



RAMSEY-WASHINGTON
METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT

October 2026 Board Packet

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Agenda

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Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

6:30 PM

This month's meeting will be held at the district office (2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN) and via Zoom. Board members, staff, consultants, and the public can join in person OR via video and/or phone. The public can listen to the meeting but not participate, except during the visitor comments portion of the agenda. Instructions for joining the Zoom meeting are available after the agenda.

1. Call to Order – 6:30 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda (pg. 3)**
3. **Consent Agenda: All items to be approved with one motion unless removed from the consent agenda for discussion.**
 - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes September 9, 2026 (pg. 7)
 - B. Approval of Bill List and Budget Status Report (pg. 11)
 - C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 26-29 Landfall Drainage Outlet, Landfall (pg. 13)
 - D. Stewardship Grant Program
 - i. 26-45 CS Maplewood Nature Center Pond Planting (pg. 17)
 - ii. 26-47 CS Richardson (pg. 19)
4. Visitor Comments (limited to 4 minutes each)
5. Regulatory Program
 - A. Applications – see consent agenda
 - B. Permit Reinspection Charge Proposal (pg. 22)
 - C. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum (pg. 23)
6. Stewardship Grant Program
 - A. Applications – see consent agenda
 - B. Budget Status Update (pg. 28)
7. Action Items
 - A. **RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements Bid Award (pg. 30)**
 - B. **Fund Transfers – Resolution 26-02 (pg. 34)**
 - C. **Watershed Excellence Awards Approval (pg. 36)**
8. Attorney Report
9. Board Discussion Topics
10. New Reports and/or Presentations
 - A. RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization (pg. 38)
11. Administrator's Report (pg. 85)
 - A. Meetings Attended
 - B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates
 - C. Staff Anniversaries
 - D. Board Action Log
 - E. Minnesota Watersheds Updates

12. Project and Program Status Reports (*pg. 89*)

Project Feasibility Study

- A. Landfall Best Management Practice Study
- B. Five Star Estates Feasibility Study
- C. Chloride Reduction Strategy
- D. Tanners Lake, Battle Creek Lake, and Battle Creek Resiliency Feasibility Study
- E. RWMWD Stormwater Model Updates
- F. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks
- G. Wetland Restoration Planning
- H. Battle Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study (Phase 2)

Monitoring Water Quality/Project Monitoring

- I. Special-Project BMP Monitoring
- J. Water Quality Data Management

Watershed Management Plan Update

- K. Watershed Management Plan Update, Phase 3: Draft Plan Development

Research Projects

- L. Wakefield Pond Spent Lime Study
- M. Shoreview Commons Pond Alum Treatment

Project Operations

- N. 2026 Tanners Alum Facility Monitoring
- O. Phalen and Keller Lakes Level Station Forecast

Capital Improvements

- P. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects
- Q. Double Driveway and Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
- R. Ames Lake Improvements
- S. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment
- T. Wakefield Lake Aeration

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

- U. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
- V. McKnight Basin Outlet Repairs
- W. RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements

Program Updates

- X. Natural Resources Program
- Y. Communications and Engagement Program
- Z. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

13. Manager Comments and Next Month's Meeting

14. **Adjourn**



RAMSEY-WASHINGTON

METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT

NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

6:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting: In-Person and Web Conference

This month's meeting will be held at the District office (2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN) AND via the video conferencing platform Zoom. Board members, staff, consultants, and general public will be able to join in person or via Zoom. The public will be able to listen to the meeting but not participate with the exception of the visitor comments portion of the agenda. Visitor comments may be given in person or via Zoom. Instructions for joining in on the Zoom meeting can be found below.

To access the meeting via webcast, please use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89863284163>

The meeting room will open at 6:20 pm with the meeting starting at 6:30 pm. To connect to audio, you may choose to use your computer audio options or you may use your mobile device to call. The phone access number is **(312) 626-6799**. The Meeting ID is **898 6328 4163**. The meeting password is **919700**. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Carstens at tina.carstens@rwmwd.org.

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Consent Agenda

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**Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
September 9th, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of September 9th, 2026, was held at the District Office Board Room, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, Minnesota, and via Zoom web conferencing at 6:30 p.m. A video recording of the meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/vNN-UY6xjC0>. Video timestamps are included after each agenda item, in minutes.

PRESENT:

Val Eisele, President
Ben Karp, Vice President
Mark Gernes, Secretary
Stephanie Wang, Treasurer
Gabi Grogan, Manager

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Staff:

Tina Carstens, Administrator
Paige Ahlborg, Assistant Administrator
Ashlee Ricci, Grant Program Specialist
Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Paul Erdmann, Natural Resources Program Manager
Lyndsey Flaten, Monitoring and Research Technician
Dave Vlasin, Project Coordinator
Michael Miller, Visitor
Cooper Klotzbach, Inspection Intern
Carina Trevino, Engagement Intern
Keira Gupta, Monitoring and Research Intern
Lauren Hazenson, Communications and Engagement Program Manager

Consultants:

Tracey Galowitz, Galowitz-Olson PLLC
Erin Anderson Wenz, Barr Engineering
Tyler Olsen, Barr Engineering
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

Visitors:

John Rausch, Cushman & Wakefield
Melissa Burns, Ninety Four Exchange

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Eisele 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (0:12)

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Gernes seconded to approve the agenda.

Motion approved.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (0:25)

- A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes September 9, 2026
- B. Treasurer's Report and Bill List
- C. Regulatory Program
 - i. 26-26 Roseville Dale-Owasso Drainage Improvements, Roseville
 - ii. 26-27 MnDOT Hwy 61 & I-694 Interchange, Vadnais Heights
- D. Stewardship Grant Program

- i. 26-38 CS Freshwater Society Expanding Pathways
- ii. 26-41 CS Hoffmann
- iii. 26-42 CS O'Donahue
- iv. 26-43 CS Mhanga
- v. 26-44 CS Sandin

Motion: Manager Wang moved, Manager Grogan seconded to approve the consent agenda.

Motion approved.

4. VISITOR COMMENTS (07:45)

5. REGULATORY PROGRAM (08:27)

A. Applications

- i. 26-28 Ninety Four Exchange, Oakdale

Nicole Maras provided information on permit application 26-28 Ninety Four Exchange, Oakdale. Nicole stated that the applicant was looking to complete mass grading and redevelopment of the site which would include construction of two industrial buildings and a roadway. Nicole explained that there was a variance request for wetland and wetland buffer impacts. Nicole stated that they would be meeting the no net loss policy as well as exceeding the 2 to 1 replacement ratio through WCA.

Melissa Burns provided additional information on the project site and design plan.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Wang seconded, to approve permit application 26-28 Ninety Four Exchange, Oakdale with special provisions, variance requests (Rule E), and WCA application #26-07.

A roll call was performed.

President Eisele – Aye

Manager Karp – Aye

Manager Wang – Aye

Manager Grogan – Aye

Manager Gernes – Nay

Motion approved.

Manager Gernes acknowledged that the site was challenging for what was being planned and wasn't sure those wetland design plans would be achievable.

B. Regulatory Monthly Memorandum

Nicole Maras reviewed the Regulatory monthly memorandum for August. Nicole discussed an increase in the permit processing fees, noting that they have not changed since 2011.

The Board supported increasing the permit processing fees.

6. STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (1:00:57)

A. Applications – see consent agenda

B. Budget Status Update

Ashlee Ricci provided an update on the Stewardship Grant Program budget status report. Ashlee stated that she expected more applications in the coming month from people getting ready for Spring.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2027 Preliminary Budget and Levy Approval and Public Hearing (1:04:14)

Motion: Manager Karp moved, Manager Gernes seconded to close the meeting and open the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

President Eisele closed the public hearing and reopened the September Board meeting.

Tina Carstens reviewed the 2027 preliminary budget. Tina provided details on the 2027 levy needs.

Motion: Manager Grogan moved, Manager Wang seconded, to approve the draft budget for purposes of the preliminary levy and approve Resolution 26-01.

Motion approved.

B. Watershed Management Plan Update – Submittal for 60-day Formal Review (1:23:45)

Tina Carstens provided an overview of the formal review process of the Watershed Management Plan update.

Greg Williamson gave further explanations of the review process and how to add comments when reviewing the document.

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, and Manager Grogan seconded, to authorize staff to submit the draft plan to the plan review authorities for a formal review period of 60 days, consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 Subd. 7.

Motion approved.

8. ATTORNEY REPORT (1:37:06)

Tracey Galowitz discussed the work the attorney's office completed in August. Tracey stated the work done included agreement review, advising staff on data privacy, and an enforcement action notice.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION TOPICS (1:38:46)

10. NEW REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS

A. Chloride Reduction Strategy Update (1:39:20)

Tyler Olsen gave an overview of the Chloride Reduction Strategy development, modeling methodology, and next steps.

B. New Technology Topic: Landscape Soil Regeneration Methodology (1:54:52)

C. Shoreview Commons Pond Alum Treatment Research Scope Summary (1:58:21)

Erin Anderson Wenz discussed the information found through the Shoreview Commons Pond Alum Treatment research.

11. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (2:01:02)

A. Meetings Attended

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

C. Staff Anniversaries

D. Board Action Log

E. Minnesota Watershed Updates

12. PROJECT AND PROGRAM STATUS REPORTS (2:04:02)

Background: Savage Lake Outlet

Project Feasibility Studies

- A. Landfall Best Management Practice Study
- B. Five Star Estate Feasibility Study
- C. Chloride Reduction Strategy
- D. Tanners Lake, Battle Creek Lake, and Battle Creek Resiliency Feasibility Study
- E. RWMWD Stormwater Model Updates
- F. Studies Stemming from Creek Walks
- G. Wetland Restoration Planning
- H. Battle Creek Subwatershed Feasibility Study (Phase 2)

Monitoring Water Quality/Project Monitoring

- I. Special-Project BMP Monitoring
- J. Water Quality Data Management

Watershed Management Plan Update

- K. Watershed Management Plan Update, Phase 3: Draft Plan Development

Research Projects

- L. New Technology and Trending Topics Mini Case Studies
- M. Wakefield Pond Spent Lime Study

Project Operations

- N. Lake-Level Station Operation Maintenance and Rain Gauge Installation
- O. Phalen and Keller Lakes Level Station Forecast Integration
- P. Beltline and Battle Creek Gopher State One Call Utility Locates

Capital Improvements

- Q. 2026 Targeted Retrofit Projects
- R. Fish Creek Tributary Improvements
- S. Cottage Place Wetland Regeneration
- T. Ames Lake Improvements
- U. Kohlman Lake Alum Treatment
- V. Wakefield Lake Aeration

CIP Project Repair and Maintenance

- W. Routine CIP Inspection and Unplanned Maintenance Identification
- X. McKnight Basin Outlet and Repairs
- Y. RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements

Program Updates

- Z. Natural Resources Program
- AA. Communications and Engagement Program

13. COMMENTS AND NEXT MONTH'S MEETING (2:16:49)

The Board discussed the RWMWD office improvements and authorization to rebid.

14. ADJOURN

Motion: Manager Gernes moved, Manager Grogan seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Motion approved.

Consent Agenda Action Item

Board Meeting Date: October 7, 2026

Agenda Item No: 3B

Preparer: Tina Carstens, Administrator

Item Description: Approval of Bill List and Budget Status Report

Background:

District staff has prepared a list of recommended bills for board consideration and approval. The public may review the bill list at the Ramsey–Washington Metro Watershed District office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN, upon request. The budget status report for 2026 is attached to this action item.

Applicable District Goal and Action Item:

Goal: Manage effectively – The District will operate in a manner that achieves its mission while adhering to its core principles.

Action Item: Follow all legal requirements applicable to watershed districts.

Staff Recommendation:

Authorize payment of recommended bills for the period of September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026.

Financial Implications:

The bill list is accounted for in the budget status report.

Board Action Requested:

Authorize payment of recommended bills as shown in the bill list for the period of September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026.

RWMWD BUDGET STATUS REPORT
Administrative & Program Budget
Fiscal Year 2026
9/30/2026

