MEETING DATE: May 26, 2016

TITLE: Authorization to Execute the Deerhill Preserve Conservation Easement

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-052

PREPARED BY: Laura Domyancich

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REVIEWED BY: ☐ Administrator ☐ Counsel ☐ Program Mgr.:

☐ Board Committee ☐ Engineer ☐ Other

WORKSHOP ACTION:

☐ Advance to Board mtg. Consent Agenda.	☐ Advance to Board meeting for discussion prior to action
☐ Refer to a future workshop (date):	☐ Refer to taskforce or committee (date):
☐ Return to staff for additional work.	☐ No further action requested.
	nop. Requesting authorization at May 26 Board Meeting.

PURPOSE or ACTION REQUESTED: Authorization to execute the Deerhill Preserve Conservation Easement (Attachment 1). The associated Site Plan, Final Plat, and Land Stewardship Plan are attached as exhibits to the Conservation Easement.

PROJECT/PROGRAM LOCATION: Deerhill Preserve Conservation Design-Planned Unit Development (CD-PUD), Medina (formerly known as Stonegate CD-PUD)

PROJECT TIMELINE: March 11, 2016: Developer submitted Final Plat documents for review to City of Medina staff

April 5, 2016: Final Plat, Development Agreement, and Conservation Easement considered by Medina City Council. Council directed staff to prepare resolution of approval for a future council meeting. Final plat to be considered for approval on June 7, 2016

PROJECT/PROGRAM COST:

Fund name and number: Land Conservation, 200-2004

Current Budget: \$2,795,204 Expenditures to date: \$336,252 Requested amount of funding: \$0

PAST BOARD ACTION: Resolution 15-011: Authorization to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Stonegate Farm, Inc. and Property Resource Development Corporation (January 29, 2015)

Resolution 16-028: Resolution of Support for the Concept of Acting as the Conservation Easement Holder for the Deerhill Preserve CD-PUD (March 24, 2016)

SUMMARY: Stonegate Farm, Incorporated owns approximately 191 acres of land in the cities of Medina and Orono. Property Resources Development Corporation (PRDC) proposes to develop the property into a 41-lot single family subdivision. Both entities are parties to a Contingent Settlement Agreement (CSA) with the City of Medina that stipulates the development of the property utilizing a conservation design planned unit development (CD-PUD).

The development of the property is of interest to MCWD because of its location within a key conservation area as designated by the District's watershed management plan, with proximity to Lake Katrina and Three Rivers Park District's Baker Park, as well as Wolsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Area. MCWD is also providing technical guidance to additional private landowners in this area to complete conservation planning and natural areas restoration.

The CSA requires Stonegate Farm and PRDC to comply with the CD-PUD process which includes dedication of conservation areas within the development that encompass all wetlands and wetland buffers, all steep slopes in excess of 18% grade, and a minimum of 30% of the remaining buildable land area. As such, the conservation areas offer the potential to restore, connect, and regionally integrate approximately 90 acres of degraded farmed wetland, existing tamarack bog, and uplands that could create a significant habitat corridor.

The City of Medina CD-PUD ordinance requires the developer to create a Land Stewardship Plan for the conservation areas and to seek a holder of the conservation easement. In January 2015, PRDC approached the District about the potential to serve in this role. This opportunity was discussed at the March 19, 2015 Policy and Planning Committee Meeting, and the committee recommended to the Board of Managers that staff indicate support for, and negotiate, the role of easement holder within the Stonegate conservation subdivision. Staff also provided project updates to the Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) on November 19, 2015, February 18, 2016, March 17, 2016, and May 12, 2016, and the PPC expressed support to staff in the continued drafting of documents and for the conservation area planning as a whole. On March 24, 2016, the Board of Managers also passed a resolution of support for the concept of MCWD serving as the conservation easement holder.

Over the last 16 months, District staff have been coordinating with PRDC and the City of Medina on planning the restoration areas and the drafting of the conservation easement and Land Stewardship Plan.

PRDC submitted to City of Medina staff their final plat application materials on March 11. City staff reviewed the materials, provided a report to the Medina City Council on April 5, and the Council directed staff to draft a resolution of approval of the final plat to be on the Council's consent agenda at a future date. The final plat will be considered for approval on June 7, 2016 pending the meeting of specific conditions by the developer, including the execution of the conservation easement.

The conservation easement terms are similar in format and substance to other conservation easements the District has acquired under its Land Conservation program. A part of the conservation land, including tamarack swamp, will be preserved in its present condition. PRDC will restore the other portion, much of which historically has been in agricultural use. Once restored, it will be protected. The easement will prohibit most forms of disturbance but will allow for some non-intensive uses, passive recreation, public trails that would be maintained by the City, location of secondary septic drainfields, and some forms of vegetation management. Certain activities are permitted on HOA request and District approval, based on a judgment that the proposed activity would be consistent with the easement's conservation purposes. The proposed resolution would delegate to the District administrator the authority to make approval decisions contemplated under the easement. Also, with concurrence of the homeowners' association (HOA) as property owner, the District would have the ability to undertake its own hydrologic and vegetation enhancements within the conservation area.

As holder, the District would commit itself to a monitoring and inspection role that typically it would exercise semi-annually, at its own cost. Under the easement and the development agreement between PRDC and the City, the HOA would be responsible to reimburse the District for any further enforcement costs and under the Memorandum of Understanding, the City would be able to assess those costs for the District's benefit.

The easement is perpetual. If at some future time, the District's mission or priorities change, it would have the right to assign its role to another public or institutional entity authorized to hold conservation easements, with the consent of the HOA and the City.



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 16-052

TITLE: Authorization to Execute the Deerhill Preserve Conservation Easement

- WHEREAS, Stonegate Farm Inc. and Property Resources Development Corporation (PRDC) are parties to a contingent settlement agreement with the City of Medina to develop 171 acres with 41 single-family homes utilizing a conservation design planned unit development named Deerhill Preserve: and
- WHEREAS, the subject property is located in a key conservation area as designated by the District's watershed management plan with proximity to Lake Katrina, Three Rivers Park District's Baker Park, and Wolsfeld Woods Scientific and Natural Area; and
- WHEREAS, the District is actively involved in providing technical assistance for natural areas restoration to additional adjacent landowners; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed conservation and restoration work has the potential to restore, connect, and regionally integrate approximately 90 acres of primarily drained and degraded farmed wetland, existing tamarack wetlands, and associated uplands that could support and enhance a significant conservation corridor; and
- WHEREAS, the District recognizes that there is substantial public benefit provided by the water resource protection aspects of this project, including the restoration of 41 acres of wetland and upland areas, the preservation of an additional 48 acres of wetland and forested habitats, and the District's ability to undertake future resource improvements within the entire 89 acre conservation area, which will be protected in perpetuity by conservation easement, and that this public benefit exceeds the modest public cost to monitor conservation easement compliance and otherwise undertake the role of easement holder; and
- WHEREAS, the District also recognizes that the conservation areas provide additional public benefit including public recreational trail access, wildlife and pollinator habitat corridor linkages, and protection of a tamarack bog, which is an increasingly rare wetland type; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Medina's ordinances require the creation of a Land Stewardship Plan for all conservation areas associated with the project and the designation of an easement holder to ensure these areas are protected in perpetuity; and
- WHEREAS, the District and PRDC have worked proactively and collaboratively to bring conservation considerations to bear on the proposed development of the property to optimize the water resource and ecological benefits of the development and facilitate an orderly development review process while securing desired economic outcomes of PRDC and Stonegate Farm, Inc.; and
- WHEREAS, the District, as a conservation easement holder, is positioned to ensure the conservation provisions of the easement are upheld, provide technical and regulatory guidance to the property owner with respect to management of the conservation property, and undertake its own enhancements to water resources within the conservation area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board of Managers hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the Deerhill Preserve Conservation Easement under which the District would serve as easement holder, with non-material changes and on the advice of counsel and contingent on the execution of an agreement between the District and the City of Medina indemnifying the District for the City's installation and maintenance of trails within the Conservation Area, and its provision of those trails for public use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District administrator is authorized to exercise the District's authority under the easement to review and approve certain activities within the easement area, and further to enter into such agreements with the City of Medina as are necessary to protect the District's interests with respect to the City's installation and maintenance of public trails within the easement area.

Resolution Number 16-052 was moved by Manager _	, seconded by Manager
Resolution Number 16-052 was moved by Manager ₋ Motion to adopt the resolution ayes, nays, _	abstentions. Date:
	2.4
Poorotory	Date:
Secretary	

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Legal Description of Protected Property:

OUTLOTS B, C, E, F, I, K, N DEERHILL PRESERVE (collectively referred to as the "Outlots", the "Protected Property" or the "Easement Area").

Torrens Property Certificate of Title No(s): 862516

This is a CONSERVATION EASEMENT granted by Property Resources Development Corporation, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation ("Owner"), to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, a governmental body created under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D (the "District").

RECITALS:

- A. **OWNER**. The Owner is the Owner in fee simple of the real property in the City of Medina, Hennepin County, Minnesota, and legally described above (the "Protected Property"). The general location of the Protected Property is identified as Outlots B, C, E, F, I, K, N on the Final Plat attached hereto as Exhibit A (hereinafter referred to as the "Plat") and the Site Plan attached hereto as Exhibit B (hereinafter referred to as the "Site Plan").
- B. **PROTECTED PROPERTY**. The Protected Property is approximately 89 acres which encompasses in part approximately 30 acres of an approximately 46-acre Tamarack swamp, public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes §103G.005, Subd. 15, and contains a wetland, floodplain and mature tree canopy. The remaining approximately 55 acres of the Protected Property historically has been used for agricultural purposes. The Owner has agreed to grant this Conservation Easement, in part, as a condition imposed by the City of Medina (the "City") for approval of a Conservation Design Planned Unit Development, (hereinafter referred to as the "PUD") a form of residential development (pursuant to applicable City regulations) on the Protected Property and contiguous real property thereto (hereinafter referred to as the "Residential Community"). In its PUD approval process, the City will reference "Ordinance #588 Establishing a Conservation

Design-Planned Unit Development District for 'Stonegate' and amending the Official
Zoning Map" and the "Deerhill Preserve Final Plat" approved on
, 2016.

- C. **MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is a governmental body created and operated exclusively for the purposes of water resource protection, conservation and management, including the protection, conservation, and management of lands to serve those purposes. The District is an organization qualified to hold conservation easements under Minnesota law and Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations.
- D. **CONSERVATION POLICY**. Preservation of the Protected Property will further those governmental policies established by the following:
 - 1. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84C, which recognizes the importance of private conservation efforts by authorizing conservation easements for the protection of natural, scenic, or open space values of real property, assuring its availability for agriculture, forest, recreational, or open space use, protecting natural resources, and maintaining or enhancing air or water quality.
 - 2. The Metropolitan Surface Water Act, Minnesota Statutes Section 103B, which specifically identifies the importance of protecting the natural surface waters and groundwaters of the Metropolitan Area.
 - 3. Minnesota Statutes Section 103D which provides for the establishment of watershed districts to conserve the natural resources of the State.
 - 4. Minnehaha Creek Watershed District watershed management plan (as amended) which includes the policies, programs, and projects implementing the Metropolitan Surface Water Act.
- E. **CONSERVATION INTENT**. It is the parties intent to create and implement a conservation easement that is binding in perpetuity upon the Owner and all future owners of the Protected Property and that conveys to the District the right to protect and preserve the Protected Property for the benefit of this generation and generations to come, pursuant to the terms of this Conservation Easement.
- F. **DOCUMENTATION.** The current condition of the Protected Property will be described and documented in a property report, titled "Deerhill Preserve Conservation Easement Property Report" that Owner and the District intend to complete and sign as soon as they are able after this Easement is executed (the "Property Report"). Owner and the District each acknowledge that they will consider the Property Report to accurately represent the condition of the Protected Property at the time of this conveyance, except as the Property Report explicitly may provide otherwise, and that the Property Report may be used by the parties in monitoring future uses of the Protected Property, in documenting compliance with the terms of this Easement and in any enforcement proceeding. This paragraph does

not preclude the use of other information and evidence to establish the present condition of the Protected Property in the event of a future controversy.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

CONVEYANCE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT:

Pursuant to the laws of the State of Minnesota and in particular Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84C and in consideration of the Recitals above and the mutual covenants contained herein and in further consideration of the sum of one dollar and other valuable consideration, the Owner hereby grants to the District a perpetual, nonexclusive conservation easement over **OUTLOTS B, C, E, F, I, K, AND N, DEERHILL PRESERVE** and as generally identified on the Plat and Site Plan attached hereto as Exhibits A and B and incorporated herein, respectively. The conservation easement granted herein consists of the following rights, terms and restrictions applicable within the Protected Property (the "Conservation Easement" or "Easement"):

1. **CONSERVATION PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Easement is to preserve and protect in perpetuity the Protected Property by: (a) confining the development, management and use of the Protected Property to uses and activities that are consistent with the LSP as further defined in Section 2.1, (b) prohibiting activities as set forth in this Conservation Easement, and (c) providing for remedies in the event of any violation of this Easement.

The terms of this Easement are specifically intended to provide a public benefit, including but not limited to restoring and protecting the water quality, habitat value and ecological integrity of surface waters and wetlands, as well as associated riparian land, floodplain and supporting groundwater, both on the Protected Property and within the wider hydrologic system in which they are situated, as further described in the District's watershed management plan (2007 version), along with the facilitation of public educational and passive recreational use by the local community consistent with protection restoration and protection of the resource.

2. PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION.

- 2.1. In conjunction with the development of the Residential Community, the Owner will complete the installation of the natural resources on portions of the Protected Property identified on the Site Plan as the "Restoration Area," and as specified in the Land Stewardship Plan ("LSP") dated May 23, 2016 (incorporated herein as Exhibit C).
- 2.2. Once the initial restoration plantings are established within the Restoration Area pursuant to the LSP, the Owner shall maintain the Restoration Area in accordance with the LSP.

