
PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Omaha District

Application No: 2012-02129-WEH
**Project Name: Minne Lusa Stormwater Conveyance
Sewer and Detention Basin Improvement Project**
Applicant: City of Omaha
**Waterway: Missouri River, tributaries and
abutting/adjacent wetlands**
Issue Date: July 16, 2015
Expiration Date: August 6, 2015

21 DAY NOTICE

Reply To:
NEBRASKA REGULATORY OFFICE – WEHRSPANN
8901 SOUTH 154TH STREET, SUITE 1
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68138-3621

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE: This public notice is issued jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Omaha District, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), P.O. Box 98922, State House Station, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509. NDEQ will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. NDEQ hereby incorporates this public notice as its own public notice and procedures by reference thereto. For the purposes of the NDEQ, their public notice will expire 30 days from the issue date shown above.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

APPLICANT: City of Omaha, Mr. Kirk Pfeffer, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68183.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located on 16th Street and Author C. Storz Expressway in northeast Omaha centrally located in the vicinity of 41.314571°, -95.943450°, Sections 27 and 34, Township 16 North, Range 13 East, Douglas County, Nebraska. The project is specifically located at the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant and within the Minne Lusa Stormwater Conveyance Sewer and Detention Basins comprised of the Pershing Basin and the Storz West Basin.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to improve and upgrade the Minne Lusa Stormwater Conveyance Sewer and Detention Basins as part of the Longterm Control Plan (LTCP) for the Combined Sewer Outflows (CSOs) as provided by the Complaint and Compliance Order by Consent between the City of Omaha and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. The projects detention basins are located in the Missouri River

Floodplain and are deficient in capacity design to sufficiently convey and store stormwater, causing the stormwater to mix with the City's combined sewer or causing flooding in the interior floodplain area of the Missouri River levee. The project will increase stormwater storage capacity and conveyance with the construction of infrastructure and improvements to the existing basins. The project will be constructed under multiple phases:

- Phase 1 (OPW-52004) includes construction of a proposed 14-foot diameter, 4,200-foot long stormwater tunnel, discharge structure and forebay;
- Phase 2 (OPW-52752) includes basin outlet improvements consisting of approximately 1,800 feet of twin 8-foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete box culvert that will cross various utilities, railroad right-of-way, Read Street, Pershing Avenue and an existing flood control levee before discharging into the existing Minne Lusa Outfall Channel that flows into the Missouri River; and
- Phase 3 (OPW-52454) includes grading for the wetland mitigation areas and modifications to the perimeter containment berm (berm is considered an earthen embankment) system to increase storage within the Storz West and Pershing Detention Basins.

In addition, the proposed improvements will include grading and reconfiguring the existing rugby fields in Storz West Basin, which are operated by the City of Omaha Parks, Recreation and Public Property Department.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The applicant's project purpose, as stated in the application, is to efficiently and safely convey stormwater collected and discharged from a 14-foot diameter stormwater tunnel to the Missouri River and to provide a means for conveyance and detention of stormwater from this tunnel to the Missouri River without entering the City's combined sewer or causing flooding in the interior floodplain area of the Missouri River levee.

The basic project purpose, as defined by the USACE, is stormwater basin maintenance.

The overall project purpose, as defined by the USACE, is to improve and upgrade the existing stormwater capacity, conveyance and detention of the Minne Lusa Stormwater Conveyance Sewer and Detention Basins to the Missouri River in Omaha, Nebraska.

SPECIAL AQUATIC SITES: The placement of permanent fill for the project will impact special aquatic sites, including wetlands. Work for all three phases will permanently impact 2.383 acres of PEMA riverine floodplain wetlands, 0.278 acres of PSSA riverine floodplain wetlands, and 185 feet of R4UBx riverine channel; for a total of 2.661 acres of riverine floodplain wetlands and 185 feet of riverine channel permanently impacted.

The placement of temporary fill for the project will temporarily impact special aquatic sites, including wetlands. Work for all three phases will temporarily impact 1.130 acres PEMA riverine floodplain wetlands and 0.139 acres PSSA riverine floodplain wetlands; for a total of 1.269 acres of riverine floodplain wetlands temporarily impacted.

The project proposes to excavate 713 cubic yards and place 22, 848 cubic yards of clean earth fill, 17 cubic yards of concrete and 150 square yards of rip rap.

