

Meeting: Board of Managers
Meeting date: 4/10/2025
Agenda Item #: 10.1
Item type: Permit

Title: Permit #24-525: 26275 Smithtown Road Driveway and Utility Installation

Prepared by: Name: Veronica Sannes, Permitting Technician

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Recommendation:

Approval of MCWD permit 24-525 in accordance with the submitted plans and with the following conditions:

- Payment of permit application, mailing, and engineering review fees
- Submit a draft Maintenance Declaration in accordance with the Waterbody Crossings and Structures Rule and on MCWD approval, file with Hennepin County and provide MCWD a stamped copy
- Submit final phone, cable, gas, and electric utility plans for MCWD review for conformance with the Waterbody Crossing and Structures rule before the associated work begins
- Submit contractor contact information for inspection report communication
- Before culvert installation begins, MCWD staff will be notified 5 business days in advance via email

Project Location and Scope

Location and Hydrology:

The Project area is located at 26275 Smithtown Road, Shorewood, within the Lake Minnetonka subwatershed. The onsite stream, Pebble Creek, is a first-order, intermittent stream that receives runoff from approximately 12 acres. Pebble Creek flows north into a wetland complex before eventually draining into East Upper Lake of Lake Minnetonka.

The 26275 Smithtown Road parcel was originally 2.38 acres and was subdivided into two parcels, Parcel A and B, at the October 15th, 2024 Shorewood City Council meeting. Parcel A is 0.92 acres and Parcel B is 1.46 acres. The proposed work is occurring on Parcel B, but the "site" as defined for MCWD regulatory purposes is Parcel A and B together, as they are contiguous parcels under common ownership. Attachment A provides a project area map and Attachment B contains the existing and proposed site plans.

Project Purpose and Scope:

Rick, Tony, and Amy Denman (Applicant) have applied for a Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) permit to install an approximately 500-foot long and 12-foot wide driveway across Pebble Creek, a first-order stream, and to install water, sanitary sewer, phone, cable, gas, and electric utility crossings beneath the stream (Project) at 26275 Smithtown Road in the City of Shorewood. Water and sanitary sewer line plans are currently provided and staff recommends as a condition of the permit that utility plans for the phone, cable, gas, and electric lines be required before utility installation. A future single-family home is not encompassed by this permit and will need additional future Erosion Control permitting.

Regulatory Framework and Triggers:

The MCWD's Erosion Control, Waterbody Crossings and Structures, and Floodplain Alteration rules apply to the Project. The Stormwater Managment rule is not applicable for this project as the proposed work is single-family residential construction on an existing lot of record creating less than an acre of hard surface (section 2(b)1). If future house construction, together with the hard surface presently constructed, should exceed one acre, the rule would apply to the total amount of hard surface. MCWD staff and District Engineer have reviewed the Project and concluded that it meets the applicable MCWD rules. The Project is before the Board of Managers due to public request received during the public notice period.

MCWD Rule Analysis:

Erosion Control Rule

MCWD's <u>Erosion Control Rule</u> applies to projects that propose to disturb more than 5,000 square feet or move 50 cubic yards or more of material. The Project proposes to disturb 0.32 acres (13,939 square feet) and have an excavation volume of approximately 300 cubic yards of material; therefore, the rule applies. The Applicant has provided an erosion control plan, shown in Attachment B, which includes perimeter control around the construction limits, silt fence between the proposed work and Pebble Creek, a rock construction entrance, erosion control blankets and seed on all disturbed areas, and a rock ditch check downstream of the proposed in-stream work to encourage sediment settling. Staff have reviewed the permit application and have found it to be complete and compliant with all Erosion Control Rule requirements.

Waterbody Crossings and Structures Rule

MCWD's <u>Waterbody Crossings and Structures Rule</u> applies when a roadway bridge, boardwalk, utility, conveyance, or associated structure is proposed below the top of bank of a waterbody, any such structure is proposed to be placed beneath a waterbody, or when a project proposes to enclose any part of a waterbody within a pipe or culvert. The Project proposes four 24" high-density polyethylene (HDPE) culverts to convey the flow of Pebble Creek beneath a driveway crossing, therefore, the rule applies. The Project also proposes subsurface crossings for water, sanitary sewer, phone, cable, gas, and electric lines, which also triggers the rule.

Section 3(a) states that the use of the bed or bank of a waterbody must meet a demonstrated specific need. The need for the culvert and utility installment is to provide vehicular access and utility access to the proposed house. The lot size is too narrow to accommodate home construction on the northern section of parcel, therefore it is necessary to cross Pebble Creek to access the parcel's buildable area. MCWD practice considers this to meet the criterion of demonstrated need.

Section 3(b) requires that the Project retain hydraulic capacity and a project in a watercourse may not increase upstream or downstream flood stage. The Project is in a watercourse and applicant has modeled the proposed culverts and found there is no increase in upstream or downstream flood stage. The changes in the 100-year high water elevations are outlined in the table below. The MCWD engineer has reviewed the analysis and concurs in it.

Location	Existing 100-Year Elevation	Proposed 100-Year Elevation	Change in 100-Year	
	(ft)	(ft)	Elevation (ft)	
Upstream of Culvert	955.82	955.80	-0.02	
Downstream of Culvert	955.00	954.80	-0.20	

Table 1. 100-Year High Water Level Summary

Section 3(c) requires that the Project preserve navigational capacity. There is no navigational capacity in the existing or proposed condition. Pebble Creek is an intermittent stream with low flows that are not capable of navigation.

Section 3(d) requires that aquatic and upland wildlife passage be preserved. Due to the low flows, there is little to no aquatic wildlife passage in the existing condition, and that passage capacity will be maintained. The sizing of the culverts allows for passage of small wildlife within the culverts. The proposed driveway will also not prohibit passage of deer or other wildlife that would cross in the area.

Section 3(e) requires that the crossing be designed to not promote erosion or scour, or otherwise affect bed or bank stability or water quality within the waterbody. The proposed design includes riprap downstream of the culvert to disperse flows. The design has been reviewed by the District engineer to ensure that the proposal has appropriate invert elevations and downstream dispersion of flows so as to not promote erosion, scour, or adversely affect water quality.

Section 3(f) requires that the crossing be the "minimal impact" solution to the specific need. The Project must meet the demonstrated need of creating access to the proposed home and not increasing upstream or downstream flood stage while being the minimal impact solution. The applicant reviewed the 4 alternative designs below, and further states that they modeled many other culvert designs to reduce the number of culverts while not increasing upstream or downstream flood stage.

<u>Alternative 1 – No-build</u>: A no-build alterative does not meet the Project need as it would not allow access to the future house.

<u>Alternative 2 – Bridge</u>: Due to the curvature of Pebble Creek, if a bridge were proposed, it would need to be 40-feet long with a foundation and abutments. The foundation and abutments would need to extend below the creek. From a constructability perspective, staff concurs that this alternative is infeasible and not the minimal impact solution.

<u>Alternative 3 – Concrete Box Culvert</u>: If a concrete box culvert were proposed which did not increase upstream or downstream stage, a 6-foot concrete box culvert would be required to be constructed. Due to the angle of the creek, a custom box culvert would be required. This alternative would require additional heavy-duty equipment to install the culvert, and therefore due to constructability, staff concurs that this alternative is infeasible and not the minimal impact solution.

<u>Alternative 4 – Arch Culverts</u>: An alternative using two 49" x 33" CMP arch pipes was modeled and found to not increase upstream or downstream flood stage. However, due to the angle of the creek, there would likely be constructability issues with the end sections that may lead to encroachment onto nearby properties. Because the pipes are wider, they necessitate wider end sections which would need to be placed in an area that is already constrained by property boundaries.

MCWD Staff and District Engineer have reviewed the alternatives analysis and modeling for the culverts and have found that the proposal meets the minimal impact criterion.

Sections 3(g)1 & 2 require that subsurface crossings provide a minimum clearance of three feet below the bed of a waterbody and a setback of at least 100 feet from the waterbody bank for pilot, entrance, and exit holes associated with horizontal directional drilling. If the 100-foot setback cannot be feasibly provided, the setback may be reduced on the basis of an erosion control plan and other appropriate measures that will preserve streambank integrity and prevent sediment movement. The Applicant proposes to install water, sanitary sewer, phone, cable, gas, and electric lines beneath Pebble Creek. The water and sanitary sewer lines are proposed for immediate construction and will have three feet of clearance beneath the creek. The other utilities will be contracted at the time of the home construction. The plans note that the crossings must have a minimum clearance of three feet below Pebble Creek and that bore holes must be set back at least 100 feet from the waterbody bank. The resubmission of plans with updated utility plans is recommended as a condition of the permit.

Section 3(h) regulates sanitary sewer force mains or siphon crossings. The proposed sanitary sewer line is not a force main, and therefore not regulated under this section.

Floodplain Alteration Rule

MCWD's <u>Floodplain Alteration Rule</u> applies when a project proposes to fill, excavate, or grade within the floodplain of a waterbody. Because the project proposes fill and excavation within the floodplain of Pebble Creek, the rule is triggered.

Section 2(b) of the Floodplain Alteration Rule states that a structure intended for residential occupancy must be constructed so that door and window openings are at least two feet above the 100-year high water elevation of the waterbody. The future single-family home is not encompassed under permit 24-525, and therefore the freeboard requirement is not applicable.

Section 4(a) states that any floodplain fill must be offset so there is no loss in flood storage between the ordinary high water (OHW) and 100-year floodplain elevation. The Project proposes 13.36 cubic yards of fill within the 100-year floodplain of the stream. This fill is due to the culvert installation. To offset the fill, the applicant proposes 15.51 cubic yards of compensatory storage, resulting in the creation of 2.15 cubic yards of net floodplain storage.

Section 4(b) states that fill within a watercourse must meet the following criterion:

1. No impervious surface may be placed within the 10-year floodplain or within 25 feet of the watercourse centerline, whichever greater, unless the surface is: (1) no more than 10% of the site 10-year floodplain area; or (2) a linear component of a public roadway or trail: The Project proposes impervious surface for the driveway

within 25 feet of the centerline of Pebble Creek. However, the proposed impervious surface is not within the 10-year floodplain of Pebble Creek as the 10-year floodplain elevation directly upstream of the culvert is 995.13 feet and the driveway elevation is 957.5 feet. Therefore, the project conforms to section 4(b)1, as the proposed impervious surface is less than 10% of the site's 10-year floodplain area.

2. Applicant must meet the No-Rise Standard: The Applicant has submitted modeling in the form of HydroCAD models showing that the proposed culvert and associated fill meets the No Rise Standard by not increasing the 100-year high water level by more than 0.00 ft from the existing to proposed condition. As shown in Table 1, the 100-year high water level is shown to decrease both upstream and downstream of the culvert.

