR

Create a database that communicates service-learning opportunities to the public	 Faith communities + cultural groups Community groups Watershed residents 	High Priority, 2 dots	RCWD / DNR
Monitor plumes to identify migration potential at brownfield and superfund sites	 Hwy 61 and Bald Eagle Ave Several road and railroad tracks near Hwy 96 	High Priority, 1 dot	MPCA / MDH
ID particular vulnerabilities throughout the watershed and map them so this information is readily available when targeting new projects	 Failing septic systems Brownfields, superfund sites and historic dump sites Invasive species sites Sacred sites Flood risk areas – roadways, lakes, streams Historic developments 	High/Medium Priority	RCWD / MPCA, Counties, DNR, MHS

Outreach + Engagement

Exploring innovative ways to inform and engage people about climate resiliency is another crucial aspect of creating a truly climate resilient community. Below are some suggested actions proposed at the workshop to focus outreach and engagement efforts. Some of the following strategies could be pursued through RCWD's Watershed Communication and Outreach Program, as described in the 2020 Watershed Management Plan.

Outreach and Engagement Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Educate and change cultural norms and expectations through demonstration sites, workshops, and public campaigns	 See Living Waters Church for demonstration site example 	High Priority, 11 dots	RCWD / Cities, SWCDs
Support neighborhood community building (NNO, mutual aid, call trees) – harnessing community for collective actions	Community groupsNeighborhood associationsResidents	High Priority, 11 dots	Cities
Integrate art and creativity into education and awareness campaigns – find ways to reach more audiences and meet them where they are based on their interests and goals	Community Centers	High Priority	Multiple agencies
Create a coordinated outreach approach from LGUs to activate/mobilize/communicate about hazards and resources		High Priority	Multiple agencies
Normalize and hold regular community meetings where people can be innovative about solutions for the watershed	Community centers Community groups	High Priority	Multiple agencies

Hold watershed appreciation events – communication should focus on shared goals	Nature centers Community centers	Not ranked in workshop	RCWD / Cities, Counties
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

Operations + Maintenance

It's one thing to install a new piece of gray or green infrastructure, and quite another to keep it operating and maintained over a longer period. Significant resources must be allocated for operation and maintenance of systems to ensure they are performing to their highest standard. Below are some suggested strategies for where to consider prioritizing operations and maintenance of systems.

Operations & Maintenance Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Increase maintenance timeline for roadways and stormwater infrastructure, and collect data as you go		High Priority, 7 dots	Cities / Counties, MnDOT
Water trees, especially during droughts		High Priority, 4 dots	Cities / Counties, MnDOT
Fund and improve road conditions in predominately low income and/or BIPOC communities	Lexington, MN	High Priority, 1 dot	Cities / Counties, MnDOT
More frequently inspect septic systems	Rural areas	High Priority	Counties / MPCA

Planting Trees, Native Plants + Pollinators

Increasing the number of trees, native plants and pollinators planted in the watershed were also top strategies suggested to increase climate resiliency. These plants serve multiple benefits when it comes to mitigating climate hazards. In terms of flooding, the deep roots of established trees, natives and pollinator plants infiltrate water back into the ground, diminishing the water above ground that contributes to flooding. Trees also provide shade and cooling properties that can be highly beneficial during extreme heat waves.

Planting Trees, Native Plants + Pollinator Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Plant more trees throughout the watershed, ensuring that the species selected are diverse, resilient, and sited appropriately	Watershed wide	High Priority, 9 dots	SWCDs / Cities, Counties
Plant native, pollinator friendly and/or drought tolerant plants in place of lawns, and in other strategic areas throughout watershed	 Rough areas of golf courses In boulevards, along highways, parks and along biking/ped trails 	High Priority, 3 dots	SWCDs / Cities, Counties

Regulation + Enforcement

Rules and regulations were another topic of conversation amongst workshop participants, and there were some suggestions made about how regulations could be updated to reflect more resilient practices. These include increasing regulatory floodplain policies, updating building and zoning codes to require storm shelter spaces and allow composting toilets, higher tree preservation standards in development, and amend ordinances to allow deep root/tall grasses and plants.

Regulation and Enforcement Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Establish higher tree preservation standards and/or require tree/native plant % replacement to offset loss from new development	Any new development	High Priority, 9 dots	Cities
Create a new code that lowers the minimum amount of parking spaces required at a site	Any new development	Medium Priority, 8 dots	Cities
Require a SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) to be a part of all new construction	Any new development	High/Medium Priority, 5 dots	Cities / RCWD
Change ordinances to not require turf lawns in HOAs, and allow deep roots/tall grasses/plants		High Priority	Cities
Require storm shelters as a part of the building code	SchoolsNursing HomesCommunity Centers	High Priority	Cities /MN Department of Labor & Industry (MNDOLI)
Allow composting toilets		High/Medium Priority	Cities / MDOLI

Resilience Hub

So called "resilience hubs" are gaining attention across cities for their ability to be centers for people to access information about what to do in a climate emergency, to provide basic resources, and as places to take refuge during an intense climate event. Participants discussed how a resilience hub of this nature doesn't necessarily need to be built from scratch, but may be housed in an existing building where people congregate, like a church, community center, school or library.