Historically the site was one depressional area within the historic Missouri River floodplain and contained 12.25 acres of PFOA wetlands according to USFWS National Wetlands Inventory. The site has been dissected by a man-made earthen berm and tree removal has taken place. The site now contains 8.341 acres of a combination of PEMA/C and PFOA wetlands. The northern part of the Pershing Basin contains 6.441 acres wetlands and the Storz Basin contains 1.9 acres wetland and one concrete-lined, man-made channel that routes stormwater to an underground pipe to a lift station.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND MITIGATION: The applicant has investigated avoidance and impact minimization along this alternative. Additionally, the applicant has conducted an alternatives analysis for 6 alternatives on the project; 1) a no action alternative, 2) to combine the Storz West and Pershing Detention Basins and construct a new open channel overflow outlet to the outfall channel, 3) modification to the existing Storz West detention basin and construct a new open channel overflow outlet to the outfall channel, 4) to utilize the existing Storz West detention basin and construct a new tunnel bypass to Pershing Basin, 5) to extend the proposed tunnel to the outfall channel, and 6) the applicant's preferred alternative to combine the Storz West and Pershing Basins and construct a new box culvert outlet to the outfall channel. The applicant is not able to avoid impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S., as the basin areas that need to improvements have wetlands within and abutting the basins and conveyance structures.

Impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. were minimized by locating the berm on the furthest extent of the basin property boundaries, where fewer wetlands are located, relocating the access road in upland areas to the maximum extent practicable, reducing the access road from 20-feet to 12-feet wide , and designing the berm with a 3:1 side slope. Impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. were avoided by designing the project without grading the bottom of the basins and avoiding impacts to approximately 6 acres of jurisdictional wetlands.

The applicant proposes to mitigate wetland impacts resulting from placement of permanent fill for the construction of the proposed project. The project will permanently impact 2.661 acres of emergent wetlands. These impacts will be mitigated on-site and in-kind by creation of emergent (PEMA and PSSA) wetlands. The applicant proposes to create 5.322 acres of emergent wetlands to achieve a 2:1 mitigation ratio. A final mitigation plan completed in accordance with the 2008 mitigation rule will be required to be submitted by the applicant and approved by the USACE prior to any permit issuance.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The USACE is the lead Federal Agency for the proposed project and is responsible to ensure compliance with the National Historic Properties Act of 1966. In a letter dated June 12, 2015, the applicant requested concurrence of no adverse impact from the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS). As of the date of this publication the applicant has not received concurrence from NSHS. We will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Office, Tribes and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a

survey of the permit area to check for unknown historic or prehistoric properties, if warranted.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The USACE is the lead Federal Agency for the proposed project and is responsible to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act. In a letter dated June 12, 2015, the applicant requested concurrence of no effect from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGP). As of the date of this publication the applicant has not received concurrence from USFWS or NGP. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and other interested agencies and individuals.

FLOODPLAIN: The USACE is the lead Federal Agency for the proposed project and is responsible to ensure compliance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. The applicant has submitted a request for a floodplain/floodway development permit for this maintenance project from the Floodplain Administrator for the City of Omaha.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as an application to the state in which the discharge site is located for certification of the discharge. The discharge must be certified before a Department of the Army permit can be issued. Certification, if issued, expresses the State's opinion that the discharge will not violate applicable water quality standards.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The decision whether to issue the USACE permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed/completed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against their reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

COMMENTS: The USACE is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and Local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed/completed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to the Nebraska Regulatory Office – Wehrspann, 8901 South 154th Street, Suite 1, Omaha, NE 68138-3621. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic system's functional values, cumulative and secondary effects and endangered species. All comments received will be considered public information; copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commentors, may be provided to the applicant unless confidentiality is requested. Comments must be submitted on or before the expiration date (located at the top of the first page) of this notice to be considered in the subsequent actions on this application.

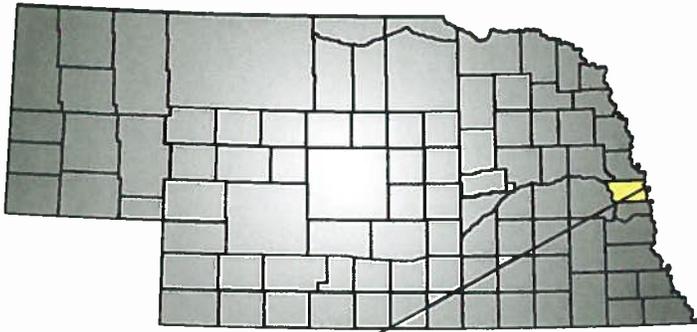
PUBLIC HEARING: Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information about this application may be obtained by writing to Amy Gavin at the address shown on page one or by calling her at (402) 896-0896. You can also e-mail her at Amy.K.Gavin2@usace.army.mil.

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page one.