Public Request for Board Review:

As a part of the MCWD review process, a public notice (Attachment C) was sent to property owners within 600 feet of the Project parcel, in which comments, questions, and request for consideration by the Board of Managers could be received. During the public notice period which started February 19th and concluded March 5th, MCWD received two public comments (see Attachment D). After receiving the comments, MCWD met with one of the concerned property owners and the Shorewood City Engineer to discuss the project and the property owner's concerns. The following concerns have been raised by the two commenting property owners:

- 1. Potential effects on wetland and watershed health: Concerns that development, changes to the creek, and less vegetation will have adverse effects on the downstream wetland and that the project does not align with MCWD's wetland protection goals.
- 2. Impact to the bed and bank of Pebble Creek: Concerns that the project is not adequately protecting the bed and bank of Pebble Creek.
- 3. Disruption to wildlife habitat: Concerns that the project and tree removal will result in a loss of habitat, specifically citing owls, hawks, pileated woodpeckers, turkeys, and deer.
- 4. Tree removal: Concerns that the loss of trees will have a negative effect on habitat and water quality.
- 5. Effects of grading and increased impervious surface: Concerns that the increased grading and impervious surface would have adverse effects on stormwater runoff and groundwater recharge.
- 6. Groundwater Impacts: Concerns that the project may alter the water table. The commenters have requested a hydrologic assessment for the project.
- Smithtown Ponds Construction: A commenter requested that MCWD evaluate potential violations and/or incorrect construction of the nearby Smithtown Ponds project that the City of Shorewood constructed under MCWD Permit 21-113.

MCWD staff and the District Engineer have reviewed the public comments and assessed these concerns. The following outlines MCWD's response to the concerns, within the framework of the MCWD Rules.

Wetland and Watershed Impact

Nearby property owners expressed concern that MCWD Policies are to protect wetlands, however this project isn't being reviewed for wetland impacts. The Project site drains to a downstream wetland complex before ultimately reaching Lake Minnetonka. However, there are no delineated wetlands on site, nor any wetlands identified from the National Wetland Inventory or MCWD Functional Assessment of Wetlands, and therefore the Wetland Protection rule does not apply. MCWD has reviewed the Project under the Erosion Control rule so that Best Management Practices are in place to minimize sedimentation off site and into downstream waterbodies.

Impact to Pebble Creek

Concern is raised regarding potential impacts to Pebble Creek. While installing the culverts involves some level of disturbance, the Project is being reviewed under minimal impact analysis for the Waterbody Crossings and Structures rule, to confirm that the proposed culvert is the minimal impact solution to the demonstrated need while meeting all other applicable regulations. Because of the geometry of the lot, there isn't vehicular access to the buildable parcel area without crossing Pebble Creek. As noted above, MCWD practice has been to allow a driveway crossing designed for least impact, when that is necessary to preserve buildability of a conforming residential lot. A temporary ditch check will also be installed downstream of the work to minimize sediment movement as a part of the Applicant's Erosion Control Plan.

Wildlife

Concern is raised regarding the impact that the construction and tree removal will have on wildlife habitat. While the general impact that the project and construction will have on wildlife is not regulated by MCWD, the effect that the Project will have on wildlife passage has been evaluated under the Waterbody Crossings and Structures Rule.

Tree Removal

There is concern regarding tree removal for Project construction. While MCWD does not regulate tree removal, the City of Shorewood has a tree ordinance, with a replacement requirement, that staff understands will be implemented as a part of the city building permit process.

Grading and Increased Impervious Surface

A concern is raised regarding the effect that the proposed grading and impervious surface will have, and that the increased impervious surface should be regulated. The new and reconstructed impervious surface for the driveway and future home is less than an acre (between 12,000-15,000 square feet, or 0.28-0.34 acres, depending on final design) and is part of a single-family residential development on an existing lot of record and therefore the Stormwater Management rule does not apply. However, the Applicant is proposing a filtration basin to capture and treat the runoff from the home in accordance with City stormwater regulations.

Effect on Groundwater

Nearby property owners expressed concerns about the potential impact on groundwater levels as a result of both the driveway and future single-family home. They have requested that a hydrologic assessment be a requirement. They noted that they have experienced high groundwater levels and that many homes in the neighborhood run sump pumps for their basements. While MCWD does not regulate groundwater impacts, the District Engineer does not expect changes to groundwater levels due to the proposed Project because the crossing does not impound flow to infiltrate and is designed to mimic existing flow conditions by matching grades upstream and downstream of Pebble Creek. The City of Shorewood has also discussed in its review of the proposed project that the City requires that the lowest floor of the new home be at a minimum of 4 feet above any observed groundwater and 2 feet above historic evidence of groundwater.

Smithtown Ponds

The City of Shorewood constructed the nearby "Smithtown Ponds" project (MCWD Permit 21-113) to provide rate control and reduce flows in Pebble Creek and Freeman Park Channel during high flow events, and to provide stormwater treatment for the Strawberry Lane road reconstruction project. The expressed concern is that the ponds were constructed incorrectly and are reducing flows to Pebble Creek and Freeman Park Channel for low flow events as well. The MCWD permit is not yet closed out. The City is in the process of preparing an as-built survey for the project. MCWD will review the survey in the ordinary course of business to verify whether the project was built according to the approved plan and whether any further action is required before the permit is ready to close.

Summary:

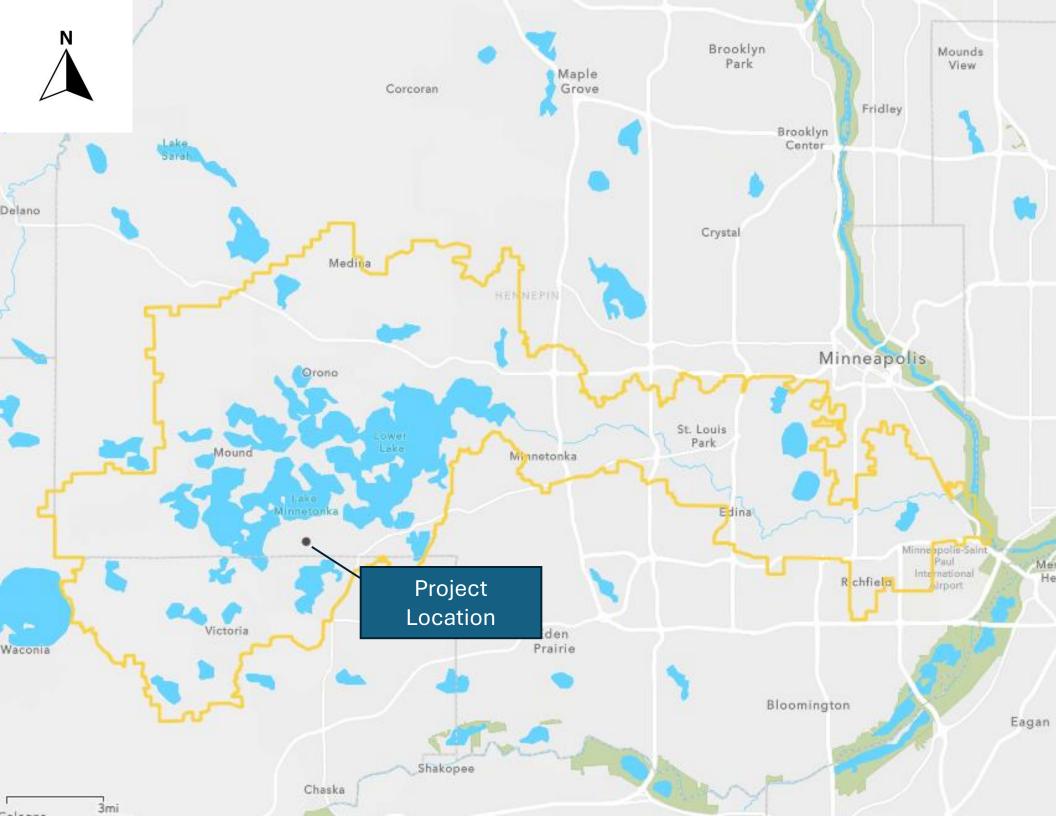
The Applicant has applied for a Minnehaha Creek Watershed District permit under the Erosion Control, Waterbody Crossings and Structures, and Floodplain Alteration Rules. Based on staff and the District Engineer analysis of the Applicant's submittals, the application meets the criteria of all applicable MCWD rules.

Staff recommends approval of the permit application with the conditions listed at the beginning of this report.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Project Location Map Attachment B – Site Plans Attachment C – Public Notice Attachment D – Public Comment

Attachment A: Project Location Map





Attachment B: Site Plans

SCALE IN FEET

EXISTING PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

EXISTING PARCEL DESCRIPTION

Lot 6, Block 1, PEBBLE BROOK ADDITION, according to the recorded plat thereof, Hennepin County, Minnesota

PROPOSED PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

PROPOSED PARCEL A DESCRIPTION

That part of Lot 6, Block 1, PEBBLE BROOK ADDITION, according to the recorded plat thereof, Hennepin County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Beginning at the most northerly northwest corner of said Lot 6; thence on an assumed bearing of South 00 degrees 14 minutes 47 seconds East, along the west line of said Lot 6 and its southerly extension, a distance of 331.06 feet; thence North 89 degrees 45 minutes 13 seconds East a distance of 120.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 14 minutes 47 seconds West a distance of 338.30 feet to the northerly line of said Lot 6; thence westerly along said northerly line of Lot 6 to the point of beginning.

Subject to a private driveway easement over and across the east 5.00 feet thereof, for the benefit of Parcel B.

PROPOSED PARCEL B DESCRIPTION

Lot 6, Block 1, PEBBLE BROOK ADDITION, according to the recorded plat thereof, Hennepin County, Minnesota, EXCEPT that part described as follows:

> Beginning at the most northerly northwest corner of said Lot 6; thence on an assumed bearing of South 00 degrees 14 minutes 47 seconds East, along the west line of said Lot 6 and its southerly extension, a distance of 331.06 feet; thence North 89 degrees 45 minutes 13 seconds East a distance of 120.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 14 minutes 47 seconds West a distance of 338.30 feet to the northerly line of said Lot 6; thence westerly along said northerly line of Lot 6 to the point of beginning.

Together with a private driveway easement over and across the east 5.00 feet of Parcel A.

