

Judicial Ditch 3 / Clearwater Creek Stabilization



September 14th, 2026

JD 3 Landowner
Meeting
Rice Creek
Watershed District

What We'll Discuss



SUMMARIZE OUR
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS
COMPLETED TO
DETERMINE FEASIBILITY
OF ALTERNATIVES



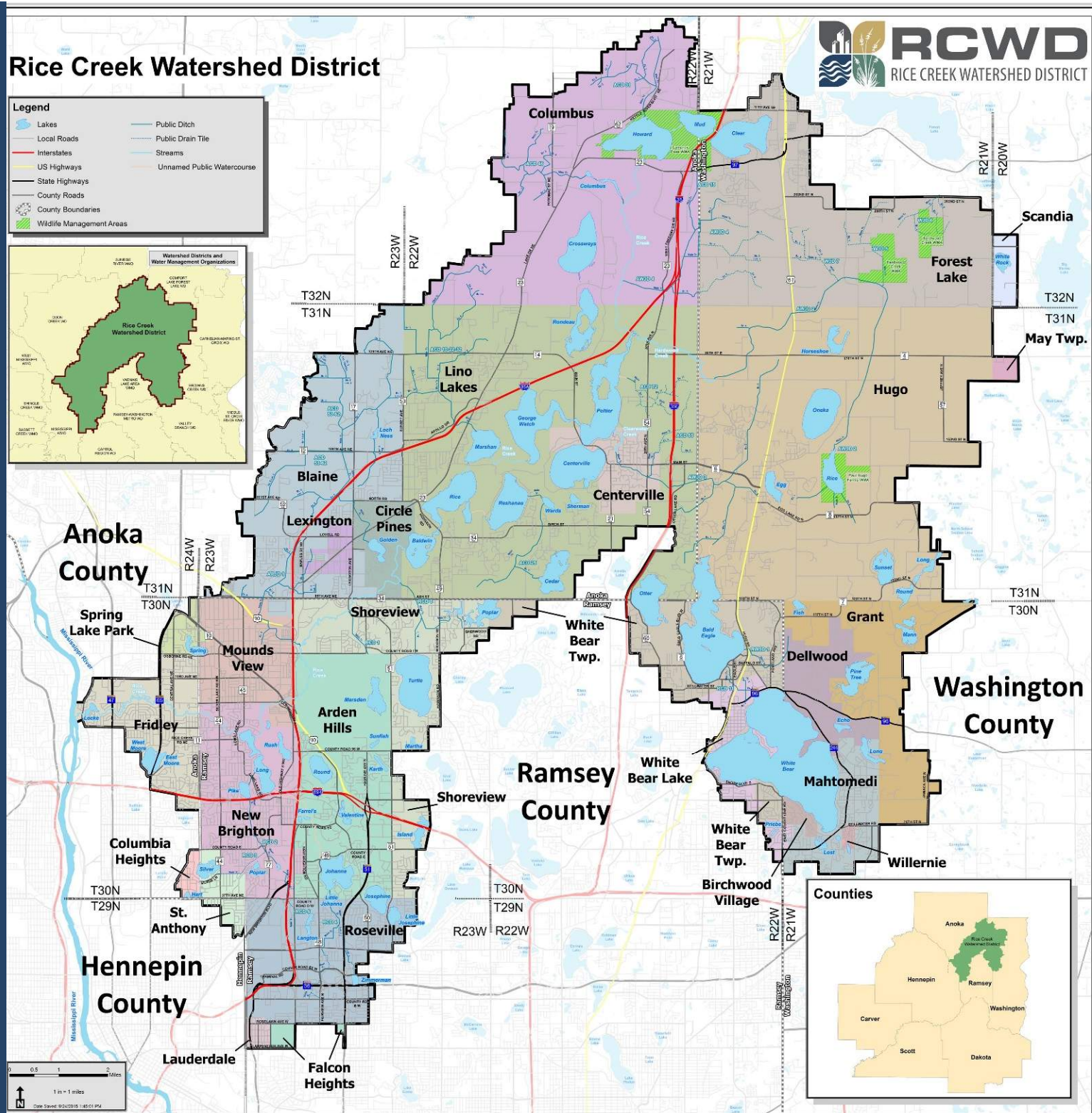
PHOTOGRAPHIC
“WALK THROUGH”
OF SITE CONDITIONS



DIALOGUE ON NEXT
STEPS

RCWD Facts

- Serves as the Public Drainage Authority for District
- Manages 116 miles of public ditch and tile systems on behalf of landowners over 186 square miles of urban rural and ag land
- Protects the landowners' right to drain water to public ditches
- Additional activities include water quality, flood control, and regulatory programs



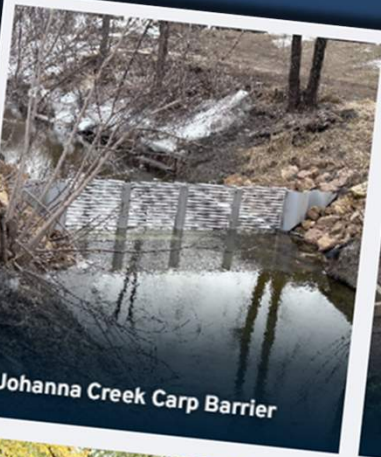
Mission is to manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the District through flood control and water quality projects and programs



RCWD Established in 1972

By the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) upon petition by the citizens, county boards, and cities

District is not immune to nature!
Active role in the communities
striving for resiliency in the face
of climate change.

A photograph showing a concrete barrier structure installed in a creek to prevent carp from spawning.

Johanna Creek Carp Barrier

A photograph of a rain garden with various plants and a stone border.

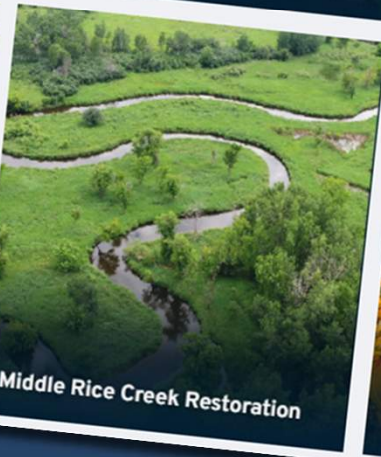
Lake Josephine County Park
Rain Garden

A photograph of a creek restoration project with a stone border and vegetation.

Lower Hardwood Creek
Restoration

A photograph of a creek stabilization project with a stone border and vegetation.

Lower Rice Creek Stabilization

A photograph of a creek restoration project with a stone border and vegetation.

Middle Rice Creek Restoration

A photograph of a lake improvement project with a stone border and vegetation.