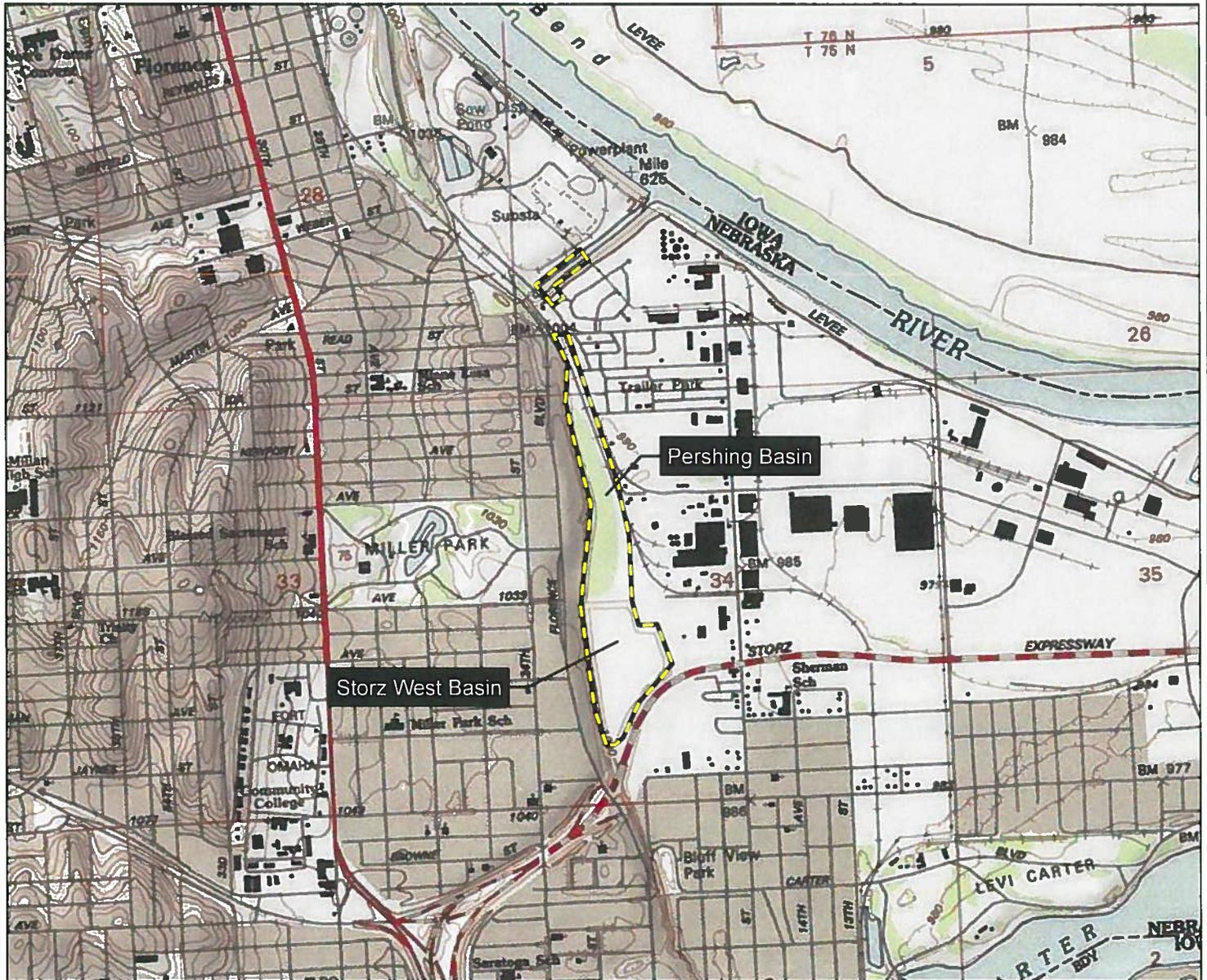
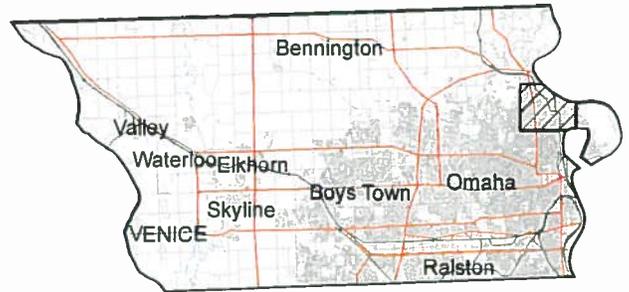
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NEBRASKA