- 2.3 The Owner has no obligation to complete any restoration within the area generally identified as the Reserve Area in the LSP, including, without limitation, the removal of any species or the installation of any plantings. The Reserve Area is also identified on the Site Plan and shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Reserve Area."
- 3. **USES WITHIN THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT:** In furtherance of the intent of this Conservation Easement, the Conservation Easement is subject to the activity and use rights and limitations set forth in Section 3. The permitted uses set forth below are not intended to be exclusive. The terms of this Section apply to Owner and all persons acting under Owner's authority or control.
 - 3.1 <u>Permitted Activity Limited.</u> Permitted activity on the Easement is limited to those activities specifically permitted in this Conservation Easement. The LSP will be interpreted as consistent with and subject to this Conservation Easement. No activity may be conducted under the LSP so as to violate any term of this Easement.
 - 3.2. <u>Industrial and Commercial Activity</u>. No industrial or commercial use of the Easement is allowed.
 - 3.3. Right of Way. No right of way shall be granted across the Easement area except the right-of-way shown on the Plat (Exhibit A) and the Site Plan (Exhibit B) to serve the lots in the Residential Community.
 - 3.4. <u>Mining</u>. No mining, drilling, exploring for or removing of any minerals from the Easement Area is allowed. The foregoing notwithstanding, prior to completing the restoration within the Restoration Area, the Owner may remove material within the Restoration Area for use in the development of the Residential Community, in which case Owner will protect and restore the disturbed area in accordance with the LSP.
 - 3.5. <u>Subdivision</u>. The Easement may not be divided, subdivided, or partitioned. Any adjustment to the boundary of a lot within the Easement requires District approval. Any such adjustment will be evidenced by the recording of an Amendment to this Conservation Easement to redefine the Protected Property.
 - 3.6. <u>Water</u>. No activity shall be conducted on the Easement that would pollute, alter, deplete, or extract surface water or groundwater; cause erosion; or be detrimental to water quality, except as follows:
 - a. Activities approved in writing by District that restore or enhance wildlife habitat or native biological communities or that improve or enhance the function and quality of existing wetlands and surface waters on and off of the property.

- b. Activities undertaken in the exercise of rights reserved under Section 3 of this Easement, if any, that might cause erosion or impact water quality on a temporary basis, provided that all reasonable erosion and sediment control measures are undertaken to limit the impacts of those activities. All activities permitted hereunder remain subject to any applicable permitting requirements of the District and other governmental bodies.
- c. Owner shall have the right to install wells within the Conservation Easement for purposes of providing irrigation for plantings and landscaping within any right of way, Protected Property or common elements installed as part of the Residential Community, or for purposes of serving an individual lot within the Residential Community as needed if the City determines that there is no feasible location on the individual lot being served by the well.
- 3.7. <u>Dumping</u>. No trash, garbage, organic material for composting, hazardous or toxic substances or unsightly material may be dumped or placed on the Easement Area.
- 3.8. <u>Storage Tanks.</u> There shall be no placement of underground storage tanks on, in, or under the Easement Area.
- 3.9. <u>Agricultural Use</u>. No agricultural use or cultivation, except for vegetation management permitted under subsection 3.14, below, is allowed within the Conservation Easement unless approved by the District.
- 3.10. Utilities. Limited utilities are permitted within the Easement as follows:
 - a. The Owner reserves the right to use the Easement for siting of secondary drainfields for individual septic systems associated with the lots contained within the Residential Community, subject to the limits in the approved PUD or as allowed by applicable City regulations. All secondary drainfields shall be subject to maintenance and management requirements of the Deerhill Preserve Homeowners Association (hereinafter referred to as the "HOA") and all applicable laws and regulations. If a secondary drainfield is sited within the Conservation Easement a survey showing the location of the drainfield shall be provided to the District and vegetation over the drainfield shall be reasonably consistent with adjacent vegetation.
 - b. Stormwater management facilities for the Residential Community may be located within the Easement.

- c. The Protected Property is subject to and encumbered by those utility easements identified on the Final Plat, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- d. Owner will not grant any new utility license or easement, or expand any existing utility license or easement, on or under the Easement Area, and will not install any utility pursuant thereto, except for those utilities that solely serve one or more lots within the Residential Community. In such a case, the utility will be subsurface if feasible and will be routed through the Conservation Easement only if an alternative route is not commercially feasible. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District, with Owner's concurrence, may allow other utilities to be installed and maintained, in its discretion but only on finding that the standards of paragraph 7.6(d), below, are met, and pursuant to such conditions as it may find necessary or appropriate.
- e. Owner will give the District notice before land disturbance under this Subsection 3.10. The District may prescribe reasonable terms to protect the adjacent land and restore the disturbed area following the work to the pre-disturbance condition. The District's authority under this paragraph is not subject to any permit threshold under its adopted erosion control rule, but the terms it may impose are limited to those that would be within its authority to impose under said rule.
- 3.11. <u>Recreational Use.</u> Owner retains the right to access the Conservation Easement areas for passive recreational use. This includes but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Owner may establish and maintain private turf trails for fire breaks, walking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and other non-motorized recreational activities on or across the Easement, as generally identified on the Site Plan. Owner may establish and maintain other trails with District approval.
 - b. Owner may grant easements to the City for trails for public use within a 20-foot right-of-way generally located on the alignments identified on Exhibit B hereto.
 - c. Owner may use any area within the Conservation Easement containing short prairie grass and identified on Exhibit B hereto as Gathering Area for occasional community gatherings. Temporary structures such as tents and pergolas, but not permanent structures, may be erected.
 - d. Owner may permit hunting within the Conservation Easement.

- e. The separation of recreational use from any drainfield edge will conform to applicable City requirements.
- 3.12. <u>Fences</u>. No fence may be located or constructed within the Easement except as agreed to by both parties.
- 3.13. Structures and Improvements. No temporary or permanent building, structure, sign or other improvement of any kind may be placed or constructed on the Easement, with the following exceptions: (i) signage to mark the boundaries of the Conservation Easement and to mark wetland buffer boundaries, (ii) monument signage for the Residential Community, near the Homestead Trail entrance on the west and the Deer Hill Road entrance on the east, (iii) as noted in Paragraph 3.11(b), or (iv) as agreed to by the parties.
- Vegetation Management. Vegetation may be altered in accordance with 3.14. the LSP or if such alteration is conducted in order to maintain, restore or enhance habitat for wildlife and native biological communities; prevent or control noxious weeds, invasive vegetation, or disease; improve the water quality of the Tamarack swamp (which is generally within Outlot B); or improve the water quality of other surface water bodies or groundwater in the Painter Creek Subwatershed. The District must approve an alteration that would deviate materially from the LSP or that would occur within the Reserve Area. The foregoing notwithstanding, emergency action may be taken as necessary to prevent or abate fire or any other condition causing or threatening injury or substantial property damage. Additionally, and notwithstanding Subsection 3.15, the Owner may move and or remove the nursery trees on the site located within Outlots E and I, and may remove or trim trees on the steep slope area located within Outlot K that obstruct viewsheds of adjacent residential lots. Areas disturbed by tree removal shall be restored with an appropriate seed mix compatible with adjacent areas. Measures will be utilized during removal and restoration to protect against slope instability.
- 3.15. Topography and Surface Alteration. No alteration or change in the topography or surface of the Easement is allowed after the restoration as identified within the LSP is completed, unless approved by the District. This includes no ditching, draining, diking, filling, excavation, dredging, mining, drilling or removal of soil, sand, gravel, rock, minerals, or other materials.
- 3.16. <u>Vehicles</u>. No motorized vehicle may be operated within the Easement except (i) as required to perform maintenance and management as identified within the LSP; or (ii) within the public trail easements as required by the City for maintenance and management of the trail or for

- public safety; or (iii) as required by the Owner for maintenance and management of the turf trail.
- 3.17. <u>Chemicals</u>. Except as authorized by Subsection 3.14, above, within the Easement there shall be no use of pesticides or biocides, except that the Owner may control mosquitoes in accordance with best selective control practices.
- 4. **RESERVED RIGHTS**. The Owner retains all rights associated with ownership and use of the Protected Property except as expressly restricted or prohibited by this Easement. Such rights include, but may not be limited to, all uses and activities necessary to implement and satisfy the obligations of the LSP.
- 5. **DISTRICT'S RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.** In order to accomplish the purposes of this Easement, the District has the following rights and remedies, which it will exercise consistent with the PUD and the LSP.
 - 5.1. <u>Right to Enter</u>. The District, its agents and authorized representatives may enter the Protected Property at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner for the purpose of, and may engage in, the following activities:
 - To inspect the Protected Property, monitor compliance with the a. terms of this Conservation Easement, and enforce the terms of this Conservation Easement as set forth herein. The District shall not unreasonably interfere with the legal and appropriate use and quiet enjoyment of the Protected Property by the Owner, the owners and occupants of the Residential Community, HOA, users of the public trail, or any successor homeowners association, and any permitted invitees of those persons, collectively ("Permitted Users") so long as such use is in a manner consistent with this Conservation Easement. To further the purposes as set out in this Section, Owner hereby grants to the District a perpetual non-exclusive easement for the purpose of access to the Protected Property by reasonable means, on, over, and across all trails, public and private roads, rights of way and platted drainage and utility easements within the Residential Community. The foregoing notwithstanding, the easement granted in this Section 5.1.a. shall not encumber or be located on any individual residential lot included in the Residential Community.
 - b. To survey or otherwise mark the boundaries of all or part of the Conservation Easement. Any survey or boundary demarcation completed under this provision will be at the District's expense.
 - c. To make scientific and education observations and studies and take samples within the Protected Property, in such a manner as will not disturb the quiet enjoyment of the Protected Property.

- d. Management of the Easement to advance applicable laws and regulations to protect or enhance the conservation purpose as stated at Section 1, above. Management may consist of, but not be limited to, planting, removing and maintaining native vegetation; modifying hydrology or soils; altering and stabilizing land; installing improvements for water quality and flood management purposes; erecting fencing or other measures to protect against intentional or unintentional impact; and installing and maintaining educational or informational signage. District actions under this paragraph are subject to Owner approval.
- No Grant of Public Right. Nothing in this Section 5 shall be construed as:

 (i) a public dedication; or (ii) a grant of right to persons other than the District and Permitted Users to enter or use the Easement as provided in this Conservation Easement. Nothing in this Easement constitutes a general right of public entry onto or across the Easement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the City may allow for public entry in accordance with paragraph 3.11(b), above.
- Right of Enforcement. If the District finds at any time that the Owner has 5.3. breached the terms of this Conservation Easement, the District, itself or in conjunction with the City, will notify the Owner of the alleged breach and direct the Owner to take action to cure the default. If such action is not taken, the District may give written notice detailing the breach to the Owner and demand action to cure the breach including, without limitation, restoration of the Protected Property as required in this Conservation Easement. If the Owner does not cure the breach within thirty (30) days from receipt of such notice, or such longer time as may be reasonably required (provided that the Owner's efforts to cure the breach are commenced within said thirty (30) day period and are diligently pursued toward completion), the District may commence an action to obtain one or more available remedies including but not limited to: (i) enforcing the terms of this Conservation Easement, (ii) enjoining the breach, or (iii) requiring restoration of the Protected Property to its condition prior to the Owner's breach. Specific performance is an available remedy without demonstration that it is the only adequate remedy. The notice and opportunity to cure is not required in the event that immediate action is reasonably necessary to prevent or mitigate significant and immediate damage to the Conservation Easement. Further, notwithstanding the foregoing, the City shall be granted a third-party right of enforcement as described in Minnesota Statute 84C, following the applicable notice and cure periods provided for herein. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Owner is not liable for damages to the District for acts of trespassers.

- a. <u>Enforcement Costs</u>. Owner is responsible for reasonable costs that the District incurs, exclusive of periodic monitoring costs, to investigate potential Easement violations and for compliance activity. This includes reasonable costs of technical and legal assistance. Owner will not contest the authority of the City to assess the District's reasonable and verifiable enforcement costs incurred in accordance with the procedures of this Subsection 5.3 against the Lots and Outlots within the Residential Community in the same manner as assessable City costs, with any such assessments to be allocated amongst the Lots and Outlots in a fair and equitable manner.
- b. Attorney's Fees. Notwithstanding paragraph 5.3(a), the prevailing party in a judicial action under this Easement shall be entitled to reimbursement from the non-prevailing party for all reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the prevailing party incurred after filing of the action. The parties waive their right to a jury trial on the issues of which is the prevailing party and the reasonable amount of attorneys' fees and costs to be awarded to the prevailing party. Those issues will be decided by the trial judge upon motion by one or both parties, such motion to be decided based on the record as of the end of trial augmented only by testimony and/or affidavits from the attorneys and their staff. The parties agree that, subject to the trial judge's discretion, the intent of this clause is to have all issues related to the award of attorneys' fees and costs decided by the trial judge as quickly as practicable.
- c. <u>Discretionary Enforcement.</u> The District does not, by any delay or prior failure of the District to discover a violation or initiate enforcement proceedings, waive or forfeit any enforcement right.
- d. Acts Beyond Owner's Control. The District will have no claim against the fee owner for any change to the Protected Property: (i) not caused in whole or part by an action of the Owner or a party acting under the Owner's authority, or (ii) to the extent caused by an action of the Owner, or of a party acting under the Owner's authority, taken reasonably and in good faith under emergency conditions to prevent or mitigate substantial damage from such conditions.
- e. <u>Property Report</u>. In any enforcement matter, the Property Report referenced at Recital F, above, may be used as evidence as to the baseline condition of the Reserve Area, as may any other evidence meeting applicable standards for consideration.

6. **PUBLIC ACCESS.** Nothing in this Easement constitutes Owner's grant of general public access to the Easement. The terms of use of any general public trail under subsection 3.11 will be memorialized with a trail easement.

7. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

7.1. Assignment. This Easement, and any rights or responsibilities hereunder, may be assigned or transferred by the District to, or shared by the District with, a conservation organization that is a qualified organization under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations and that is authorized to hold conservation easements under Minnesota law. Any future holder of this Easement shall have all of the rights conveyed to the District by this Easement. As a condition of any assignment or transfer, the District shall require any future holder of this Easement to continue to carry out the conservation purposes of this Easement in perpetuity.

The District agrees not to transfer or assign the easement during the establishment period as identified within the LSP, or until the HOA assumes responsibility for the Easement areas, whichever occurs first. Further, the District agrees that the HOA and the City shall have the right to review the assignee and, within a reasonable time, find its own qualified organization if the HOA or City does not approve of the District's proposed assignee.

The Owner has the right to convey title to the Protected Property to the HOA, at times following the satisfaction of the duties and obligations of the Owner as identified in the LSP, or as may be mandated by the HOA's Bylaws and Covenants. At such time, the HOA will assume the duties of the Owner for purposes of this Conservation Easement and the Owner will be released from all duties, obligations and liabilities under this Conservation Easement. Such conveyance will include:

- a. Any conveyance or encumbrance of the Protected Property is subject to this Easement.
- b. The Owner will reference or insert the terms of this Easement in any deed or other document by which the Owner conveys title to all or a portion of the Protected Property.
- c. The Owner will reference or insert the terms of this Easement within the HOA documents and Bylaws.
- d. The Owner will notify the District of any conveyance within fifteen (15) days after closing and will provide the District with the name and address of the new owner and a copy of the deed transferring title.

- e. The enforceability of validity of this Easement will not be impaired or limited by any failure of the Owner to comply with this subsection.
- 7.2. <u>Amendment</u>. Under appropriate circumstances, this Easement may be modified or amended. However, no amendment or modification will be allowed if, in the reasonable judgment of the District, it: (i) does not further the purposes of this Easement, (ii) affects the perpetual duration of the Easement, or (iii) affects the validity of the Easement under Minnesota law or under Section 170(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. Any amendment must comply with the applicable City code and Deerhill Preserve Conservation Design Planned Unit Development.

Any amendment or modification must be in writing, signed by Owner and District and must be recorded in the same manner as this Easement.

- 7.3. <u>Extinguishment</u>. This Easement may be extinguished only through judicial proceedings and only under the following circumstances:
 - a. This Easement may be extinguished only (i) if unexpected change in the conditions of or surrounding the Protected Property makes the continued use of the Protected Property for the conservation purposes set out above impossible or impractical or (ii) pursuant to the proper exercise of the power of eminent domain.
 - b. The Owner recognizes that uses of the Protected Property prohibited by this Easement may, in the future, become more economically viable than those uses permitted by the Easement.

Changes to the surrounding area or other circumstances may cause the public benefit provided by this Easement to change. Therefore, such changes are not considered unexpected changes and shall not be deemed to be circumstances justifying the extinguishment of this Easement as otherwise set forth above.

- 7.4. <u>Real Estate Taxes</u>. The Owner shall pay all real estate taxes and assessments levied against the Protected Property.
- 7.5. Ownership Costs and Liabilities. The Owner retains all responsibilities and shall bear all costs and liabilities of any kind related to the ownership, operation, upkeep and maintenance of the Protected Property, excluding the public trails and public trail easements, as described in the LSP, including the maintenance of such comprehensive general liability insurance coverage as the Owner deems adequate. The preceding sentence shall not apply to any improvements constructed by the District under subsection

5.1. The Owner agrees to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the District from any and all liabilities arising out of any waste or contaminant on the Protected Property as of the date of this Easement, which terms are to be understood in their broad common meaning and not as defined by any specific statute, as well as any and all liabilities, including, but not limited to, injury, losses, damages, judgments, costs, expenses and fees that the District may suffer or incur, to the extent they result from the activities of Owner on the Protected Property. The District agrees to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the Owner from any and all liabilities including, but not limited to, injury, losses, damages, judgments, costs, expenses and fees that the Owner may suffer or incur, to the extent they result from work or improvements of the District on the Protected Property. Each party shall keep the Protected Property free of any liens arising out of any work performed for, materials furnished to or obligations incurred by that party. Nothing in this paragraph or this Easement creates any right in any third party or diminishes any immunity, defense or liability limitation of the Owner or District as against any third party.

By assuming its rights and responsibilities under this Easement, the District is not assuming the role of owner or operator, or otherwise of a potentially responsible party, under any law with respect to any preexisting environmental condition on the Protected Property. Owner holds harmless and agrees to defend and indemnify the District from and against any and all liability, loss, claim, damage or expense (including reasonable attorney fees, costs and disbursements) that the District may incur to the extent it results from a pre-existing environmental condition on the Protected Property.

- 7.6. <u>Notice and Approval</u>. Any notice or request for approval required by this Easement must be written and is subject to the following:
 - a. <u>Delivery.</u> Any required notice or request for approval must be delivered or sent by first class mail or other nationally recognized delivery service to the appropriate party at the following addresses (or other address specified in writing):

To the Owner: To the District:

Stonegate Farm, Inc. Minnehaha Creek Watershed

District

6851 Flying Cloud Drive, Suite A 15320 Minnetonka Boulevard

Eden Prairie, MN 55344 Minnetonka, MN 55345

- b. <u>Timing.</u> Unless otherwise specified in this Easement, any required notice or request for approval must be delivered at least 30 days prior to the date proposed for initiating the activity in question.
- c. <u>Content.</u> The notice or request for approval must include sufficient information to allow the approving party to make an informed decision on whether any proposed activity is consistent with the terms and purposes of this Easement.
- d. Approval. The approving party may consent to any activity under this Easement only if it reasonably determines that the activity (1) will not violate the conservation purpose of this Conservation Easement as stated at Section 1, and (2) will either enhance or not impair any significant water resource or associated ecological element associated with the Protected Property, including the following: restoring and protecting the water quality, habitat value and ecological integrity of surface waters and wetlands, as well as associated riparian land, floodplain and supporting groundwater. The approving party may condition its approval on the requesting party's acceptance of modifications that, in the approving party's reasonable judgment, would allow the proposed activity to meet these criteria. Unless provision is made for a specific time period, each response to a request for approval or consent required to be considered pursuant to this Conservation Easement shall be given by the party to whom directed within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof. Any disapproval shall be in writing and, subject to this Section 7.6.d, the reasons therefor shall be clearly stated. Failure to reply within the required time period, however, will not be deemed to be an approval. The foregoing notwithstanding, the provisions of this Section 7.6 do not apply in any manner to any request that requires an amendment to this Conservation Easement, as such requests shall be governed by Section 7.2 of this Conservation Easement. With respect to all requests for approval under this Easement, the requesting party will not unreasonably withhold, delay or condition approval.
- 7.7. <u>Binding Effect</u>. This Easement will run with and burden the Protected Property in perpetuity. The terms of this Easement are binding and enforceable against the Owner, its lessees, agents, personal representatives, successors and assigns, and all other parties entitled to possess or use the Protected Property.

This Easement creates a property right immediately vested in the District and its successors and assigns that cannot be terminated or extinguished except as set out herein.

- 7.8. <u>Merger</u>. The Owner and District agree that the terms of this Conservation Easement shall survive any merger of the fee and easement interest in the Protected Property.
- 7.9. <u>Definitions</u>. Unless the context requires otherwise, the term "Owner" means Stonegate Farm, Inc. and its representatives, successors and assigns in title to the Protected Property. The term "District" means the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and its successors, assigns and partners to any interest it holds in this Easement.
- 7.10. <u>Termination of Rights and Obligations</u>. A party's rights and obligations under this Easement terminate upon the transfer or termination of that party's interest in this Easement or the Protected Property, provided, however, that any liability for acts or omissions occurring prior to the transfer or termination will survive that transfer or termination.
- 7.11. Recording. The District will record or register this Easement in a timely manner in the official records for Hennepin County. Following reasonable written notice to the Owner, the District may re-record or re-register this Easement or any other document reasonably necessary to protect its rights under this Easement or to assure the perpetual enforceability of this Easement. The Owner will cooperate as necessary to accomplish and effect acts of recordation.
- 7.12. Controlling Law and Construction. This Easement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota and construed to resolve any ambiguities or questions of validity of specific provisions in favor of giving maximum effect to its conservation purposes and to the policies and purposes of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84C.
- 7.13. Permits and Applicable Laws. The Owner and the District acknowledge that the exercise of any reserved right herein or other use of the Protected Property is not by this Easement relieved from complying with or obtaining any permit from any applicable governmental authority, including the District, prior to the exercise thereof.
- 7.14. Severability. A determination that any provision or specific application of this Easement is invalid shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions or any future application.
- 7.15. <u>Captions</u>. The captions herein have been inserted solely for convenience of reference and are not a part of this Conservation Easement and shall have no effect upon construction or interpretation.
- 7.16. <u>Additional Documents</u>. The District and Owners agree to execute or provide any additional documents reasonably needed by the parties to carry

- out in perpetuity the provisions and intent of this Easement, including, but not limited to any documents reasonably needed to correct any legal description or title matter or to comply with any federal, state, or local law, rule or regulation.
- 7.17. <u>Entire Agreement.</u> This document states the entire agreement of the parties with respect to this Easement and supersedes all prior discussions or understandings.
- 7.18. Estoppel Certificate. Owner and District agree upon written request by the other party agree to issue, within thirty (30) days after receipt of such request to such party, or its prospective mortgagee or successors or assigns, an estoppel certificate stating to the best of the issuer's knowledge as of such date:
 - a. Whether it knows of any default under this Easement by the requesting party, and if there are known defaults, specifying the nature thereof in reasonable detail.
 - b. Whether this Easement has been assigned, modified or amended in any way by it and if so, stating the nature thereof in reasonable detail.
 - c. Whether this Easement is in full force and effect.
- 7.19. Excusable Delays. Whenever performance is required by a party hereunder, such party shall use all due diligence to perform; provided, however, if completion of performance is delayed at any time by reason of acts of God, war, civil commotion, terrorism, riots, strikes, picketing, labor disputes, unavailability of labor or materials, damage to work in progress by reason of fire or other casualty, or any cause beyond the reasonable control of such party, then the time for performance as herein specified shall be appropriately extended by the amount of the delay actually so caused.
- 7.20. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Easement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed shall be deemed an original with all such counterparts taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY:

	e basis of mutual valuable consideration, and intending to l	
	District voluntarily execute this Conservation Easement o	n the
day of	, 2016.	
	STONEGATE FARM, INC. ("OWNER")	
	By:	
	Michael J. Seeland, President	
STATE OF MINNESOTA		
) ss.	
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)	
The foregoing instrumen	was acknowledged before me this day of	
	chael J. Seeland as President of Stonegate Farm, Inc.	
	Notary Public	
	Trottery I dolle	

ACCEPTANCE

The Minnehaha Creek Water this day of	rshed District hereby accepts the foregoing Conservation Easement, 2016.
	MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
	By:
	Title: President
STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF)) ss.
The foregoing instru	ment was acknowledged before me this day of, as President of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed
	Notary Public My Commission Expires:

Exhibit A: Final Plat

DEERHILL PRESERVE

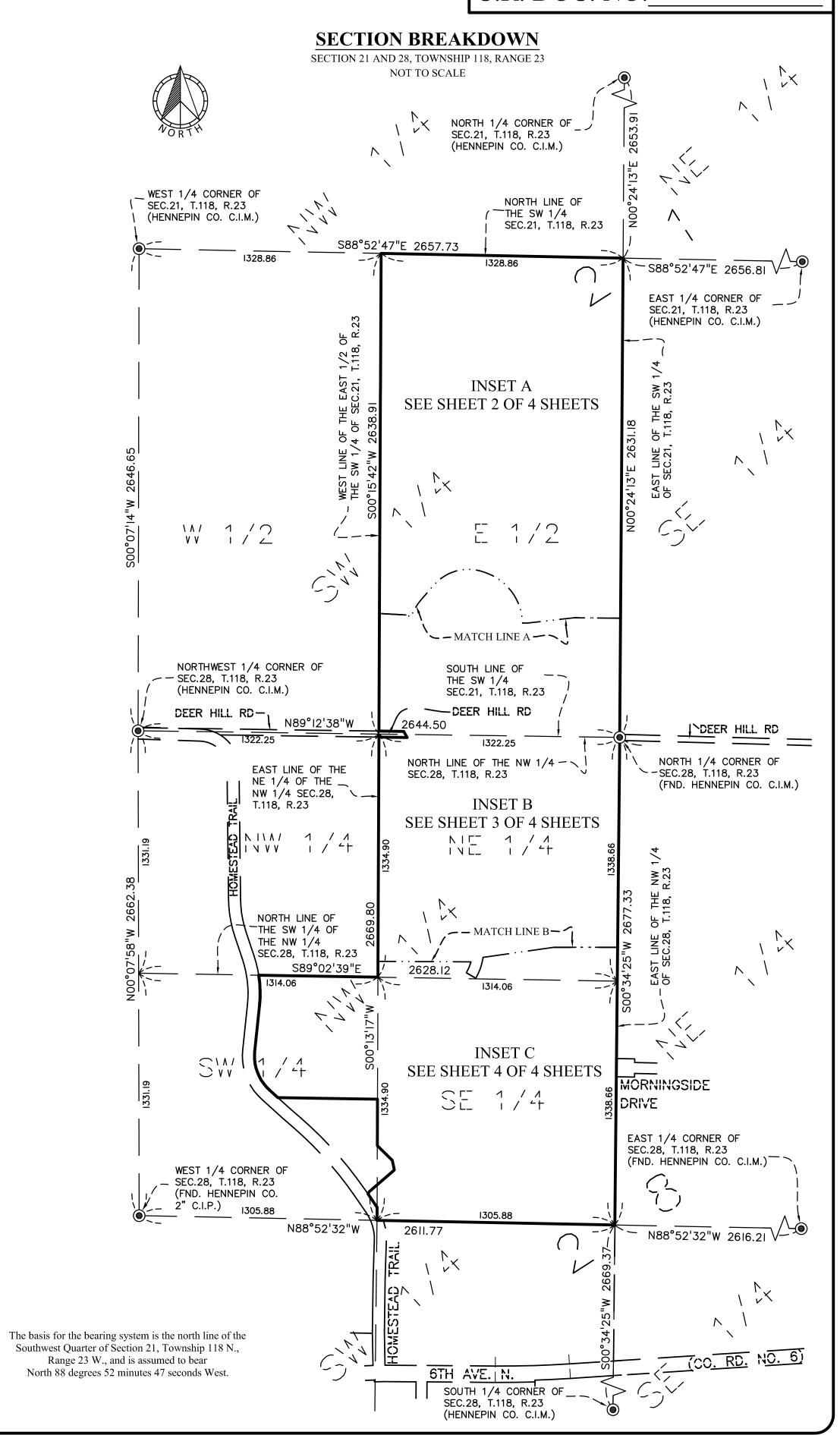
R.T. DOC. NO.