Mirror Lake Improvement

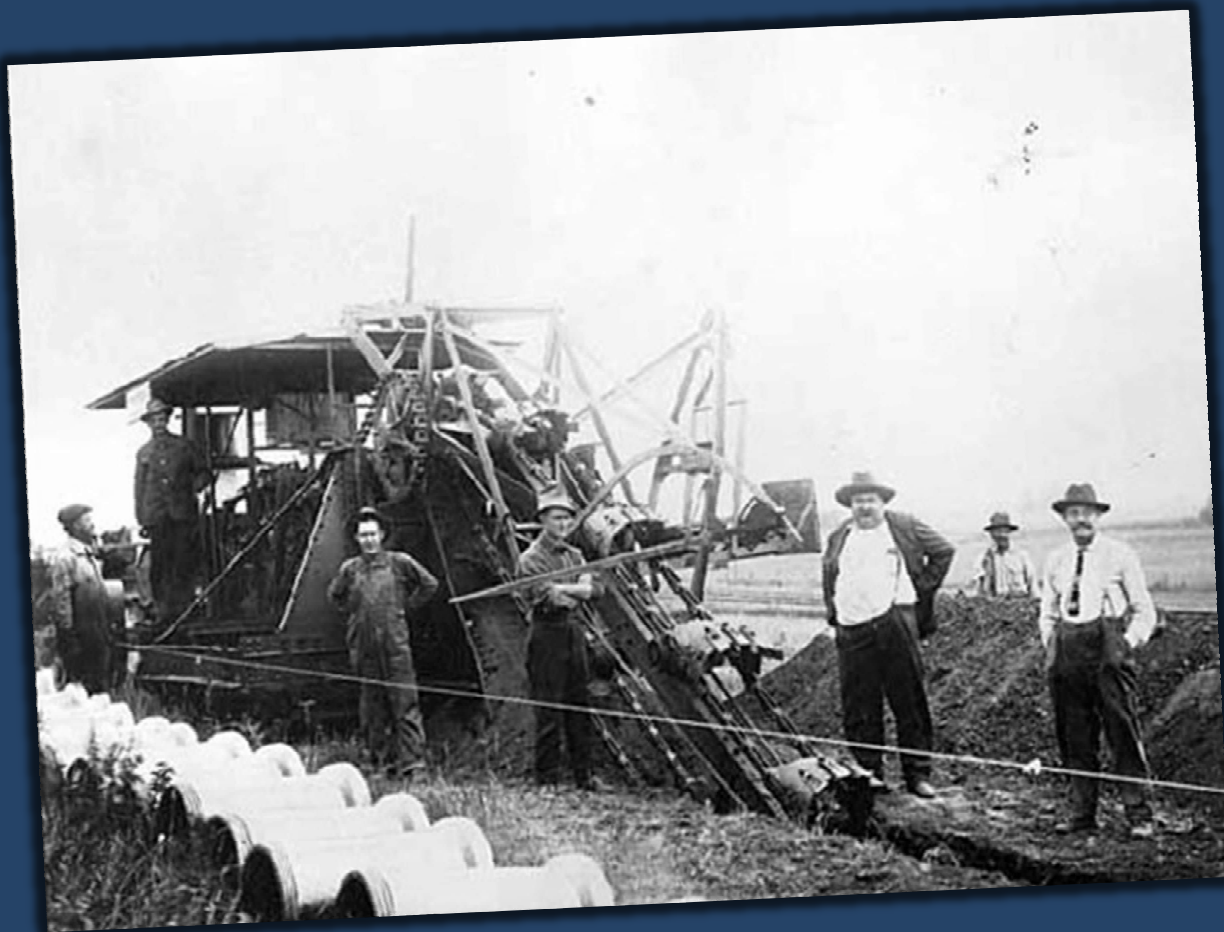
A large photograph showing a flooded parking lot with several cars partially submerged. Two children are standing in the foreground near a white car.

www.ricecreek.org

Learn about their many active
projects and ways to get involved.

What is a “Public Drainage System” and Why were they Constructed?

Near turn of 20th Century, landowners were in a “fight” with water



Reduce Flooding

Create Pastureland
(occasional crop)

Mosquito-borne disease
(malaria and others)

Photo courtesy of the Historical Society

What is a “Public Drainage System” and Why were they Constructed?

Regional outlets for water (ditch or tile) needed to be constructed



Required collective effort
(multiple landowners)

Universal cooperation /
agreement rarely existed

Photo courtesy of the Historical Society

What is a “Public Drainage System” and Why were they Constructed?

Public drainage law established enabling landowners to



Petition for establishment of
“public drainage systems”

A “Drainage Authority”
is required to manage

Photo courtesy of the Historical Society

What is a “Public Drainage System” and Why were they Constructed?

Evolution of Public Drainage Systems in Urban Environments



Rapid development of
Metro and Surrounding
in 1940's / 50's / 60's

Purpose / function of
county ditches changed
Agricultural drainage
Municipal stormwater outlet

Capacity needs changed
Low volume/high frequency
High volume/low frequency

Photo courtesy of the Historical Society

Administer the public drainage system on behalf of the assessed lands balancing the needs of all users

The public drainage system is “owned” by landowners that paid for it through assessments

Assessed landowners can request action by the drainage authority

Lands assessed have a right to drain water to the public drainage system (within regulation)

Role of District as a Drainage Authority

Inspection /
Maintenance.
Research and
Archive Records.

Develop Repair
Plans.
Contract and
Manage
Construction.

Communicate with
Landowners.
Hold Public Hearing
Receive Petitions.
Administer
Assessments.

Coordinate with
Regulating
Agencies. Apply for
Permits. Ensure
compliance with
MN Statutes

How the District Manages Drainage Systems

Why Maintain the Public Drainage System?

- It fulfills Drainage Authority responsibilities as required by Minnesota law
- It provides predictable drainage and stormwater management for RCWD cities and landowners now and in the future
- Public Health / Welfare, and protection of infrastructure

Maintenance

More cost effective
for small isolated
solutions

Full Repair

Needed when extent
of maintenance is
more comprehensive
on the system

Two Legal Terms to clarify up front

- **Mn Drainage Law, Statute Chapter 103E**

Repair

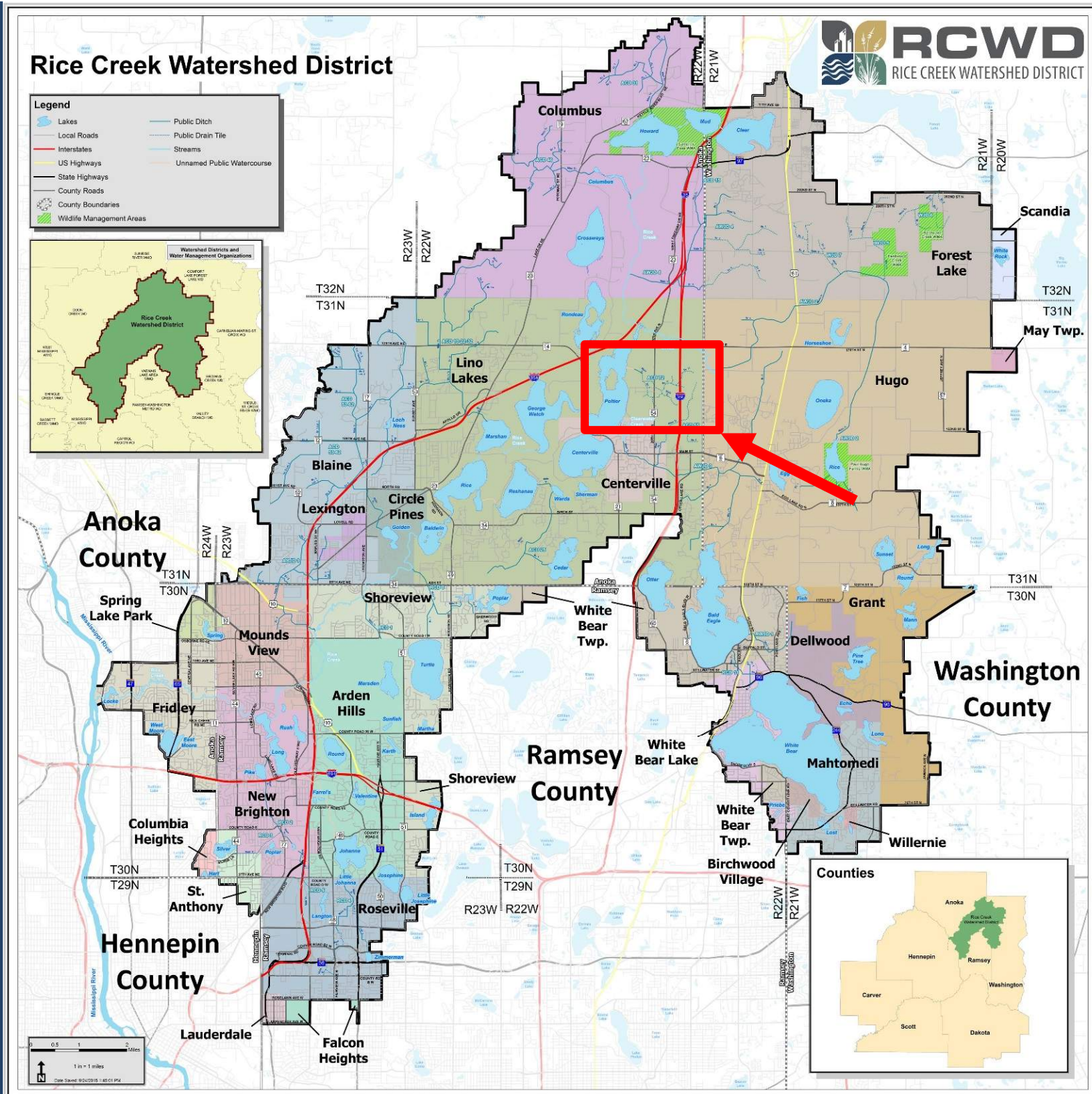
Restoring drainage
function as originally
constructed or
subsequently improved
[ACSIC]