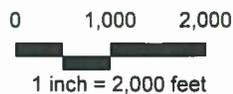
Project Location

DOUGLAS COUNTY



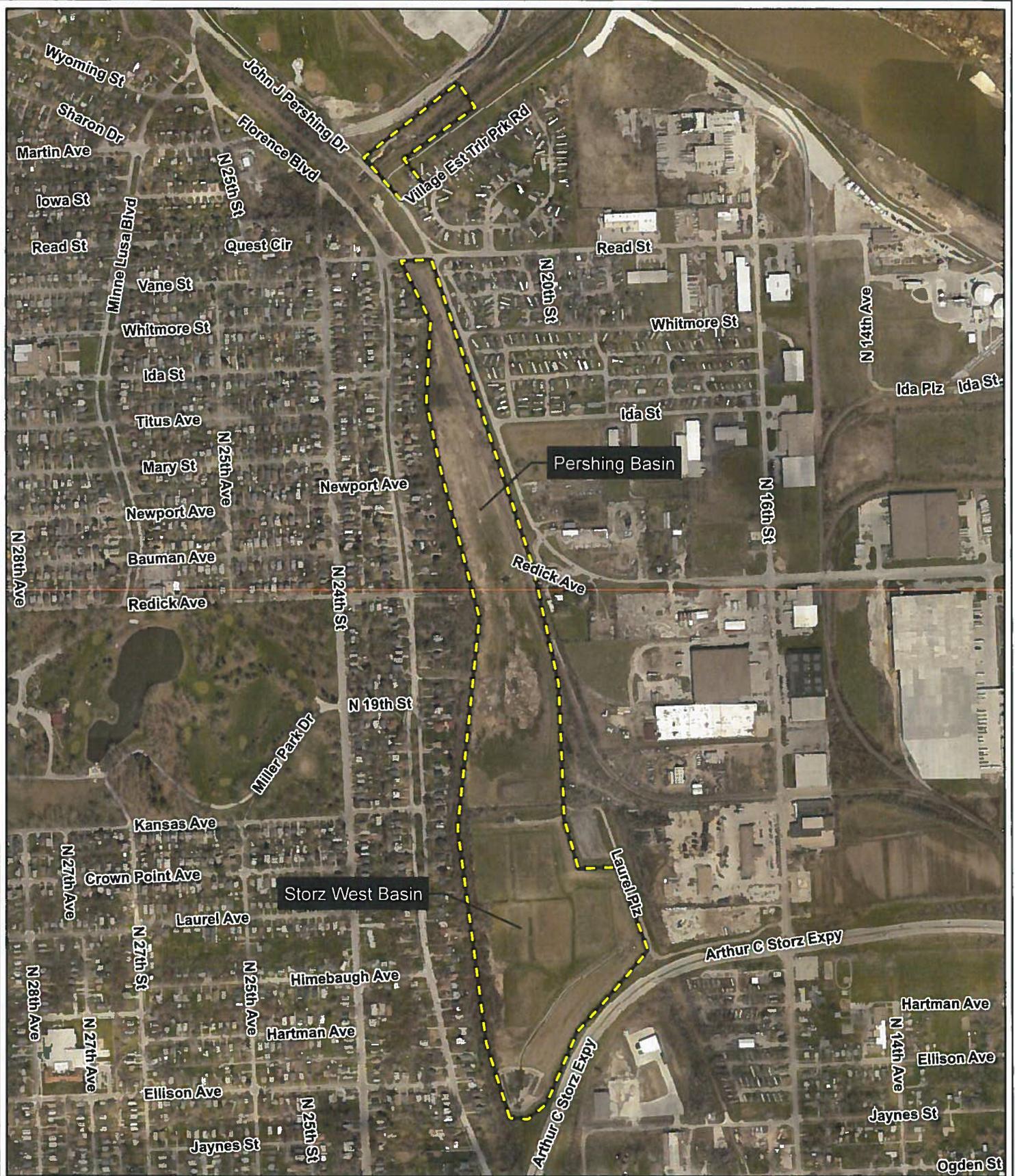
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Minne Lusa CSO
Olsson Project # 010-1976
Omaha, Nebraska
Location Map
Figure 18-1
Page 3

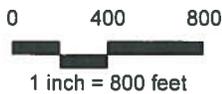


Legend





Data Source: ESRI: USA Topo Map



Legend

Study Area

Minne Lusa CSO
 Olsson Project # 010-1976
 Omaha, Nebraska
Site Map
 Figure 18-2
 Page 4



FILENAME: F:\Projects\1010-1976 - W155\1010-1976 - W155\1010-1976 - Proposed Conditions.dwg DATE PLOTTED: 8/13/2008 8:42 AM DRAWN BY: XXX PLOT SCALE: 1:2



SITE OVERVIEW - PROPOSED CONDITIONS

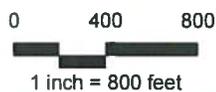
CITY OF OMAHA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OPW 52454 & 52752 18-3