NOTES

- 1. Existing parcel address is 26275 Smithtown Road, Shorewood, its property identification number is 32-117-23-42-0012. 2. Field work was completed 4/19/2024.
- 3. This survey is based on Title Commitment No 62651 dated October 13, 2024, issued by CHB Title, LLC as agent for Stewart Title Guaranty
- 4. The gross area of Existing Parcel is 2.383 Acres or 103,804 square feet. The gross area of proposed Parcel A is 0.921 Acres or 40,112 square feet. The gross area of proposed Parcel B is 1.462 Acres or 63,692 square feet.

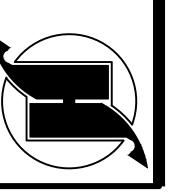
SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this survey, plan or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Licensed Land Surveyor under the laws of the State of Minnesota. That this survey does not purport to show all improvements, easements or encroachments, to the property except as shown thereon.

Signed this 17th day of May, 2024

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SUBDIVISIO SMITHTOWN ROAD DENMAN AND ADMINIST

26275

PLMDATE 5/17/2024

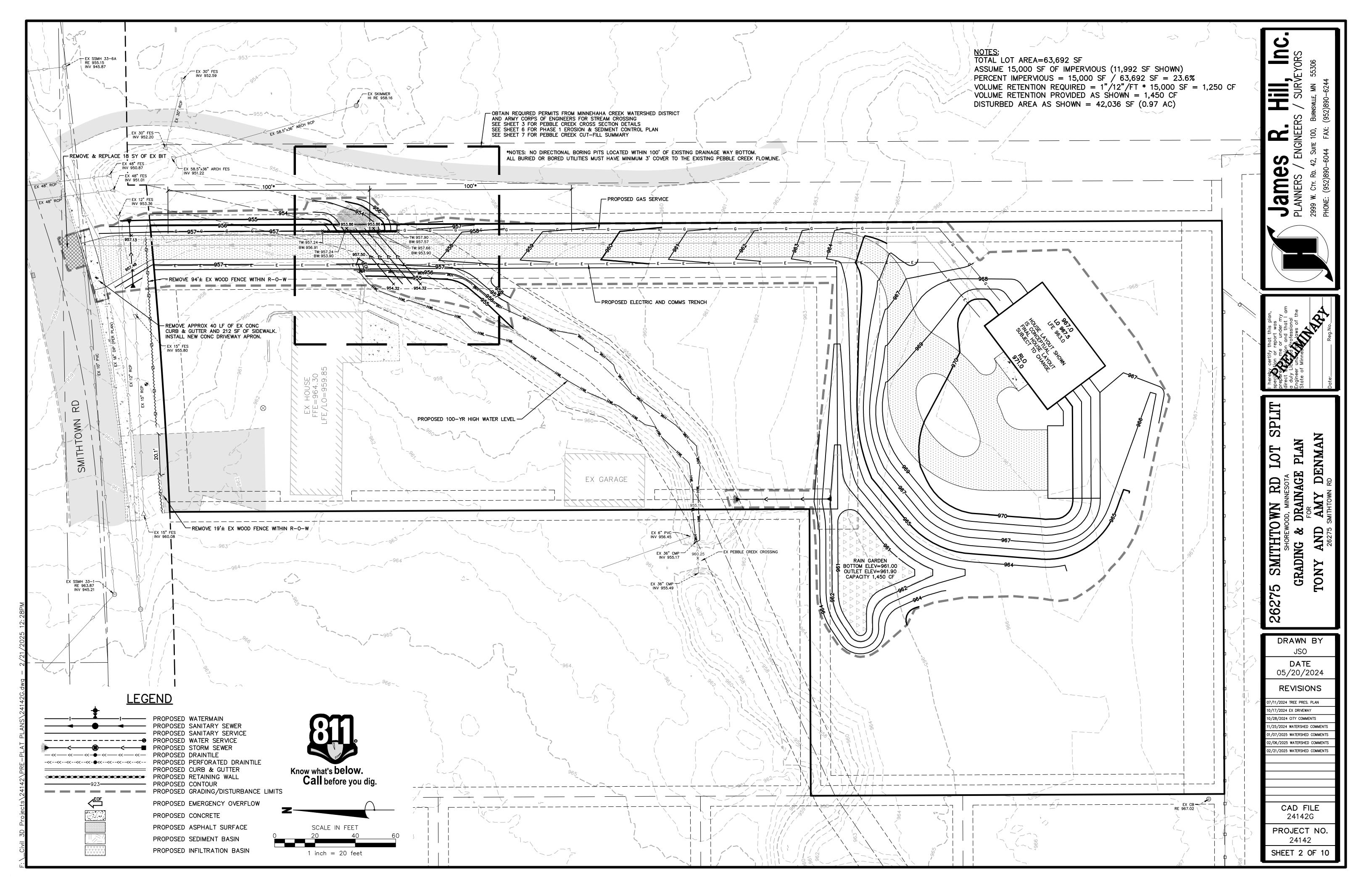
REVISIONS

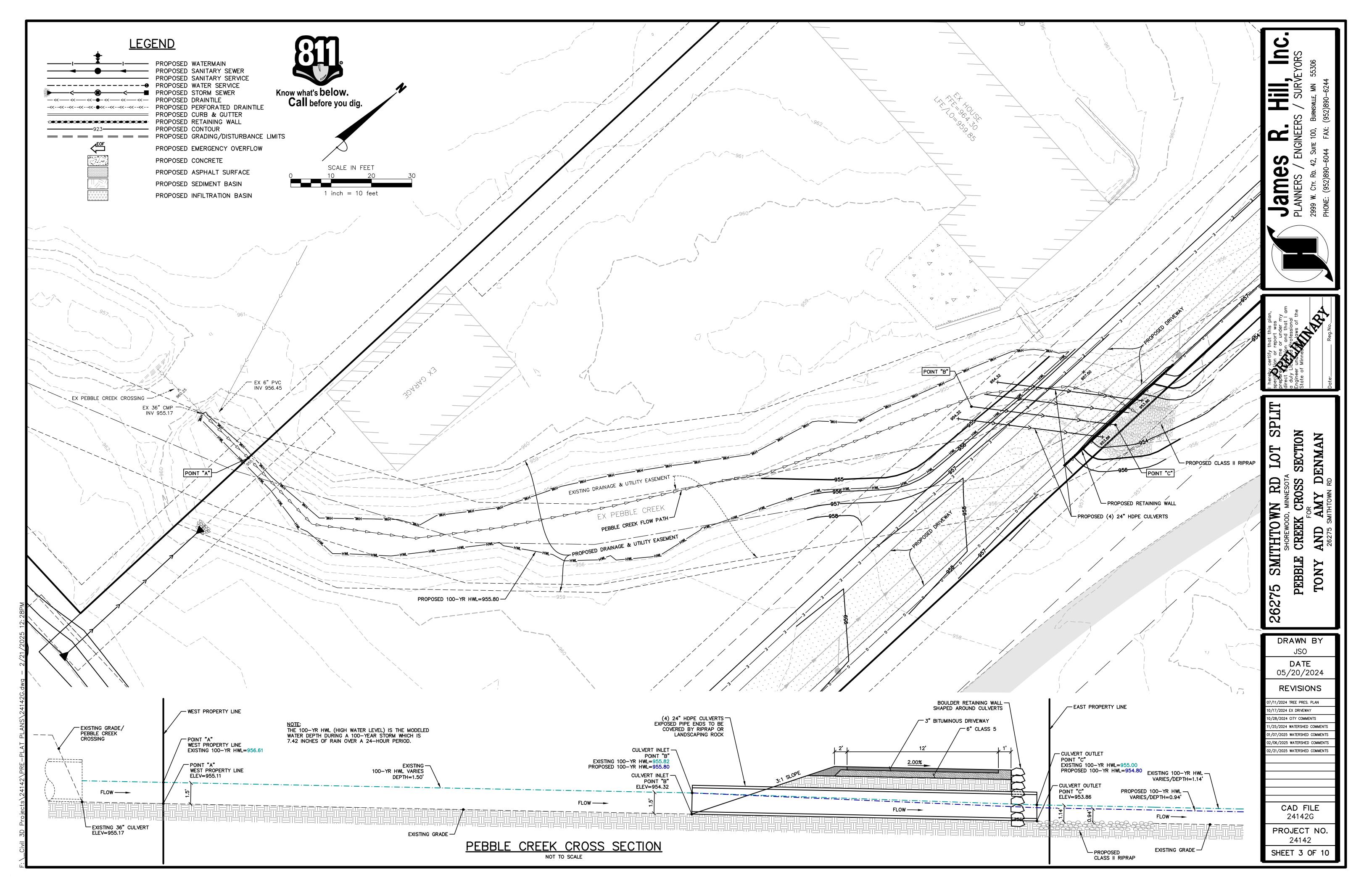
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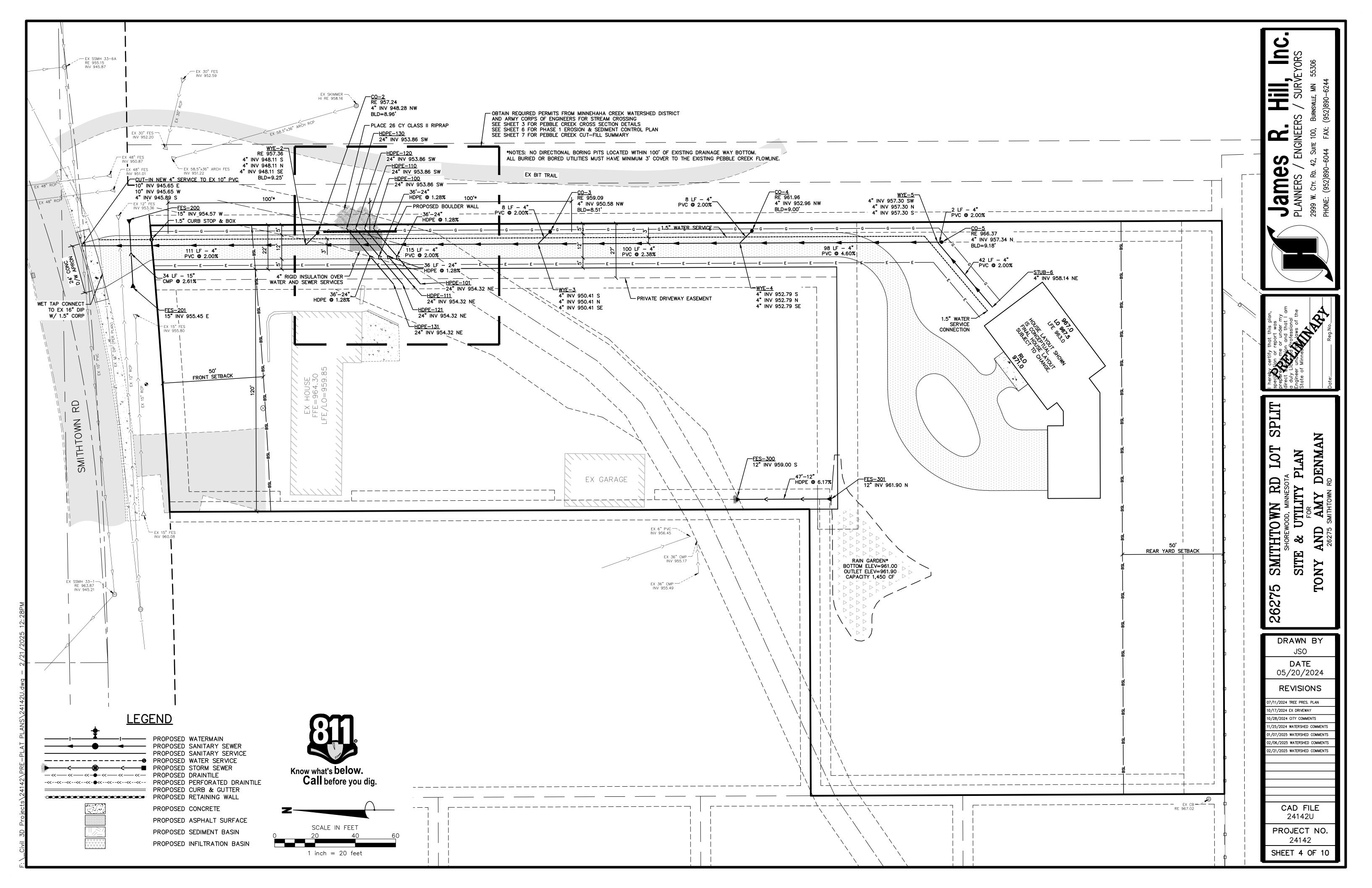
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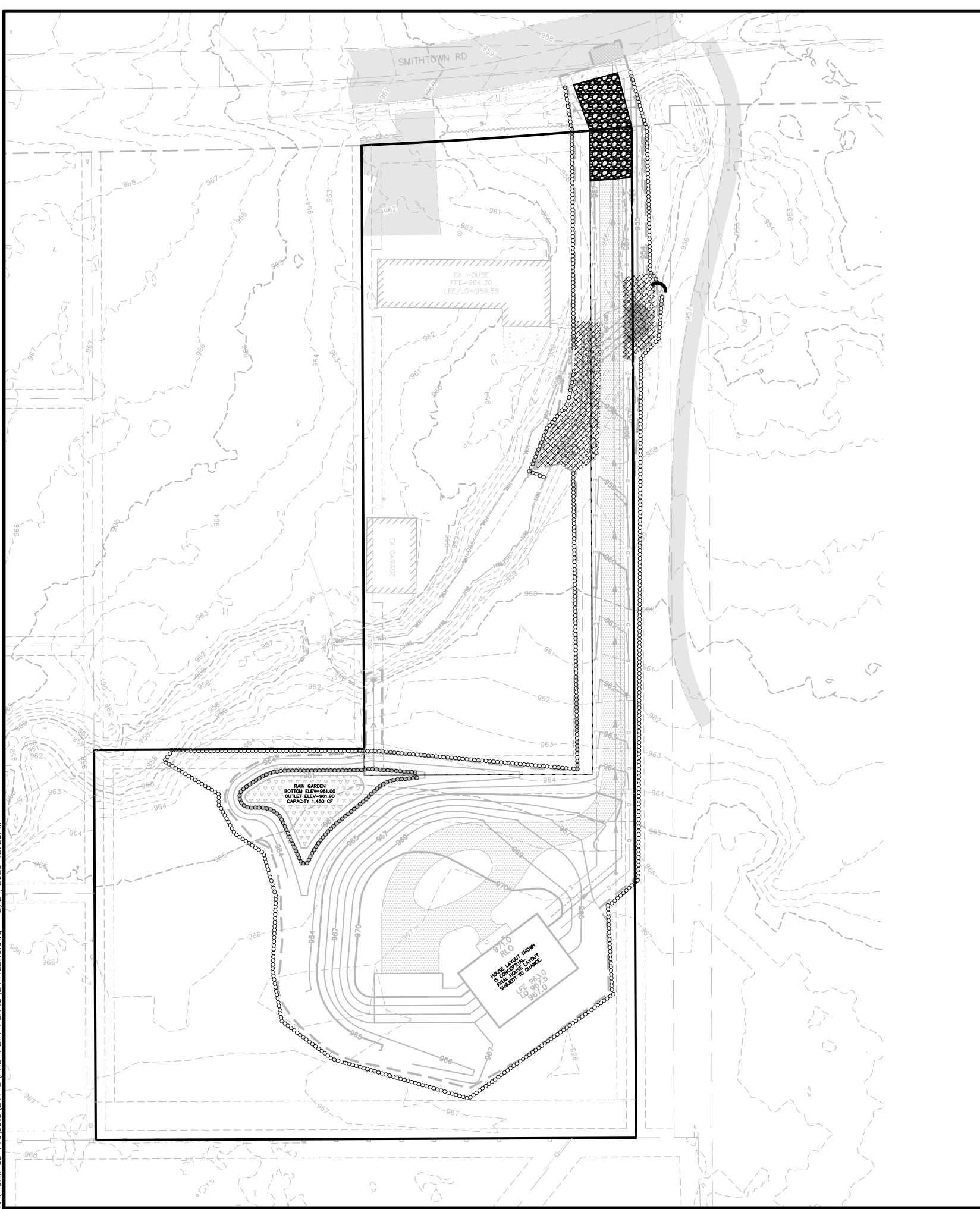
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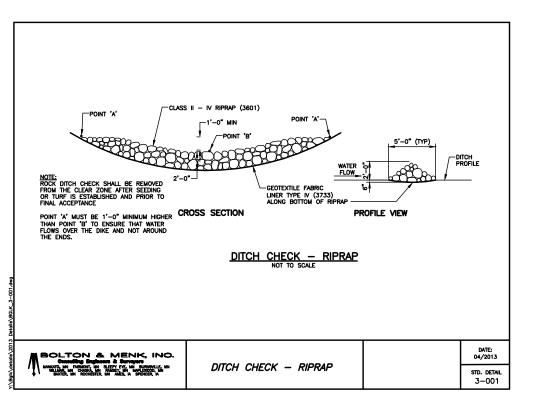
SHEET 1 OF 10