Improvement

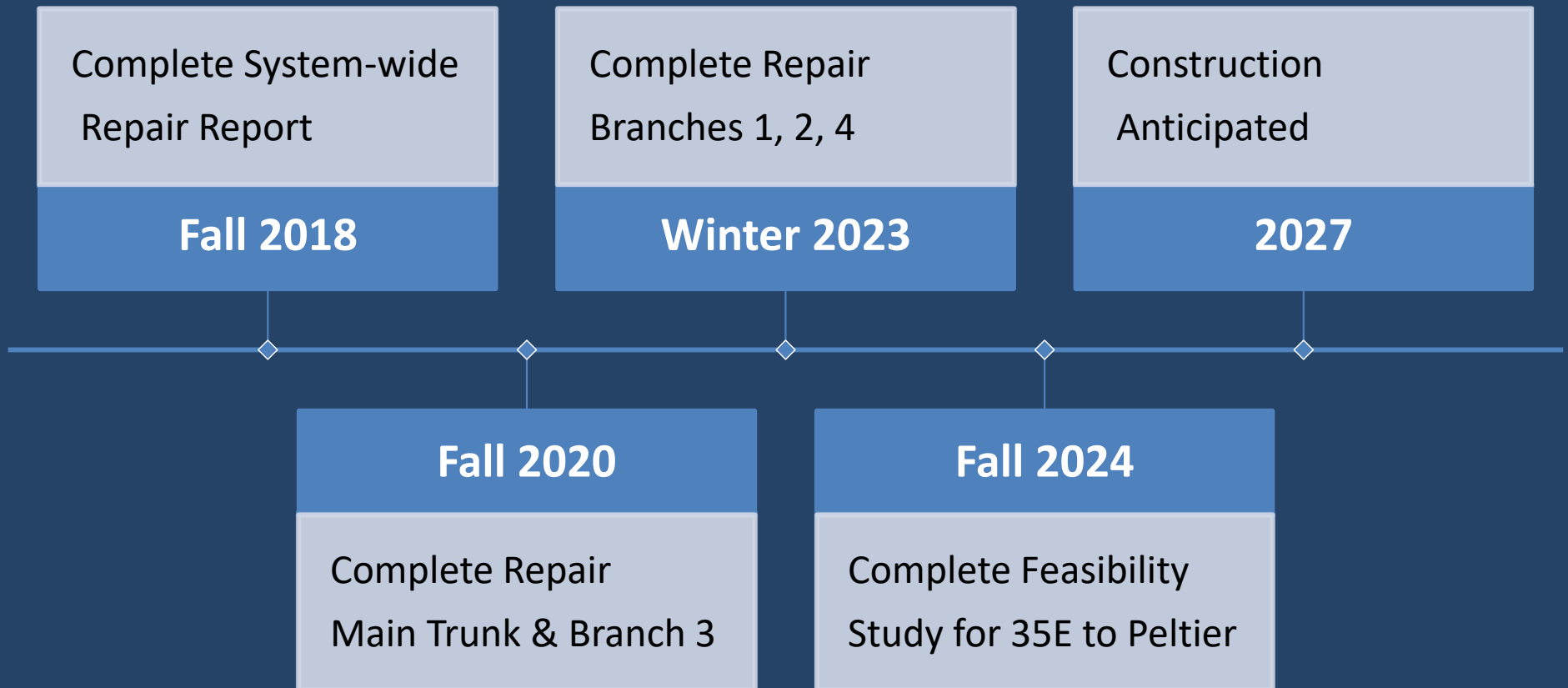
Making the ditch
deeper or wider,
lowering culvert
inverts, increasing the
capacity