C.R. DOC. NO.

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS property situated in the State of Minnesota, County		a Minnesota corporation, fee owner of the fo	llowing described
, ,			
The East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 2	21, Township 118, Range 23, H	Iennepin County, Minnesota.	
And			
The Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of S	Section 28, Township 118, Rar	nge 23, Hennepin County, Minnesota.	
And			
The Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of lies Westerly of the following described line: Com assumed bearing of South 0 degrees, 07 minutes, 42 925.33 feet to the actual point of beginning of the lithence South 11 degrees 56 minutes, 18 seconds I Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, distant 1140.18 the line there ending.	mencing at the Northwest conditions are seconds West along the West ine being described; thence Son East, a distance of 53.92 feet;	rner of said Southeast Quarter of the Northw line of said Southeast Quarter of the Northw uth 45 degrees, 52 minutes, 18 seconds East, thence Southwesterly to a point in the We	est Quarter; thence on a rest Quarter, a distance of a distance of 115.25 fee st line of said Southeas
And			
That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwood follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, a distance of 6 Quarter, a distance of 548.47 feet to the Easterly line along Easterly line of said Road, a distance of 60.1 the right having a radius of 254.35 feet; thence N Northerly 166.62 feet along the Easterly line of said along a tangential curve to the left having a radius 655.43 feet to the point of beginning.	I Southwest Quarter of the No. 168.33 feet; thence West parallel of Dillman Road; thence No. 5 feet; thence Northerly 239.1 ortherly 249.7 feet along easted Road to the North line of sai	orthwest Quarter; thence South along the Ea llel with the North line of said Southwest Orthwesterly deflecting to the right 41 degrees 4 feet along the Easterly line of said Road be erly line of said Road, being tangent to last d Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quart	st line of said Southwe Quarter of the Northwe s, 13 minutes, 16 second eing a tangential curve to described curve; thence er; said 166.62 feet bein
And			
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by Minnesota Statutes, Section 505.01, Subd. 3, as of the date of this certificate are shown and labeled on this plat; and all public ways are shown and

This instrument was acknowledged before me this	day of	, 2016, by David B. Pemberton.
Notary Public, Hennepin County, Minnesot	a	Notary Printed Name
My Commission Expires:		
MEDINA, MINNESOTA		
This plat of DEERHILL PRESERVE was approve day of, 20 Transportation and the County Highway Engineer comments and recommendations, as provided by M	116. If applicable, the written have been received by the C	Council of Medina, Minnesota at a regular meeting held this a comments and recommendations of the Commissioner of ity or the prescribed 30 day period has elapsed without receipt of s 05.03, Subdivision 2.
D.,,	Marri	
By:Bob Mitchell	, Mayor	
By:Scott T. Johnson	, City Administrator - Clo	erk
RESIDENT AND REAL ESTATE SERVICES, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA		
	d prior years have been paid	for land described on this plat. Dated this day of
Mark V. Chapin, Hennepin County Auditor		
Ву:	, Deputy	
SURVEY DIVISION HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA		
Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 383B.565	(1969), this plat has been app	roved thisday of, 2016.
Chris F. Mavis, Hennepin County Surveyor		
By:	<u> </u>	
REGISTRAR OF TITLES HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA		
I hereby certify that the within plat of DEERHILL ato'clockM.	PRESERVE was filed in thi	s office this day of, 20
Martin McCormick, Registrar of Titles		
Ву:	, Deputy	
COUNTY RECORDER HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA		
I hereby certify that the within plat of DEERHILL 2016, ato'clockM.	PRESERVE was recorded in	n this office this day of
Martin McCormick, County Recorder		

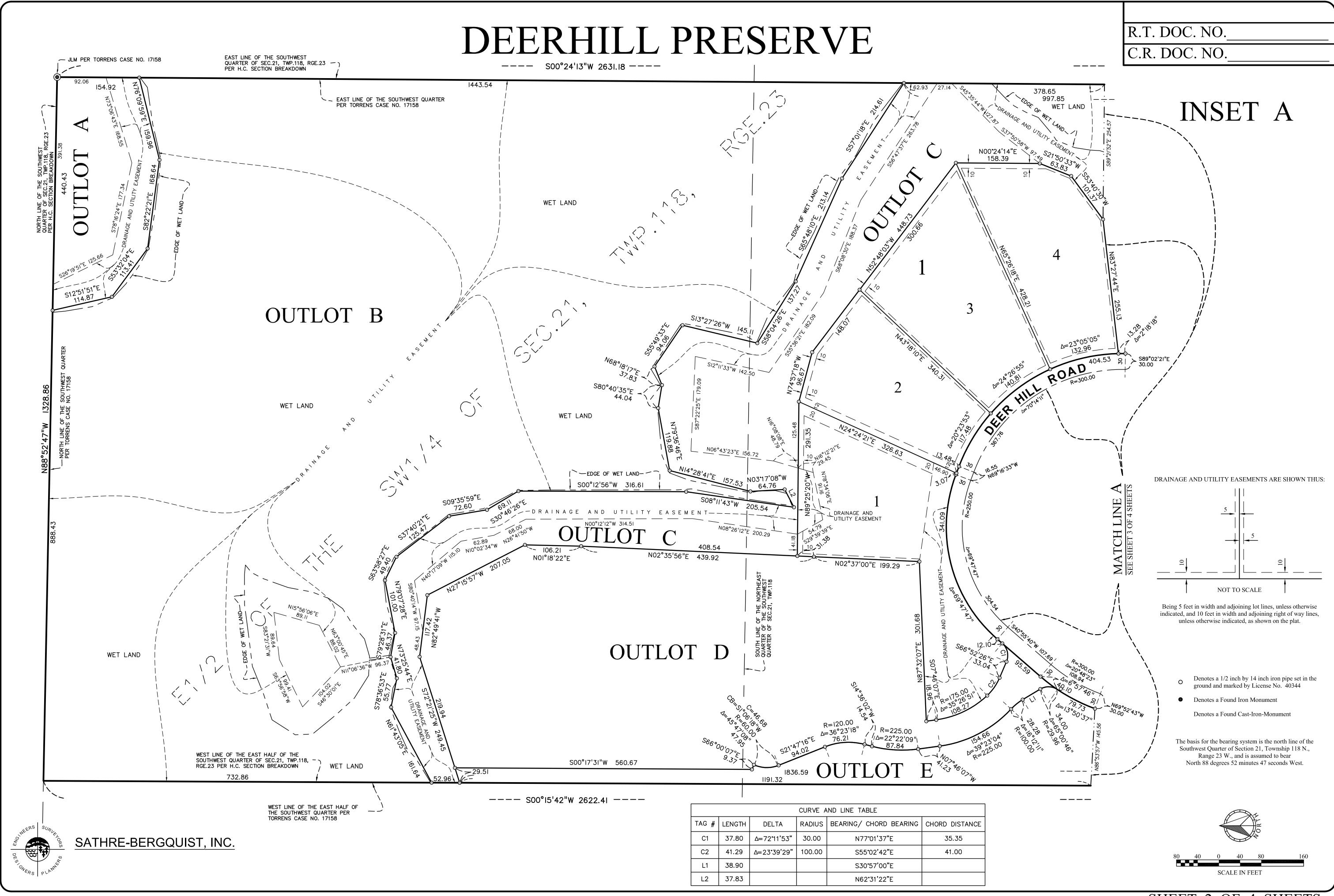


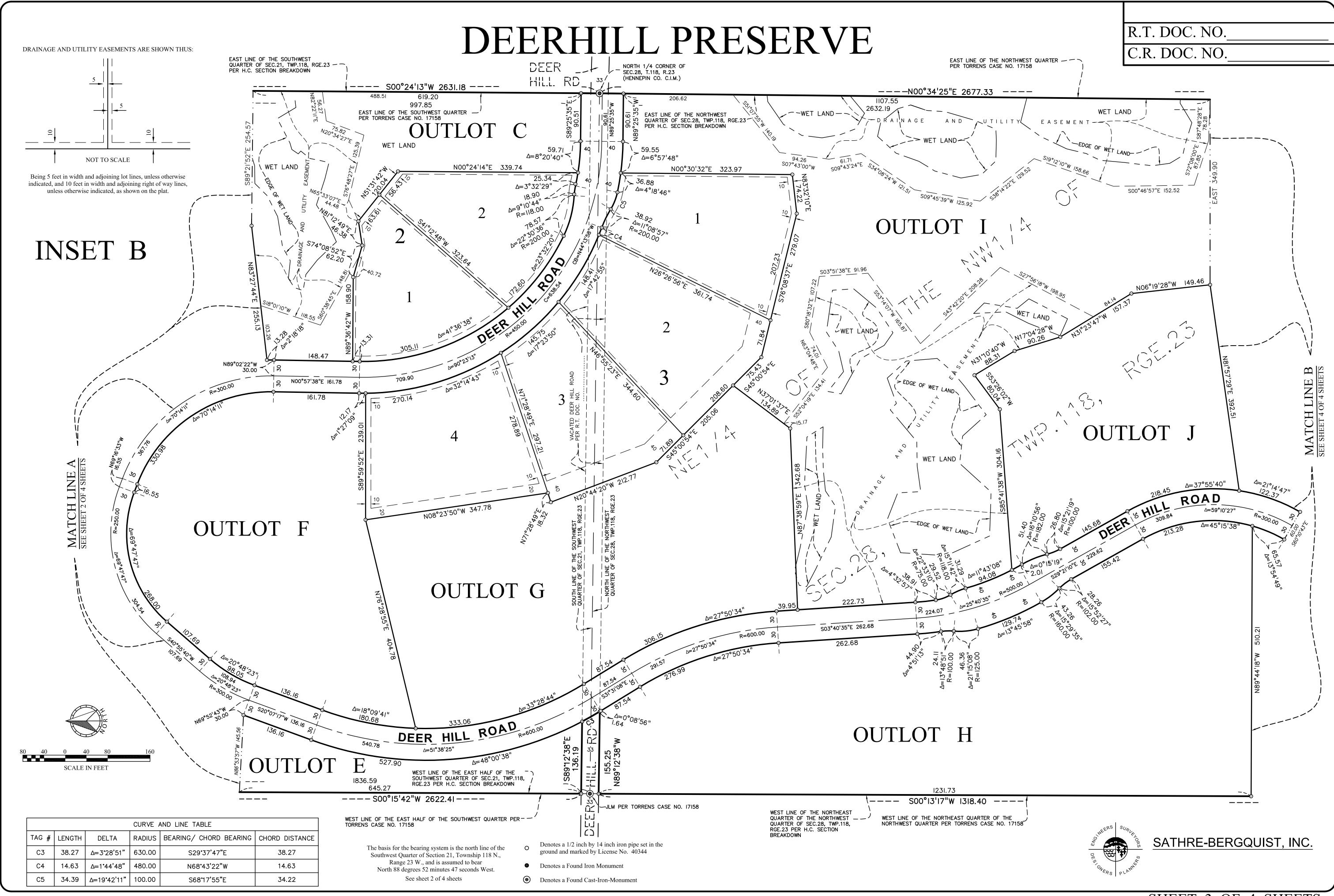


David B. Pemberton, Licensed Land Surveyor

Minnesota License No. 40344

labeled on this plat.