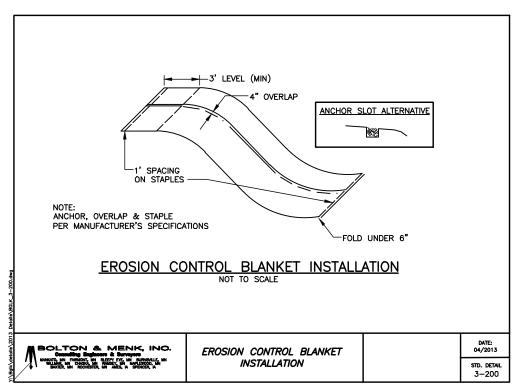


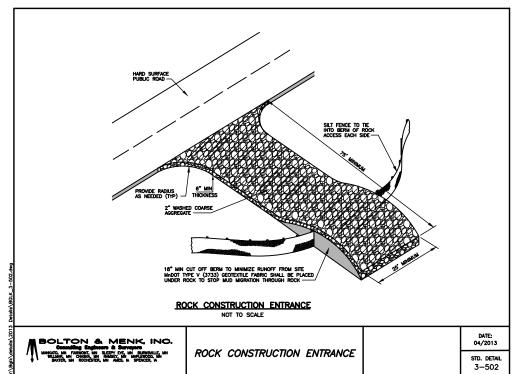


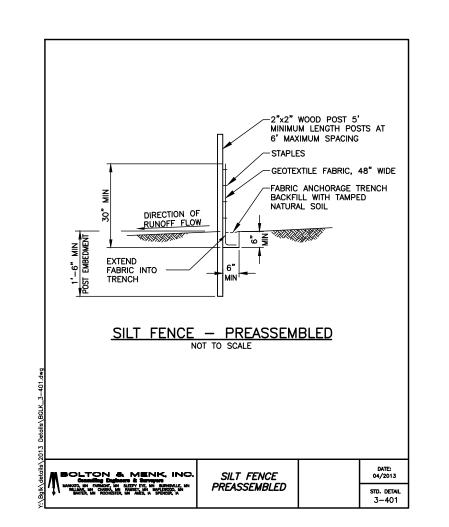


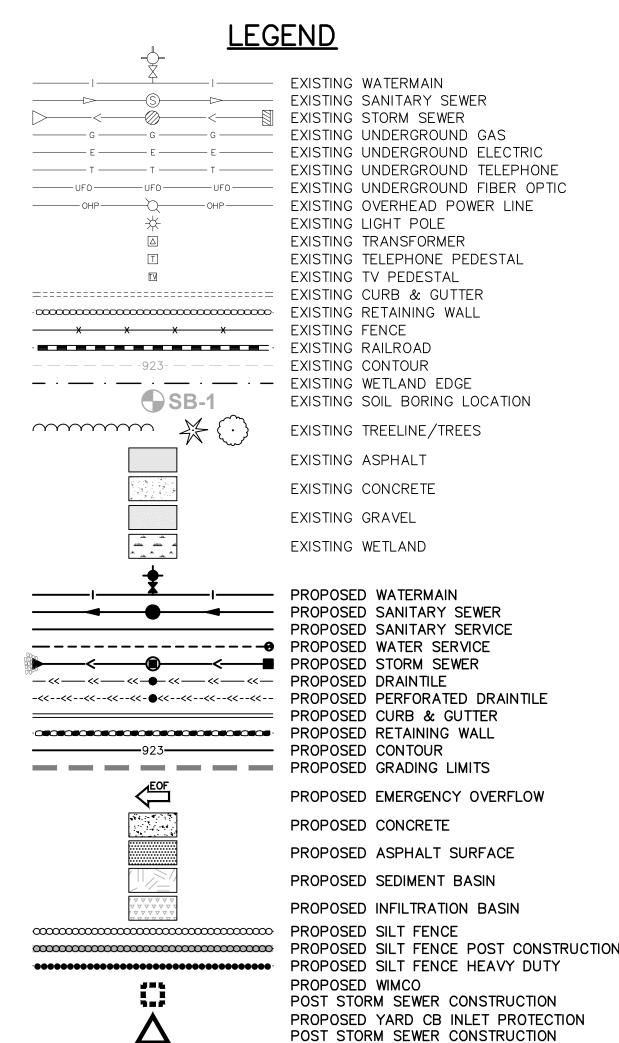






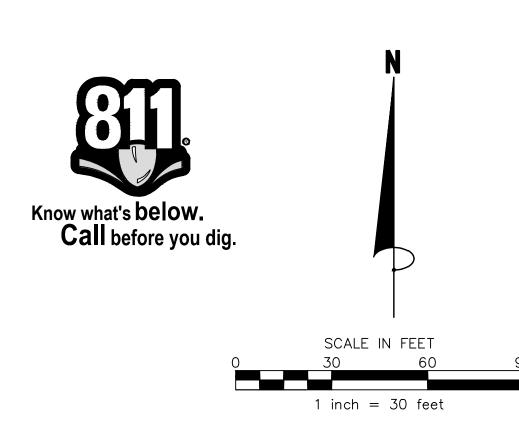


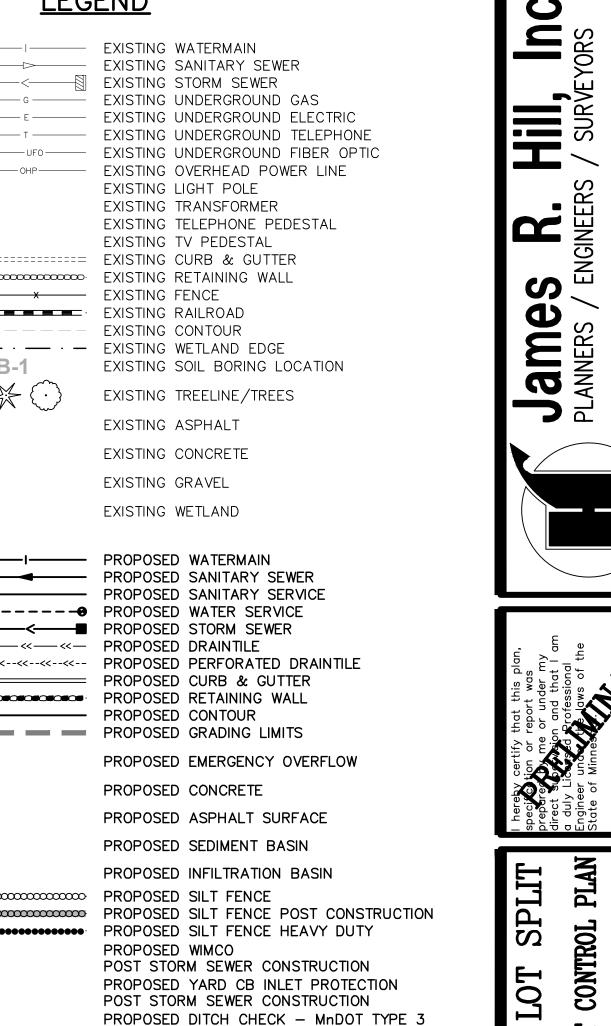




NOTES

- 1. PRELIMINARY DISTURBED AREA = 0.95 ACRES. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH FINAL HOUSE DESIGN.
- 2. ALL GREEN SPACES SHALL BE SEEDED AND MULCHED OR SODDED AFTER CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
- 3. A FINAL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN WILL BE SUBMITTED WITH BUILDING PERMIT.





PROPOSED DITCH CHECK - MnDOT TYPE 3

POST GRADING/UTILITY CONSTRUCTION

PROPOSED EROSION CONTROL BLANKET

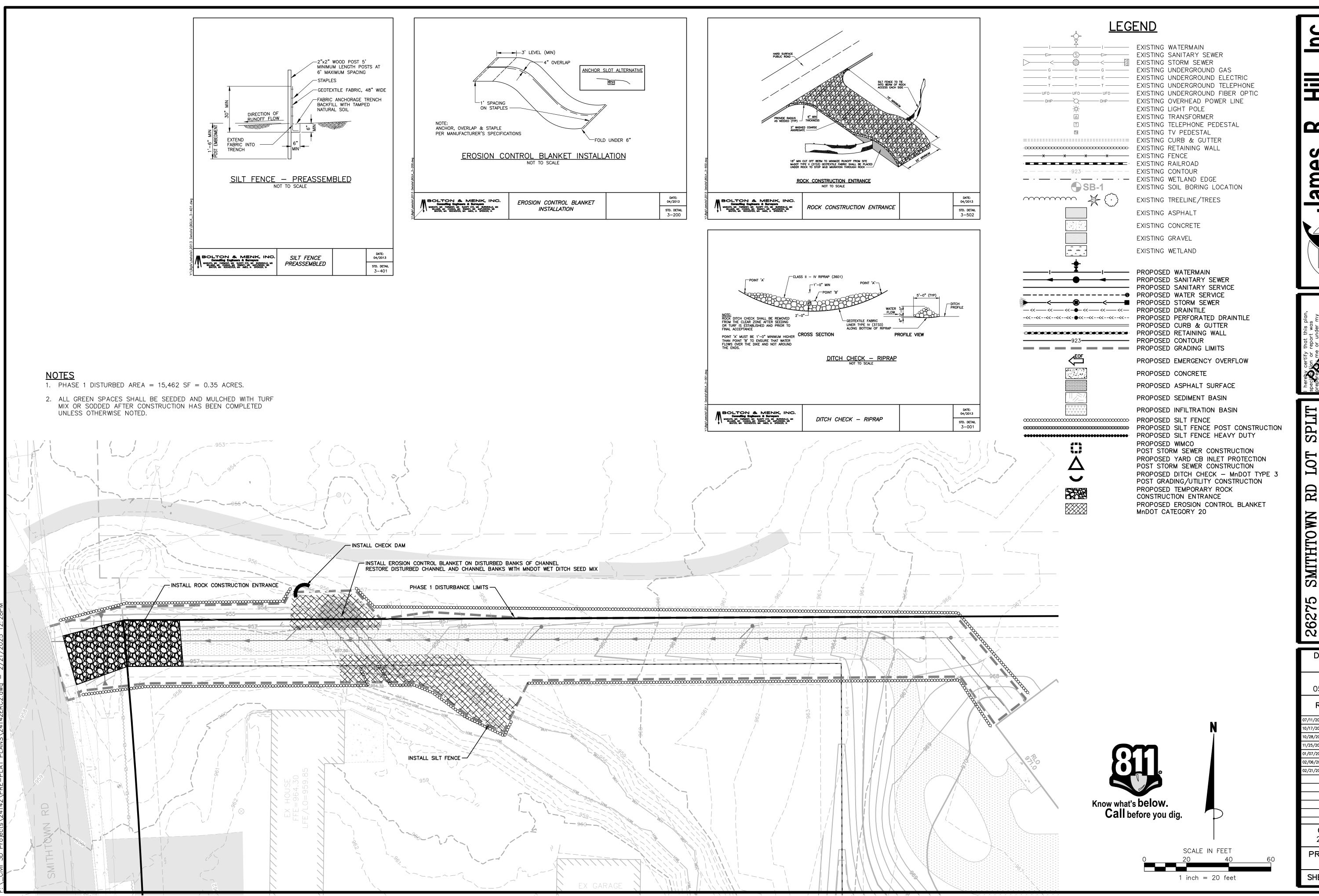
PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE

MnDOT CATEGORY 20

SMITHTOWN EROSION PRELIMINARY 26275

RD

DRAWN BY JSO DATE 05/20/2024 **REVISIONS** 07/11/2024 TREE PRES. PLAN 0/17/2024 EX DRIVEWAY 0/28/2024 CITY COMMENTS 02/06/2025 WATERSHED COMMENTS 2/21/2025 WATERSHED COMMENTS CAD FILE 24142ERC PROJECT NO. 24142 SHEET 5 OF 10