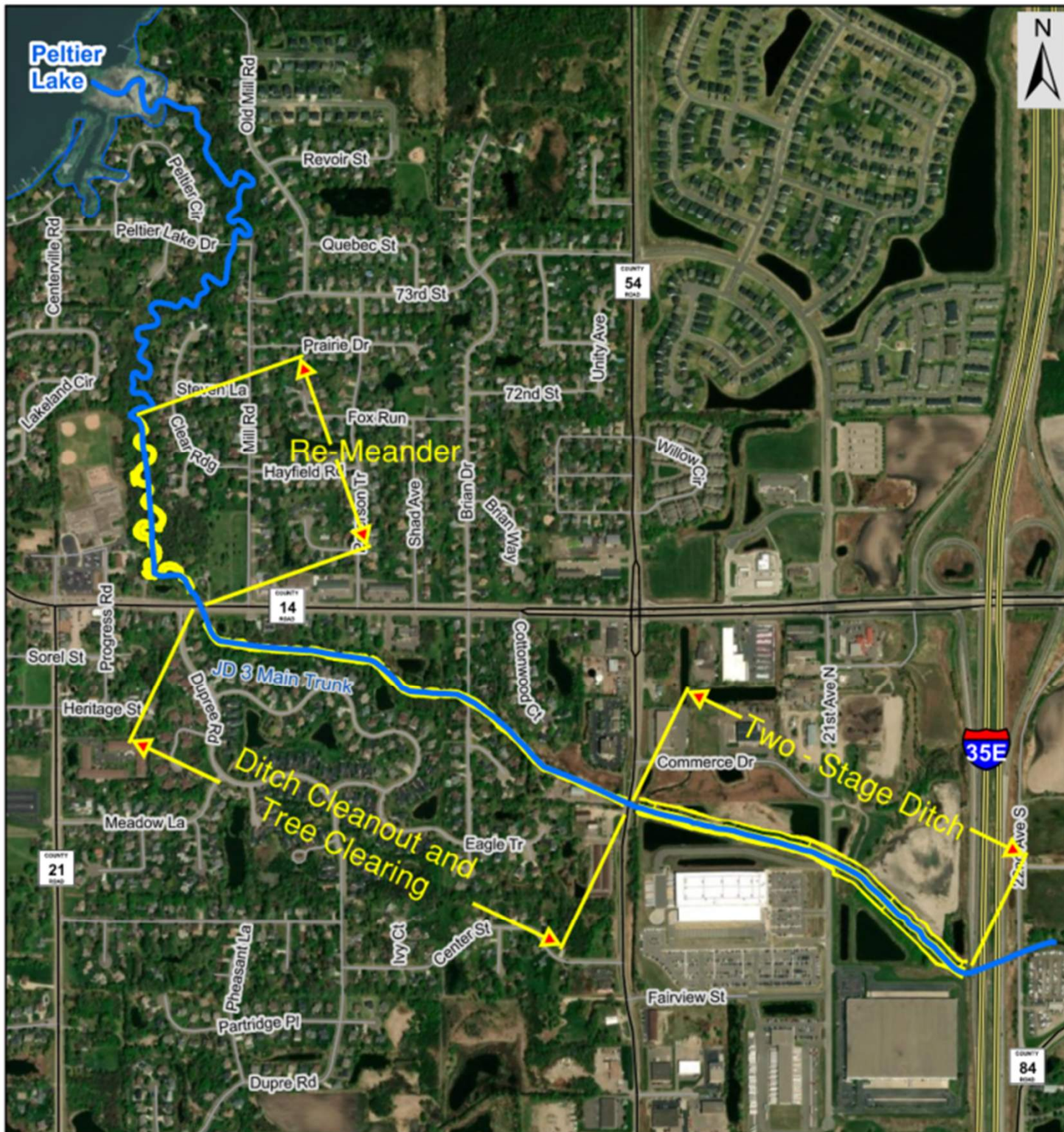
Location/ Condition

- Downstream of I-35E
- Outlets to Peltier Lake
- Sediment plume
- Bank sloughing
- Residential/commercial proximity
- Existing Stormwater BMPs



Judicial Ditch 3 Recent Events





JD3 / Clearwater Creek Stabilization Preliminary Grading Extent



- JD 3 and Clearwater Creek Centerlines
- Public Water Basins
- Proposed Grading Contours

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Project Extents

Scale:	Drawn by:	Checked by:	Project No:	Date:	Sheet:
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Bank Erosion Cottonwood in the ditch



Bank Sloughing Trees in Ditch



Bank Armoring Rock Revetments



Washout and Channel Widening



Sediment Plume Outlet into Peltier Lake

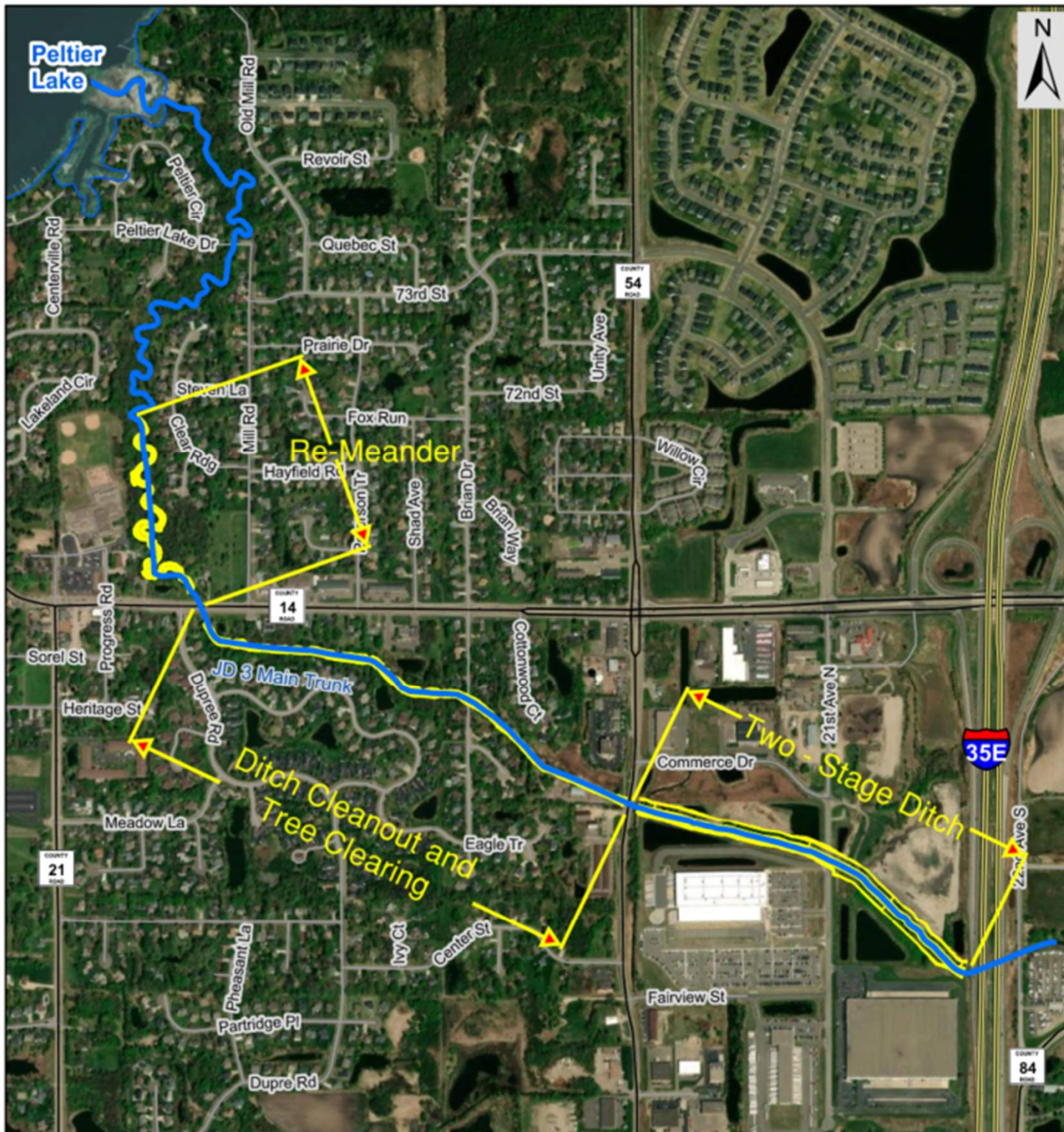


Alternatives Considered

- Re-meander
- Rock Revetments
- Rock Riffle Drop Structure
- Ditch Repair / Vegetation Management
- Retention / Storage
- Two-Stage Ditch

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2 – Stage Ditch Beginning to Form