Budget Category	Budget Item	Account Number	Original Budget	Budget Transfers	Current Month Expenses	Year-to-Date Expenses	Current Budget Balance	Percent of Budget
Manager	Per Diems	4355	\$7,000.00	-	-	-	\$7,000.00	0.00%
	Manager Expenses	4360	3,000.00	-	-	-	3,000.00	0.00%
Committees	Committee/Bd Mtg. Exp.	4365	4,000.00	-	64.96	1,498.41	2,501.59	37.46%
	Sub-Total: Managers/Committees:		\$14,000.00	\$0.00	64.96	1,498.41	\$12,501.59	10.70%
Employees	Staff Salary/Taxes/Benefits	4010	2,200,000.00	-	174,603.69	1,593,053.52	606,946.48	72.41%
	Employee Expenses	4020	10,000.00	-	205.95	3,455.97	6,544.03	34.56%
	District Training & Education	4350	75,000.00	-	5,452.75	33,815.84	41,184.16	45.09%
	Sub-Total: Employees:		\$2,285,000.00	\$0.00	180,262.39	1,630,325.33	\$654,674.67	71.35%
Administration/ Office	Data Base/GIS Maintenance	4170	85,000.00	-	608.50	5,450.83	79,549.17	6.41%
	Telephone	4310	13,000.00	-	259.38	11,730.06	1,269.94	90.23%
	Office Supplies	4320	7,000.00	-	311.98	3,757.16	3,242.84	53.67%
	Postage/Delivery	4330	2,000.00	-	-	1,569.18	430.82	78.46%
	Printing/Copying	4335	5,000.00	-	587.45	4,076.34	923.66	81.53%
	Dues & Publications	4338	20,000.00	-	20.00	15,207.00	4,793.00	76.04%
	Janitorial/Trash Service	4341	30,000.00	-	1,659.22	13,658.18	16,341.82	45.53%
	Utilities	4342	20,000.00	-	-	4,974.36	15,025.64	24.87%
	Building Maintenance	4343	80,000.00	-	3,037.25	37,695.60	42,304.40	47.12%
	Miscellaneous	4390	5,000.00	-	-	-	5,000.00	0.00%
	Insurance	4480	75,000.00	-	-	74,385.09	614.91	99.18%
	Office Equipment	4703	50,000.00	-	354.34	3,400.38	46,599.62	6.80%
	District Vehicles/Maintenance	4810-40	75,000.00	-	-	6,051.03	68,948.97	8.07%
	Metro INET	4325	120,000.00	-	10,099.28	88,782.02	31,217.98	73.99%
	Sub-Total: Administration/Office:		\$587,000.00	-	16,937.40	270,737.23	\$316,262.77	46.12%
Consultants/ Outside Services	Auditor/Accounting	4110	85,000.00	-	5,212.00	74,647.58	10,352.42	87.82%
	Engineering-Administration	4121	145,000.00	-	8,272.00	83,836.50	61,163.50	57.82%
	Engineering-Permit I&E	4122	10,000.00	-	1,567.18	10,601.04	(601.04)	106.01%
	Engineering-Review	4123	83,000.00	-	3,202.50	43,660.00	39,340.00	52.60%
	Engineering-Permit Application Review	4124	85,000.00	-	3,822.50	69,183.50	15,816.50	81.39%
	Project Feasibility Studies	4129	430,000.00	-	12,568.00	207,015.32	222,984.68	48.14%
	Attorney-Permits	4130	5,000.00	-	-	275.00	4,725.00	5.50%
	Attorney-General	4131	40,000.00	-	2,992.50	16,456.20	23,543.80	41.14%
	Outside Consulting Services	4160	25,000.00	-	-	-	25,000.00	0.00%
	Sub-Total: Consultants/Outside Services:		\$908,000.00	\$0.00	37,636.68	505,675.14	\$402,324.86	55.69%
Programs	WMP/Lakes/TMDLs/Grants	4661	195,000.00	-	6,469.50	105,571.82	89,428.18	54.14%
	Natural Resources Program	4670	176,000.00	-	31,166.90	89,071.59	86,928.41	50.61%
	Water Monitoring Program	4520-30	371,500.00	-	28,158.70	188,133.21	183,366.79	50.64%
	Outside Program Support	4683	44,000.00	-	-	30,973.33	13,026.67	70.39%
	Research Projects	4695	107,000.00	-	5,319.60	67,234.70	39,765.30	62.84%
	Project Operations	4650	200,000.00	-	12,395.39	123,913.10	76,086.90	61.96%
	Communication/Outreach/Events	4371	161,000.00	-	4,507.19	87,853.84	73,146.16	54.57%
	Health and Safety Program	4697	7,000.00	-	55.17	4,300.36	2,699.64	61.43%
	Sub-Total: Programs:		\$1,261,500.00	\$0.00	88,072.45	697,051.95	\$564,448.05	55.26%
GENERAL FUND TOTAL			\$5,055,500.00	\$0.00	322,973.88	3,105,288.06	1,950,211.94	61.42%
CIP's	Project Repair & Maintenance	516	2,285,000.00	-	126,969.15	1,478,473.62	806,526.38	64.70%
	Targeted Retrofit Projects	518	581,000.00	-	55,139.75	322,147.53	258,852.47	55.45%
	Flood Risk Reduction Fund	520	655,000.00	-	9,479.00	85,740.60	569,259.40	13.09%
	Debt Services-Beltline/Maplewood Mall	526	419,701.00	-	-	393,358.50	26,342.50	93.72%
	Stewardship Grant Fund	529	1,500,000.00	-	53,298.25	526,471.65	973,528.35	35.10%
	Fish Creek Tributary Improvements	537	1,300,000.00	-	3,062.28	25,219.28	1,274,780.72	1.94%
	Wetland Restoration Projects	540	10,000.00	-	-	-	10,000.00	0.00%
	Wakefield Lake	553	565,000.00	-	779.00	8,702.07	556,297.93	1.54%
	Kohlman In-Lake Alum Treatment	555	385,000.00	-	315.00	15,246.00	369,754.00	3.96%
CIP BUDGET TOTAL			\$7,700,701.00	-	249,042.43	2,855,359.25	\$4,845,341.75	37.08%
TOTAL BUDGET			\$12,756,201.00	\$0.00	572,016.31	5,960,647.31	\$6,795,553.69	46.73%

Current Fund Balances:

Fund:	Unaudited Beginning Fund Balance @ 12/31/25	Fund Transfers	Year to date Revenue	Current Month Expenses	Year to Date Expense	Unaudited Fund Balance @ 9/30/26
101 - General Fund	\$1,562,306.48	-	2,021,971.73	322,973.88	3,105,288.06	478,990.15
516 - Project Repair & Maintenance	916,979.74	-	1,345,090.88	126,969.15	1,478,473.62	783,597.00
518 - Targeted Retrofit Projects	321,105.31	-	201,590.31	55,139.75	322,147.53	200,548.09
520 - Flood Risk Reduction Fund	5,173,012.22	-	67,595.46	9,479.00	85,740.60	5,154,867.08
526 - Debt Services-Beltline/Maplewood Mall	318,348.48	-	212,976.96	-	393,358.50	137,966.94
529 - Stewardship Grant Fund	273,660.50	-	761,174.30	53,298.25	526,471.65	508,363.15
536 - Stormwater Impact Fund	834,317.87	-	80,000.00	-	459,298.00	455,019.87
537 - Fish Creek Tributary Improvements	941,386.63	-	35,521.45	3,062.28	25,219.28	951,688.80
540 - Wetland Restoration Projects	310,010.11	-	-	-	-	310,010.11
553 - Wakefield Lake	-	-	-	779.00	8,702.07	(8,702.07)
555 - Kohlman In-Lake Alum Treatment	-	-	-	315.00	15,246.00	(15,246.00)
580 - Contingency Fund	1,215,487.00	-	-	-	-	1,215,487.00
Total District Fund Balance	\$11,866,614.34	\$0.00	\$ 4,725,921.09	\$ 572,016.31	\$6,419,945.31	\$10,172,590.12

Permit Application Coversheet

Date October 07, 2026

Project Name Landfall Drainage Outlet

Project Number 26-29

Applicant Name Scott Hildebrand, City of Landfall

Type of Development Drainage

Property Description

This project is located west of the existing Landfall City Hall building. In order to alleviate an existing drainage issue, the applicant is proposing to install new catch basins and an outfall to Tanners Lake. The project will disturb approximately 0.09 acre but results in grading activity within the 100-year floodplain. While no permanent treatment facilities are required for stormwater management due to the small disturbance area, a sump structure is proposed upstream of the new outfall to capture sediment and debris prior to discharging to the lake. Erosion and sediment control practices are required per RWMWD rules due to greater than 1,000 square feet of disturbance adjacent to a water body. The project will result in a net cut (excavation) of approximately 10 cubic yards, thus 100-year flood storage is preserved under proposed conditions.

Watershed District Policies or Standards Involved:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ <i>Wetlands</i> | ☒ <i>Erosion and Sediment Control</i> |
| ☐ <i>Stormwater Management</i> | ☒ <i>Floodplain</i> |

Water Quantity Considerations

The proposed grading plan will result in no net loss of 100-year flood storage.

Water Quality Considerations

Short Term

The proposed erosion and sediment control plan is sufficient to protect downstream water resources during construction.

Long Term

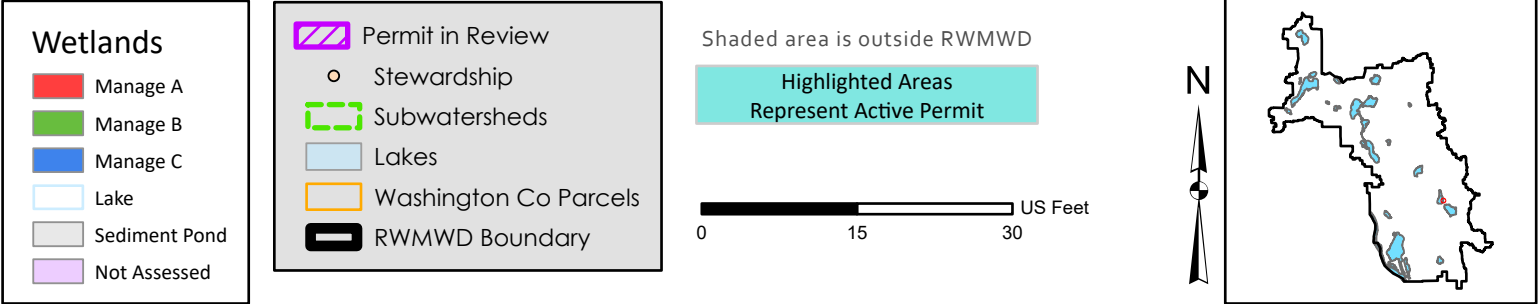
There are no long term water quality concerns.

Staff Recommendation

Attachments:

- ☒ Project Location Map
- ☒ Project Grading Plan

#26-29: Landfall Drainage Outlet



26-29

Special Provisions

1. The applicant shall submit the final, signed set of plans.
2. The applicant shall submit contact information for the person(s) responsible for implementing erosion control during the project.



PROJECT NO.	22470003
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CLIENT NAME: **CITY OF LANDFALL**

KEY PLAN:

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly Registered Architect under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

CONNER DEUR
NAME

SIGNATURE _____

61429	09/09/2026
REGISTRATION NO.	DATE

DRAWN BY:	MC	DESIGNED BY:	C
CHECKED BY:	CD	FOR CONSTRUCTION	

No	DATE	REVISIONS
01	09/09/2026	PERMIT SET

SHEET NAME:

DRAINAGE OUTLET GRADING PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

C004

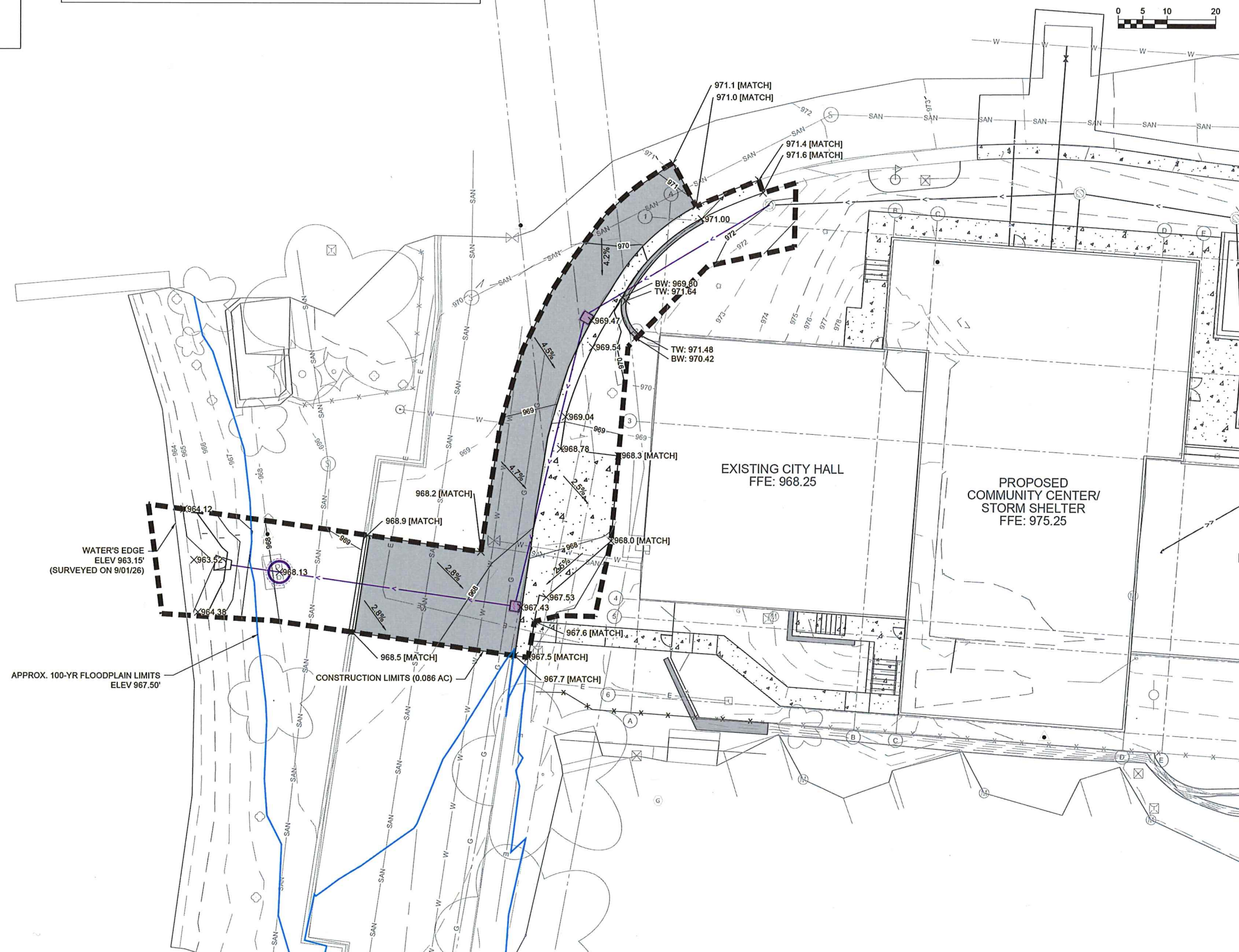
LEGEND

$\times \text{XXX.XX}$ SPOT ELEVATION TO FINAL GRADE
 $\xrightarrow{\text{X.X\%}}$ SLOPE ARROW

TW: TOP OF WALL
BW: BOTTOM OF WALL
MATCH: MATCH EXISTING ELEVATION

GENERAL NOTES:

- MEET AND MATCH EXISTING ELEVATIONS AT ALL PAVEMENT TIE-IN POINTS.
- SIDEWALK HEIGHT ON ASPEN WAY VARYS. MAINTAIN EXISTING SIDEWALK HEIGHT TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE.
- ANY GRADING OCCURRING BELOW LIMITS OF 100-YR FLOODPLAIN MUST ADHERE TO STANDARDS OF RWRMWD, DNR, AND MPCA



PLOT DATE: 04/22/2013 12:27:47 PM File Path:

Stewardship Grant Application Summary

Project Name: Maplewood Nature Center Pond

Application Number: 26-45 CS

Board Meeting Date: 10/7/2026

Applicant Name: Katelyn Bergstrom

Residential ☐

Commercial/Government ☒

Project Overview:

This project is located off 7th Street East in the city of Maplewood. The applicant is proposing to install 720 linear feet of native plantings along trails adjacent to the pond just west of the Maplewood Nature Center. The applicant previously was approved for public art signage as grant application #26-09 CS for \$7,300 cost-share. That project is still in process.

The native buffers are eligible for 50% coverage up to a total of \$15,000.

BMP type(s):

Native Buffer(2)

Grant Request:

\$15,000.00

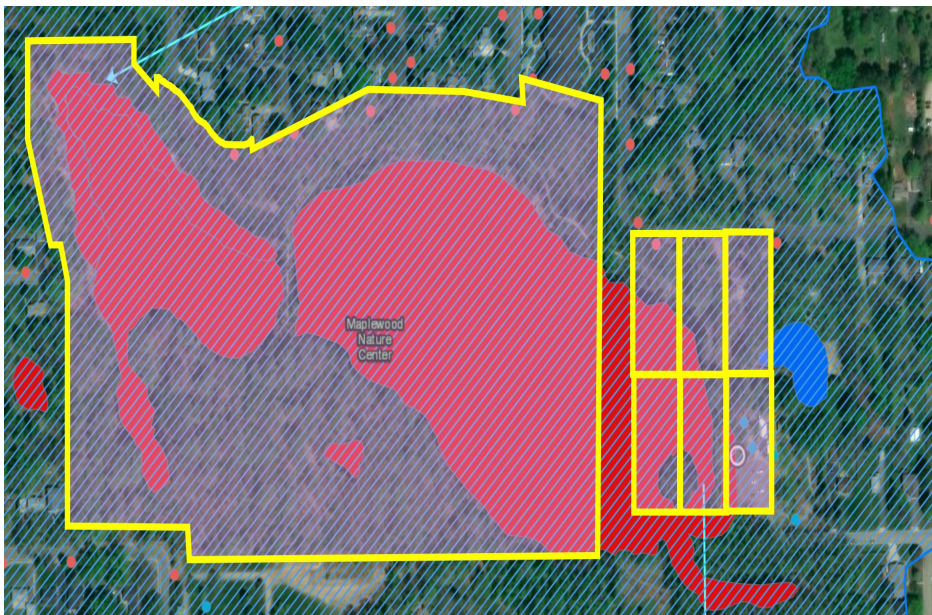
Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of this application.

