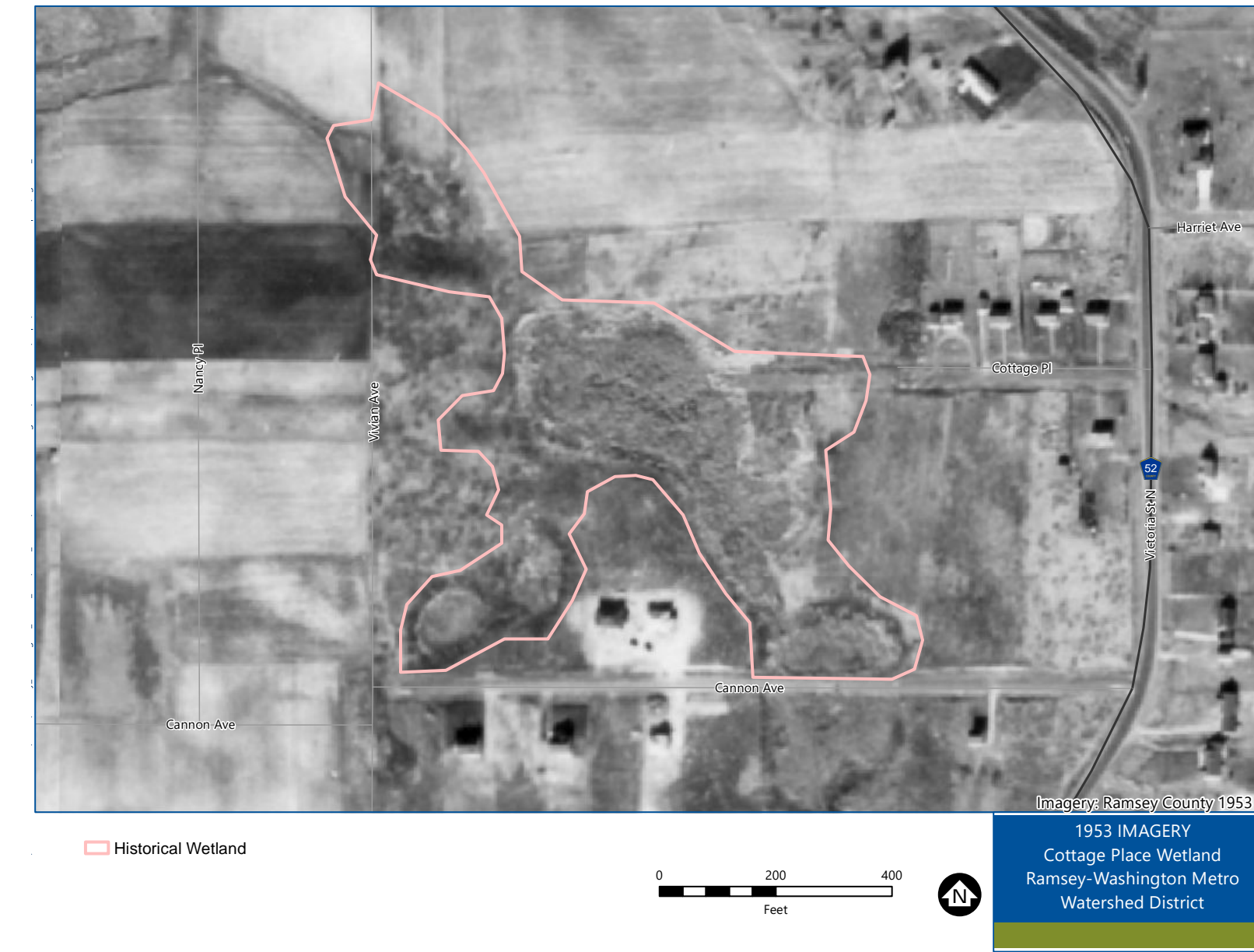
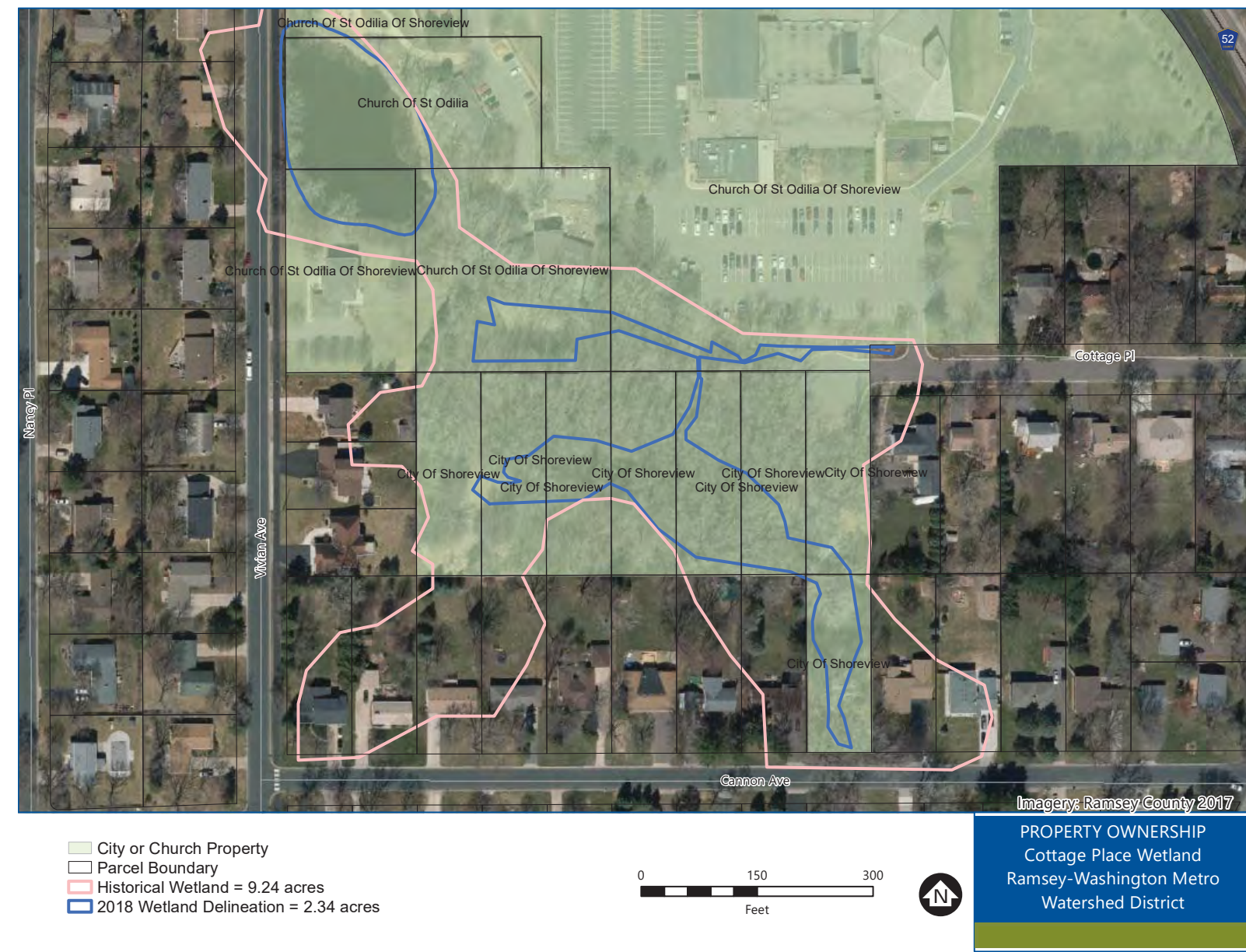


# Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration Overview

Cottage Place wetland is a degraded wetland that has lost much of its ecological value and stormwater treatment capacity due to changes within the watershed and direct alterations. A portion of the wetland has been filled with bituminous asphalt, concrete and possibly other unknown materials that are visible as distinct dump truck piles overgrown with cottonwood and boxelder trees. This site provides many opportunities to meet District goals including:

- to restore ecological value
- to provide additional stormwater treatment
- to clean up soil debris
- to serve as an educational facility
- to restore wildlife habitat
- to provide passive recreation



## Target Community

	Woodland & Oak Savanna					Sedge Meadow & Wetland														
Canopy																				
Understory																				



## Selective Clearing

Before re-introducing native plant communities, invasive and non-native perennial plants will be cleared. In addition, trees that are diseased, dying, and prone to infestation are to be identified for removal. Opening up the tree canopy allows for the reintroduction of the native plant communities that were once present. Trees targeted for tree removal include:

- Buckthorn
- Ash (emerald ash borer)
- Siberian elm
- Boxelder
- dead or dying trees that may be a hazard



## How long will it take?

It can take 5-7 years for restoration plant communities to reach full maturity. Proper site maintenance following a planting is essential to reduce weed competition and ensure the success of the restoration project.

### Year 1

The site will look bare and weeding during the first growing season. Cover crop grasses establish quickly (to stabilize soils) but native perennial plants may only grow to a height of six inches in a season. Mowing is the best way to control annual weeds during the first few years. Site mowing is typically done 2-3 times in the first year to prevent annual weeds from going to seed.



### Year 2

Some of the short-lived flowering species bloom in abundance during the second year. Plants like wild bergamot, fragrant hyssop, and black-eyed Susan are usually the first to flower during restoration.

Mowing is generally limited to one or two times during the second year. Some herbicide spot spraying is anticipated for persistent woody invasive species.



### Year 3 & Beyond

The composition and appearance of these planted communities will continue to fluctuate and evolve over time. Most native flowers and grasses begin to reach maturity during the third year.

The frequency of weed management activities will be reduced over time but continued management is important for restoration projects.