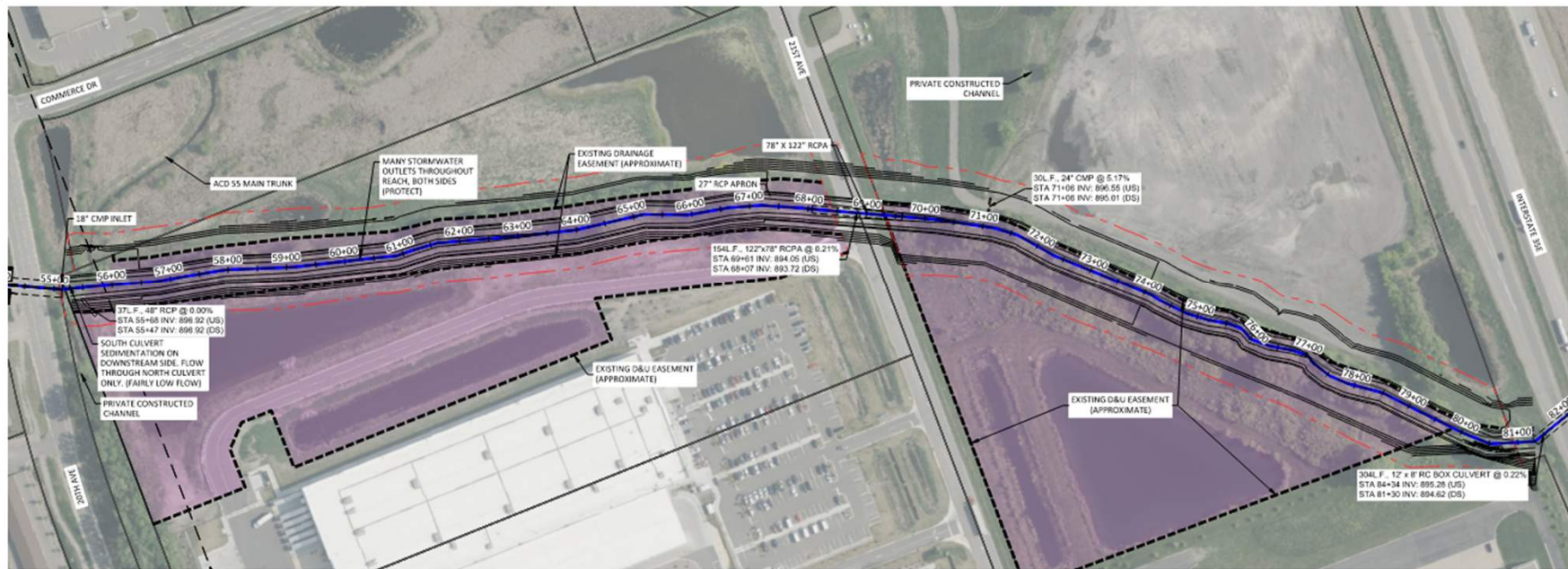
2 – Stage Ditch Beginning to Form



2 – Stage Ditch Beginning to Form



Two-Stage Ditch



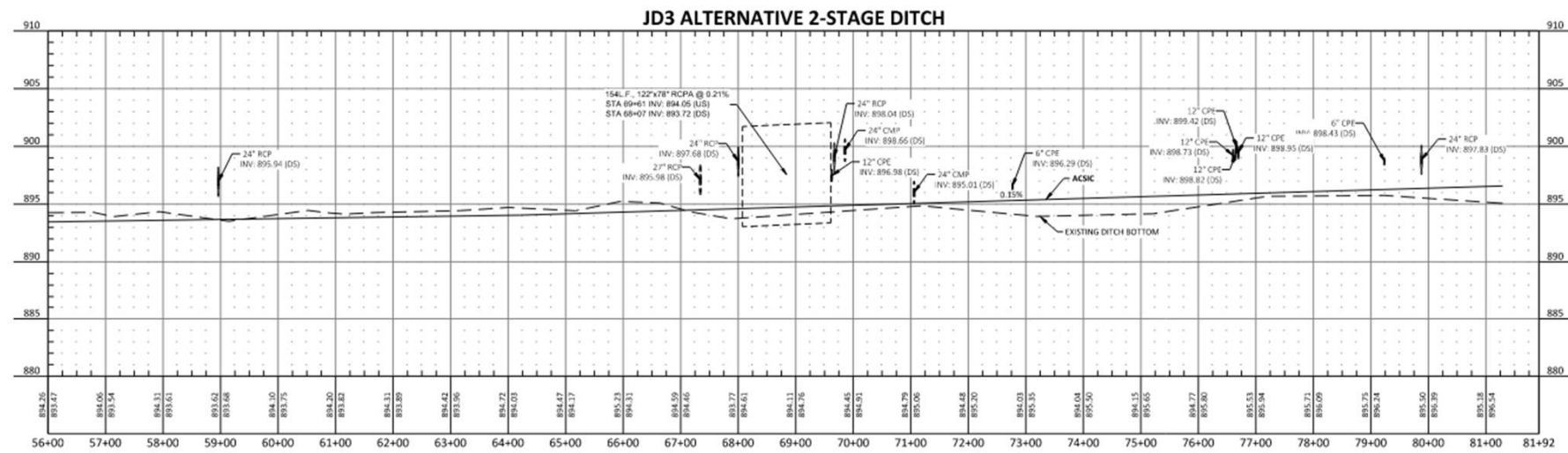
NOTES

- HORIZONTAL CONTROL: ANY COORDINATES LISTED IN THIS PLAN MINNESOTA STATE PLANE, SOUTH ZONE, US FOOT.
- VERTICAL CONTROL: ALL ELEVATIONS ARE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988 (NAVD 88).
- LANDOWNERS MAY REQUEST KEEPING CUT TREES FOR FIREWOOD.
- CLEARED TREES, BRUSH, AND WOODY VEGETATION MUST BE HAULED OFFSITE AND LEGALLY DISPOSED OF.

Scale: 1" = 100' Feet

Legend:

- EXISTING EASEMENT
- EXISTING D&U EASEMENT
- EXISTING 25' DRAINAGE EASEMENT
- CONSTRUCTION LIMIT



PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

No.	Revision	Date	By



Drawn by
AMZ
Checked by
ANN
Date
3-11-2026
Scale
AS SHOWN

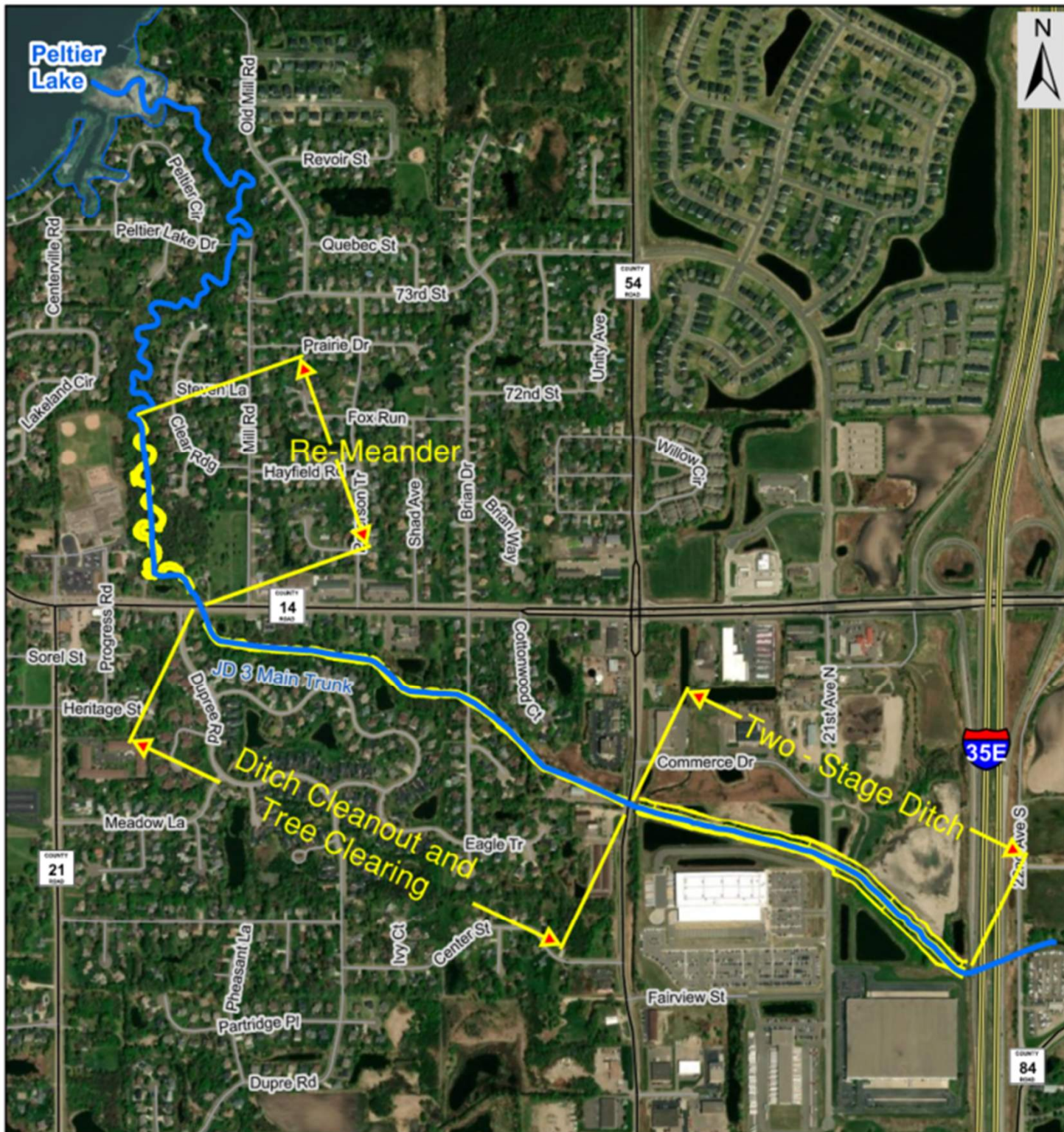
CLEARWATER CREEK STABILIZATION
ANOKA/WASHINGTON COUNTY JD3
RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