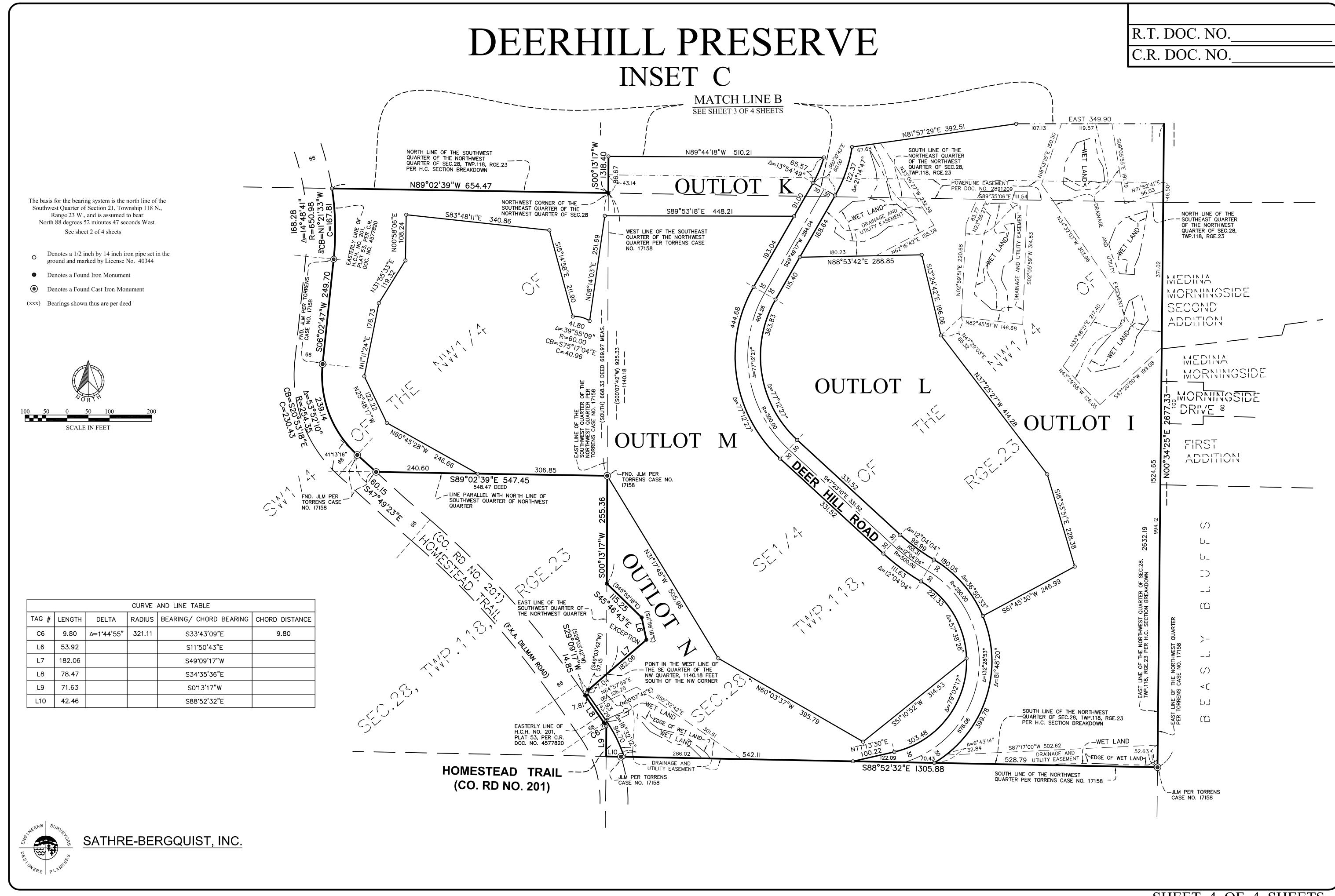


Exhibit B. Site Plan Site Boundary Reserve Restoration Area Road and ROW Impacted Wetland CRP Nursery Plantings Wetland Boundary Stormwater Management Area Wetland Buffer Dry Creek Bed Private Lot Line **Proposed Trail** Proposed Private Trail Gathering Area (Private/HOA) Data Sources: - Sathre-Bergquist, Inc. AES Job Number: 14-1069 Filename: Deerhill Preserve_ConsEas_2016-03-10 Date: 03/10/2016 APPLIED 21938 Mushtown Road Prior Lake, MN 55372 952-447-1919 www.appliedeco.com 200 400 800 Feet

FINAL LAND STEWARDSHIP PLAN

DEERHILL PRESERVE FINAL PLAT Medina, Minnesota

Revised May 23, 2016

Prepared for: Property Resources Development Corporation

6851 Flying Cloud Drive, Suite A Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

Prepared by: Applied Ecological Services, Inc.

21938 Mushtown Road Prior Lake, Minnesota 55372

(952) 447-1919

Revised by:

Property Resources Development Corporation

6851 Flying Cloud Drive, Suite A Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

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FINAL LAND STEWARDSHIP PLAN

DEERHILL PRESERVE FINAL PLAT Medina, Minnesota

INTRODUCTION

Property Resources Development Corporation (PRDC) proposes to develop a 170-acre farm (the "site") owned by Stonegate Farm, Inc. in Medina, Hennepin County, Minnesota following the City's Conservation Design District (CD) requirements. The Project includes 41 single family sites, and the neighborhood is proposed to be called Deerhill Preserve. The site holds unique and important conservation values based on its regional location and variety of wetland habitats. These values are recognized by PRDC, and its goal is to create a place for the development's residents to live, for the local community to enjoy, and for plants and wildlife to thrive.

Conservation Design

The proposed development complies with the City of Medina's Conservation Design Development requirements as described in detail in subsequent sections and per City Code Section 827.51. Conservation Design (CD) – Purpose.

The purpose of this district is to preserve the City's ecological resources, wildlife corridors, scenic views, and rural character while allowing residential development consistent with the goals and objectives of the City's Comprehensive Plan and Open Space Plan as updated from time to time. The specific conservation objectives of this district are to:

- 1. Protect the ecological function of native hardwood forests, lakes, streams, and wetlands.
- 2. Protect moderate to high quality ecologically significant natural areas.
- 3. Protect opportunities to make ecological connections between parks and other protected lands and ecologically significant natural areas.
- 4. Protect important viewsheds including scenic road segments.
- 5. Create public and private trails for citizens to access and enjoy Open Space resources.
- 6. Create public and private Open Space for citizens to access and enjoy Open Space resources.

City Code Section 827.57 defines Conservation Area and Conservation Easement Conservation design typically follows a process that begins with the identification of primary Conservation Areas (i.e., areas that generally should not be affected by development) and secondary Conservation Areas (i.e., areas that should be avoided or protected where feasible). (See page 12 for definition of Conservation Area and Conservation Easement)

Primary Conservation Areas typically contain:

- larger blocks of core wildlife habitat
- ecologically significant natural areas, usually with native plant communities
- legally-protected natural areas, such as wetlands and Conservation Easements
- steep slopes (>18% per Medina City Code)
- land within the 100-year floodplain
- other rare natural features, including rare species

Secondary Conservation Areas often contain:

- former wetlands and intermittent drainageways, often with hydric soils, which present challenges for development
- steep slopes that may be prone to erosion
- semi-natural areas, which are damaged ecosystems or lack native vegetation, but support some wildlife
- ecological connections providing movement corridors for wildlife
- buffer zones to protect primary Conservation Areas and sensitive natural resources such as wetlands and aquatic ecosystems
- valued cultural/historical features
- scenic viewsheds

Site development is focused in the remaining areas, with impingement on primary and secondary Conservation Areas first avoided, then minimized if impacts cannot be avoided, and lastly mitigated. Mitigation can take the form of regulated wetland mitigation, as well as ecological restoration, enhancement, and management of the site's Conservation Areas. Creating and managing diverse and healthy plant communities dominated by native species (including those associated with a naturalized stormwater treatment train) provides value to the development and can be enhanced further by incorporating trails and other amenities into the development to educate and engage residents.

Conservation developments should also be designed with minimal grading, naturalized stormwater management, and public and private access in mind. Preservation of existing drainage divides and use of existing drainage patterns will reduce grading costs and take advantage of the site's unique landforms. Where feasible, well-drained soils should be identified and incorporated into naturalized infiltration systems to help manage the development's stormwater runoff. Trails and interpretive opportunities, if applicable, will benefit both residents and the local community.

Land Stewardship Plan

Per City of Medina Code Section 827.65, a Land Stewardship Plan (LSP) is required for the Deerhill Preserve project. A LSP addresses the development, long-term use, maintenance, and insurance of the Conservation Area associated with a proposed development. More specifically, this Final LSP:

- (a) Defines ownership and methods of land protection.
- (b) Establishes necessary regular and periodic operation and maintenance responsibilities.
- (c) Estimates staffing needs, insurance requirements, and other costs associated with plan implementation and defines the means for funding the same on an on-going basis. This

includes land management fees necessary to fund monitoring and management of the Conservation Easement by the easement holder. The fees have been found reasonable by the proposed easement holder.

(d) Addresses the requirements of the future Conservation Easement holder.

The following Final Land Stewardship Plan applies to the entire area contained within the Conservation Easement, unless otherwise stated. PRDC intends to develop the residential lots in Phases and/or Additions, with final plat of each Phase or Addition occurring as dictated by the market.

Amendments or Changes to LSP

PRDC intends to install and implement the planting and management plan as detailed within subsequent sections of this document, and is hopeful that the short-grass prairie /meadow plantings will be successful. However, as identified in the Existing Conditions section, the pre-settlement vegetation on the site was big woods, and prairie/meadow grasses were not native to the site. As a result, PRDC is not sure how the site will respond to the prairie/meadow planting or how extensive or reasonable the resulting maintenance and management program might be to achieve a certain level of success. Several years ago the site was planted with a prairie mix which was classified and ranked using the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) as a C/D. It is PRDC's hope that the proposed planting and management plan for the site, in the initial implementation phase, will achieve the classification level and condition defined as the Baseline Restoration Condition at page 17, and then be maintained and managed reasonably to that same level into perpetuity. If it appears that aspects of this LSP are factually incorrect or that procedures set forth in this LSP do not promote the ecological enhancement of the Conservation Area as predicted, or that such procedures are outdated, unfeasible or superseded by newer technological or scientific procedures or determinations, then PRDC (HOA), the City and the MCWD may by written agreement amend the LSP.

Restoration after Construction Related Activities

It should be noted that construction activities may temporarily impact portions of the Conservation Area as development progresses through the site. The following summary generally describes how PRDC anticipates coordinating site development and restoration activities (somewhat) concurrently:

- In summer of 2016, PRDC anticipates the commencement of site development activity and the construction of the main road (Deer Hill Road) to serve 41 residential lots. PRDC plans to begin restoration efforts in the Conservation Easement during June 2016 with an initial application of a glyphosate-based herbicide or other broad-spectrum systemic herbicide to remove any active weeds. During the growing season aggressive perennial weeds will be spot treated and a second application of herbicide will be applied during late October. Approximately 2 weeks later, during mid-November, the Restoration Area will be planted with the predominantly native seed mixes similar to those attached in Exhibit 3: Seed Mix Tables using a no-till drill. This level of site preparation to control weeds, seeding consistent with Exhibit 2, and follow-up weed management is intended to achieve the Baseline Restoration Condition as defined on Page 17.
- Staging areas along the main road will be constructed to accommodate construction traffic and other activities, and may temporarily impact portions of the Conservation Area. Once a

- staging area is no longer needed, or because a phase has been fully developed, PRDC will remove the staging area and correct any damage in the Conservation Area to achieve the Baseline Restoration Condition.
- Construction of the private cul-de-sacs is not a part of the first phase of development, and therefore, when construction of these roadways commences there may be impact to portions of the adjacent Conservation Area. Once construction is complete, and the phase has been fully developed, PRDC will correct any damage to the Conservation Area to achieve the Baseline Restoration Condition.
- Utilities, including secondary septic sites, may be constructed as part of the development of the residential lots. Any construction activities that damage a Conservation Area will be corrected to achieve the Baseline Restoration Condition once construction is completed.
- Mining of soil or rock may occur in the Conservation Area during development of the site
 and may impact portions of the Conservation Area. This disturbance will be corrected to
 achieve the Baseline Restoration Condition.

PRDC will begin the appropriate restoration activities within the Restoration Areas during the first phase of development, as recommended by the contracted ecologist. Any other land disturbance, not identified above, occurring with the development of successive phases will be corrected to achieve the Baseline Restoration Condition.

The following sections address the required elements of the LSP.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Compilation of Existing Data

The following existing data were compiled and reviewed to assess the natural, cultural, historic, and scenic character of the site and its surroundings:

- MnDNR Ecological Classification System
- MnDNR Minor Watershed boundaries
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)-listed Impaired Waters
- Web Soil Survey (SSURGO Soil Survey data from USDA/NRCS)
- Original Vegetation of Minnesota (pre-European vegetation mapping by Marshner/MnDNR)
- MnDNR Rare Natural Features (from the Natural Heritage Information System, NHIS)
- MnDNR Native Plant Communities (NPC)
- MnDNR Sites of Biological Significance (SBS)
- Regionally Significant Ecological Areas (RSEA) both original mapping and 2008 update
- MnDNR Regional Ecological Corridors based on 2008 MLCCS data
- Metro Conservation Corridors
- 2030 Framework Regional Natural Resource Areas
- Hennepin County Open Space Corridors and Priority Natural Resources Corridors
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) wetland mapping
- MCWD Key Conservation Area mapping

- Restoration Prioritization and Prediction Model (RePP)
- Public conservation lands (e.g., public parks, Scientific and Natural Area (SNA), Wildlife Management Area (WMA))
- Historical and current aerial photographs (oldest 1937; most current 2013)
- Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) mapping (based on discrete datasets from 2001, 2005, and 2008)
- Wetlands (including delineated site wetlands, Hennepin County Wetland Inventory, and MCWD Functional Assessment of Wetlands (FAW))
- City of Medina Open Space Plan (2007)
- Site parcel boundaries
- Topographic contours (2-ft LiDAR data) and digital elevation model (DEM)
- Minnesota Historical Society database report

Field Reconnaissance

On September 19, 2014, Kim Chapman (Principal Ecologist) and Douglas Mensing (Senior Ecologist) of AES conducted a field reconnaissance of the site. Accompanied by members of the development team, they walked the site and documented existing conditions (including landforms, slopes, plant species, wildlife observations, drainage patters, erosion, etc.). In brief, the site was dominated by fallow agricultural fields, with a variety of wetlands generally consistent with the findings of others. Moderate slopes were observed in the southern portion of the site, and steep slopes were observed on the southwestern edge where the site borders Homestead Trail.