Subwatershed:

Battle Creek

Location Maps:



Site Map



A 1) Natural Bridge – 185' total length – restoring both sides (x2) = 370'

B 2) East Shore (adjacent to the Nature Center) – 350'

Total Shore length = 720'

Stewardship Grant Application Summary

Project Name: Richardson

Application Number: 26-47 CS

Board Meeting Date: 10/7/2026

Applicant Name: Wynn Richardson

Residential ☒

Commercial/Government ☐

Project Overview:

This project is located off Evans Court in the City of Shoreview. The applicant is proposing to install a 10,000+ square feet native planting.

The native planting is eligible for 50% coverage up to a total of \$15,000.

BMP type(s):

Native Habitat Restoration(1)

Grant Request:

\$7,500.00

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of this application.

Subwatershed:

Snail Lake

Location Maps:



NATIVE PLANTING NOTES:

1. PROJECT LAYOUT, TOTAL AREA, AND MATERIALS MAY VARY WITH RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD STAFF APPROVAL. VERIFY FINAL LAYOUT WITH LANDOWNER AND RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD STAFF PRIOR TO HERBICIDE APPLICATION.
2. PROJECT CONSISTS OF ~10,310 SF OF NATIVE PLANT SEEDING WITH SUPPLEMENTAL PLANTING OF (5) FIVE KEY PERENNIAL FORBS SPECIES, PLAN TO SOURCE FROM MULTIPLE SUPPLIERS, SEE PLANT SCHEDULE ON SHEET L200 FOR SEED MIX AND SPECIES LIST. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM FINAL SPECIES & QUANTITY LIST FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF MATERIAL, PROVIDED LIST TO INCLUDE SPECIES, SIZING, AND QUANTITY.
3. PROPOSED SHRUB SPECIES TO BE ARRAYED THROUGHOUT SITE IN GROUPINGS PER PLAN DRAWING.
4. CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE EXISTING PERENNIAL & AND WOODY RE-GROWTH (BUCKTHORN) VEGETATION IN PROJECT AREA. HERBICIDE APPLICATION [2 MINIMUM] [USE WATER-SAFE HERBICIDE] SPECIAL CARE TO BE TAKEN DURING HERBICIDE APPLICATION TO AVOID WIND DRIFT AND ANY POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO ADJACENT AREAS.
5. PREP PLANTING AREAS FOR NATIVE SEED & PLUG INSTALLATION. REMOVE EXCESS VEGETATION OR WOODY DEBRIS, ETC. ENSURE ALL COMPETING VEGETATION IS ADEQUATELY ELIMINATED AND PLANTING AREA IS PREPPED FOR PROPER SOIL TO SEED CONTACT. CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE FINAL SITE PREP RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN BID FOR PROJECT.
6. INSTALL NATIVE SEED MIX AS SHOWN ON PLAN. CUSTOM SEED MIX IS PROVIDED ON SHEET L200. CONTRACTOR TO SOURCE & VERIFY FINAL SEED MIX TO RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD STAFF FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF SEED FROM SUPPLIER.
7. ALL SEED SHALL BE HAND BROADCAST TWICE OVER FOR PROPER DISTRIBUTION, WITH SECOND BROADCAST PERPENDICULAR TO THE FIRST ROUTE.
8. ALL SEEDED AREAS SHALL BE HAND-RAKED.
9. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND MAINTAINING PERMANENT/TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL MEASURES UNTIL SEEDED VEGETATION HAS PROPERLY GERMINATED AND HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR PROJECT CLOSEOUT.
10. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIAL WATERING OF INSTALLED PLANTING AREAS IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSTALLATION. CONTRACTOR SHALL ESTABLISH LANGUAGE AND PLAN FOR ONGOING IRRIGATION OF SEEDED AREAS WITH LANDOWNER FOLLOWING INSTALLATION. UNLESS OTHERWISE CONTRACTED, LANDOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE TO ENSURE PROPER WATERING OCCURS DURING THE ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD OR UNTIL ALL SEEDED AREAS HAVE FULLY FILLED-IN.
11. RANDOMLY PLANT PERENNIAL FORBS IN GROUPS OF 5, 7, OR 9 QTY OF SAME SPECIES WITH 3' - 4' SPACING BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL PERENNIALS.
12. INSTALL HERBIVORE PROTECTION SURROUNDING KEY PLANTS AND SHRUBS PLANTINGS, TO REMAIN IN PLACE FOR MINIMUM 2 GROWING SEASONS.

GENERAL NOTES:

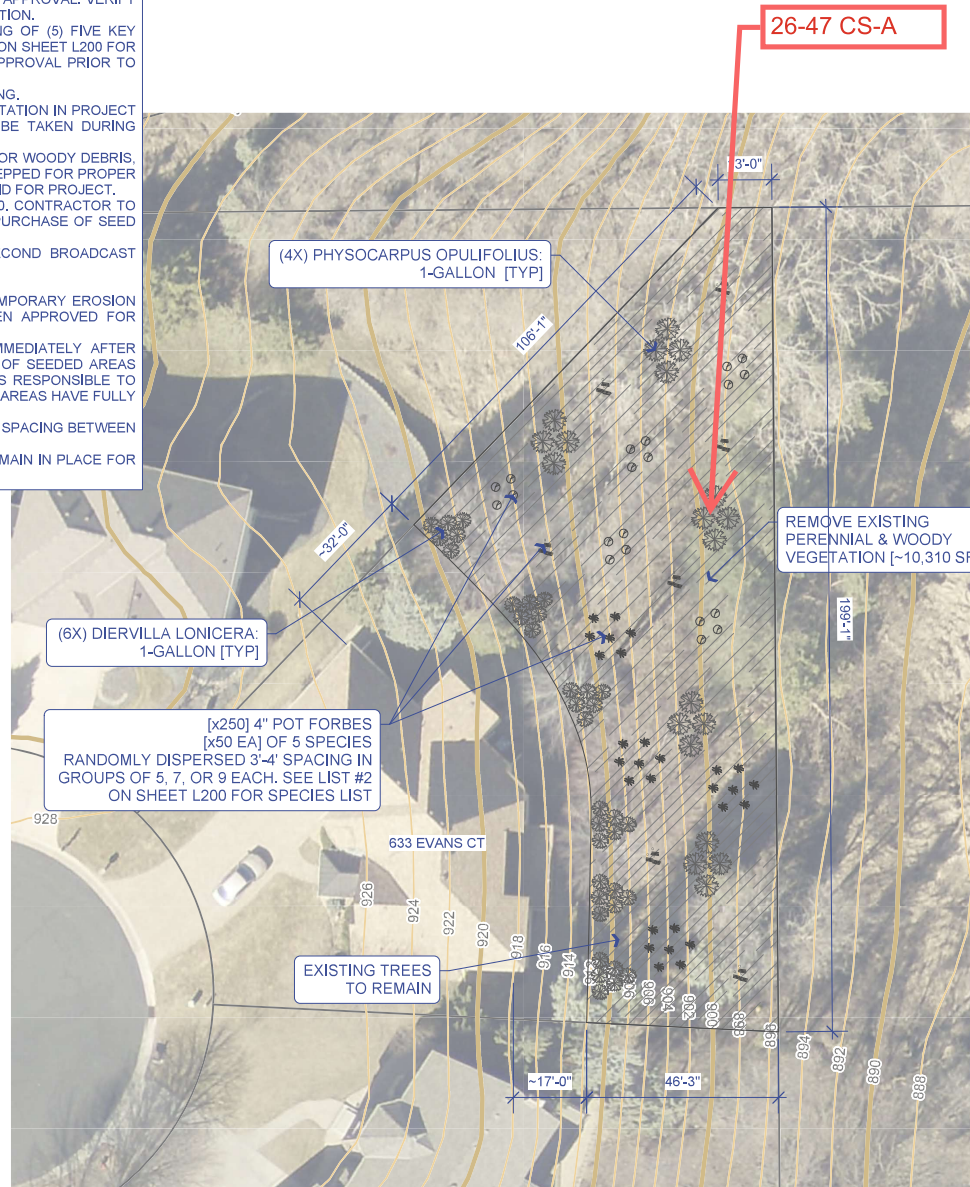
1. CONTRACTOR MUST PREVENT DAMAGE TO ALL EXISTING TREES DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.
2. CONTRACTOR MUST PREVENT DAMAGE TO ENTRANCE/EXIT PATH BETWEEN PARKING LOT AND PROJECT LOCATION.
4. CONTRACTOR TO COORDINATE WITH LANDOWNER ACCESS TO FENCED IN AREA AROUND WATER TOWER DURING INSTALLATION ACTIVITIES.

LEGEND



10,310 SF SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE RESTORATION. CUSTOM SEED MIX PROVIDED. SEE PLANT SCHEDULE LIST #1 SHEET L200. CONTRACTOR TO CONFIRM FINAL SPECIES LIST WITH RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD STAFF FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF MATERIAL. INSTALL \$75BN STRAW BLANKET FOLLOWING SEEDING.

0 10 20 30 40 ft



RAMSEY COUNTY SWCD
2015 VAN DYKE STREET
MAPLEWOOD, MN 55109
651-266-7280
www.ramseycounty.us

PROJECT:
RICHARDSON RESIDENCE

LOCATION:
633 EVANS CT
SHOREVIEW, MN 55126

WATERSHED DISTRICT:



DESIGNER: BRIAN T. OLSEN

DATE: 6/12/2026

PAST REVISION:

PAST REVISION:

PAST REVISION:

CHECKED BY:

TAA:

NOTES:

- CONTACT GOPHER STATE ONE CALL TO CONFIRM UTILITY LOCATIONS
- VERIFY ANY BID ALTERNATES OR ONSITE CHANGES WITH SWCD STAFF PRIOR TO INSTALLATION
- ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE: 11"x17"

SCALE: 1"=30'-0"



PLANTING PLAN

L100

Permit Program

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7, 2026
To: RWMWD Board of Managers
From: Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Subject: Permit Inspection Charge– Proposed Increase

Watershed districts may charge field inspection fees for permitted projects pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103D.345. RWMWD has historically charged an inspection fee for non-compliant sites that receive a letter grade C or worse on their inspection. Violations resulting in non-compliance result in additional staff time and resources for follow-up inspection, report writing, and enforcement escalation when needed. These fees are deducted from held surety collected at the beginning of the project. Fees and sureties do not apply to public projects.

Since 2019, the fee charged to non-compliant sites has been \$155 per inspection. District staff have calculated an updated inspection fee based on current employee charge-out rates, estimated staff time spent on an average sized non-compliant site, and estimated travel mileage.

Years	Fee Amount
2008-February 2019	\$60.00
March 2019-current	\$155.00
October 2026 (tentatively)	Proposed \$290.00

Requested Board Action:

Authorize District staff to implement an increase in the permit inspection fee to \$290 for applicable inspections going forward.



REGULATORY PROGRAM MONTHLY MEMORANDUM

Date: October 7th, 2026

To: Board of Managers and Staff

From: Nicole Maras, Regulatory Program Manager
Mary Fitzgerald, Regulatory Specialist
Kendra Kloth, Regulatory Technician

During September 2026:

Number of Inspections	55
Number of Violations:	9
Install/Maintain Perimeter Control	2
Offsite Impacts	2
Install/Maintain Inlet Protection	1
Stabilize Soils	1
Missing Pollution Prevention	1
Dewatering Issue	1
Install/Maintain Energy Dissipation	1
Inspections in past months	
August	63
July	56
June	47

Permit Program- Trainings and Coordination Meetings:

9/3 – Permit closure discussion re: Metro Transit Gold Line BRT (#21-16)
9/8 – Underground facilities inspections with Barr Engineering
9/10 – Woodbury and RWMWD private BMP inspection program coordination
9/11 – Pre-application meeting: New Life Academy in Woodbury
9/14 – Preconstruction meeting: Ninety Four Exchange (#26-28)
9/16 – BestPrep volunteer speaker training for career presentations in classrooms
9/21 – Gerda TMS wetland restoration (#23-20, #24-12) field review with St. Paul
9/22 & 9/23 - Internal MS4 annual assessment meetings
9/24 – Pre application meeting: Beaver Lake Park
9/28-9/30 – BeaverCon conference
9/29 – Initial walkthrough: #24-06 Tierra Encantada (Oakdale)
9/29 – UofM Erosion and Stormwater Management 'Ask Me Anything' webinar
9/30 – UofM Erosion program instructor meeting

Single Lot Residential Permits Approved by Staff:

None

Permits Closed:

13-04	Keller Lake Trail and Boardwalk (Maplewood)
17-30	RWMWD Grass Lake Berm Raise (Shoreview)
18-07	Wakefield Park Improvements (Maplewood)
19-52	Bailey Road Reconstruction (Woodbury)
20-11	MCES Battle Creek Interceptor Rehab (St. Paul)
20-25	Suzanne Gramsie Stormwater Improvements (Shoreview)
20-29	Shoreview Snail Lake Trail Extension (Shoreview)
21-20	4315 Snail Lake Boulevard (Shoreview)
21-24	762 Labore Road (Little Canada)
22-15	RWMWD Lake Owasso Shoreline Restoration (Shoreview)
22-16	Maplewood Assisted Living (Maplewood)
22-22	3216A W Owasso Blvd (Shoreview)
22-36	Enclave Apartments (Maplewood) --WITHDRAWN
24-04	Reuter Walton Little Canada Apartments (Little Canada)
25-14	2817 Victoria St N (Roseville)

Program Updates:

RWMWD's language in Rule F (Erosion and Sediment Control) directly reflects the requirements of the State Construction Stormwater General Permit. The primary focus of the permit is preventing sediment from negatively impacting permanent stormwater infrastructure and leaving the construction site to affect downstream or adjacent areas.