PLAN & PROFILE ALT.
TWO-STAGE DITCH
PROJECT NO. 5555-0367

SHEET
5

Two-Stage Ditch (example)





JD3 / Clearwater Creek Stabilization Preliminary Grading Extent



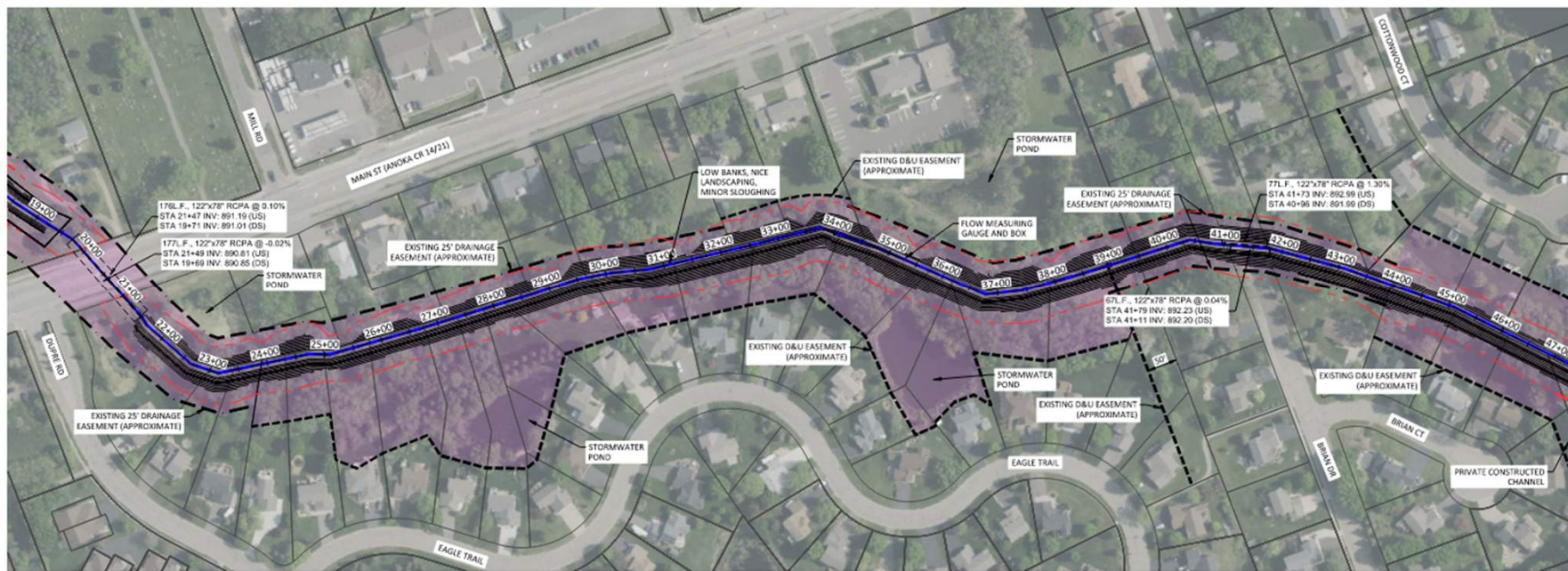
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0 500 1,000 2,000
Feet

Project Extents

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Ditch Repair – Vegetation Establishment



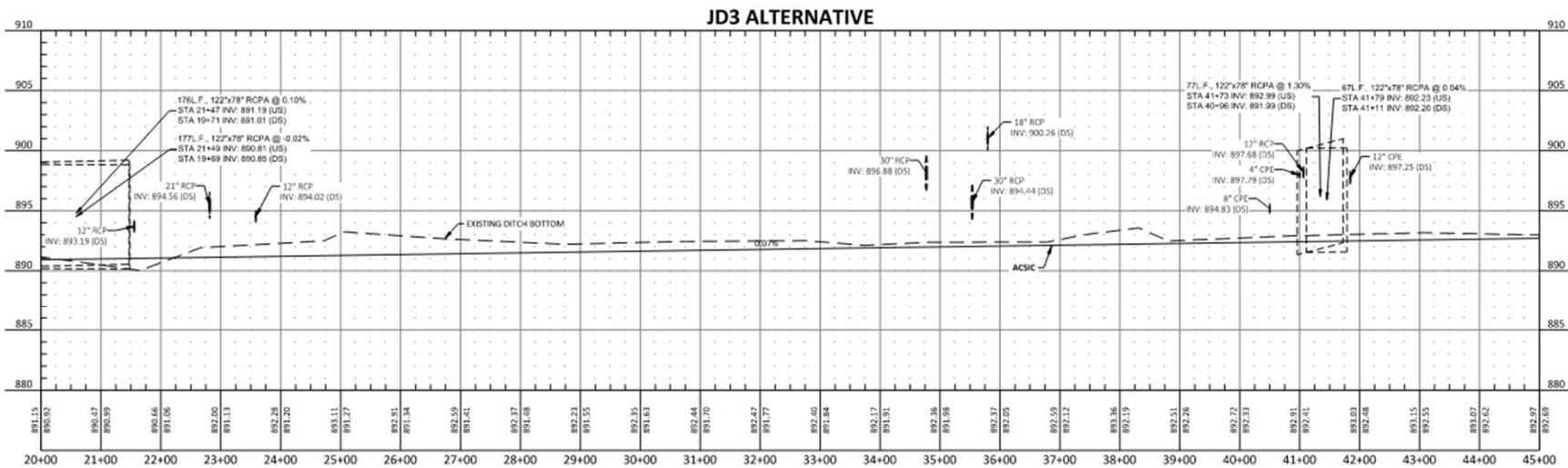
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Scale: 0 100 200 Feet