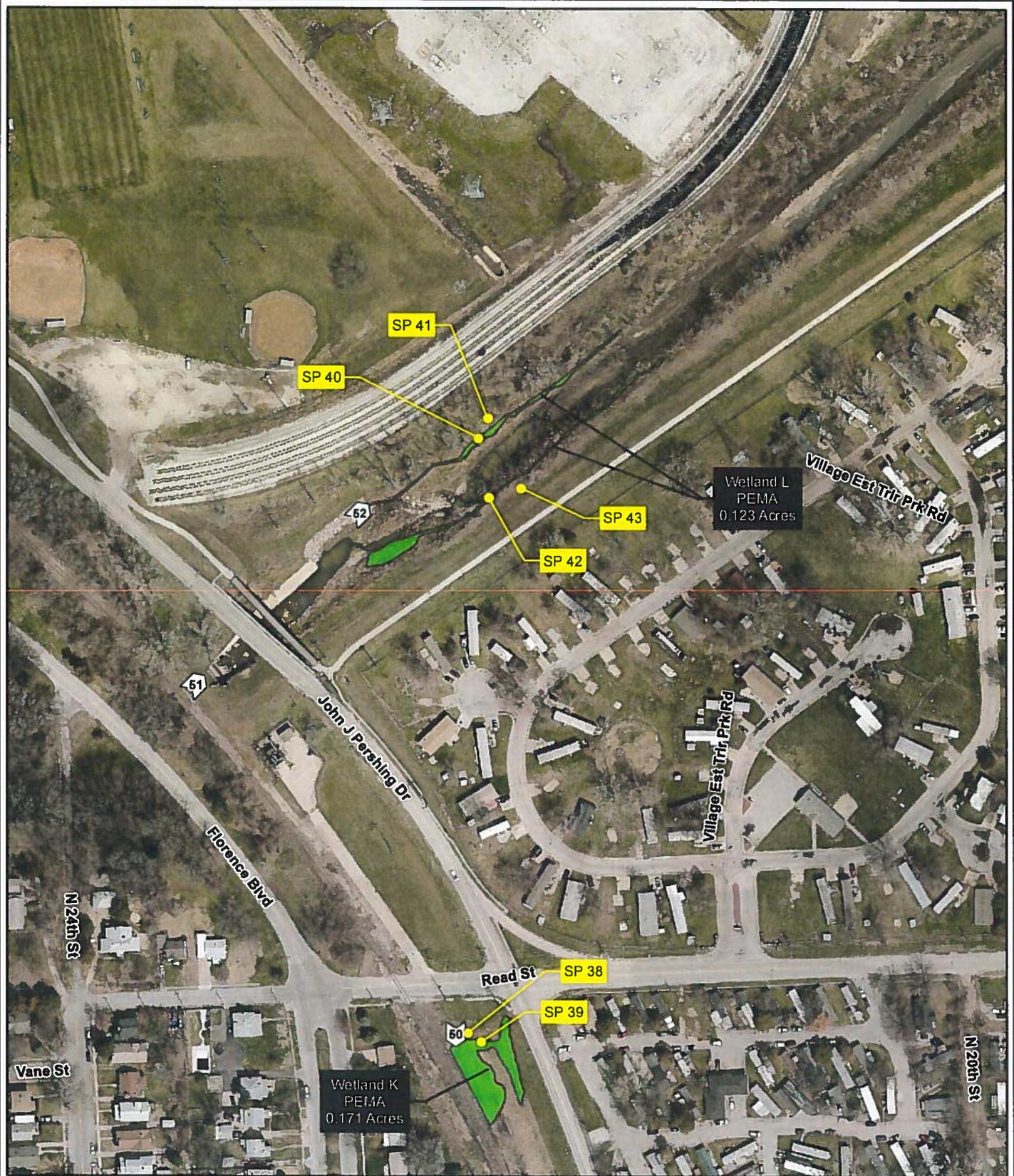
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- Study Area
- NHD Flowline
- SSURGO Soils
- Wetland
- Lake
- River

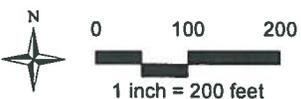
Minne Lusa CSO
 Olsson Project # 010-1976
 Omaha, Nebraska
NWI and SSURGO Map
 Figure 3



Data Source: ESRI: USA Topo Map

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- Sample Point
- Photo Point
- Wetland
- PEMA
- PSSA
- PFOA

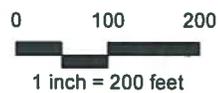


Minne Lusa CSO
 Olsson Project # 010-1976
 Omaha, Nebraska
Delineation Map
 Figure 4A

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Data Source: ESRI: USA Topo Map