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PLAN CONTROL LOT RD IMENT SMITHTOWN EROSION

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DATE 05/20/2024

REVISIONS

7/11/2024 TREE PRES. PLAN

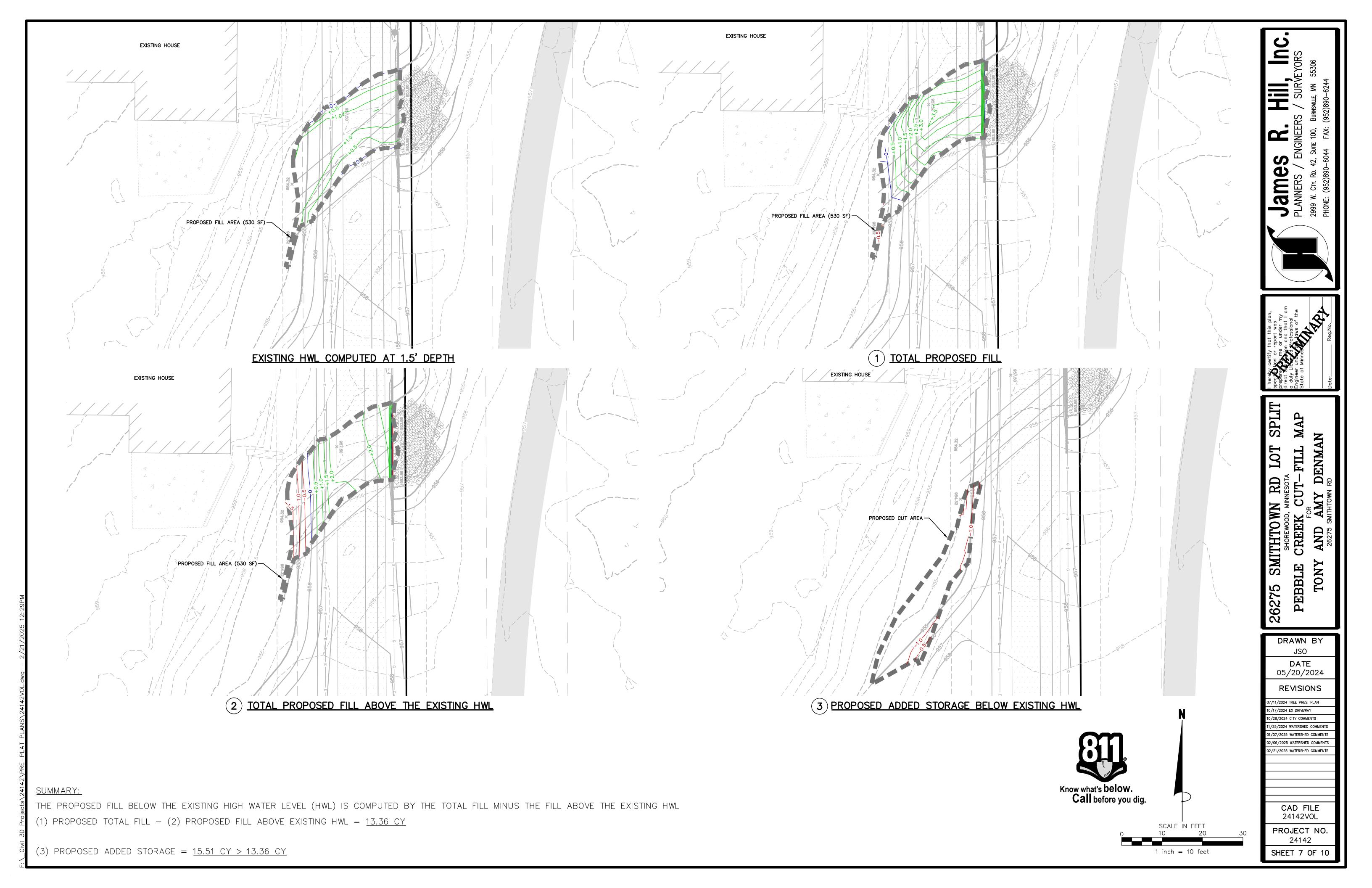
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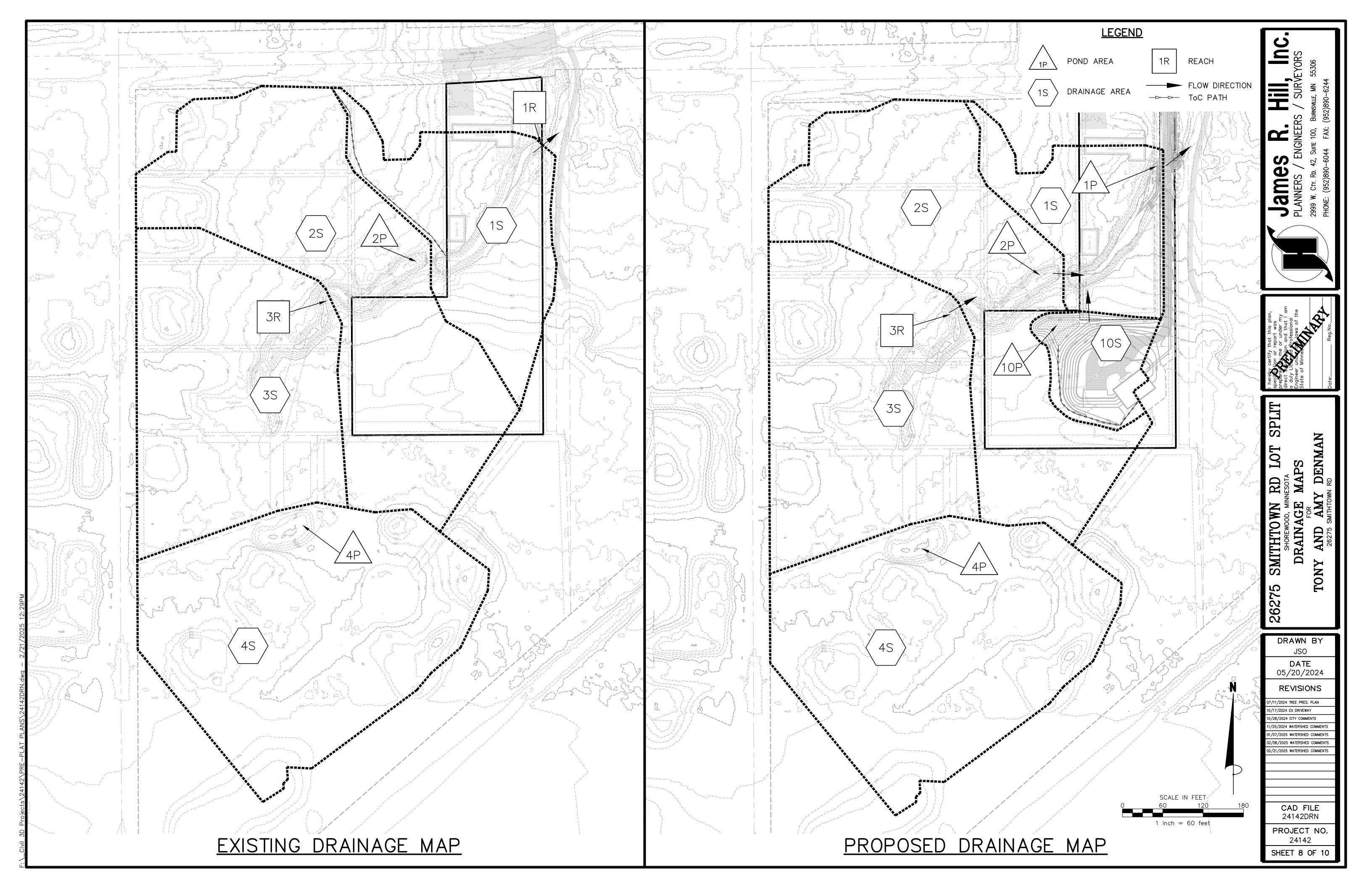
2/21/2025 WATERSHED COMMENTS

CAD FILE 24142ERC2

PROJECT NO. 24142

SHEET 6 OF 10

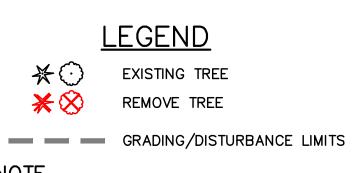




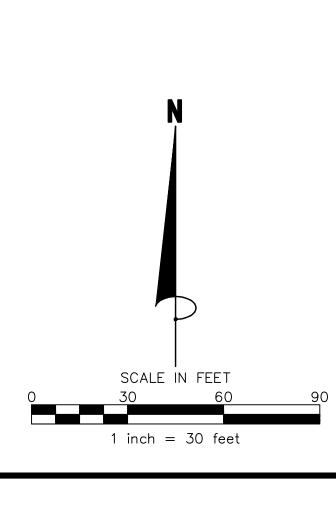
TagNo 702	DBH	Common Name Silver Maple	Scientific Name Acer saccharinum	Notes
703 705	16	Silver Maple Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum Acer saccharinum	
711 712	12	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk 90% dead
713	7	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	90% dead
714	9	Black Walnut American Elm	Juglans nigra Ulmus americana	
716 718	8 13	Green Ash Apple	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Malus sp.	appears healthy
719 883	15 9	Red Pine Green Ash	Pinus resinosa Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead
884 4941	8 17	Green Ash Hackberry	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Celtis occidentalis	dead
4942 4943	16 8	Black Walnut Bitternut Hickory	Juglans nigra Carya cordiformis	
4944 4945	24	Sugar Maple Hackberry	Acer saccharum Celtis occidentalis	tree has been braced but not cabled, bolt thru trunk
4946 4947	19	Green Ash Hackberry	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Celtis occidentalis	dead
4948	16	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
4949 4950	19 8	Black Walnut Hackberry	Juglans nigra Celtis occidentalis	
4951 4952	19 18	Green Ash Hackberry	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Celtis occidentalis	dead
4953 4954	22 14	Basswood Hackberry	Tilia americana Celtis occidentalis	
4955 4956	12	Hackberry Green Ash	Celtis occidentalis Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
4957 4958	8	Green Ash Ironwood	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Ostrya virginiana	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
4959 4960	10	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
4961	26	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	thinning crown, 25% crown dieback
4962 4963	24,2	Sugar Maple Black Walnut	Acer saccharum Juglans nigra	
4964 4965	18 9	Black Walnut Sugar Maple	Juglans nigra Acer saccharum	top broken
4966 4967	36 10	Green Ash Hackberry	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Celtis occidentalis	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk, major damage along trunk
4968 4969	18 8	Basswood Ironwood	Tilia americana Ostrya virginiana	
4970 4971	21 18,14	Basswood Basswood	Tilia americana Tilia americana	
4972 4973	12	Sugar Maple Basswood	Acer saccharum Tilia americana	
4974	13	Basswood	Tilia americana	some carkers along trunk
4975 4976	16 18	Basswood Basswood	Tilia americana Tilia americana	some cankers along trunk
4977 4978	20,13,12	Basswood Black Walnut	Tilia americana Juglans nigra	
4979 4980	8 11	Basswood Green Ash	Tilia americana Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead
4981 4982	8	Red Elm Green Ash	Ulmus rubra Fraxinus pennsylvanica	90% dead
4983 4984	9,7	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	epicomic branching along trunk, emerald ash borer likely some flecking along trunk, likely emerald ash borer
4985 4986	8	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	some flecking along trunk, likely emerald ash borer appears healthy
4987 4988	11 8	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	95% dead 95% dead
4989	9	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	some flecking along trunk, likely emerald ash borer
4990 4991	13	Green Ash Black Walnut	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Juglans nigra	90% dead
4992 4993	12 8	Green Ash American Elm	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Ulmus americana	flecking & epicormic branching along trunk, emerald ash borer likely
4994 4995	10	Sugar Maple Green Ash	Acer saccharum Fraxinus pennsylvanica	appears healthy
4996 4997	15 8	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	eab, 50% crown dieback epicormic branching along trunk, emerald ash borer likely
4998 4999	13,5 9	Green Ash Red Elm	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Ulmus rubra	appears healthy
5000 5001	10	Black Walnut Green Ash	Juglans nigra Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5002	14,11,9,9,8	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5003	18	Black Walnut Sugar Maple	Juglans nigra Acer saccharum	
5005 5006	12 11	Green Ash Black Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus nigra	appears healthy dead
5007 5008	16 17	Sugar Maple Green Ash	Acer saccharum Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, very thin crown, flecking along trunk
5009 5010	18 10	Green Ash Black Walnut	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Juglans nigra	dead
5011 5012	13	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead epicomic branching along trunk, emerald ash borer likely
5012 5013 5014	8	Hackberry Black Walnut	Celtis occidentalis Juglans nigra	
5015	9	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	appears healthy
5016 5017	8	American Elm Green Ash	Ulmus americana Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead
5018 5019	8	Green Ash American Elm	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Ulmus americana	emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5020 5021	13 15	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	some flecking along trunk, likely emerald ash borer emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk, thinning crown
5022 5023	13 11	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	epicomic branching along trunk, emerald ash borer likely emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5024 5025	10 8	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	90% dead appears healthy
5026 5027	8	Red Elm Green Ash	Ulmus rubra Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5027 5028 5029	10	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	some flecking along trunk, likely emerald ash borer
5030	16	Red Elm Sugar Maple	Ulmus rubra Acer saccharum Ergyinus panasylvanica	amorald ach haras flocking along trust, thing's a second
5031 5032	16	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk, thinning crown emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5033 5034	8 15	Green Ash Red Pine	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Pinus resinosa	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5035 5036	16 12	Red Pine Austrian Pine	Pinus resinosa Pinus nigra	
5037 5038	21,20 24	White Pine White Pine	Pinus strobus Pinus strobus	
5039 5040	16 16	White Pine Red Pine	Pinus strobus Pinus resinosa	
5040 5041 5042	9	Black Walnut American Elm	Juglans nigra Ulmus americana	
5043	9	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	appears healthy
5044	15 23	Black Walnut White Pine	Juglans nigra Pinus strobus	
5046 5047	9	Sugar Maple Green Ash	Acer saccharum Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead
5048 5049	8 11	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	98% dead emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk, 80% dead
5050 5051	9	American Elm Red Elm	Ulmus americana Ulmus rubra	
5052 5053	15 8	Green Ash Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica	90% dead emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
JU	15	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5054	 	Green Ach	Fraxinus nenneuluanica	Isome flecking along trunk, likely emerald ach boror
	9 8 15,13,10	Green Ash Green Ash Basswood	Fraxinus pennsylvanica Fraxinus pennsylvanica Tilia americana	some flecking along trunk, likely emerald ash borer 98% dead