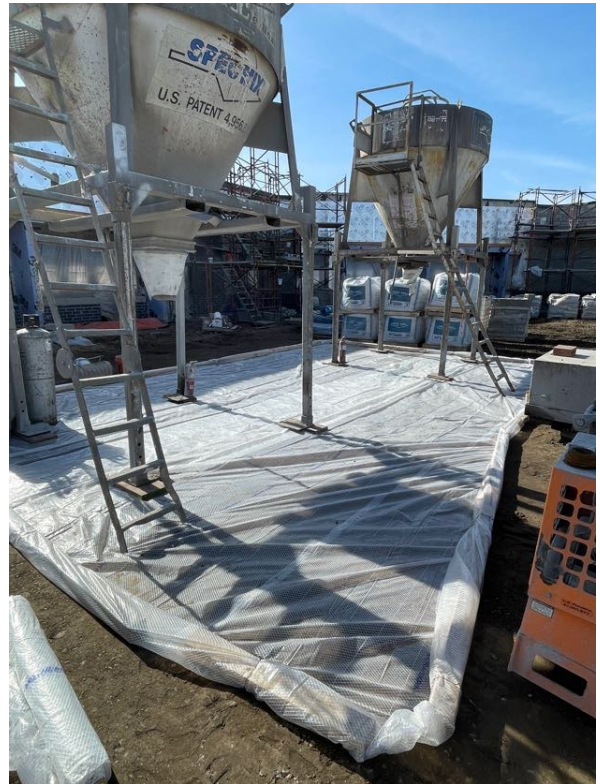
One portion of the permit that may be less familiar is pollution prevention requirements. These requirements address practices such as proper concrete waste disposal, secondary containment for fueling tanks, securing portable toilets, and other measures intended to prevent pollutants from entering the environment.

Although these requirements can sometimes be overlooked, RWMWD staff consider pollution prevention an important part of the construction site inspection process. Proper storage, containment, and disposal of construction-related materials help keep sites clean and organized while reducing the risk of pollutants and hazardous materials entering stormwater or the surrounding environment.

To help monitor these practices, RWMWD inspectors include a pollution prevention section in their inspection reports. This section identifies areas where materials may not be properly stored, contained, or disposed of and provides an opportunity to address potential issues before they become larger problems.

Below are examples of what staff have encountered in the field, with some showing great use of pollution prevention, and some violations of this requirement of the permit.

Proper containment, storage and disposal



Violations of the permit due to missing containment and improper disposal



Stewardship Grant Program

Stewardship Grant Program Budget Status Update

October 7, 2026

		Last Month	This Month	Last Month	This Month
Homeowner	Coverage	Number of Projects: 27	Number of Projects: 29	Funds Allocated	Funds Allocated
Habitat Restoration and rain garden w/o hard surface drainage	50% Cost Share \$15,000 Max	19	21	\$78,150	\$87,150***
Rain garden w/hard surface drainage	75% Cost Share \$15,000 Max	6	6	\$45,675	\$45,675
Shoreland Restoration	100% Cost Share \$15,000 Max	2	2	\$30,000	\$30,000

		Last Month	This Month	Last Month	This Month
Commercial, School, Government, Church, Associations, etc.	Coverage	Number of Projects: 17	Number of Projects: 18	Funds Allocated	Funds Allocated
Habitat Restoration	50% Cost Share \$15,000 Max	2	2	\$60,000	\$75,000*
Shoreland Restoration (below 100-year flood elevation w/actively eroding banks)	100% Cost Share \$100,000 Max	0	0	\$0	\$0
Priority Area Projects (Water Quality)	100% Cost Share \$100,000 Max	2	2	\$121,100	\$121,100
Non-Priority Area Projects (Water Quality)	75% Cost Share \$50,000 Max	0	0	\$0	\$0
Priority Chloride Projects (Impaired, at-risk) (\$150,000 reserved – all chloride)	100% Cost Share \$100,000 Max	0	0	\$0	\$0
Non-Priority Chloride Projects (Not impaired or at-risk)	75% Cost Share \$50,000 Max	0	0	\$0	\$0
Community Partner (\$100,000 reserved)	50-100% Cost Share \$25,000 Max	6	6	\$97,550	\$97,550
Public Art	50% Cost Share \$15,000 Max	2	2	\$19,800	\$19,800
Aquatic Veg Harvest/LVMP Development	50% Cost Share \$15,000 Max	0	0	\$0	\$0
Enhanced Street Sweeping (\$350,000 Reserved)	Varies Cost Share \$100,000 Max	5	5	\$327,000	\$327,000

Maintenance	50% Cost Share \$7,500 Max for 5 Years	92	92	\$87,305	\$87,305
Consultant Fees				\$48,301	\$51,179
Total Allocated				\$914,881	\$941,759

*includes funds to be approved at current board meeting

** includes staff approvals since previous board meeting

2026 Stewardship Grant Program Budget		
	Last Month	This Month
Budget	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Total Funds Allocated	\$914,881	\$941,759
Total Available Funds	\$585,119	\$558,241

* * * * *

Action Items

* * * * *

Request for Board Action

Board Meeting Date: October 7, 2026

Agenda Item No: 7A

Preparer: Tina Carstens, Administrator

Item Description: RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements Bid Award

Background:

At the August meeting, the board rejected the first bids and authorized staff to refine the plans and rebid the project. The virtual bid opening was held on September 25th and the bid results have been compiled. The attached memo includes the project and bid information.

The managers should consider awarding the project to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Applicable District Goal and Action Item:

Goal: Achieve quality surface water – The District will maintain or improve surface water quality to support healthy ecosystems and provide the public with a wide range of water-based benefits.

Action Item: Maintain District projects and consider opportunities to support the maintenance activities of others.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the board award the project to Asphalt Specialties, Co.

Financial Implications:

This project will be funded through the CIP Maintenance and Repair Fund, where sufficient funds are available.

Board Action Requested:

Accept the bids and award the RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements project to Asphalt Specialties, Co. Direct staff to prepare and mail the notice of award, prepare the agreements, and review the required submittals.

Memorandum

To: RWMWD Board of Managers
From: Marcy Bean, Gareth Becker, and Erin Anderson Wenz
Subject: RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements – Recommendation to Award Bid
Date: September 30, 2026
Project: 23621567
c: Paige Ahlborg (RWMWD), Tina Carstens (RWMWD)

Overview

The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District office was constructed in 2005, including a porous bituminous pavement parking lot. In 2014, the parking lot was expanded to its current footprint, which included a small area of permeable concrete unit pavers. In the twenty years since construction, the porous bituminous pavement has aged and become less effective for stormwater management despite routine maintenance and several rehabilitation projects. Some surface material has eroded, and in winter, the material has become slow to infiltrate, resulting in areas of ice buildup. When it was decided that parking lot replacement was needed, RWMWD staff expressed interest in replacing the parking lot with alternative material to serve as a demonstration on alternative hard surfaces that can also serve as a water quality BMP.

The permeable unit paver system used in the 2014 expansion, PaveDrain, has held up well, and the manufacturer has since developed improvements to the system, including the potential to heat the surface. Heated pavement projects have been brought to the District for consideration of grant funding, as heated pavements help reduce salt application. District staff is interested in using the parking lot as a pilot project to inform heated pavement system costs, operations, and chloride application reduction. The design of the project is intended to improve safety for staff and guests, reduce sidewalk shoveling, and improve winter access to the building for more frequent, smaller winter events.

Since the completion of the project's 30% design in September 2025, Barr has developed concept iterations to incorporate additional site improvements at the request of RWMWD staff in response to a site accessibility audit. Staff also requested a solution for parking storage for the District's monitoring boat. Construction of these improvements will allow additional site modifications to align with accessibility goals, improve storage options for staff, and continue the demonstration aspect of the site design.

The RWMWD Board of Managers authorized bidding for Office Exterior Improvements at their June 3, 2026 Board meeting. Following the Board's authorization, the project was bid for three weeks between June 30 and July 21 through public bidding on QuestCDN. Bids were opened July 21, 2026 at 10:00 am at a virtual bid opening. Two (2) bids were received which were over 30% higher than the estimated construction cost. It was decided at the August 5 Board meeting to reject the bids and re-bid with clarification.

Based on contractor feedback after the first bid period, Barr modified the project to incorporate the following changes: the timeline was extended to allow for fall 2026 or 2027 construction, specifications for the mechanical systems were outlined as per the supplier rather than providing flexibility within the

system selected, and the heated pavement system was separated as a bid alternate. It was determined that the low bidder would be selected based on the sum of the base bid + bid alternate.

Following the Board's authorization, the project was bid for three weeks between September 3 and September 25 through public bidding on QuestCDN. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held September 15 at the RWMWD Office. Bids were opened September 25, 2026 at 9:00 am at a virtual bid opening. Five (5) bids were received and are summarized in the following table.

Table 1. Summary of Bids Received for Office Exterior Improvements

Bidder	Base Bid	Bid Alternate (Snow and Ice Melt System)	Total Base Bid + Alternate
Asphalt Specialties, Co.	\$ 334,723.50	\$ 215,171.20	\$ 549,894.70
Pember Companies, Inc	\$ 363,809.45	\$ 508,129.40	\$ 871,938.85
McLafferty Contracting Group	\$ 485,158.00	\$ 407,361.00	\$ 892,519.00
Urban Companies	\$ 440,791.00	\$ 664,959.00	\$ 1,105,750.00
Peterson Companies	\$ 543,895.50	\$ 579,004.52	\$ 1,122,900.02
Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost at 90% design was \$488,000. The estimated accuracy range for the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost for the project ranges from -5% (\$464,000) to +10% (\$537,000). The opinion of cost is intended to provide assistance in evaluating and comparing the project bids and should not be assumed as an absolute rule. The Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE) Class 1 opinion of cost was used to define the estimated accuracy range based on the level of project definition.			

Review:

RWMWD has not contracted directly with Asphalt Specialties, Co., but has checked project references and found them favorable. They installed PaveDrain in the parking lot as part of a Stewardship Grant project at Redeemer Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake. Additional references for paving projects were called, who have been pleased with their work and noted that they consistently come in at a lower price than competitors. They specialize in pavement installation, leading removals and preparation along with asphalt, concrete, and PaveDrain. For the heated elements of the project, this contractor has chosen a subcontractor with experience installing a variety of heated pavement types, including the HUG Hydronics system specified for this project.

After a review of the bid and qualifications, Asphalt Specialties, Co., has met the bidding requirements and is considered the apparent lowest responsible and responsive bidder, and Barr recommends that the RWMWD Board of Managers:

- Consider a motion that awards the project to Asphalt Specialties, Co. at the bid price of \$549,894.70 and directs staff to request the required bonds and insurance information and execute the contract for the work.

Next Steps

If the Board of Managers approves the motion, the following would be completed:

- An Authorized Representative signs the Notice of Award to be sent to the successful bidder

To: RWMWD Board of Managers
From: Marcy Bean, Gareth Becker, and Erin Anderson Wenz
Subject: RWMWD Office Exterior Improvements – Recommendation to Award Bid
Date: September 30, 2026
Page: 3

- Successful bidder provides the following information:
 - Fully executed Form of Agreement
 - Performance Bond and Payment Bond
 - Certificate of Insurance verifying adequate insurance per the bidding documents
- Barr and Galowitz-Olsen will review the submittals and, if necessary, request modifications
- Barr will coordinate with the successful bidder regarding the construction schedule and schedule a preconstruction meeting
- The Form of Agreement will be signed by all parties
- Notice to Proceed is anticipated to be issued in October, shortly after the preconstruction meeting
- Construction shall be substantially complete by September 2027

Request for Board Action

Board Meeting Date: October 7, 2026

Agenda Item No: 7B

Preparer: Tina Carstens, Administrator

Item Description: Fund Transfers – Resolution 26-02

Background:

Over several years, the board had built up the Flood Risk Reduction Fund in anticipation of large project implementation needs. Since then, several projects have been constructed, and other entities or grant funds have completed some planned improvements. We continue to plan projects and seek grant funding. We plan to keep a healthy amount in this fund for project implementation, but the board also recently decided to use excess funds to supplement other program and project needs. The flood risk reduction fund has grown to and steadily held around \$5 million. For the 2026 and 2027 budgets, some of those funds were anticipated to move to other fund categories to cover project costs and increase reserves in the General Fund.

The attached resolution would transfer close to \$2,000,000 from the Flood Risk Reduction Fund to the Wakefield Lake Aeration Project, Kohlman In-Lake Alum Treatment, and the General Fund. After the transfer, the Flood Risk Reduction Fund will have a balance of approximately \$3,000,000.

Applicable District Goal and Action Item:

Goal: Manage effectively – The District will operate in a manner that achieves its mission while adhering to its core principles.

Action Item: Maintain financial solvency and accountability.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 26-02.

Financial Implications:

Resolution 26-02 will transfer funds from the Flood Risk Reduction Fund to various district funds to redistribute funds for project implementation.

Board Action Requested:

Approval of Resolution 26-02.



RESOLUTION 26-02

RESOLUTION RELATING TO FUND TRANSERS

WHEREAS, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (District) levied funds into the Flood Risk Reduction Fund for the purpose of implementing flood risk reduction projects; and

WHEREAS, several of these projects were ultimately completed using partner contributions and grant funding rather than District levy dollars; and

WHEREAS, projections for future project needs indicate that the Flood Risk Reduction Fund will continue to carry a high balance; and

WHEREAS, other District programs and projects now present higher funding priorities, and reserves in the General Fund require additional support; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers has expressed a desire to minimize levy increases while continuing to implement District programs and projects; and

WHEREAS, excess funds in the Flood Risk Reduction Fund may be reallocated to advance current District priorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District authorizes transferring a total of \$1,980,000 from Fund 520 (Flood Risk Reduction Fund) as follows: \$1,000,000 to Fund 101 (General Fund), \$630,000 to Fund 553 (Wakefield Lake Aeration Project), \$350,000 to Fund 555 (Kohlman In-Lake Alum Treatment).

Adopted by the Board of Managers of the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District this 7th day of October, 2026.

Benjamin Karp, Vice President

Attest:

Mark Gernes, Secretary

Request for Board Action

Board Meeting Date: October 7, 2026

Agenda Item No: 7B

Preparer: Tina Carstens, Administrator

Item Description: Watershed Excellence Awards Approval

Background:

Each year, the District seeks nominations for the Watershed Excellence Awards. This year's awards will be held on Thursday, November 19th, at Keller Golf Course. We will send a formal invitation in the next couple of weeks.

The community advisory committee (CAC) received five nominations and reviewed them at its September 22nd meeting; the committee is now selecting suggested winners for board approval.

The suggested award winners will be shared with the board members for approval at the October board meeting. Once the award winners are notified, we will attach the recipients to this cover memo in a revised online packet.

Applicable District Goal and Action Item:

Goal: Inform and empower communities – The District will inform and empower communities to become partners in improving and protecting the watershed through their own efforts.

Action Items: Hold events to celebrate community connections and participation, showcase partner accomplishments, and educate youth, families, and residents about clean water.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the proposed Watershed Excellence Award winners.

Financial Implications:

The Watershed Excellence Awards event is included in this year's budget under communications and outreach events.

Board Action Requested:

Recommend and approve the proposed Watershed Excellence Award winners.

New Reports/ Presentations

Technical Memorandum

To: Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) Board
From: Jessica Olson, Brandon Barnes
Subject: RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization
Date: September 29, 2026
Project: RWMWD Creek Walk Prioritization
c: Tina Carstens, Paige Ahlborg

Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) staff complete creek walks approximately every other year to assess stream conditions. District staff have been completing creek walks for the last 10 to 15 years. Repeated inspections identify trends in channel stability and function and document changes in creek systems. Typically, creek walks were done in response to more urgent maintenance needs, such as failing culverts or debris/obstructions within the creeks. Observations can also be used to assess stream health and to inform prioritization of restoration efforts.