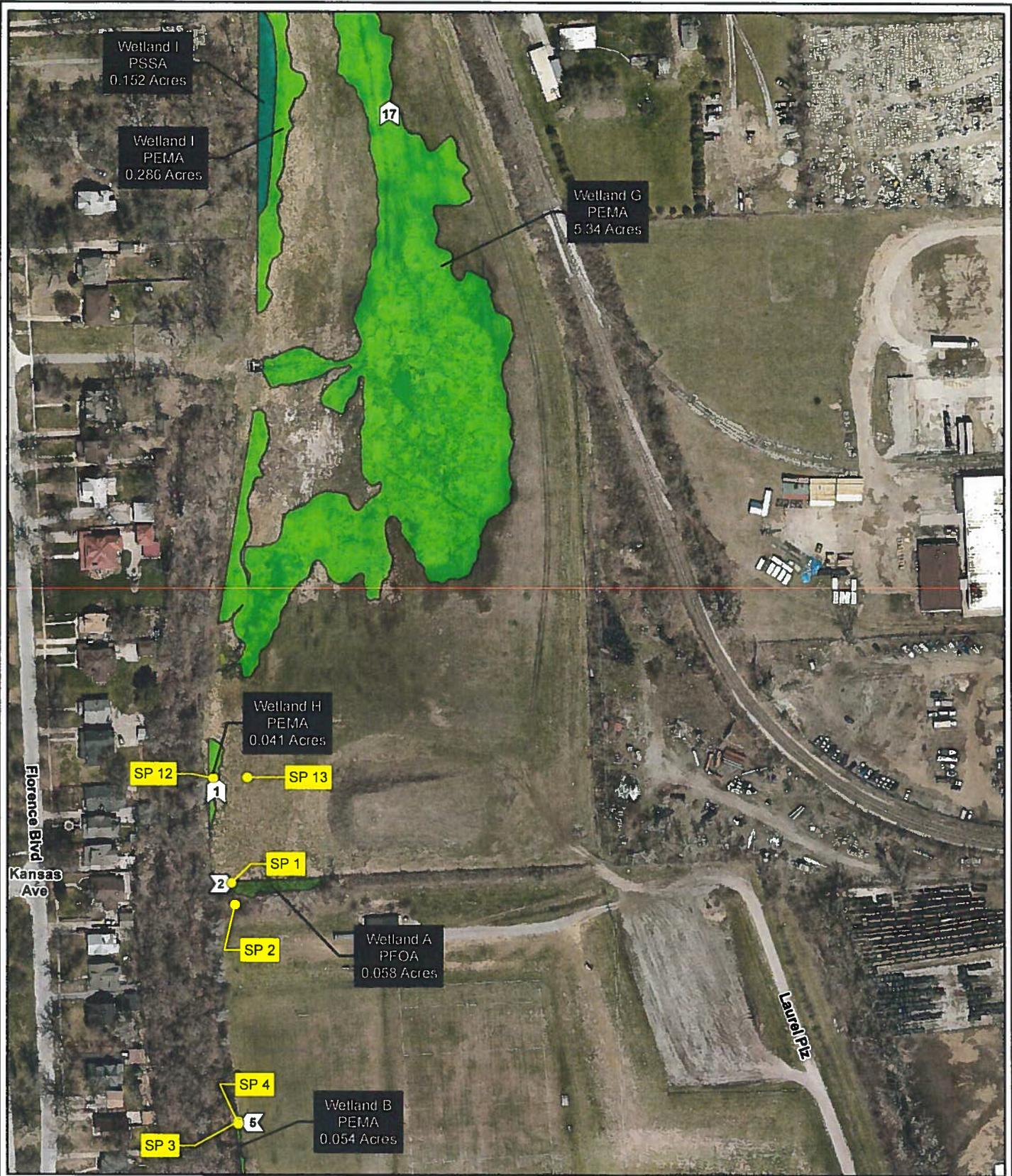


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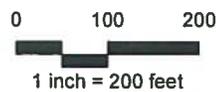
- Sample Point
- Photo Point
- Wetland**
- PEMA
- PSSA
- PFOA

Minne Lusa CSO
 Olsson Project # 010-1976
 Omaha, Nebraska
Delineation Map
 Figure 4B

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Data Source: ESRI: USA Topo Map



Legend

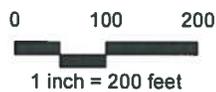
- Sample Point
- Photo Point
- Wetland**
- PEMA
- PSSA
- PFOA

Minne Lusa CSO
 Olsson Project # 010-1976
 Omaha, Nebraska
 Delineation Map
 Figure 4C

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Data Source: ESRI: USA Topo Map



Legend

- Sample Point
- Photo Point
- Wetland
- PEMA
- PSSA
- PFOA

Minne Lusa CSO
 Olsson Project # 010-1976
 Omaha, Nebraska
 Delineation Map
 Figure 4D



URS **OLSSON** **ASSOCIATES**

BASIN ALTERNATIVES - ALTERNATIVE 2
BASIN EMBANKMENT AND BOX CULVERT OPTION

CITY OF OMAHA
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OPW-52454 **23-1B**

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URS **OLSSON**

**BASIN ALTERNATIVES - ALTERNATIVE 5
CONCRETE LINED OPEN CHANNEL OPTION**

CITY OF OMAHA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OPW-52454 23-4B