	955	_			///
4946 19" ASH 4945 11" HACK	4948 16" WALNUT 4949 19" WALNUT 4950 19" WALNUT 4950 8" HACK	5093 29,10" BASS 5092 18" BASS	5084 10" OAK 10" ASH	21,20" PINE 21,20" PINE 24" PINE 16" PINE	5036 12" PINE 5035 16" PINE
957	5095 10" ASH 4951 19" ASH	5091 11" ASH 5089 12" ASH	5066 10" ASH 18" WAI NIIT	5" WALNUT (5041 g" WALNUT g" WALNUT (5042 8" ELM	15" PINE 719 15" PINE 719 15" PINE 719 5053 8" ASH
4944 24" MAPLE	22" BASS 95 4954 (8 4954) (8 4	18" WALNUT (1988)	20" WALNUT (5070 8" ASH) 5076 19" WALNUT 17" WALNUT	5065 11" ASH 23" PINE 9" ASH	
24 MAPLE &	8" ASH 496 9" ASH 950 9" AS 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10	9" MAPLE 14" 959 4966 36" ASH 14" 14	5080 ASH 16" WALNUT 5077 5077 13" WALNUT 9" HACK	9° ASHJ (8° 5048	9" ELM
-12 -13 -14941 17" HACK 4943 8" HICK		4968 4968 18" BASS 4968 8" IRON EX GARAGE	4970 12" BASS 4972 12" MAPLE (4971 18,14" BASS (5079) 20" ASH (5078) 9" ELM	5058 10" BASS 5056 8" ASH 5057 15,13,10" BASS 4980 11" ASH	5029 ELM 8" ASH 5025 8" ASH 5025 8" ASH 6025 8" E
4942 16" WALNUT				4974 13" BASS	90
				5000 WALNUT WA WALNUT WA WALNUT WALNUT WA WALNUT WA WALNUT WA WALNUT WA WALNUT WA WA WA WA WA WA WA WA WA WA WA WA WA	4987 11" ASH 36 ASH 4990 13" ASI
		964		4998 13,5" ASH 9" ASH 4999 9" ELM 5003 18" WALNUT	SH (4991 (11" WALNUT
		- L 365	V-	(5004 12" MAPLE (16" MAPLE	5010 10" WALNUT
					7 7 966
TagNoDBHCommon NameScientific NameNotes506010Red ElmUlmus rubrathinning crown,506117Black WalnutJuglans nigra50629Green AshFraxinus pennsylvanicaemerald ash bor	in decline rer, flecking along trunk				

TagNo	DBH	Common Name	Scientific Name	Notes
5060	10	Red Elm	Ulmus rubra	thinning crown, in decline
5061	17	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5062	9	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5063	8	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead
5064	11	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	98% dead
5065	11	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5066	18	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5067	13	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5068	10	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	80% dead
5069	20	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5070	8	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking & epicormic branching along trunk
5071	8	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk, thinning crown
5072	8	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5073	9	Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	
5074	9	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5075	16	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5076	19	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5077	13	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5078	9	American Elm	Ulmus americana	
5079	20	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	major decay along trunk epicormic branching along trunk
5080	14	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5081	14	Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	
5082	20,19,15,14,14	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5083	16	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5084	10	Red Oak	Quercus rubra	
5085	13	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5086	16,13	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5087	15	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5088	18	Black Walnut	Juglans nigra	
5089	12	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5090	8	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5091	11	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	emerald ash borer, flecking along trunk
5092	18	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5093	29,10	Basswood	Tilia americana	
5094	18	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	appears healthy
5095	10	Black Ash	Fraxinus nigra	dead
5096	8	Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	dead
5097	10	Basswood	Tilia americana	



1. TREE DATA PROVIDED BY MIDWEST NATURAL RESOURCES ON 5/16/2024.



702 24" MAPLE 16" MAPLE 705 23" MAPLE

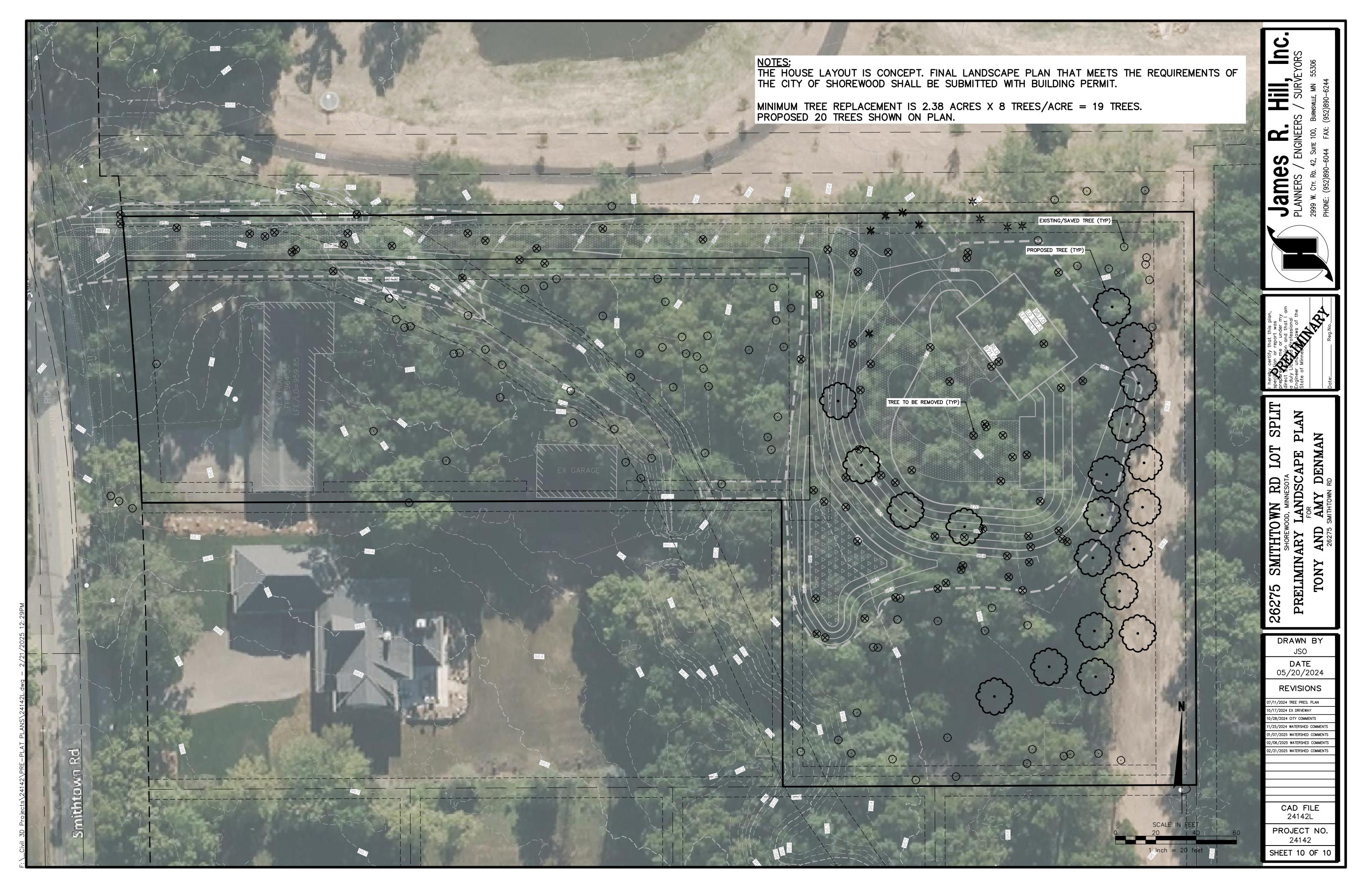
SPLIT

James
PLANNERS / EN
2999 W. CTY. RD. 42, SL

S SMITHTOWN RD LOT SPI SHOREWOOD, MINNESOTA REE PRESERVATION PLAN FOR TONY AND AMY DENMAN 26275 SMITHTOWN RD TREE 26275

DRAWN BY JSO DATE 05/20/2024 REVISIONS 07/11/2024 TREE PRES. PLAN 0/17/2024 EX DRIVEWAY 02/06/2025 WATERSHED COMMENTS 02/21/2025 WATERSHED COMMENTS CAD FILE 24142TP PROJECT NO. 24142

SHEET 9 OF10



Attachment C: Public Notice

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is currently reviewing a permit application at 26275 Smithtown Road in Shorewood. The project, proposed by Rick, Amy, and Tony Denman, involves the installation of underground utilities and a culvert across Pebble Creek. You are receiving this notice because your property is located within 600 feet of the project site.

MCWD reviews for compliance only with applicable MCWD rules. The city, county, or another public agency may require other permits or approvals.

Site plans and additional information can be found on our website under Public Notices – Permit #24-525 or by following the QR code.

If you have questions or wish to request Board consideration regarding the project's compliance with MCWD rules, please contact Veronica Sannes at vsannes@minnehahacreek.org before March 5th at 4:30 p.m.



www.minnehahacreek.org

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Attachment D: Public Comment

From: john ha

To: <u>Veronica Sannes</u>; <u>Alan Ye</u> <u>Wanda ha</u>

Subject: Permit #24-525 26275 Smithtown Road Shorewood MN Denman

Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025 11:12:12 AM

You don't often get email from john@balchco.com. Learn why this is important

Hello Veronica,

We are contacting you regarding The 26275 Smithtown road permit application.

We have opposed the project from the beginning as it didn't meet the requirements for subdivision without a variance.

We expressed our concerns to the city of Shorewood:

Will it negatively affect the water table for us? (all our neighbors have water issues that we don't have or want) we asked for a soil hydrologist -the city declined.