The purpose of this study is to standardize the data collection process and leverage current technology (ArcGIS Survey 123 forms) to efficiently collect information in a way that allows for a more direct comparison of observations over time to assess long-term stream stability and a framework for prioritizing stream restoration projects.

Stream reaches were evaluated using geomorphic indicators and scored to allow objective comparison across creeks and track stability over time. This memorandum summarizes the data collection, prioritization procedures, and study findings. Supporting materials include a field assessment and scoring worksheet, creek walk survey maps, and a prioritization matrix.

There are six creeks within RWMWD that are walked approximately every other year. The creeks are listed below and shown in Attachment 1 – Creek Walks Overview:

- Battle Creek
- Fish Creek
- Gervais Creek
- Kohlman Creek
- Snake Creek
- Willow Creek

1 Data Collection

Barr and RWMWD developed a set of metrics for stream stability indicators and identified opportunities for potential stream restoration projects. Metrics and indicators are evaluated through a combination of desktop review and field assessments.

1.1 Desktop Review

An initial desktop review was completed to identify candidate assessment reaches and evaluate site characteristics for future project implementation. The desktop review evaluated the following metrics, which are important categories to help prioritize restoration efforts:

- Access
- Land ownership
- Visibility / educational opportunities

Access to a particular location influences project cost and viability; the more challenging the access is, the higher the project cost and potential hurdles to complete. **Land ownership** dictates the level of upfront coordination required for a project to move forward; public land will require minimal coordination, while privately-owned land will require land use agreements or ownership transfers. Some locations are near frequently-used public spaces and have high potential for **visibility / educational opportunities** to increase public awareness of water resource stewardship and stream enhancement through signage and other interpretive materials.

1.2 Field Assessment

Standardized metrics established in 2025 were measured and documented with photographs during each site visit and will be repeated in future creek walks to support year-to-year comparisons. Assessment metrics include:

- Bank height, angle, erosion length
- Root depth and density
- Soil type
- Vegetation type and density
- Groundwater influence
- Woody material in and adjacent to stream
- Existing geomorphic processes (deposition, erosion)
- Existing stabilization measures
- Proximity to structures/infrastructure
- Gut check of reach issues

2 Prioritization

2.1 Creek Walk Prioritization Worksheet

The Creek Walk Prioritization Worksheet (Attachment 2) was developed to compile desktop review and field assessment data and scores to understand annual trends and comparative reach stability. A score of 1 to 3 was assigned to each metric where a low number (1) indicates low stream health or a severe condition and a high number (3) indicates high stream health or stable condition. The Prioritization Worksheet details the scoring criteria and explains how scores were assigned. Scores were summed up to generate a prioritization score for each reach. Lower total scores indicate higher relative priority for future project consideration.

2.2 Prioritization Methodology

Barr prepared figures (Attachment 3) identifying eroding stream segments using two stream health indices: bank health score and total score. The total scores are shown on the top panel on the figures, and the bank health score is shown on the bottom panel of the figures in Attachment 3. Stream segments that do not have scores in the figures were walked but did not exhibit signs of erosion or other bank health concerns and so were not assigned scores.

Bank health scores are based on metrics directly related to current bank conditions:

- bank height
- bank angle
- root depth
- root density
- bank surface protection (percent exposed soil)
- eroding bank length
- existing bank seeps

Total scores include all metrics, including bank health categories noted above, as well as factors that may contribute to future erosion including:

- in-channel depositions or debris
- soil type
- evidence of concentrated overland flow (gully formations)
- riparian/floodplain vegetation type
- riparian/floodplain vegetation density
- existing stabilization
- woody material adjacent to or in creek
- gut check of reach issues

Total scores also include prioritization categories not related to current or potential stream condition, as noted below:

- site access
- proximity to structures / infrastructure
- property ownership
- opportunity for habitat creation / priority restoration area
- visibility / educational opportunities

Sites with bank health and total scores indicating high priority have existing stream health concerns and are strong restoration candidates because continued erosion is likely and/or other factors—such as straightforward access or proximity to infrastructure—support implementation. Sites with bank health scores indicating high priority but total scores indicating lower priority also have existing stream health concerns; however, lower erosion potential or less favorable implementation factors reduce their overall restoration priority. Battle Creek between stations 150+00 and 157+00 in Attachment 3 on page 24 illustrates the latter scenario: bank conditions rank as higher priority, but the total score indicates a slightly lower overall priority.

Barr grouped 46,350 linear feet across 431 assessed reaches into 43 creek segments. Each segment received weighted prioritization scores based on bank health, total health, and project length. The grouping also reflected implementation practicality; for example, several adjacent areas with poor stream health may offer a more feasible restoration opportunity than a single isolated area. Accordingly, neighboring sites or sites within a common area were combined for project prioritization. Barr staff also used artificial intelligence to sort and compare segment rankings and help identify priority project sites, and reviewed results to confirm prioritization rankings.

2.3 Summary of Findings

Across the 43 segments, the priority scores generally show broad agreement. For instance, between station 75+00 and station 82+00 on Battle Creek in Attachment 3 on page 23, both bank health and total scores show that the examined areas have a similarly high priority for restoration. Similarly, sites with high bank health score priority generally also have high total score priority, though one score may be slightly different than the other. Reach Results are shown in the Stream Score and Priority Tables (Attachment 4). Analyses of the assessed segments using bank health and total scores result in a few segments consistently rising to the top of the prioritization list in Battle Creek, Snake Creek, and Fish Creek, including a segment of Fish Creek that is undergoing restoration this year (segment F-6 on page 29).

For restoration project priorities, it was practical to group adjacent segments into longer restoration projects. For example, three separate adjacent segments all located on public land could be combined into one project area. As a result, the recommended projects are not limited to only the highest priority segments. They also include nearby segments that may rank lower but are logical to complete as part of the same project. Based on the current assessments, the highest-priority stream restoration projects are:

- **Priority 1:** Approximately 5,250 linear feet of Battle Creek between Ruth Street and McKnight Road, as well as east of McKnight Road, Station 89+00 to 101+00 on page 23, Station 102+50 to 125+00 on page 24, and Station 140+00 to 158+00 on page 25
- **Priority 2:** Approximately 2,650 linear feet of Battle Creek between Sterling Avenue and Century Avenue, Station 158+00 to 165+50 on page 25, Station 167+00 to 173+50 on page 25, and Station 176+50 to 189+00 on page 26
- **Priority 3:** Approximately 1,400 linear feet of Fish Creek on private properties north of Carver Avenue, Station 73+50 North to 87+50 North on page 28
- **Priority 4:** Approximately 2,450 linear feet of Snake Creek on private properties east of I-494, Station 0+00 to 22+00 on page 41 and Station 26+00 to 28+50 on page 42

Of the six streams assessed, scores for Gervais Creek consistently resulted in low-priority ranking for projects in this stream. This may be because RWMWD regularly completes CIP maintenance projects along Gervais Creek including removal of vegetation and accumulated sediment between Owasso Blvd and I-35E and sediment removal downstream of Noel Drive.

3 Next Steps

At the June 2026 RWMWD Board meeting, the methodology and scoring framework were presented and the board provided feedback on the overall approach for prioritizing restoration projects. Barr and District

To: Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) Board
From: Jessica Olson, Brandon Barnes
Subject: RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization
Date: September 29, 2026
Page: 5

staff proceeded to finalize the prioritization figures and identify high-priority stream reaches for stabilization projects. The next step is to begin design for stream restoration and stabilization on the highest priority reach, approximately 5,2050 linear feet of Battle Creek between Ruth Street and McKnight Road and a portion of Battle Creek upstream of McKnight Basin (see Priority 1 project in Section 2). The RWMWD preliminary 2027 budget includes funds for final design and additional site characterization tasks for the Priority 1 project. Barr and District staff anticipate beginning this work early in 2027. Staff will explore grant opportunities during the next phase of the project.

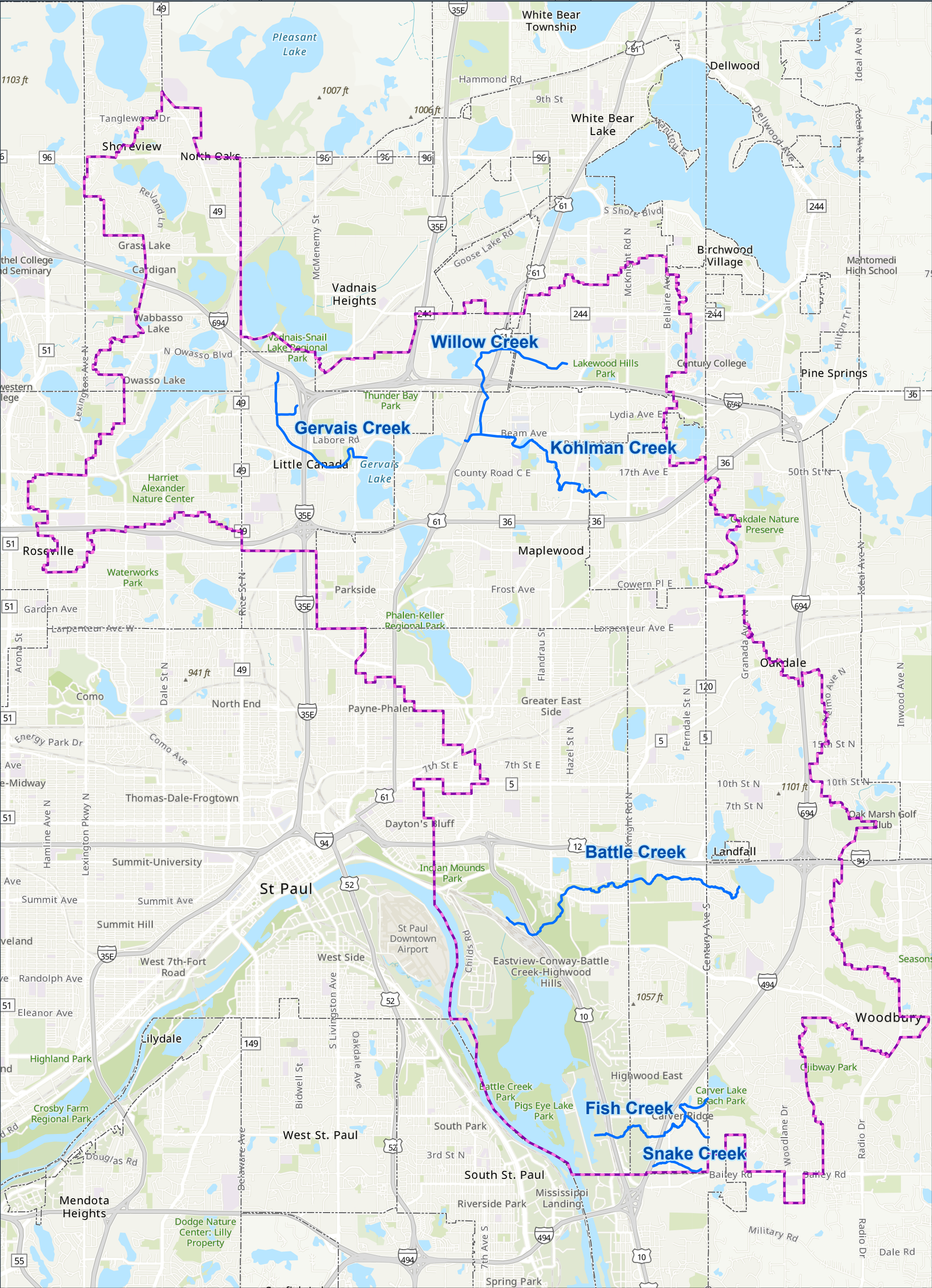
Attachments

- 1. Creek Walk Study Area**
- 2. Creek Walk Prioritization Worksheet**
- 3. Creek Walk Survey Maps**
- 4. Stream Score and Priority Tables**

Attachment 1

Creek Walk Study Area

RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization



Municipal Boundary

RWMWD Jurisdictional Boundary

Creek Walk Centerlines



06,00012,000

Feet

Creek Walks Overview

Battle Creek



Attachment 2

Creek Walk Prioritization Worksheet

RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization

Ramsey Washington Metropolitan Watershed District

Creek Walk Prioritization Worksheet (note: lower scores correlate with higher priority/worse condition)

Item / criteria	Score	Description	Barr or RWMWD
Bank height (from notes)	1	More than 4'	RWMWD
	2	2' - 4'	
	3	0 – 2'	
Root depth (from photo)	1	Less than 25% of bank height	RWMWD
	2	25% - 50% of bank height	
	3	More than 50% of bank height	
Root density (from photo)	1	Less than 25% coverage	RWMWD
	2	25% - 50% coverage	
	3	More than 50% coverage	
Bank angle (from photo + notes)	1	80 degrees or steeper or undercut more than 1 ft	RWMWD
	2	60 to 80 degrees, undercut less than 1 ft	
	3	Flatter than 60 degrees, not undercut	
Bank surface protection	1	Less than 25% coverage	RWMWD
	2	25% - 50% coverage	
	3	More than 50% coverage	
Soil type	1	Sand, small cobble or gravel	RWMWD
	2	Silt	
	3	Clay or riprap/large cobble or bedrock	
In-channel depositions or debris	1	Yes, routing flow toward bank	RWMWD
	2	Yes, doesn't appear to impact bank	
	3	No depositions	
Proximity to structures / infrastructure	1	Edge of eroding bank is less than 5 feet from infrastructure (i.e. pipes, trails, roads, buildings, etc.)	RWMWD / Barr (if utility layer is available in GIS)
	2	Edge is 5' - 15' from structure / infrastructure	
	3	Edge is more than 15' from infrastructure	
Eroding bank length	1	More than 30'	RWMWD
	2	10' - 30'	
	3	Less than 10'	
Existing gully	1	Existing severe gully (4' or greater depth)	RWMWD
	2	Existing moderate gully (less than 4')	
	3	No gully	
	1	Visible seeps	RWMWD