Findings

Ecological Context

According to Minnesota's Ecological Classification System, the site is located in Minnesota's Big Woods Subsection of the Minnesota & NE Iowa Morainal Section, of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province. The site is within the Painter Creek Minor Watershed, which drains into Lake Minnetonka (several bays of which are listed by the MPCA as "impaired"), then into the Minnehaha Creek and eventually the Mississippi River. Moderate slopes (<18%) exist in the southern portion of the site. Site soils consist of a variety of upland and wetland (i.e., hydric) soils, ranging from well drained to very poorly drained. A large area of poorly drained soil is mapped just south of the site's center. On-site geotechnical investigations (including percolation tests) by others indicate that some of the USDA/NRCS soil mapping of the site may be inaccurate. Prior to European settlement, the majority of the site was dominated by Big Woods (e.g., oak, maple, basswood, hickory, elm). The northern portion of the site contained Tamarack Swamp, and low-lying drainageways likely contained wet prairie, wet meadow, and possibly marsh.

Regional Ecological Significance

Based on MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) records, the only rare natural feature recorded on the site is the Tamarack Swamp (a MnDNR-mapped Native Plant Community). This swamp is a sensitive wetland type, susceptible to degradation resulting from invasive species, stormwater runoff, and hydrologic alterations. Regarding other rare natural features, red-shouldered hawk (State-listed Species of Special Concern) was observed just east of the site as recently as 2007.

The site's Tamarack Swamp was identified by multiple sources as a regionally significant ecological feature, habitat, or corridor. Several of these ecological classifications (including several derived from MLCCS data, such as the City of Medina's Open Space Plan "Composite" map) encompass the majority of the site; we believe this is due to the former Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) planting that contained prairie grasses, which was then replaced by cropland after CRP contract expiration in 2007. Baker Park Reserve, managed by Three Rivers Park District, lies immediately southwest of the site. This 2,700 acre Regional Park is one of the largest parks and natural areas in Hennepin County.

Cultural/Historical/Scenic Significance

The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) database search did not identify cultural/historical resources on the site. The only structure known to have existed on the site is a barn, which is still present on the southwest edge of the property. The majority of the site has been in agricultural production since at least 1937 (see Aerial Photography Review, below). The Minnesota SHPO database report acquired for the site (Appendix A) identified two records in the site vicinity:

- 1. House (3050 Highway 6) located approximately 850 feet southwest of the site
- 2. Barn (2885 6th Ave. N.) located approximately 950 feet south of the site

The site encompasses part of an elevated landform (a flat-topped ridge), which extends onto the site from the east, just south of its center. With slopes falling to the north, south, and west, this plateau provides spectacular scenic views of the Tamarack Swamp (north), wetlands and rural landscapes (south), and the wetlands and parkland of Baker Park Reserve (west). Views of the site from surrounding areas are generally limited due to topography, distance from nearby roads, and vegetative screening. The site is partly visible heading north from CR 6 and Homestead Trail. The proposed entrance road and the first few lots will be visible from this vantage point because the topography rises here.

Aerial Photograph Review

The earliest available aerial photograph of the site was from 1937. The photo shows the majority of the site in row crop agriculture (not including the Tamarack Swamp). A review of more recent aerial photos from the early 1990s through 2013 indicates that the majority of the site consisted of row crop agricultural fields through at least 1997. The Tamarack Swamp and several apparent lowlands and drainageways were not cultivated. By 2000, the majority of the cropland appeared to consist of grassland, which is consistent with CRP contract records. Then by 2009, these areas appeared to again be in row crop production, which seems to have continued through the 2013 photo.

Agricultural Records

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) records indicate that the approximately 107 acres south of the Tamarack Swamp consisted of a CRP grassland planting from October 1997 to September 30, 2007; these records are consistent with the term of the CRP contract and reviewed aerial imagery. According to property records, there was also an Ag Preserve Covenant on approximately 160 acres of the property; this covenant expired on September 15, 2008.

Land Cover & Wetlands

The Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) was developed in the late 1990s but was not released until approximately 2001. The City of Medina was one of the first areas mapped as part of the pilot program, with MLCCS field work conducted in 1999. This initial land cover mapping

identified site features such as the Tamarack Swamp in the north, a sliver of Maple Basswood Forest and Lowland Hardwood Forest along the east property line, low-lying areas of non-native vegetation (likely reed canary grass swales and depressions), planted crops, and an area of planted mesic prairie. Since then, MLCCS mapping updates were conducted. The latest update, however, based on 2007 field work, is not representative of the site's current land cover.

In 2007, an approved wetland delineation of the entire site identified 15 wetlands totaling 41.5 acres. Most of this wetland area consisted of the Tamarack Swamp in the northern portion of the site. Several smaller wetlands were delineated at the eastern edge and in the central and southern portions of the site. In 2011, three wetlands (totaling approximately 30.85 acres) were identified and delineated on the northern 80 acres of the site; this northern delineation was approved in the spring of 2012. A wetland delineation of the southern 90 acres of the site was approved on November 9, 2015, which identified 11 wetlands (totaling approximately 5.1 acres).

CONSERVATION DESIGN OF DEERHILL PRESERVE

Development Layout

The conservation design approach described in the Introduction was applied to the Deerhill Preserve site. The development team (including planner, landscape architect, engineer, and ecologist) worked together to identify and respond to the site's unique attributes and sensitive natural features. AES identified primary and secondary Conservation Areas, appropriate ecological buffers, and ecological corridors/connections. These Conservation Areas were avoided to the extent feasible when siting the development's roads and residential lots, and they have been thoughtfully integrated into the development's design, establishing a connected network of predominantly native landscapes.

The Deerhill Preserve site design also followed the Better Site Design/Low Impact Development (LID) practices of the Minnesota Stormwater Manual from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The Deerhill Preserve conservation development design incorporated all of the MPCA's "better site design techniques" listed below, except where noted:

- Preserve natural areas
- Natural area conservation
- Site reforestation
- Stream and shoreline buffers (the site lacks streams and lakes, but the design incorporates ecological buffers around all wetlands)
- Open space design
- Disconnect and distribute runoff
- Soil compost amendments (these may be incorporated into final design of stormwater management elements)
- Disconnect surface impervious cover
- Rooftop disconnection
- Grass channels
- Stormwater landscaping
- Narrower streets (private roads)
- Reduce impervious cover in site design

- Narrower sidewalks (no sidewalks are proposed; all trails will be natural surface)
- Smaller cul-de-sacs

The proposed conservation development plan will remove no native forest and will preserve and buffer the existing Maple-Basswood Forest at the east edge of the site. Virtually no development is proposed along the entire east edge of the site, which creates and enhances a potential ecological corridor between the Tamarack Swamp in the north and the wetland complex to the south. The on-site portion of this corridor will have a minimum width of 150 feet and average over 350 feet wide along the developed portion of the site. Although some home sites are present nearby off site to the east, the functional corridor is wider still.

Three small wetlands and a portion of a fourth wetland will be impacted by the proposed development; these total approximately 24,829 square feet, or 0.57 acres (0.17 acres of impacted wetlands are located in the City of Orono, but will be mitigated for on the Medina site). Today, however, these wetlands are primarily cropland—tilled, temporarily flooded depressions providing limited functions and values. Impacted wetlands will be mitigated on site through the restoration and enhancement of at least 1.14 additional acres of high quality wetlands integrated into the site's mosaic of restored/enhanced plant communities. In addition to wetland mitigation requirements, another 1.86 acres of wetlands will be integrated into the development plan. This exceeds the minimum replacement standards for proposed wetland impacts.

Grading and Ecological Stormwater Management

Site grading and disturbance has been minimized to the extent feasible, retaining natural drainage patterns. AES worked with the design team to capitalize on opportunities for ecological stormwater management in order to minimize runoff and to see that any water reaching wetlands or leaving the site is of high quality. Impervious surfaces have been minimized by limiting the development's private road widths to 22 feet, reducing the diameter of cul-de-sacs, eliminating sidewalks, and using only natural-surface trails. Private lots will be required to route rooftop, driveway, and parking area runoff to designated stormwater management features or to areas of permanent vegetation. Ecological stormwater management elements incorporated into Deerhill Preserve's conservation design include:

- restored landscapes dominated by native vegetation, which will infiltrate runoff;
- treatment wetlands (including infiltration basins and ponds), which remove pollutants and store flood pulses;
- other infiltration areas (e.g., prairies/meadows), which reduce runoff volume and recharge shallow groundwater, which provides baseflow to downhill water bodies and wetlands;
- a dry creek bed, which provides additional pollution removal and aerates the water; and
- vegetated swales, which filter pollutants out of runoff and also infiltrate to shallow groundwater

Cultural Amenities & Access

Trails were designed to provide public and private access to and through the site's Restoration and Reserve Areas. However, extensive trails were excluded from the Tamarack Swamp and other sensitive natural areas that provide refuge for sensitive wildlife.

The site has very little frontage on adjacent scenic roadways, and is not highly visible from adjacent properties, with some limited exceptions. The site does contain significant topographic changes, given the plateau at the center of the site. The plateau slopes downward to the north, south, and west from this high point. Although a slight topographic high bisects the site approximately at the Deer Hill Road right-of-way, the setback of over 850 feet from adjacent roadways and properties will make structures here at most only intermittently visible from the surroundings. Additionally, this area is well buffered by vegetation and other residential home sites on Homestead Trail. Traveling north on Homestead Trail from CR-6, some homes on the site will be visible, but the proposed landscaping will soften the viewshed from the west.

OWNERSHIP, CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES & LAND PROTECTION

Deerhill Preserve Land Allocation

The Deerhill Preserve Final Plat addresses a 170-acre Conservation Design Subdivision. The proposed development plan calls for a variety of Development Areas and Conservation Areas, as illustrated in Figure 1 below and in Exhibit 1 (attached).

Deerhill Preserve Site (171 ac) Development City Park Land Conservation Area Area Dedication (89 ac) (80 ac) (2 ac) Roads & ROW Restoration Area Reserve (8 ac) (41 ac) (48 ac) Private Lots Wetland Forest Prairie/Savanna Wetland

Figure 1. Deerhill Preserve Land Allocation

Development Area

Areas not included in the Land Stewardship Plan

Deerhill Preserve's approximately 80 acres of Development Area includes roads, rights-of-way (ROW), and private lots. The main road through the Deerhill Preserve subdivision will be public (owned and maintained by the City of Medina), and the two cul-de-sacs are planned to be privately owned and managed by the Deerhill Preserve Homeowners Association (HOA). Private lots will be owned and maintained by PRDC until the lots are purchased by homeowners.

City Park Land Dedication

Approximately 2 acres of land will be dedicated to the City to fulfill a portion of the City's park dedication requirements. This property will be deeded to the City at Final Plat and will not be a part of the Conservation Area or the Development Area. Additionally, public trails are planned within the Conservation Area and the corresponding acreage is included within the Conservation Area identified in Figure 1.

Conservation Area

The City of Medina defines **Conservation Area** as:

Designated land within a Conservation Design Subdivision that contributes towards achievement of one or more of the conservation objectives. A Conservation Easement is placed on Conservation Areas to permanently restrict the Conservation Area from future development. Conservation Areas may be used for preservation of ecological resources, habitat corridors, passive recreation, and for pasture, hay cropping and other low impact agricultural uses.

And, the City of Medina defines **Conservation Easement** as:

As defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 84C: A nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations the purposes of which include retaining or protecting natural, scenic, or open-space values of real property, assuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational, or open space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural aspects of real property.

The approximately 89 acres of Conservation Area (CA) in the Deerhill Preserve subdivision will be protected under a Conservation Easement that will be held by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD), with the HOA retaining ownership of the CA. The CA will consist of approximately 48 acres of Reserve and approximately 41 acres of Restoration Area. Each of these areas is discussed below in terms of ownership, objectives, proposed restoration/enhancement, land protection methods, scheduling, funding, and enforcement.

The Reserve

The Reserve will consist primarily of existing wetlands (including the Tamarack Swamp) and forests (including Maple-Basswood Forest).

Ownership & Objectives

The areas identified on Exhibit 1 as "Reserve" will be transferred to the Deerhill Preserve HOA (Owner) as lot sales occur. The edges of these areas will be marked clearly in the field with permanent MCWD conservation signage. The overarching objective for the Reserve is to retain or improve the existing natural resource values and ecosystem functions of these areas.

Proposed Landscape Conditions

The Reserve areas will remain much as they are today, however, the Owner and/or MCWD may conduct ecological enhancement or management activities to improve their ecosystem functions in the future.

CRP/Nursery Plantings

The Reserve areas contain the "CRP Nursery Plantings" identified on Exhibits 1 and 2. This overlay designates areas that were planted with trees and shrubs by the Owner as a part of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract, and are now protected with a nursery license. PRDC may or may not relocate and remove these plantings over time, and if such plantings are removed, the disturbed areas will be restored using a seed mixture similar to the area disturbed and appropriate to the site. Stonegate Farm, Inc.'s records indicate that the nursery plantings included: Black Hills Spruce, White Spruce, Colorado Spruce, Scotch Pine, Lonicera X Honeyrose, Red Oak, Bur Oak, Green Ash, Black Walnut, Austrian Pine, and Ponderosa Pine.

<u>Land Protection Methods & Schedule</u>

The Reserve will be protected by the Conservation Easement, which will be held by the MCWD. Per the easement requirements, the MCWD will perform, at a minimum, annual monitoring inspections of the easement to assure compliance with the easement. No schedule is proposed for ecological enhancement or management activities within the Reserve; however, these predominantly wetland and forest areas will benefit from the restoration and management activities that will occur in the Restoration Area.

Land Protection Funding

Through its holding of the Conservation Easement, the MCWD has accepted responsibility for funding perpetual monitoring of the easement. Ecological enhancement or ongoing management is not scheduled for the Reserve; therefore, initial land protection funding is not required for this area. Over time the HOA may consider ecological enhancement or management activities in the Reserve and would budget for such activities by incorporation into the stewardship fund as established within the Restoration Area.