Resilience Hub Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Add a resilience hub structure to a public space	Parks and trail systems	High Priority, 5 dots	Counties / Cities, RCWD

Establish an existing structure as a resilience hub, adding an area where people can access information, support, and take refuge from inclement weather	 Community centers Restaurants/Bars/Grocer y stores Schools/universities Nature Centers Social service/Homeless service buildings Faith building Library 	High/Medium Priority	Cities / RCWD, Counties
Retrofit a bus or other vehicle to act as a "roaming resilience hub" – carrying supplies and resources to people around the watershed	 Public transportation vehicles 	Not ranked in workshop	Cities / RCWD, Counties

Stormwater management

Stormwater management best practices come in many different forms and functions. Below, you'll read some of the suggestions from the workshop. There is a degree of conflict between some of the suggestions which will need to be considered when making decisions about actions to pursue. RCWD may look to their Public Drainage System Inspection, Maintenance and Repair program to support several of the following strategies.

- Drainage

 Appropriate drainage of water following a precipitation event may be crucial to avoid flooding in unwanted areas. Diverting water through installation of culverts and draining tile to infiltration basins are a couple actions that could be pursued.

Diversion + Drainage Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Drain tile to infiltration basins	Bridges Roadways	High/Medium Priority, 3 dots	RCWD / Cities, Counties / MnDOT
Improve drainage from farmland	Agricultural land – north and east portions of SE watershed area	High Priority, 1 dot	SWCDs / RCWD, MDA
Invest in pumps and hoses to divert to catch basins			Cities / Counties, MnDOT

- Infiltration + Runoff

Infiltrating water back into the ground is another way to reduce flooding. Several practices were suggested to help water soak back into the ground where it falls, including through green infrastructure, permeable pavement/surfaces, and bioswales with multiple infiltration basins. These sorts of surfaces can also help slow runoff, so that flash flooding and flows can be further avoided. RCWD may refer to the Natural Waterway Management program for guidance on pursuing some of the below suggestions.

Infiltration + Runoff Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Pursue installation of green infrastructure that holds more water as an infiltration solution (ex. rain gardens)	Around Locke Lake	High Priority, 26 dots	RCWD / Cities, Counties
Increase opportunities for infiltration at various sites (ex. permeable surfaces, green infrastructure, bioswales with multiple infiltration basins)	New developmentsParking lots	High/Medium Priority, 14 dots	Cities / RCWD
Reduce and slow runoff	RoadwaysBridges	Medium Priority, 8 dots	RCWD / Cities, Counties / MnDOT
Increase buffer zones	ShorelinesBridgesRoadways	Medium Priority, 8 dots	RCWD / Cities, Counties / MnDOT
Direct runoff to wetlands for recharge	Wetlands	High Priority	RCWD / Cities, Counties / MnDOT

- Storage

Increasing water storage capacity may also help alleviate flooding in unwanted areas. Siting storage structures, like holding tanks, in strategic places such as around ditches and beneath parking lots and bridges might be considered. Additionally, creating rain barrel demonstration sites in public places like around schools, libraries, parks, or medical facilities would provide water storage with an added benefit of educating the public about this issue. Finally, strategically designing certain outdoor areas to flood during rain events could be another useful strategy, for example designing golf courses to provide water storage during a flood, or a park.

Storage Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Pursue unique and innovative pilot projects that are multibeneficial in terms of social and environmental benefits (ex. an amphitheater that is designed to store water during floods and acts as a community gathering space at other times)	 Parks and trails Community centers Public outdoor spaces 	High Priority, 13 dots	Cities / RCWD, Counties

Increase storage capacity of stormwater infrastructure system – adding holding tanks, retention basins, and storage pipes for runoff, both underground and around certain developments	 Under parking lots Stormwater infrastructure system (pipes, storm sewers, culverts) Under schools/universities (City of Hugo, North Star Elementary, etc.) New developments (ex. Near 35W) Mobile home communities Historic developments 	High Priority, 2 dots	Cities / RCWD, BWSR
Design particular spaces for flooding when necessary, and allowing for more water storage	Parks and trailsGolf courses (ex. Hugo)	High Priority	Cities / RCWD, BWSR
Increase upstream water storage	Around bridgesRoadways	Medium Priority, 8 dots	RCWD / MnDOT, Counties, Cities

Surface Water Quality + Quantity

Impacts to surface water quality and quantity can be exacerbated by climate hazard events. For example, extreme precipitation and flooding can wash a greater volume of pollutants into water bodies, and extreme heat can encourage the proliferation of bacteria and algal blooms in a wetland, lake or stream. To lessen further degradation of surface water bodies from climate hazards, it has been suggested to focus on riparian and shoreland zones, like planting more deep-rooted plants around water bodies to help catch toxins before they reach the water.