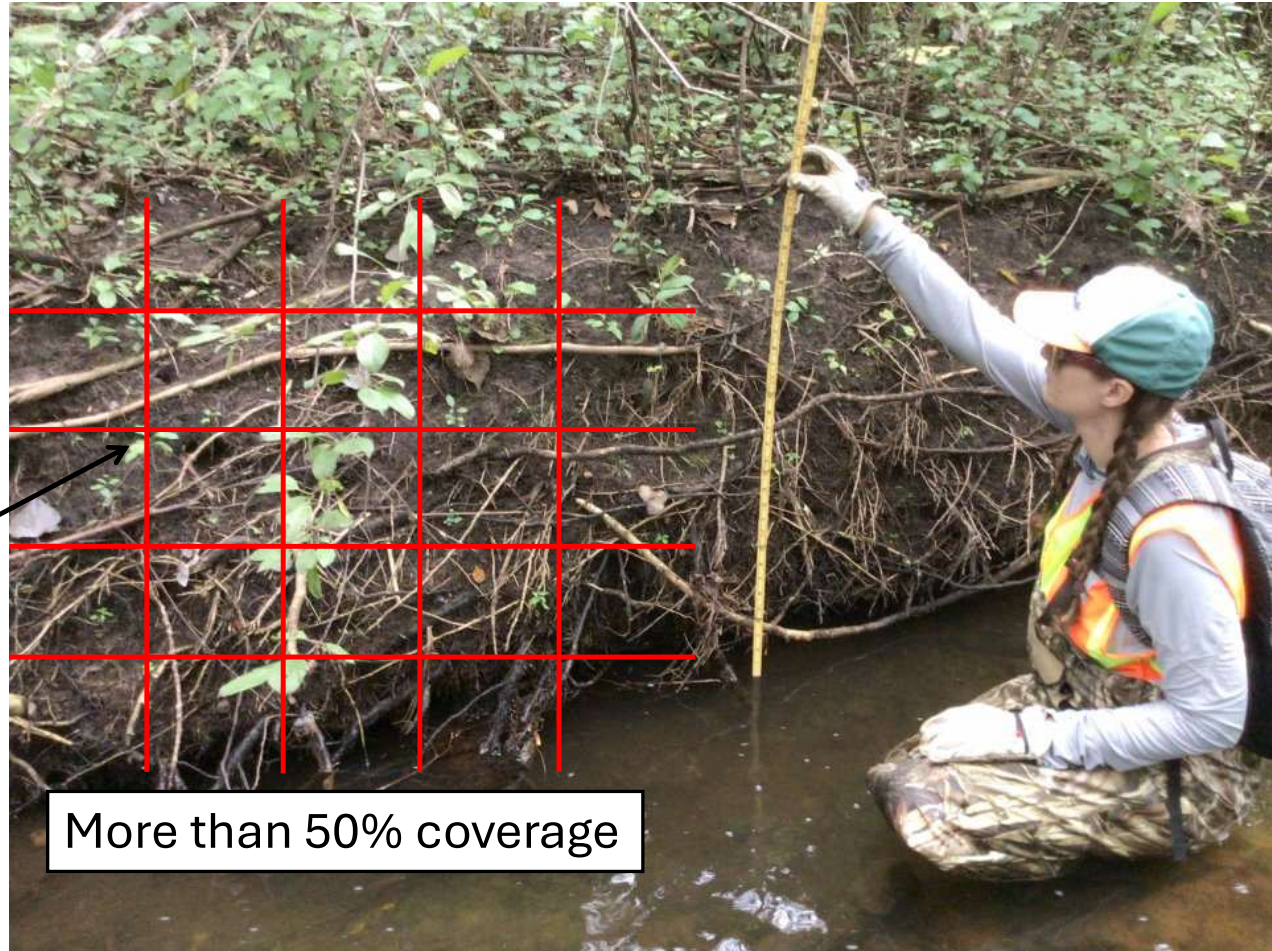
Existing seeps in bank	2	Possible seepage	
	3	No visible seeps	
Riparian / floodplain vegetation type	1	Majority invasive species	RWMWD
	2	Majority mowed sod	
	3	Majority native species	
Riparian / floodplain vegetation density	1	Less than 25% ground coverage and/or more than 75% invasive species (i.e. buckthorn)	RWMWD
	2	25% - 75% ground coverage and/or 25% - 75% invasive species,	
	3	More than 75% ground coverage and less than 25% invasive species	
Access	1	Challenging access (steep slopes, wetlands, heavily wooded, more than 200 feet to nearest trail or road, etc.)	RWMWD
	2	Medium access (less than 200 feet to nearest trail or road, moderate slopes, few to no wetlands, moderately wooded, etc.)	
	3	Easy access (adjacent to trails or roads)	
Land ownership	1	Private land	Barr
	2	Private land with public easement	
	3	Public land	
Existing stabilization (riprap or other)	1	None	RWMWD
	2	Some, with some areas of failure	
	3	In place and functioning	
Woody material adjacent to and in creek (<i>if all conditions aren't met, use the lower number score</i>)	1	Moveable and/or less than 6-inch diameter and/or partially or entirely above creek bed	RWMWD
	2	At least partly secured; 4-inch to 8-inch diameter; more than half located below the bank	
	3	Fully secured; more than 8-inch diameter; more than half located below the bank	
Visibility / educational opportunities	1	Not visible from public space	RWMWD
	2	Moderately visible from public space	
	3	Highly visible, adjacent to well-used public space	
Proximity to other planned projects	1	Share access with other anticipated project area	Barr (potential to review city or county)
	2	Less than 100 feet from anticipated project area	

	3	More than 100 feet from anticipated project area	CIP projects) and RWMWD(?)
Opportunity for habitat creation / priority restoration area (or other high-priority ecological area)	1	WARP score for high opportunity	Barr
	2	WARP score for medium opportunity	
	3	WARP score for low opportunity	
Protection of significant resource or property	1	Protection of very significant resource or property	Barr
	2	Protection of some significant resource or property	
	3	No protection	
Gut check of reach issues	1	Extreme	RWMWD
	2	Moderate	
	3	Minor	

Cover Criteria Visual Assessment

- Root density
- Bank surface protection
- Riparian / floodplain vegetation density

Grid point method:
If roots occur at more than
50% of the grid points, the
bank has more than 50%
coverage



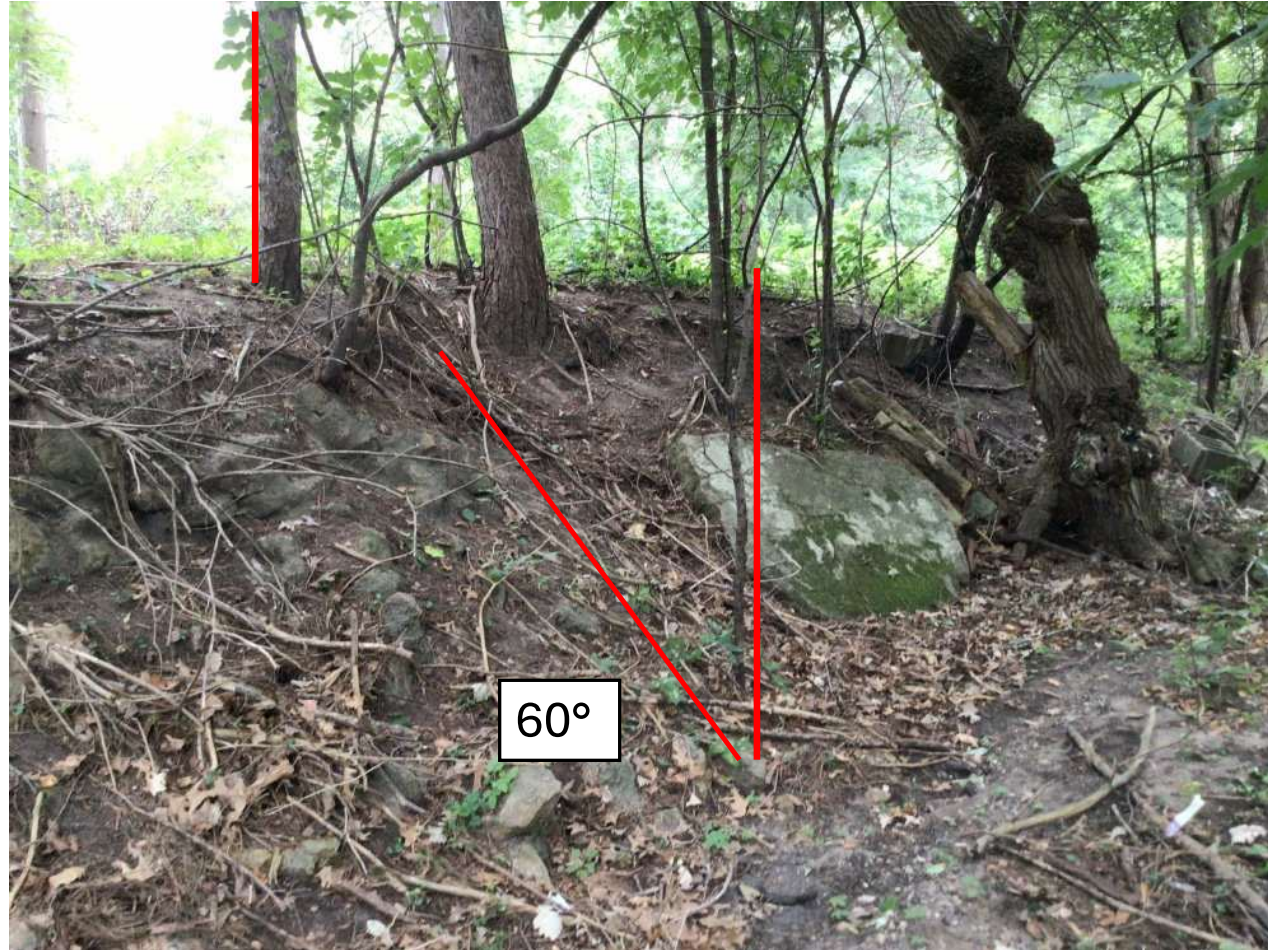
Bank Angle Visual Assessment

>80° Near-vertical face;
exposed/overhanging roots;
bare soil or rock

60–80° Steep face; some
sloughing

<60° Moderately sloped,
often vegetated, not
undercut

Tree method:
Compare the bank face to
nearby vertical tree trunks.



Examples from Kohlman Creek



Criteria	Score	Description
Root depth	3	Tree roots appear to be >50% bank height
Root density	1	Less than 25% cover
Bank angle	2	60° slope
Bank surface protection	3	Concrete and boulder cover >50%, litter cover
Soil type	1	Sand deposits shown at bank toe
Vegetation density	1	Less than 25% cover
Existing stabilization	3	Concrete and boulder present and functioning



Criteria	Score	Description
Root depth	3	Tree roots appear to be >50% bank height
Root density	2	25% - 50% cover
Bank angle	2	Steep slope, undercut less than 1 ft
Bank surface protection	1	Less than 25% coverage
Soil type	1	Sand, cobble, gravel exposed
Vegetation density	1	Less than 25% cover on bank face
Existing stabilization	1	No added stabilization measures



Criteria	Score	Description
Root depth	1	Shallow grass roots
Root density	1	Less than 25% cover
Bank angle	1	Vertical face or undercut
Bank surface protection	3	Grasses cover >50%
Soil type	1	Exposed sand and gravel at bank toe
Vegetation density	3	Grass cover appears to be more than 75%
Existing stabilization	1	No added stabilization measures



Criteria	Score	Description
Root depth	2	Woody species roots extend 25%-50% bank height
Root density	1	Less than 25% cover
Bank angle	2	Steep face 60°-80°
Bank surface protection	1	Mostly bare soil
Soil type	1	Sand deposits at toe
Vegetation density	1	Less than 25% cover
Existing stabilization	1	No added stabilization measures



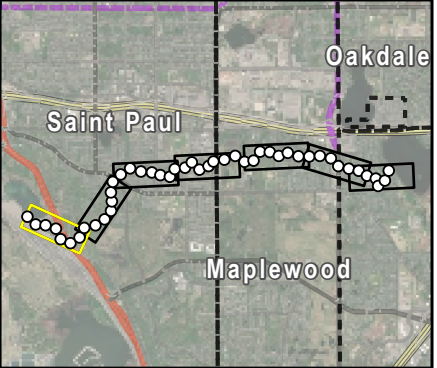
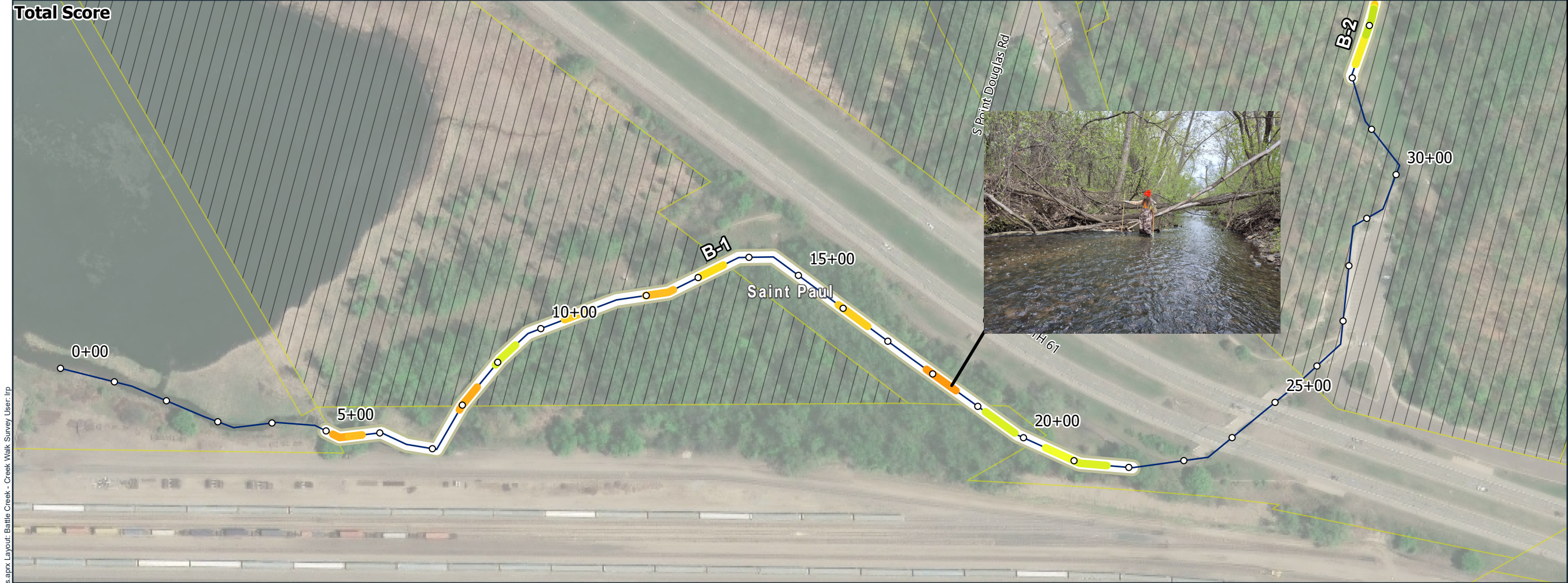
Criteria	Score	Description
Root depth	3	Roots to toe of bank
Root density	3	Undercut shows >50% roots
Bank angle	2	Undercut bank
Bank surface protection	1	No coverage of any kind
Soil type	1	Sand and gravel deposits on top and toe of bank
Vegetation density	1	Less than 25% cover
Existing stabilization	1	No added stabilization measures

Attachment 3

Creek Walk Survey Maps

RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization

Total Score



Segment Score

- Higher Priority
- Lower Priority
- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