Land Protection Enforcement

Because the Reserve is covered by the MCWD-held Conservation Easement, all easement requirements will be monitored by the MCWD, and the MCWD will inform the HOA of any violations and direct the HOA to take prompt action to resolve any issues. In the event of a violation, MCWD in coordination with the City will provide written notice to the HOA (fee holder) detailing the violation and identifying the proper corrective action. In the event the violation is not addressed in a timely manner (typically within one month), the MCWD and the City shall independently have the right to enter the premises and take the needed corrective actions, with the costs of such corrective actions being assessed against the fee holder of such area or, as necessary, fairly and equitably against homeowner properties.

Restoration Area

Restoration Areas will consist primarily of prairie/meadow, savanna (opportunity to develop over time), and wetlands. These areas will be actively restored or enhanced as diverse, predominantly native plant communities.

Ownership & Objectives

The areas identified on Exhibit 1 as "Restoration Area" will be transferred to the Deerhill Preserve HOA as lot sales occur. The edges of these areas will be marked clearly in the field with permanent MCWD conservation signage. The objectives for the site's Restoration Area are:

- 1. Convert agricultural fields and degraded wetlands to relatively large blocks of predominantly native habitat (primarily prairie/meadow, savanna, and wetland) for their ecosystem services and for the enjoyment of residents. The existing agricultural wetlands near the center of the site will be enhanced, restoring a historical wetland complex.
- 2. Provide naturalized stormwater treatment of the development's runoff through volume, rate, and water quality management. The proposed restored prairies/meadows, savannas, vegetated swales, dry creek bed, infiltration basins and other infiltration areas, and stormwater ponds will promote volume and runoff reduction (through infiltration and other practices, where feasible), rate control, and effective nutrient removal. The stormwater management features will be protected by the Conservation Easement, as well as a City drainage and utility easement.
- 3. Provide limited, passive recreational gathering areas for residents of Deerhill Preserve to experience and enjoy the site's Conservation Area.
- 4. Provide a limited, passive recreational, natural surface trail system. This will include private trails for residents of Deerhill Preserve, as well as public trails for the larger community to experience and enjoy the site's Conservation Area.

Proposed Landscape Conditions

The Deerhill Preserve Restoration Area (currently dominated by agricultural fields) will be actively restored to a mosaic of regionally-appropriate, predominantly native landscapes including prairie/meadow and savanna interspersed with a variety of wetlands (See Exhibit 2). Ecological restoration of these areas will entail eradication of existing, primarily invasive and weedy vegetation, soil preparation, and seeding and planting of appropriate native and non-native species. Implementation costs to complete the prairie establishment effort are estimated at approximately \$125,000.

The Restoration Area's ecological restoration and enhancement zones are illustrated in Exhibit 1. During the General Plan of Development process, PRDC committed to re-planting the Restoration Area using the prairie "cover crop" (or a comparably diverse seed mix) that was planted on the site from 1997-2007 as part of a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract. PRDC will plant the Restoration Area with tailored seed mixes to restore the area with short grass prairie, wildflower and meadow species, upland buffers and wetlands (Seed Mix attached as Exhibit 3). Seed mixes may be augmented in the future with live plantings, including trees and shrubs in savanna areas, but no schedule has been identified for implementation of these plantings. Existing erosion features in the site's Restoration Area, such as some of the site's existing drainageways, will be re-graded to blend naturally with the surrounding landscape and will be stabilized during restoration/enhancement activities.

Land Protection Methods & Schedule

PRDC will be responsible for the ecological enhancement, restoration, operations and maintenance of the site's Restoration Area as described in the previous section until such time the fee and title of the Conservation Area is turned over to the Deerhill Preserve HOA. The MCWD will hold a Conservation Easement over this area.

Installation and Establishment Period Management

This initial stage is the most intensive and costly. Significant effort is often necessary to establish proposed plant community structure in a short period of time. Actions include tasks such as selective woody brush removal, spraying invasive species with herbicide, seeding, and mowing. After invasive plants are removed and predominantly native seed and plants are installed, management within the first three growing seasons is very important. Predominantly native plant communities take time to develop and are low-maintenance—not no-maintenance—landscapes. Therefore, restoration and enhancement, initial establishment maintenance, and perpetual stewardship will be required to sustain the conservation values of these areas. Table 1 summarizes the anticipated three years of initial prairie/meadow and wetland restoration, enhancement, and establishment tasks for the site's Restoration Area.

Implementation of Restoration Area

A number of tasks must be undertaken in order to establish predominately native plant communities in the Restoration Area. The following sections summarize how PRDC envisions a qualified ecological contractor accomplishing specific restoration and management tasks, as well as what activities are anticipated in each area through 2019.

Generally, the Restoration Areas will be planted with native dominated short prairie grasses and forbs which are tailored to the specific conditions of the site. The seed mixtures have been broken into three categories on the attached plan as follows: Mesic Short Prairie, Wet Prairie and Wet Meadow (see Exhibit 2 for the Planting Plan and Exhibit 3 for the proposed seed mixes). The Wet Prairie and Wet Meadow areas will be planted with entirely native seed and will restore the vegetation in the wetlands and upland buffers that were historically farmed. A summary of the activities is provided in the following:

a) Site Preparation and Seed Installation

During the 2016 growing season an application of a glyphosate-based herbicide or other broad-spectrum systemic herbicide will be applied to the site. This should be done after the weeds emerge and before seed production. This initial application should occur in early to mid-June. A crop of spring wheat was planted on the southern 90-acres of the site lying south of the Section line between Sections 21 and 28. Weed control should be aggressive, the site should be monitored, and herbicide applied to persistent weeds as necessary. A final application of herbicide over the site should be scheduled for mid-October. It is anticipated that the seed mixes shall be installed during November 2016 using a no-till drill in the appropriate zones as identified on the attached Exhibit 2. However, the most appropriate method of seeding will be determined by PRDC in consultation with the MCWD after the contractor is selected.

PRDC intends to use PLS seed to obtain the desired coverage and germination rates.

Maintenance during 2016-2019

Native seeding typically requires several years to establish. Annual and biennial weeds should be controlled by mowing and spot spaying of herbicides within the first three growing seasons. Weeds should be mowed twice during the first two growing seasons and spot treated as necessary.

Table 1. Anticipated Tasks and Schedule for Initial Restoration, Enhancement and Establishment

General Task	Description/Subtask		Yea (201			_		Year 2 (2017)		Year 3 (2018)			Year 4 (2019)				
00			02	03	04	01	02	O3	04	01	02	03	04	01	00	03	04
Seeding	Install native and non-native seed (where site prep complete)																
Weed Control (site prep and control)	Broadcast herbicide, spot-spray and/or mow																
	Prescribed burn (if used for site prep)																
Seeding	Install native and non-native seed (where additional site prep was required)																
Brushing	Cut & stump treat invasive woody vegetation																
Brushing Follow-Up	Foliar-spray herbicide for invasive woody vegetation																
Prescribed Burn/Haying	Prescribed burn (where fuel is sufficient and burn warranted) or Haying																
Ecological Monitoring & Reporting	Assess & document site conditions & prepare summary report																

Notes: Q = quarter of year

Suggested Performance Standards for Restoration and Short-Term Management PRDC will establish performance standards in a contract for the installation and for the initial three year management period. PRDC will consult with the MCWD to arrive at the appropriate contractual performance standards. PRDC will include benchmarks for 2017-2019 which, if not met, will have to be corrected by the contractor. At the end of the three-year establishment phase a site visit and report using the 2008 Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) methodology will be prepared by the HOA's qualified consultant to document the condition of the prairie / meadow installation. The planting will be considered successful if it is ranked as a quality level C or greater based upon the MLCCS Natural Community Element Occurrence Ranking Guidelines A-D continuum. The quality level C ranking will constitute the "Baseline Restoration Condition." Based on this methodology, a "C" ranking describes a moderate condition natural plant community with obvious past disturbance, but still clearly recognizable as a native plant community. The plant community is not dominated by weedy species at any vegetative layer. The report and document created at the end of the three-year establishment phase shall then serve as the guideline to the HOA of how to plan for the maintenance of the Conservation Easement to at least the Baseline Restoration Condition.

Perpetual Management

Perpetual management will be essential to maintaining the composition, structure, and function of healthy ecosystems throughout the Restoration Area. Perpetual management activities may include activities such as:

- Control of weeds and invasive vegetation with spot herbicide treatments;
- Prescribed burning or haying of prairie/meadow, savanna, and wetland areas (when and where appropriate);

- Remedial or enhancement seeding or planting; and
- Monitoring and reporting.

After achieving initial restoration goals the restoration process shifts to a reduced-intervention, lower-cost perpetual management stage. It is important that the perpetual management program and schedule be flexible and sustainable by PRDC and ultimately the Deerhill Preserve HOA who will take over maintenance and management of these areas. Suggested long-term management tasks are identified and offered as guidance to the Deerhill Preserve HOA.

Table 2 presents the suggested perpetual management schedule for the site, and generally addresses activities that may be conducted in any phase of restoration.

Table 2. Suggested Perpetual Management Scho	edule
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	Т	ask Repet	ition Interval, In Years	
Plant Community	Monitoring & Annual Reporting	Weed Control	Scheduled Vegetation Disturbance*	Remedial Seeding (if needed)
Mesic Short Prairie	1	2-3	2-3	3-5
Wet Prairie	1	1-3	2-3	3-5
Wet Meadow	1	1-3	3-5	3-5
No-Mow/Low-Grow	1	1-2	NA	2-4

Notes: Schedule assumes that prescribed burning or having will be employed as a restoration and management technique.

*The Restoration Area should be divided into sections and a schedule established for burning/having rotations. It is not recommended to burn or hav all of the Restoration Area in a given year.

Land Protection Funding

Ecological restoration and enhancement requires a substantial initial investment, followed by significantly reduced, but perpetual, annual stewardship costs to address operations and maintenance needs. PRDC will identify and hire a qualified ecological contractor to complete the initial restoration, enhancement, and establishment tasks proposed for the site's Restoration Area. Initial restoration, enhancement, and establishment is anticipated to take approximately three years (Fall 2016-2019) to establish the prairie/meadow (see Table 1).

Following initial restoration, enhancement, and establishment (typically the initial three-year period), the average annual perpetual management cost for the entire site's Restoration Area is estimated to be \$250-350 per acre. Management staffing will be provided by a qualified ecological contractor selected and compensated by the Deerhill Preserve HOA. Annual HOA dues (paid by Deerhill Preserve residents) will be supplemented by PRDC (as necessary) to establish an escrow account to fund perpetual stewardship, and such account should total no less than \$12,300 at any time (\$300/ac x 41 ac Restoration Area), and such account shall be fully funded at the onset of the perpetual management period (beginning in 2020). The stewardship account will continue to be funded by annual HOA dues plus a perpetual real-estate transaction fee (estimated at \$500 per transaction), which will provide additional funds to the account each time a property within the development is sold. PRDC will prepare HOA Documents including Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions that will provide for the assessment and collection of funds for the ongoing management of the

Restoration Area. It will be the responsibility of the HOA, with assistance from their ecological contractor, to determine the necessary maintenance and management activities in a given year, and make the appropriate adjustments to the minimum escrow account balance if necessary. The HOA will have the power to establish an annual budget and be able to enforce the collection of annual dues and the HOA will provide MCWD annual statements of the conservation management accounts as part of their monitoring role.

Land Protection Enforcement

MCWD staff will conduct annual inspections of the Conservation Easement to document site conditions and to see that the conservation values of the easement are being upheld. In the event that issues or a violation are identified, the MCWD will inform the HOA of the violation and direct the HOA to take prompt action to resolve any issues.

PRDC recognizes that in the event that the fee holder of the Conservation Area, or any successor organization thereto, fails to maintain all or any portion of the aforesaid Conservation Area so as to violate the conservation purpose of the easement, the City or the holder of the Conservation Easement (MCWD or its assigns), independently or together, may serve written notice upon such fee holder setting forth the manner in which the fee holder has failed to maintain the aforesaid Conservation Area. Such notice shall set forth the nature of corrections required and the time within which the corrections shall be made. Upon failure to comply within the time specified, the fee holder, or any successor organization, shall be considered in violation of this Final LSP, in which case the City or the holder shall have the right to enter the premises and take the needed corrective actions. The costs of enforcement and corrective actions by the City or holder shall be assessed against the HOA and/or the properties that have the right of enjoyment of the Conservation Area.

The HOA will be required to maintain a General Liability insurance policy that will cover the Conservation Area, exclusive of the public trails and public trail easements, owned by the Deerhill Preserve HOA. The MCWD is in agreement with this Final LSP, insurance coverage requirements, perpetual stewardship obligations, and preliminary cost estimates developed for funding of the Conservation Area.