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No.	Revision	Date	By



Drawn by AMZ	Date 3-11-2026
Checked by ANN	Scale AS SHOWN

CLEARWATER CREEK STABILIZATION
ANOKA/WASHINGTON COUNTY JD3
RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

PLAN & PROFILE ALT. DROP
STRUCTURE
PROJECT NO. 5555-0367

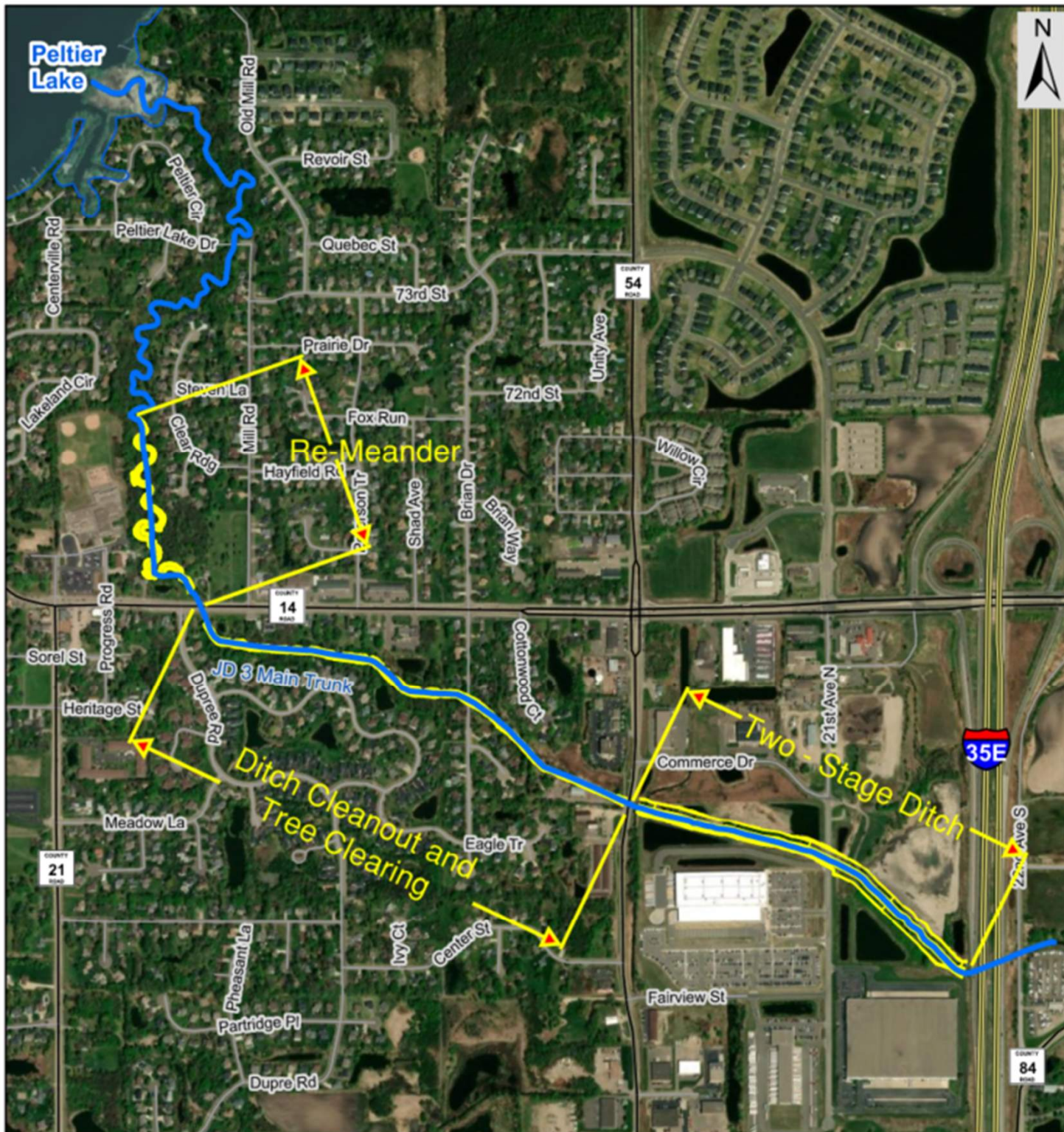
SHEET
3

Ditch Repair (example)



RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT





JD3 / Clearwater Creek Stabilization Preliminary Grading Extent



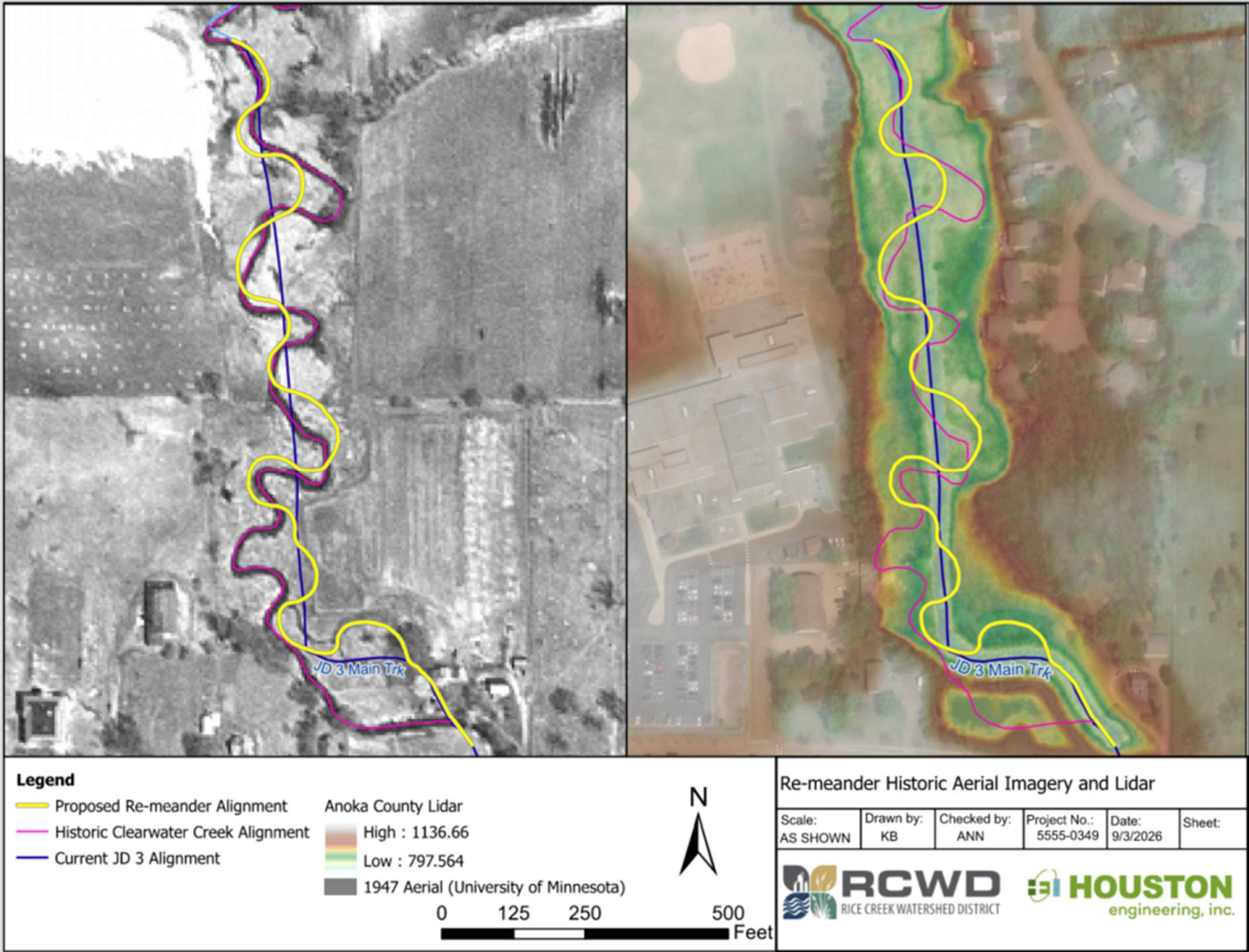
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0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Project Extents