Bank Health

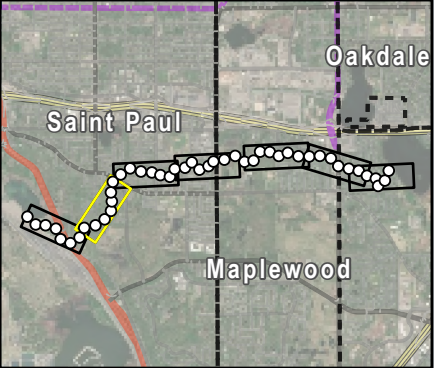


0 200 Feet

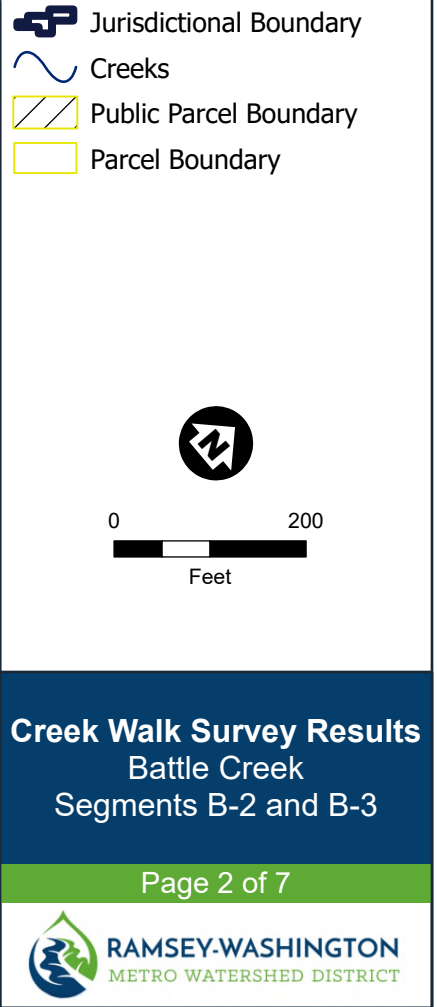
North Arrow

Creek Walk Survey Results
Battle Creek
Segments B-1 and B-2

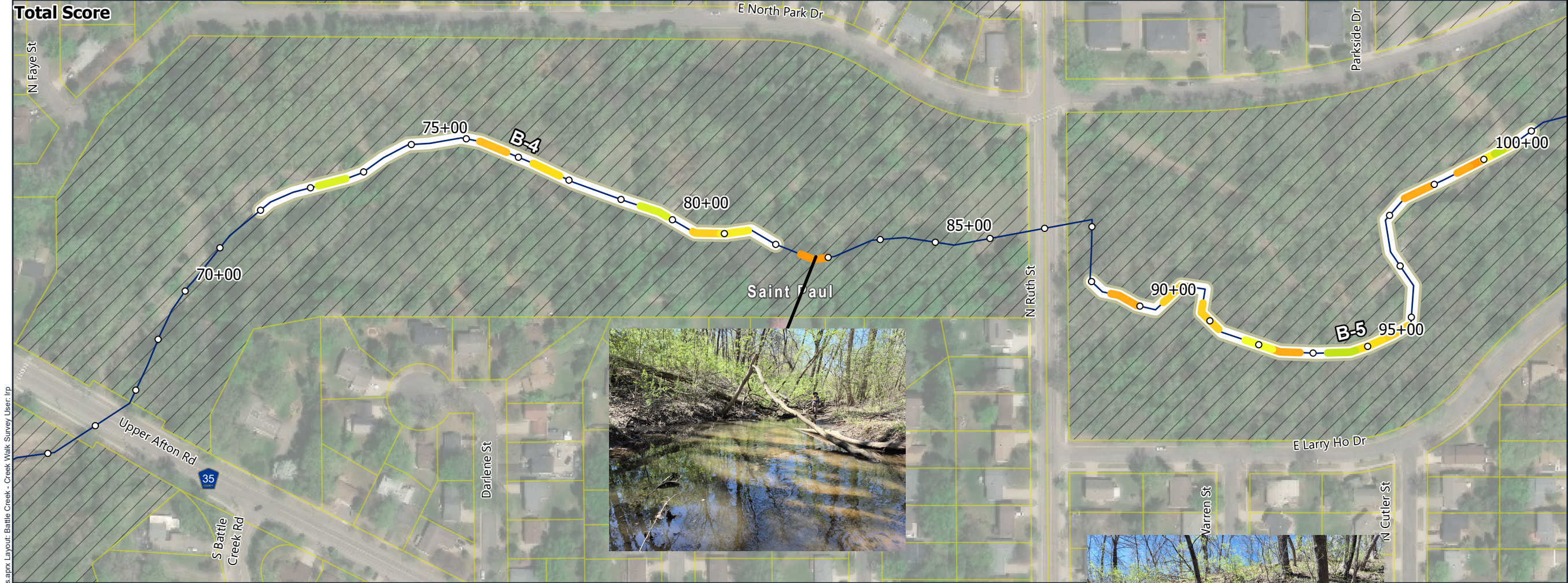
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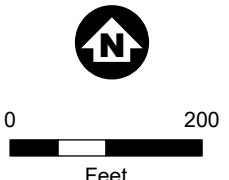
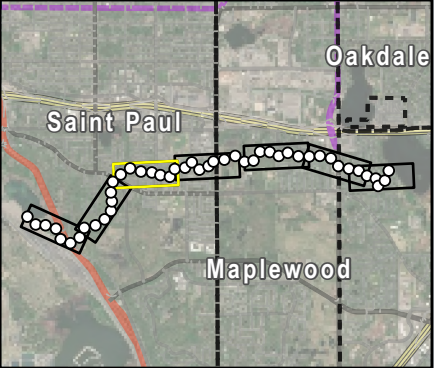
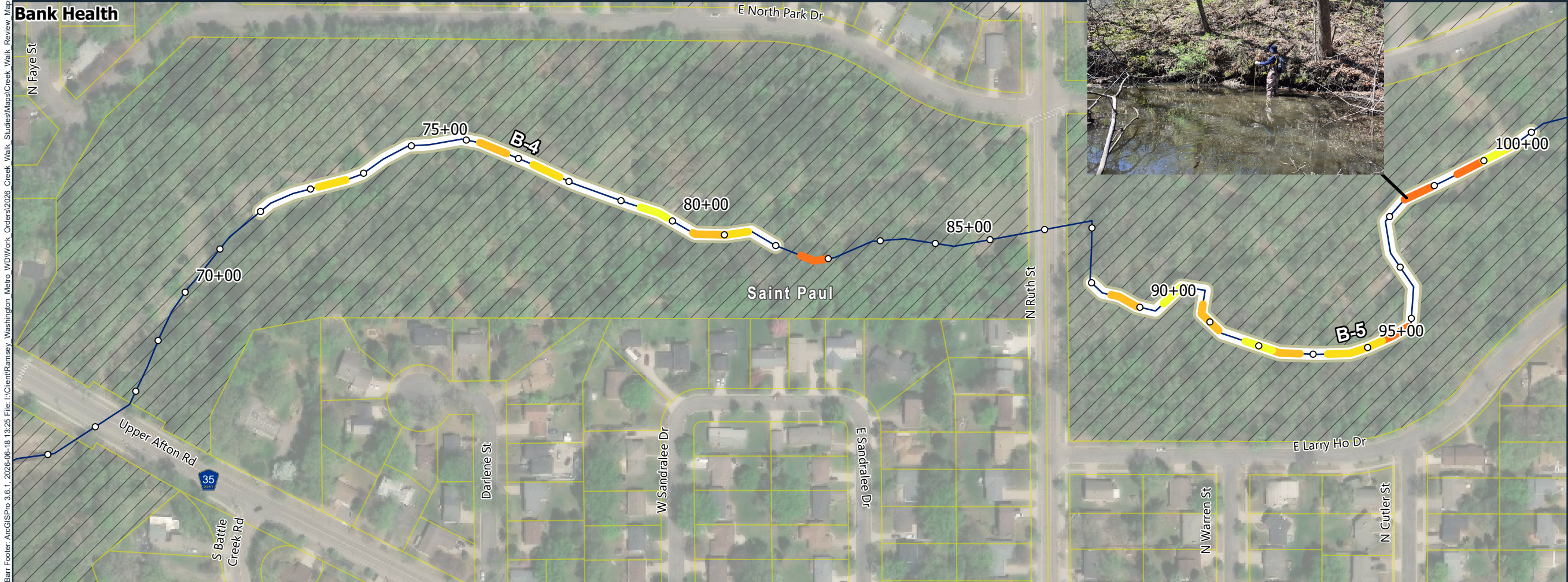
Bank Health



Total Score



Bank Health

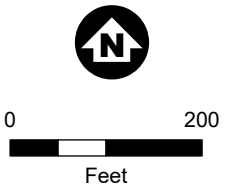
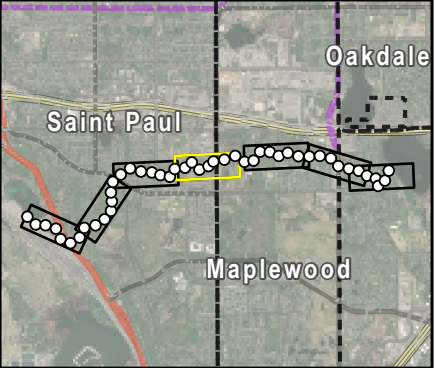
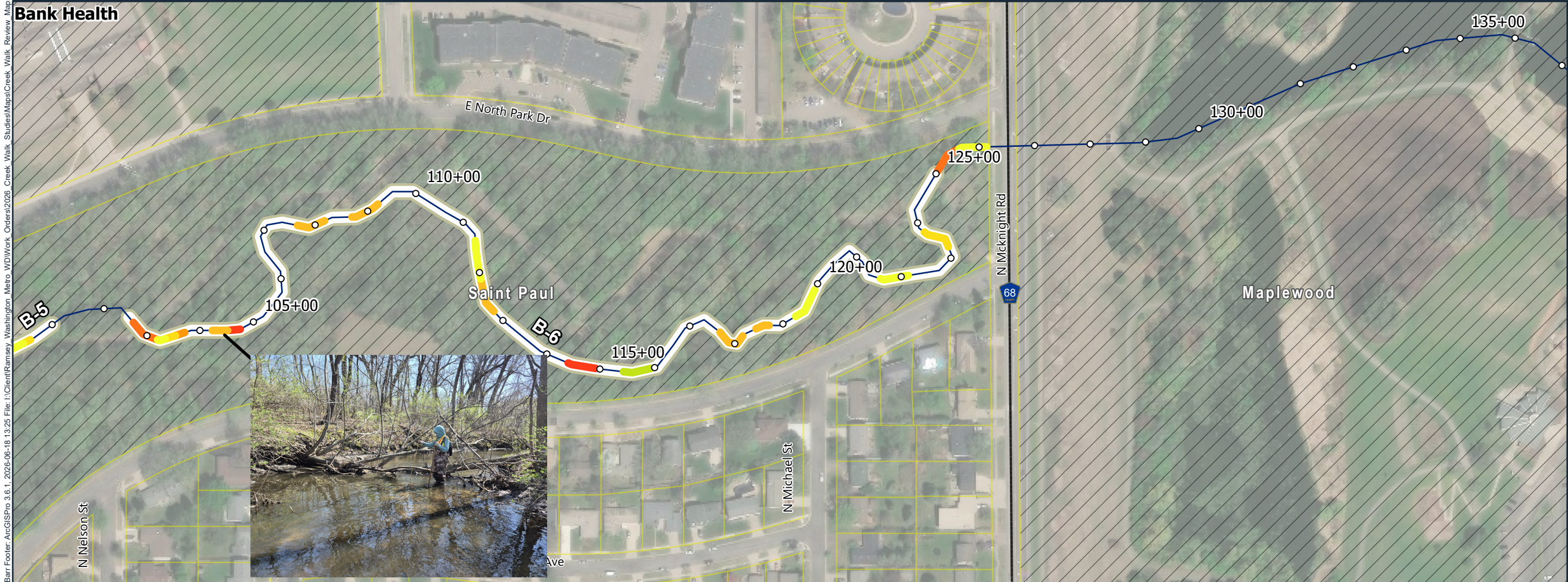