Surface Water Quality + Quantity Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the implementation of this strategy	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Install fountains in water bodies for aeration	Impaired lakes	High Priority, 1 dot	DNR / Counties
Install natural buffers around water bodies to protect against flooding and pollution	 Impaired lakes Stream at County Highway 10 Lino Lakes Creek Locke Lake 	High Priority	SWCDs / RCWD, Counties, Cities

Water Conservation + Reuse

In times of drought, it may become even more necessary for the community to conserve water. This may mean reducing the amount of water used to maintain certain landscapes, like residential lawns. Some were also concerned about threats to drinking water supply, like in times of drought, and suggest practicing intentional drinking water conservation at times like these, or expanding groundwater recharge areas.

Implementing water reuse practices was discussed at the workshop, as it is seen as an emerging solution to some of our most pressing water issues. The RCWD could investigate green infrastructure that encourages the recycling of water, particularly for watering places like

golf courses, public lands, and lawns. The RCWD may look to their Groundwater Management and Stormwater Reuse Assessment program to justify and fund the below activities.

Water Conservation + Reuse Strategies from Workshop	Locations and/or populations to target for the	Priority Ranking from Workshop	Lead Agency / Partners
Strategies from Workshop	implementation of this strategy	ννοικοπορ	Fartilers
Explore opportunities for water reuse throughout the watershed Reuse water to water lawns/golf courses	Golf coursesPublic spacesParks and trailsLawns	High Priority, 15 dots	Cities / RCWD, Counties
Reduce watering during times of drought	LawnsParks and trailsGolf courses	High Priority	Cities
Engage community around water conservation principles and tactics	ResidencesCommunity centers	High Priority	RCWD / Cities, Counties

Conclusion

This document highlights the numerous actions that the RCWD, cities, counties, and others may consider pursuing to get ever closer to a more climate resilient watershed, as contributed by stakeholders from across the watershed during the Community Resilience Building workshops. The information here is meant to be used as a resource to help inform the activities and priorities stakeholders include in their work plans over the coming years. Many of the suggestions require multiple entities to coordinate to be most effective, so collaboration across many of these strategies will be key.

From community engagement and partnership strategies to structural green infrastructure and storage basin installation, the watershed District and partners have endless opportunities to create a more resilient watershed. The momentum and excitement from these workshops must now be carried forward by Rice Creek watershed stakeholders to see the work through.

Appendix A – Core Team + Workshop Participants

Core Workshop Planning Team Participants:

The Core Team met a few times before the workshops to determine workshop purpose, logistics, and invitees. Below is a list of those who comprised this core team.

Alan Rupnow, Ramsey County Andrew Nelson, City of Lino Lakes Connie Taillon, City of White Bear Lake Craig Schlichting, City of New Brighton Eric Woichik. Metropolitan Council Jessica Collin-Pilarski, Washington County Kendra Sommerfeld, Rice Creek Watershed District Michael Wagner, Anoka County Nicholas Tomczik, Rice Creek Watershed District Noelle Bakken, City of Roseville Rachel Juba. City of Hugo Rachel Workin, City of Fridley Ryan Johnson, City of Roseville

Workshop #1 Participants - February 28th, 2023 3-7PM at Shoreview Community Center

Lower Rice Creek Planning Region:

Abigail Phillips, Ramsey County Environmental Health

Alana Howey, Resilient Roseville Ann White Eagle, Ramsey County Soil & Water Bryant Ficek, City of Roseville Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission Cyndi Arneson, ISD 623/Roseville Public Schools Emilia Gusdal, Roseville Area High School **Progressives**

Heidi Ferris. Fridlev Environmental Commissioner Holly Swiglo, Roseville Area High School **Progressives**

Ivy Song, Roseville Area High School Progressives Jim Kosluchar, City of Fridley Judd Freed, Ramsey County Emergency Management Services Kathy Ramundt, Do Good Roseville Mary T'Kach, Ramsey County Public Health Noelle Bakken, City of Roseville Paul Gardner, Roseville Citizen Rachel Workin. City of Fridley Ryan Johnson, City of Roseville Wayne Groff, City of Roseville City Council