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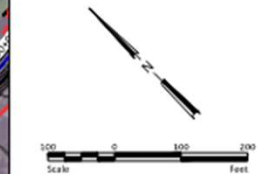
Remeander Historic and LiDAR



Remeander

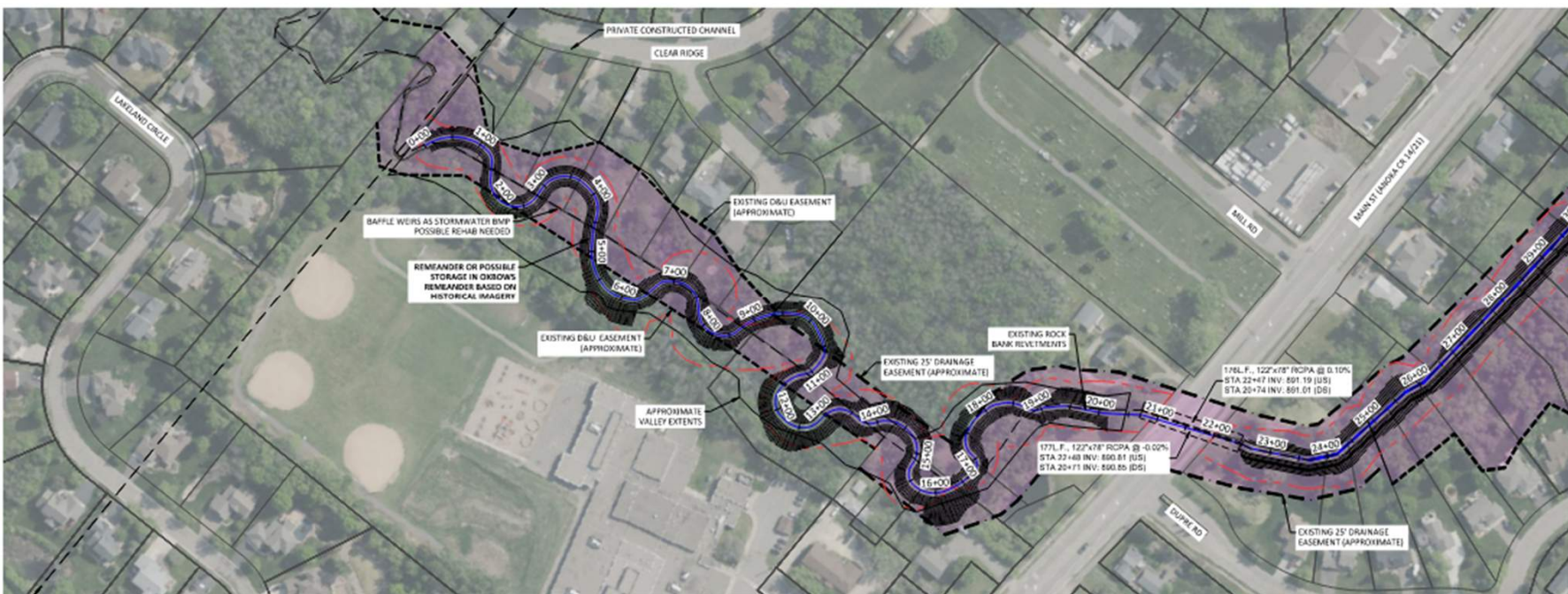
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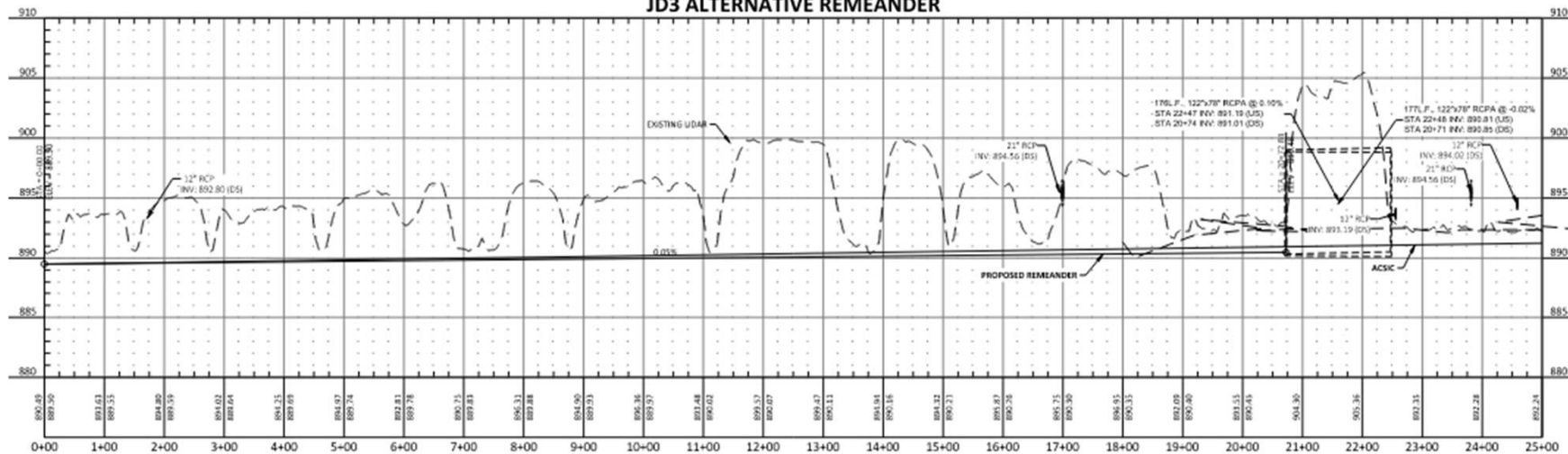


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JD3 ALTERNATIVE REMEANDER



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CLEARWATER CREEK STABILIZATION
ANOKA/WASHINGTON COUNTY JD3
RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

PLAN & PROFILE ALT.
REMEANDER
PROJECT NO. 5555-0367

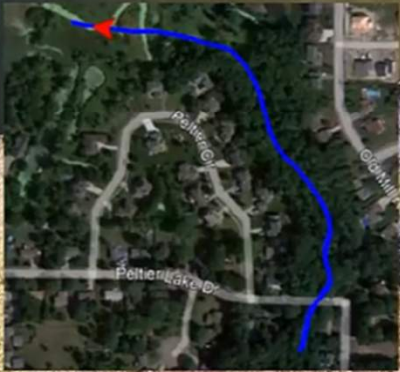
SHEET
2

Remeander (example)



Project Benefits

- Reduction in Sediment contributions downstream to Peltier Lake
- Reduced maintenance obligation regarding ditch stability
- Reduced frequency of flooding pressure along roadways
- Reduced cleanup / mitigation costs for Peltier Lake



Public Information Meeting (This Meeting)

Refine the Design / Obtain Permits & Easements

Public Hearing (Winter 2027)

Board consideration of resolution/order to establish a repair (following hearing)

Plan development / bid project (Spring 2027)

Meeting with landowners in construction zone

Construction (Summer 2027)

Next Steps /
Estimated Timeline

Construction timing
partially dependent
on T&E Species
avoidance
measures and site
conditions

We Want Your Input

- Help frame up final layout and design
- Do you have concerns about loss of drainage benefits (e.g., areas not identified for repair)?
- Do you have concerns about trees or structures located next to the ditch?
- Would you like an on-site meeting / request cards