FILENAME: F:\Projects\010-1976\0PW-52454-Mine.Lead.Storm.Water.Sewer\CAD\Drawings\Drawings\USACE Alternatives Analysis\0PW-52454-Alternative 5-Concrete Lined Open Channel Option.dwg
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SEEDING TYPE:
 PROPOSED MITIGATION WETLAND - SEEDING MIX "D"
 PROPOSED UPLAND BUFFER - SEEDING MIX "PRAIRIE PLUS 7 AND BIT O' PRAIRIE"



- EXISTING WETLAND
(8.469 AC)
- PERMANENT IMPACTS
(2.661 AC)
- TEMPORARY IMPACTS
(1.269 AC)

NOTE: TEMPORARY IMPACTS TO EXISTING WETLANDS ARE TO BE RESTORED WITH SEEDING MIX 'D'

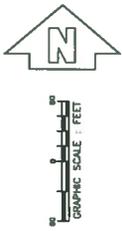
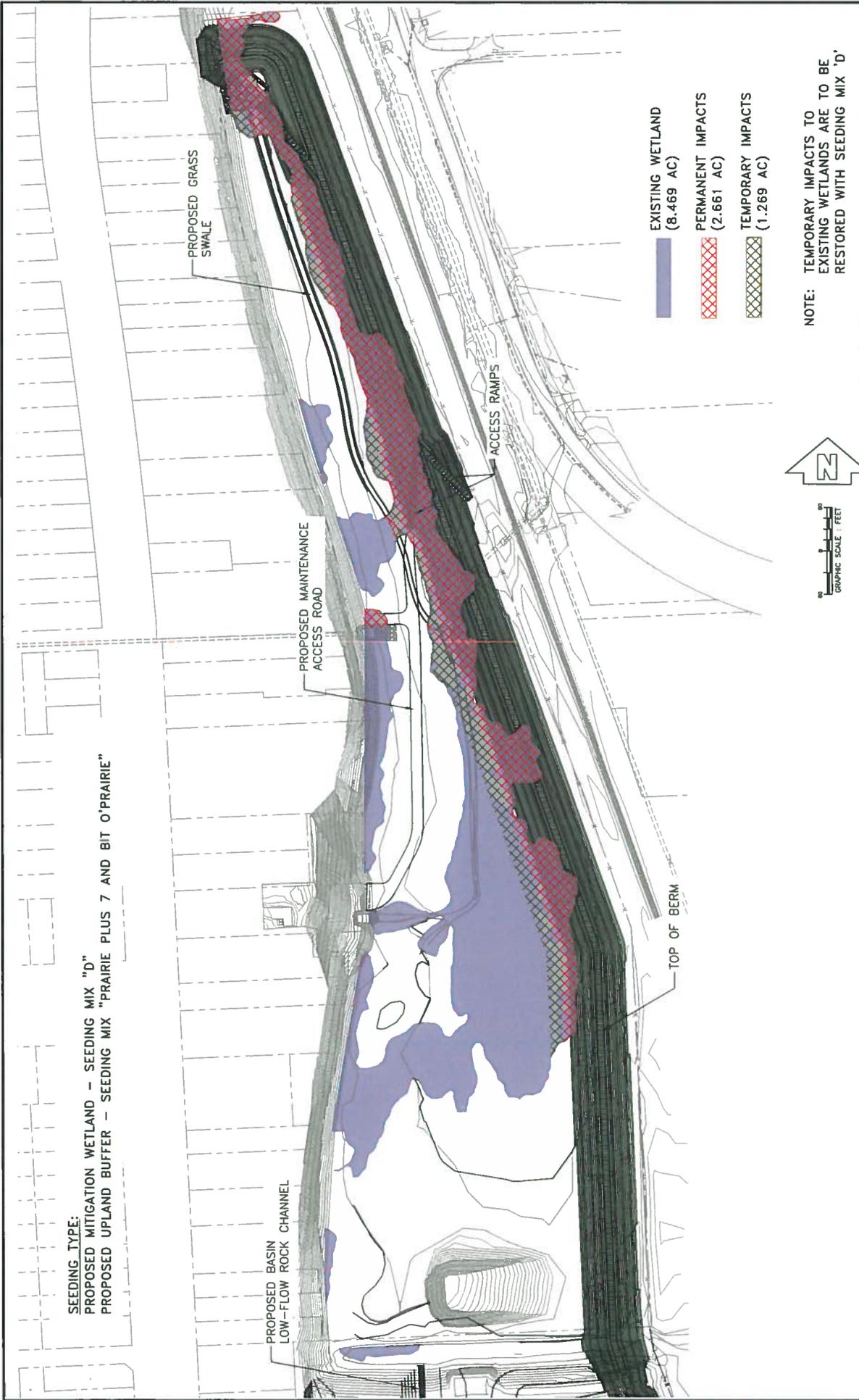