Clearwater Creek Planning Region:

Alan Rupnow, Ramsey County Connie Taillon, City of White Bear Lake Jeff Luxford, White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission Jessica Collin-Pilarski, Washington County Joe Crowe, NE Metro Climate Action Lori Olinger, NE Metro Climate Action Lori Tella, Washington Conservation District Mike Parenteau, White Bear Lake Conservation District Susan Vento, Metropolitan Council

Tim Wald, White Bear Lake Area School District

Middle Rice Creek Planning Region:

Jon Sevald, Moundsview Community Development Michael Wagner, Anoka County

Workshop Facilitators:

Chyann Erickson, Freshwater Eileen Kirby, Freshwater Eric Wojchik, Metropolitan Council Jen Kader, Freshwater Kendra Sommerfeld, Rice Creek Watershed District Lila Franklin, Freshwater

Upper Rice Creek Planning Region:

Andy Nelson, City of Lino Lakes Lindsay Buchmeier, Lino Lakes Environmental Board Nick Tomczik, Rice Creek Watershed District

Workshop #2 Participants: - March 22nd, 2023 3-7PM at Shoreview Community Center

Lower Rice Creek Planning Region:

Abigail Phillips, Ramsey County Environmental Health

Bryan Mayer, Ramsey County Emergency Management Services

Bryant Ficek, City of Roseville Public Works, Environment, and Transportation Commission Cyndi Arneson, ISD 623/Roseville Public Schools Dale Howey, Resilient Roseville

Emilia Gusdal, Roseville Area High School Progressives

Heidi Ferris, *Fridley Environmental Commissioner* Holly Swiglo, *Roseville Area High School Progressives*

Ivy Song, Roseville Area High School Progressives Justin Townsend, Ramsey County Soil & Water Kathy Ramundt, Do Good Roseville Mary T'Kach, Ramsey County Public Health Noelle Bakken, City of Roseville Paul Gardner, Roseville Citizen & MPCA Rachel Workin, City of Fridley Wayne Groff, City of Roseville City Council

Workshop Facilitators:

Chyann Erickson, Freshwater
Eileen Kirby, Freshwater
Eric Wojchik, Metropolitan Council
Jen Kader, Freshwater
Kendra Sommerfeld, Rice Creek Watershed
District
Lila Franklin, Freshwater

Clearwater Creek Planning Region:

Angela Defenbaugh, Washington Conservation District

Bill Lazarus, *University of Minnesota*Connie Taillon, *City of White Bear Lake*Daniel Elder, *Washington County*Heidi Hughes, *City of White Bear Lake*Jeff Luxford, *White Bear Lake Environmental Advisory Commission*Jessica Collin-Pilarski, *Washington County*

Lori Olinger, NE Metro Climate Action
Lori Tella, Washington Conservation District
Scott Costello, White Bear Lake Conservation
District

Megan Forbes, RCWD Citizen Advisory Committee

Tim Wald, White Bear Lake Area School District Tom Anderson, Metropolitan Council Tracy Shimek, White Bear Lake Community Development

Middle Rice Creek Planning Region:

Cassie Cavegn, *Lino Lakes Environmental Board*Michael Wagner, *Anoka County*

Upper Rice Creek Planning Region:

Andy Nelson, City of Lino Lakes
Nick Tomczik, Rice Creek Watershed District

Appendix B – Planning Regions Used in Workshops

More about each region -

1 - Lower Rice Creek Planning Region

• This region is located on the south and west sides of the watershed, encompassing parts of Roseville, Falcon Heights, Columbia Heights, Fridley, Shoreview, Lauderdale, Lexington, Arden Hills, Spring Lake Park and Moundsview. Its major lakes include Silver, Valentine, Josephine, Turtle, Round, Johanna, Long, and Marsden Lakes.

2 - Middle Rice Creek Planning Region

 This region is located in the middle portion of the watershed, encompassing parts of Blaine, Centerville, Lexington, and Lino Lakes. Its major lakes include Marshan, Reshanau, Peltier, George Watch and Centerville Lakes.

3 - Upper Rice Creek Planning Region

 This region is located in the upper portion of the watershed, encompassing parts of Columbus, Forest Lake, Lino Lakes, and Hugo. Its major lakes include Rondeau, Crossways, Columbus, Howard, Mud, and Clear Lakes.

4 - Clearwater Creek Planning Region

 This region is located on the east side of the watershed, encompassing parts of White Bear Lake, Hugo, Centerville, Mahtomedi, Dellwood and Willernie. Its major lakes include White Bear, Bald Eagle, Pine Tree, Rice, Round, Sunset, Oneka and Horseshoe Lakes.