Will removing fifty mature trees negatively impact the owls - hawks -

pileated woodpeckers - turkeys and deer? The city didn't express any concern.

Will altering the natural flow of pebble creek be desirable? You would decide that.

The city declined to pursue any action and the application barely passed on a 3-2 vote.

In our opinion the city of Shorewood would rather have the tax income from a Rick Denman (Charles Cudd) home than follow their ordinance or preserve the environment for everyone else.

We hope the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District will place a higher value on water table concerns, wildlife and environment than the city does.

Please deny the application.

Best Regards,

Wanda and John Ha

From: Alan Ye
To: Veronica Sannes

Subject: Permit #24-525, 26275 Smithtown Road, Shorewood MN

Date: Sunday, March 2, 2025 5:22:58 PM

You don't often get email from a.yelsey@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To: V. Sannes, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

From: Alan Ye

Subject: Permit #24-525, 26275 Smithtown Road, Shorewood MN

Copy List: Shorewood Residents, Shorewood City Council, MN DNR, Regional State

Legislators & Senators

My property is within 600ft of the applicant's location, but more importantly, my property and the adjoining natural resources were and remain damaged by the construction of what is called Smithtown Ponds. The proposed new construction will contribute further to that damage.

I oppose the permit on the grounds that my neighbors and I do not know how the applicants will mitigate damages and comply with MCWD rules and regulations.

At this time, my evidence and understanding, and that of my neighbors, is that the application is non-compliant with MCWD rules and regulations. My evidence and understanding is that the Smithtown Ponds Project, which systemically affects a broad area of homeowners, habitat, ecosystems, watersystems (Pebble Creek and Freeman Creek), including the applicant's proposal, and including the southern shore of Lake Minnetonka and all watersheds south of Lake Minnetonka, is clearly non-compliant with MCWD rules and regulations. All such non-compliance should be immediately researched and acted up to fulfill the responsibilities under the law for MCWD to protect the area's ecosystem and enforce its own rules and regulations.

Here is a summary of current permit non-compliance and current and inter-related Smithtown Ponds non-compliance with MCWD rules and regulations:

- 1) The Smithtown Ponds Project has clearly and illegally impeded the historic and essential flow of water from Pebble Creek and Freeman Creek into the watershed and wetlands along Grant Lorenz Road and Edgewood Road at the southern border of Lake Minnetonka. The two creeks have flowed mostly year round in the past and fed the Lake and wetlands with essential water to support habitat, waterfowl, wetlands and the entire watershed. After construction, due to construction non-compliance, the flow of water from both creeks has been greatly and illegally diminished, threatening the entire lower Lake ecosystem. I urge MCWD to research the extent of the non-compliance, and require the parties to remedy the problem as required by MCWD rules and regulations, and also required by State and Federal rules and regulations regarding the protection of creeks and watersheds from unnecessary and illegal diminishment and disruption.
- 2) Because Smithtown Ponds has clearly damaged the entire lower Lake ecosystem by severely reducing creek flow and by removing almost 1,000 water absorbing trees and plant life, Permit #24-525 will add significantly to the problem and introduce further problems that MCWD has the mandate and jurisdiction to prevent and repair. Further, area homeowners affected by the non-compliance of Smithtown Ponds (flooding, heightened water table, reduced habitat and diminished private enjoyment) will experience further damage following the current construction plans under Permit #24-525.

- A. A wide paved impervious driveway will be placed immediately beside and through hundreds of feet of pebble creek and the concentrated feed of water from Freeman Creek downstream. This long and massive driveway immediately to the west of Smithtown Ponds and immediately to the west and through Pebble Creek, including a large and deep home and basement, violates numerous MCWD rules and regulations including:
- a1-Unnecessarily and significantly impacting and disturbing the creeks, the streambank, the creek beds directing rain and melt into the creeks, the creek flow, the adjacent wetlands and habitat, the natural erosion controls, the topographical drainage angles and features, vegetation buffers, the natural filtering of water flow north, and the functionality of the adjacent parks and open-space.
- a2-Unnecessarily and significantly impacting/harming the beds and banks of the waterways through encroachment and infrastructure, and through the unnecessary and significant impact of the crossing of the pebble creek waterbody and the disturbance of the natural productive flow of surface and groundwater.
- a3-Unnecessarily and significantly impacting and disturbing the area water-table, drainage and waterflow, and the area's large trees and vegetation, in a way that will cause higher more damaging water-tables to area residents, more standing water, lower rates of water absorbing soils and vegetation, and much greater compression of area soils, coupled with much larger areas of impervious surface. Drainage issues are a major concern and violate MCWD rules and regulations if not fully addressed.
- a-4-Unnecessarily and significantly impacting/harming, directly and indirectly, the quality and biodiversity of wetlands by contributing to diminished or drained wetlands by shutting down the essential flow of water downstream to the wetlands and Lake Minnetonka.
- a-5-Unnecessarily and significantly impacting/harming and degrading the health of surface water and groundwater by add a massive increase in impervious and contaminating surface area in an area already seriously harmed by Smithtown Ponds. Rainfall and runoff volume will be uncontrolled downstream.
- a-6-Unnecessary and significantly impacting/harming, through mass grading, the quality and flow of healthy and beneficial surface waters and groundwaters. The reconstructed creek beds have a high risk of becoming unstable, ecologically damaging and harmful to water quality and beneficial drainage.
- a-7-Unnecessary and significantly impacting/harming, through the further massive displacement of ground soils and construction of a full basement and additional impervious surface, the high local water table to an extent that may flood area basements due to an already very high water table, and may harm the entire area ecosystem by raising already dangerously high ground water levels.

Thank you for your consideration. I am always available to discuss this matter. I urge you to fix the obvious non-compliance of Smithtown Ponds with your rules and regulations and actively address the current non-compliance of the plans for 26275 Smithtown Road with your rules and regulations. I would appreciate any updates throughout the process.

Alan



From: John Ha

To: <u>Veronica Sannes</u>; <u>Alan Ye</u> <u>Wanda ha</u>

Subject: Smithtown road permit

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 5:39:48 PM

[You don't often get email from Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Hello Veronica

Thank you offering the time to discuss this matter but I am out of the country until the 10th.

We are concerned about the issues I referred to in my email. I would appreciate your help in getting the board to review this application thoroughly. The MCWD may not feel it is within their area of purview but any detrimental effects of this permitting would have been preventable by not approving it and the MCWD is currently the final arbiter of these matters.

Thank you Wanda and john ha



From: Alan Ye

Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:31 PM

To: Veronica Sannes < vsannes@minnehahacreek.org>

Cc: John Ha

Subject: Re: Permit #24-525 26275 Smithtown Road Shorewood MN Denman

Hi Ms. Sannes:

Thank you for offering further opportunities for discussion and consideration of the 24-525-26275 Permitting matter.

If you have the responsibility and authority to gather data and report on the permitting matter and my input to the MCWD Board as they consider this matter, I would be happy to meet with you at the east end of the property in question at your convenience any time this Thursday or Friday for an evidence walkabout. If you have no power to report or influence the consideration and the rules and regulatory enforcement, there is no need to meet. If we meet I would also like to present evidence also that the inter-connected Smithtown Ponds project is non-compliant with MCWD rules and regulations and needs corrective action to avoid further damage to area wetlands and ecosystems. I would ask that you consider the evidence and present it fairly to MCWD.

I presented to the Board several years ago regarding the Smithtown Ponds MCWD rules violations. I felt that I was not valued and not welcomed. My time to speak was severely restricted, I felt I was merely tolerated and I believe my ample evidence of violations were ignored. So, I do not plan to request a hearing before the Board on this matter unless the Board has changed into a regulatory body that would respect citizen input.

Thank you.



 From:
 Alan Ye

 To:
 Veronica Sannes

 Cc:
 John Ha

Subject: Re: Permit #24-525 26275 Smithtown Road Shorewood MN Denman

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 4:19:02 PM

Dear Ms. Sannes:

I appreciate your well crafted and researched response to my input. I can be available to meet onsite at any of the times you proposed.

Please explain why your permit review does not include explicit MCWD rules and regulations directly applicable to the proposed project review:

Beds and Banks minimal impact, encroachment and disruption.

Wetland and watershed protection and minimal impact.

Streambank minimal impact, stabilization, disruption minimization and protection.

Water body crossing minimal impact, vegetation buffers, excavation protections.

Wetland protection and enhancement, quality and quantity, biodiversity, limit direct and indirect impacts, restoration of diminished wetlands.

Impacts of mass regrading, deforestation and increased impervious surface.

Protect and improve the ecological health of surface water and groundwater and reduce rainfall and stormwater runoff.

These explicit MCWD objectives and responsibilities do not seem to appear in the upcoming review even though they are integral to the consideration of the permit under MCWD rules.

Further, I asked that you consider also during our onsite meeting and upcoming board meeting the obvious violations of MCWD rules and regulations and non-compliance I am formally reporting by the adjacent and inter-connected Smithtown Ponds project.

Would you please respond directly to these concerns.

Thank you.

Alan Ye

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2025, at 3:06 PM, Veronica Sannes <vsannes@minnehahacreek.org>
wrote:

From: John Ha
To: Veronica Sannes
Subject: Hasselbalch

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 10:38:42 AM

Hello Veronica

I understand the limits of the MCWD authority.

My primary concern is with the water table.

All the property owners on Peach Circle have sump pumps that run - we do not.

We asked the city of Shorewood to require a hydrological assessment of the potential impact to our property of this proposed subdivision (as the City cannot grant a variance if it negatively impacts the adjoining properties) they decided to take the chance (as quoted in the minutes) much to our dismay!

We are requesting the MCWD require a hydrological assessment of the potential impact to water table and to our property as part of the approval.

We would really benefit from your help as the city has let us down in this regard and we have nowhere else to turn (other than litigation).

Thank you

Wanda and John Ha

From: John Ha
To: Veronica Sannes
Subject: Hasselbalch

Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 11:16:25 PM

Veronica

Thank you for meeting with Alan to discuss the issues - sorry I couldn't make the meeting- I was obligated elsewhere.

Will you be able to ask the board to consider the inclusion of a hydrological assessment as part of the permitting process?

I think the City needs to address the water issues.

Thank you

Wanda and John ha

From: John Ha
To: <u>Veronica Sannes</u>
Subject: Re: Hasselbalch

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 8:45:55 AM

Veronica

Everyone seems to want to absolve themselves from any responsibility for the groundwater impact- not the city not MCWD - if not the watershed district then WHO?

I believe it the watershed district has jurisdiction over the watershed- do I need to ask a court to decide?

Thank you

Wanda and John ha