WETLAND IMPACTS MAP

CITY OF OMAHA
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

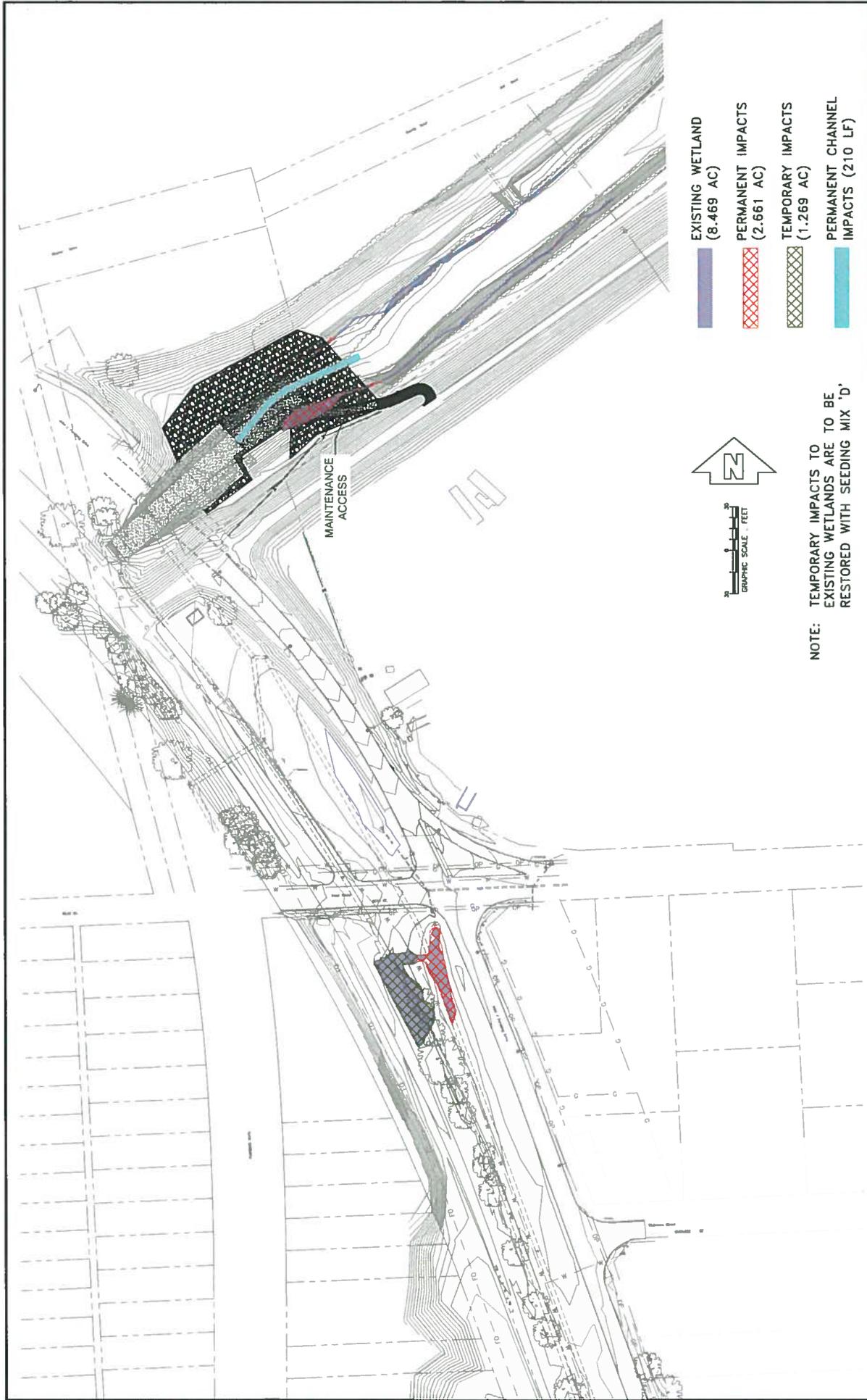
OPW 52454 22-1

SEEDING TYPE:
 PROPOSED MITIGATION WETLAND - SEEDING MIX "D"
 PROPOSED UPLAND BUFFER - SEEDING MIX "PRAIRIE PLUS 7 AND BIT O' PRAIRIE"



NOTE: TEMPORARY IMPACTS TO EXISTING WETLANDS ARE TO BE RESTORED WITH SEEDING MIX 'D'

- EXISTING WETLAND (8.469 AC)
- PERMANENT IMPACTS (2.661 AC)
- TEMPORARY IMPACTS (1.269 AC)



- EXISTING WETLAND
(8.469 AC)
- PERMANENT IMPACTS
(2.661 AC)
- TEMPORARY IMPACTS
(1.269 AC)
- PERMANENT CHANNEL
IMPACTS (210 LF)



NOTE: TEMPORARY IMPACTS TO EXISTING WETLANDS ARE TO BE RESTORED WITH SEEDING MIX 'D'