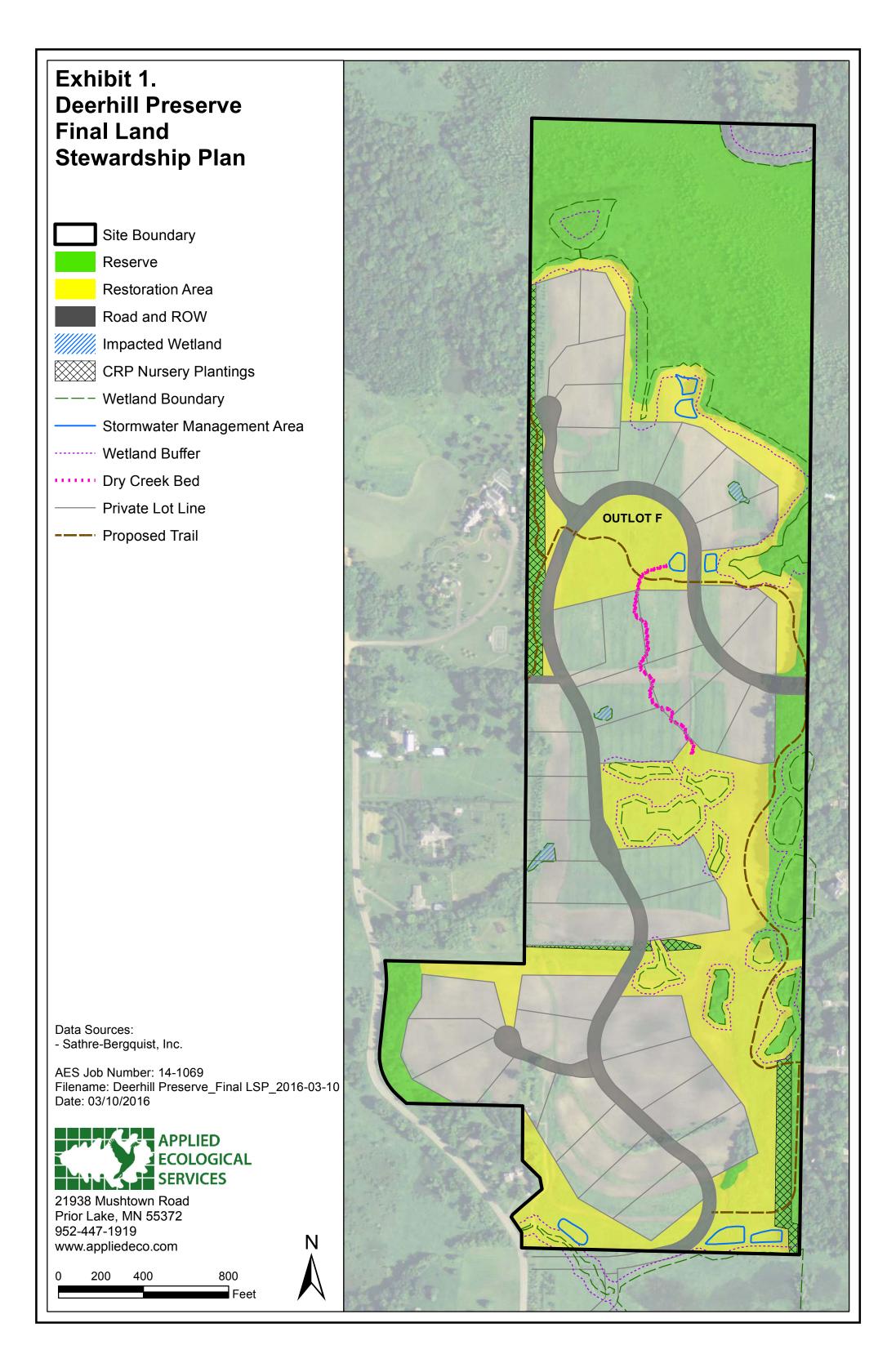
CONCLUSION

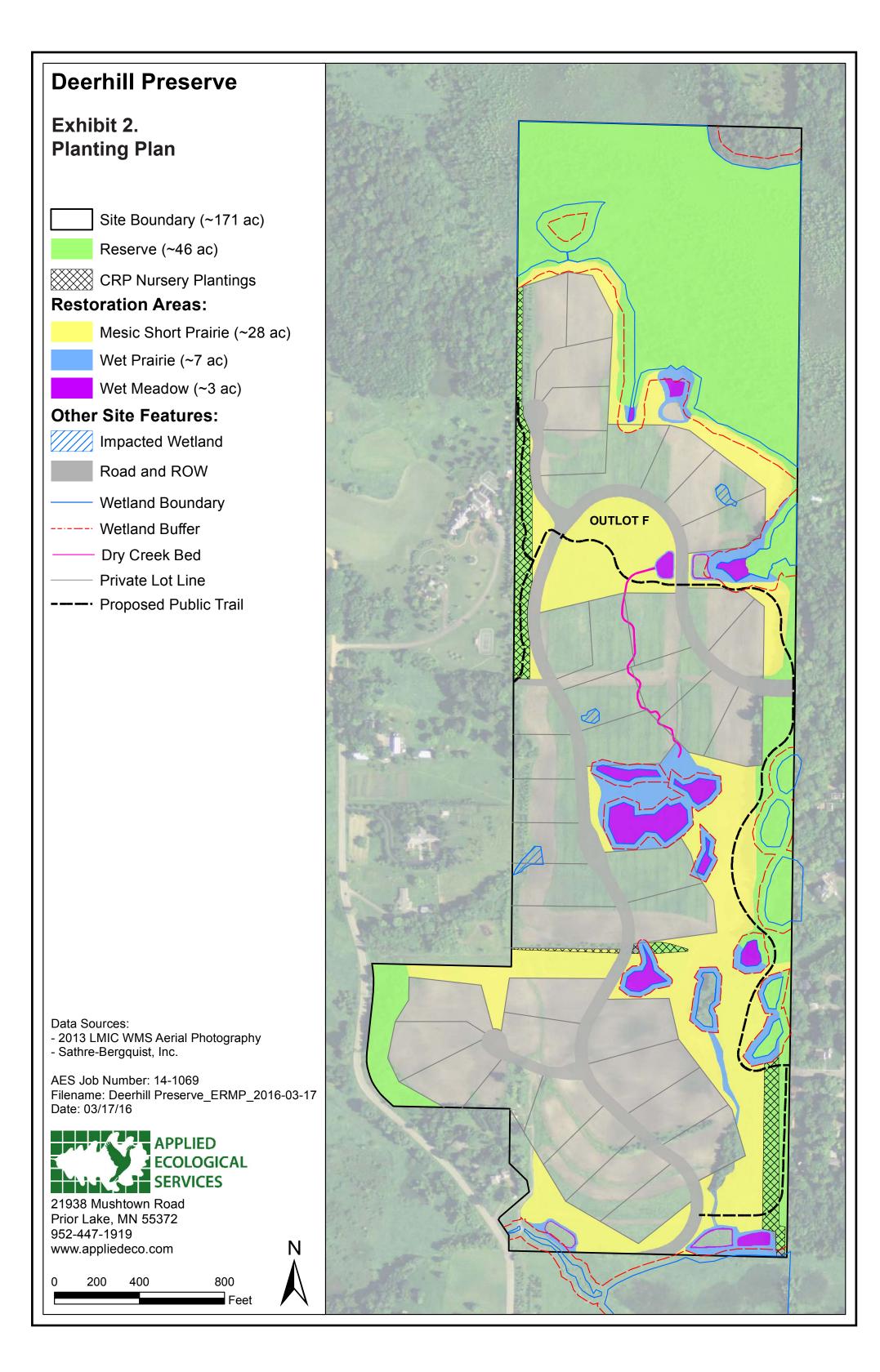
The proposed Deerhill Preserve conservation development complies with the City of Medina's Conservation Design District requirements, and will serve as a model for future conservation developments in the City and region. The implementation and perpetual management of the project—as protected by the MCWD-held Conservation Easement—will result in a high quality development, in which quality homes, valuable community amenities, and enhanced ecological functions all work together and create a beautiful, livable place.

Appendix A. Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office Database Report

History/Architecture Inventory

PROPERTY NAME		ADDRESS	Twp R	lange	Sec	Quarters	USGS	Report	NRHP	CEF	DOE	Inventory Number
COUNTY:	Hennepin											
CITY/TOWNSHIP	: Orono											
house		3050 Highway 6	118	23	28	SE-NW-SW	Excelsion	xx-95-4H				HE-ORC-036
barn		2885 6th Ave. N.	118	23	28	SE-NE-SW	Orono	xx-95-4H				HE-ORC-037





Mesic Short Prairie/Meadow -Base Mix

Exhibit 3: Seed Mixes

oz/acre	lbs/ac	Botanical Name	Common Name	Seeds per sq ft
48.00	3.00	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side Oats Grama	6.61
8.00	0.50	Bromus kalmii	Arctic brome	1.47
32.00	2.00	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender wheatgrass	5.07
40.00	2.50	Festuca mix	Fescue mix	31.57
48.00	3.00	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem	16.53
8.00	0.50	Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie dropseed	2.94
8.00	0.50	Chamaecrista fasciculata	Partridge pea	0.50
3.00	0.19	Coreopsis palmata	Prairie coreopsis Prairie coreopsis	0.69
3.00	0.19	Dalea purpurea	Purple prairie clover	1.24
3.50	0.22	Echinacea purpurea	Broad-leaved purple coneflower	0.53
4.00	0.25	Heliopsis helianthoides	False sunflower	0.58
2.00	0.13	Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie blazing star	0.51
1.00	0.06	Monardafistulosa	Wild bergamot	1.61
0.50	0.03	Penstemon digitalis	Beardtongue	1.49
8.00	0.50	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	5.69
0.75	0.05	Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth blue aster	0.95
3.00	0.19	Tradescantia ohiensis	Spiderwort	0.55
1.50	0.09	Verbena stricta	Hoary vervain	0.96
2.00	0.13	Zizia aurea	Goldenalexanders	0.51
224.25	14.02	DOES NOT INCLUDE COVER CROP		79.99

184.00	11.50	graminoids	6	64.18
40.25	2.52	forbs	13	15.80

Mesic Short Prairie/Meadow - Outlot F Mix

Exhibit 3: Seed Mixes

				Seeds
oz / acre	lbs/ac	Botanical Name	Common Name	per sq ft
40.00	2.5	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side Oats Grama	5.51
8.00	0.50	Bromus kalmii	Arctic brome	1.47
32.00	2.00	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender wheatgrass	5.07
80.00	5.00	Festuca mix	Fescue mix	63.13
40.00	2.50	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem	13.77
12.00	0.75	Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie dropseed	4.41
5.00	0.31	Coreopsis palmata	Prairie coreopsis	1.15
6.00	0.38	Dalea purpurea	Purple prairie clover	2.48
8.00	0.50	Echinacea purpurea	Broad-leaved purple coneflower	1.21
5.00	0.31	Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie blazing star	1.26
2.00	0.13	Penstemon digitalis	Beardtongue	5.97
8.00	0.50	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	5.69
2.00	0.13	Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth blue aster	2.53
6.00	0.38	Tradescantia ohiensis	Spiderwort	1.10
254.00	15.88	DOES NOT INCLUDE COVER CROP		114.76
212.00	13.25	graminoids	6	93.36
42.00	2.63	forbs	8	21.39

212.00	13.25	graminoids	6	93.36
42.00	2.63	forbs	8	21.39

Exhibit 3: Seed Mixes

Wet Prairie Mix

				Seeds
oz / acre	lbs/ac	Botanical Name	Common Name	per sq ft
1.00	0.06	Carex brevior	Short beak sedge	0.67
1.00	0.06	Carex scoparia	Broom sedge	1.93
1.00	0.06	Carex vulpinoidea	Fox sedge, Brown fox sedge	2.30
16.00	1.00	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender wheatgrass	2.53
1.50	0.09	Glyceria striata	Fowl manna grass	5.51
0.50	0.03	Juncus tenuis	Path rush	11.48
16.00	1.00	Poa palustris	Fowl bluegrass	47.75
16.00	1.00	Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem	5.51
1.00	0.06	Anemone canadensis	Meadow/Canada anemone	0.18
4.00	0.25	Asclepias incarnata	Swamp milkweed	0.44
1.00	0.06	Eupatorium perfoliatum	Common boneset	3.67
0.25	0.02	Euthamia graminifolia	Common grass-leaved goldenrod	2.01
1.00	0.06	Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	2.98
3.00	0.19	Liatris pycnostachya	Prairie blazing star	0.76
0.50	0.03	Lobelia siphilitica	Great blue lobelia	5.74
1.00	0.06	Physostegia virginiana	Prairie obedient plant	0.25
1.00	0.06	Pycnanthemum virginianum	Virginia mountain mint	5.05
2.00	0.13	Verbena hastata	Blue vervain	4.27
8.00	0.50	Zizia aurea	Golden alexanders	2.02
75.75	4.73	DOES NOT INCLUDE COVER CROP		105.05

53.00	3.31	graminoids	8	77.67
22.75	1.42	forbs	11	27.38

Wet Meadow Mix

Exhibit 3: Seed Mixes

oz / acre	lbs/ac	Deterios Nemo	Common Nama	Seeds
		Botanical Name	Common Name	per sq ft
0.50	0.03	Carex bebbii	Bebb's sedge	0.39
0.50	0.03	Carex comosa	Longhair sedge	0.34
1.00	0.06	Carex stipata	Owl-fruited sedge	0.78
1.00	0.06	Carex hystericina	Bottlebrush sedge	0.69
2.00	0.13	Carex scoparia	Broom sedge	3.86
1.00	0.06	Carex vulpinoidea	Fox sedge, Brown fox sedge	2.30
0.25	0.02	Eleocharis obtusa	Blunt spike rush	0.57
8.00	0.50	Elymus trachycaulus	Slender wheatgrass	1.27
1.50	0.09	Glyceria striata	Fowl manna grass	5.51
1.00	0.06	Juncus tenuis	Path rush	22.96
16.00	1.00	Poa palustris	Fowl bluegrass	47.75
2.00	0.13	Alisma subcordatum	American water plantain	2.75
1.25	0.08	Anemone canadensis	Meadow/Canada anemone	0.23
2.00	0.13	Asclepias incarnata	Swamp milkweed	0.22
2.00	0.13	Bidens cernua	Nodding bur marigold	0.96
0.50	0.03	Eupatorium perfoliatum	Common boneset	1.84
1.00	0.06	Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	2.98
2.00	0.13	Iris veriscolor	Blue flag iris	0.06
0.05	0.00	Lythrum alatum	Winged loosestrife	3.44
0.05	0.00	Mimulus ringens	Monkey flower	2.64
1.00	0.06	Physostegia virginiana	Prairie obedient plant	0.25
1.00	0.06	Sagittaria latifolia	Broad-leaved duck potato	0.18
1.00	0.06	Verbena hastata	Blue vervain	2.13
4.00	0.25	Zizia aurea	Golden alexanders	1.01
50.60	3.16	DOES NOT INCLUDE COVER CROP		105.13
32.75	2.05	graminoids	11	86.41
17.85	1.12	forbs	13	18.71