Creek Walk Survey Results
Battle Creek
Segments B-4 and B-5

Total Score

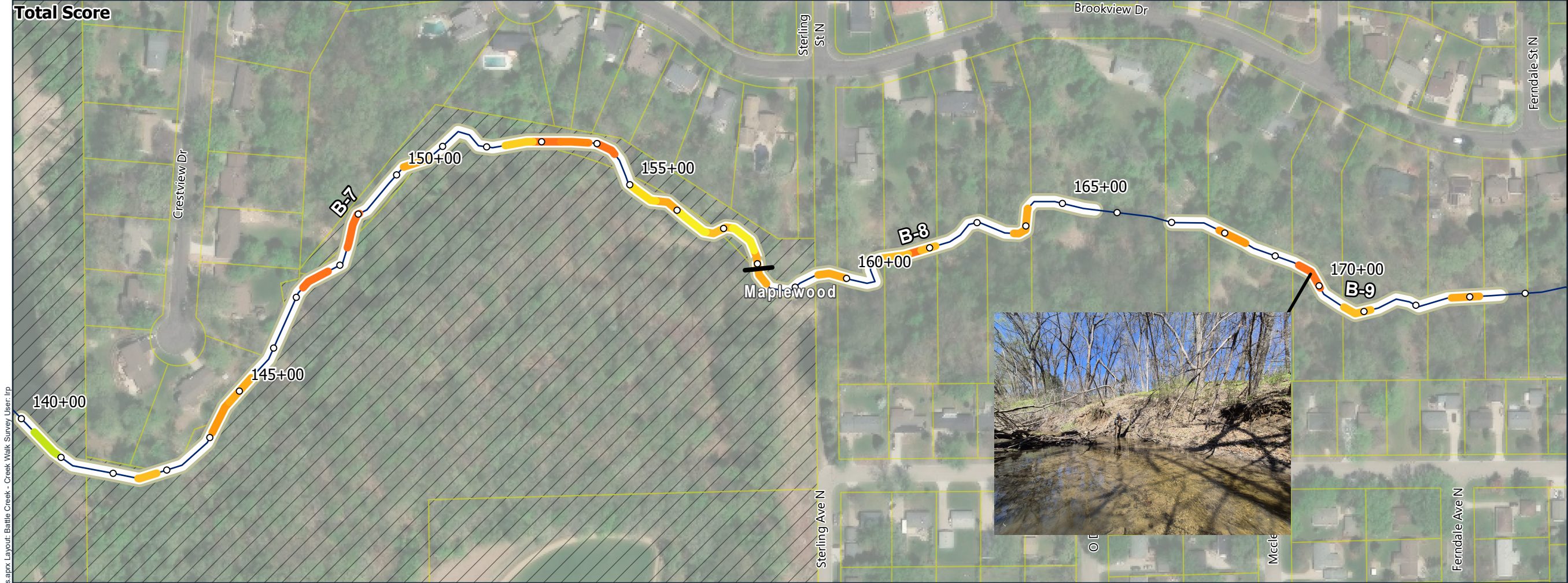


Bank Health

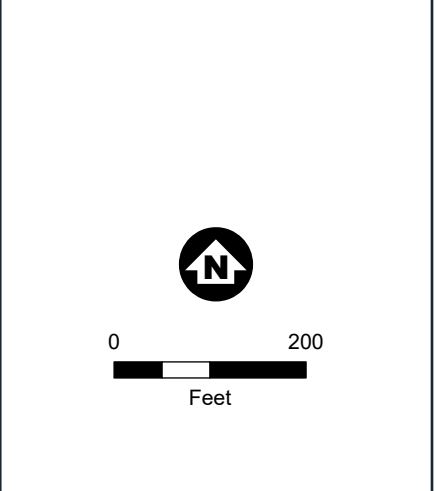
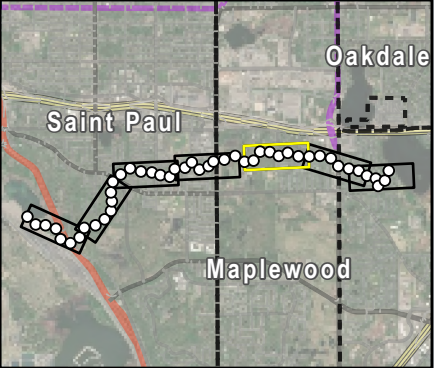
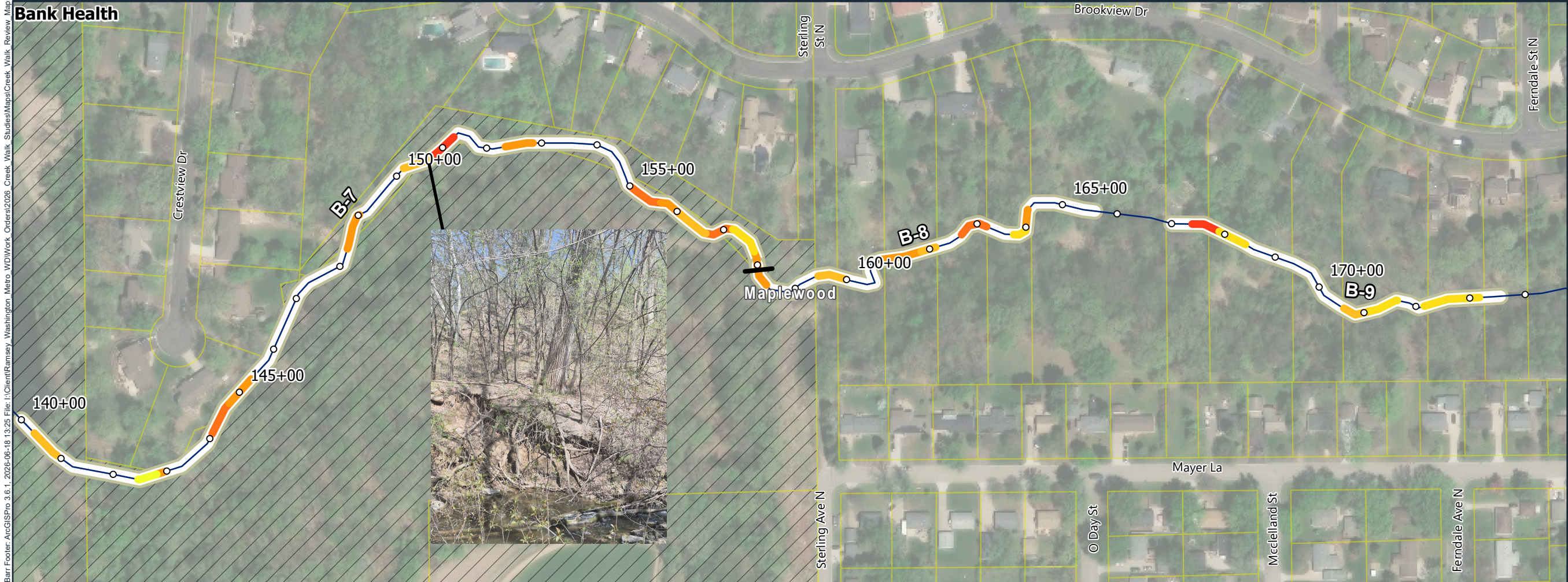


Creek Walk Survey Results
Battle Creek
Segments B-5 and B-6

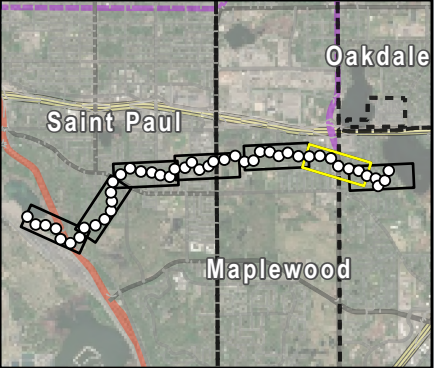
Total Score



Bank Health



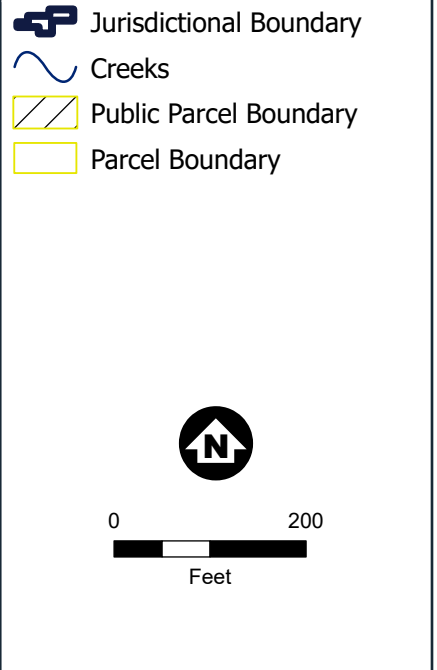
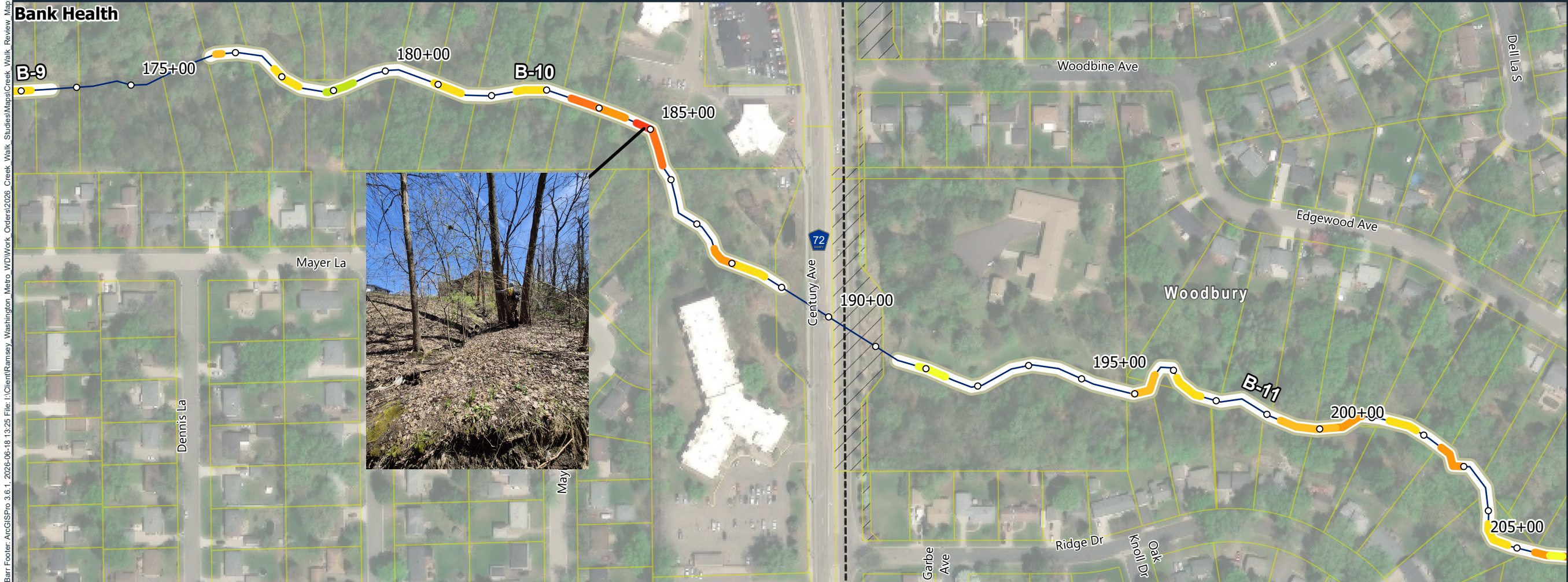
Total Score



Segment Score

- Higher Priority
- Lower Priority
- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

Bank Health

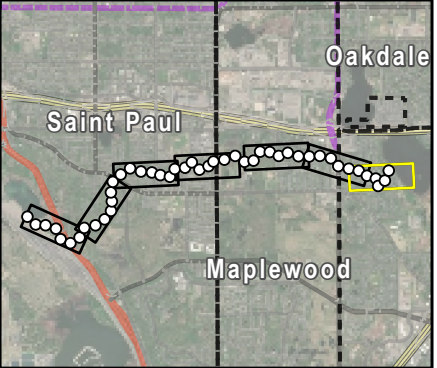
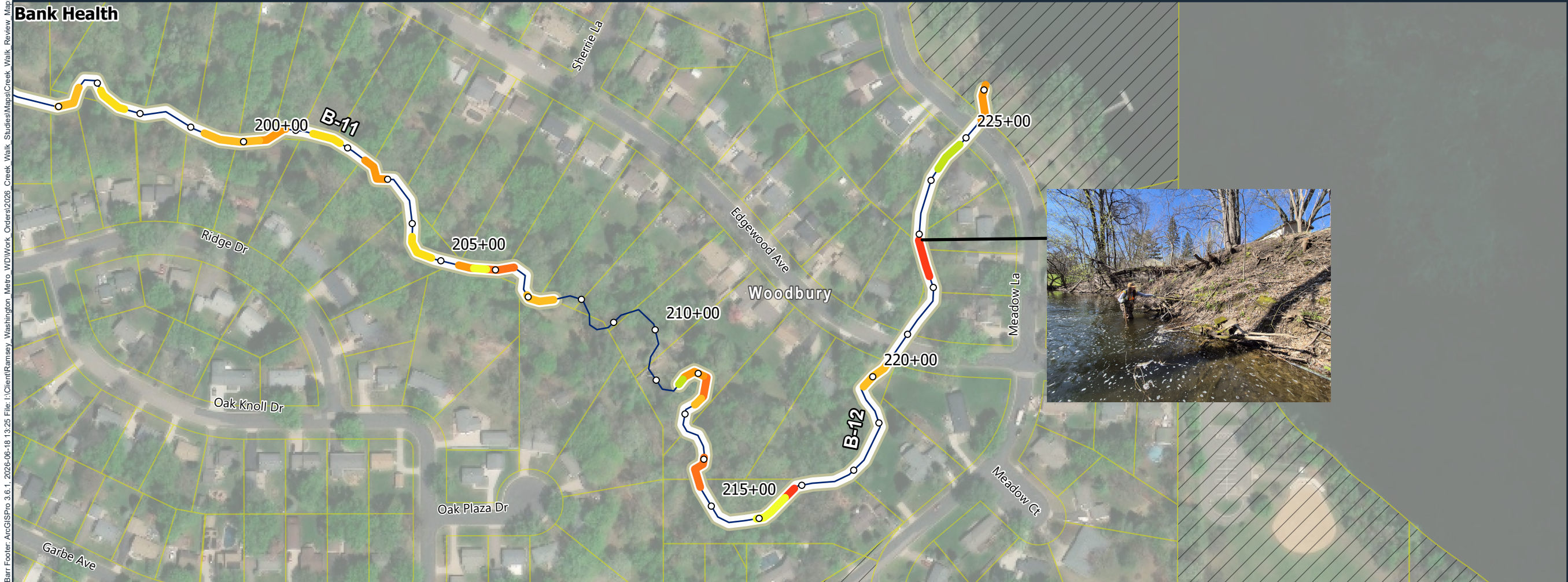


Creek Walk Survey Results
Battle Creek
Segments B-9, B-10 & B-11

Total Score

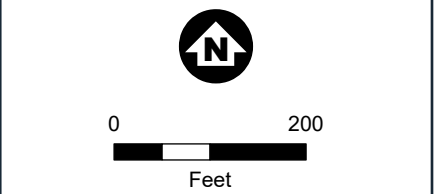


Bank Health



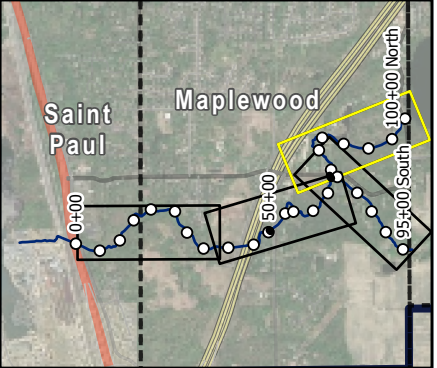
Segment Score

- Higher Priority
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- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

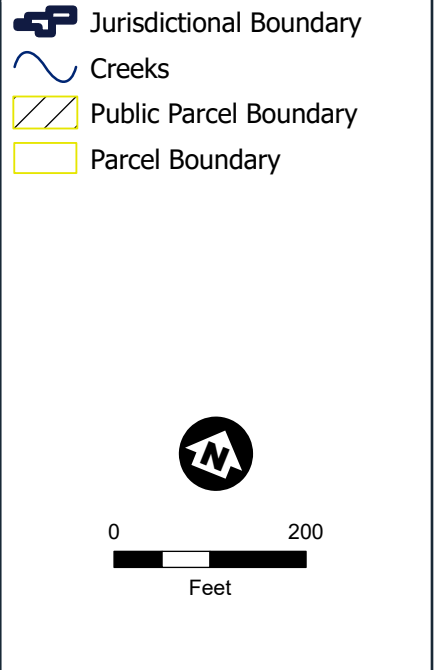


Creek Walk Survey Results
Battle Creek
Segments B-11 and B-12

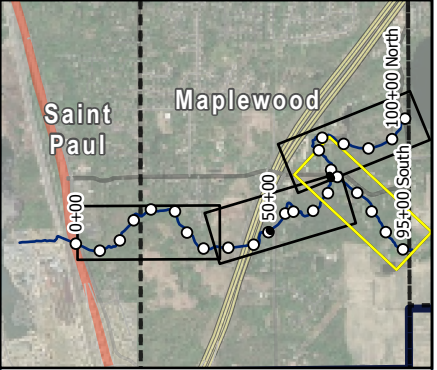
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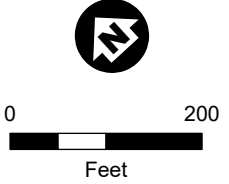
Bank Health



Total Score

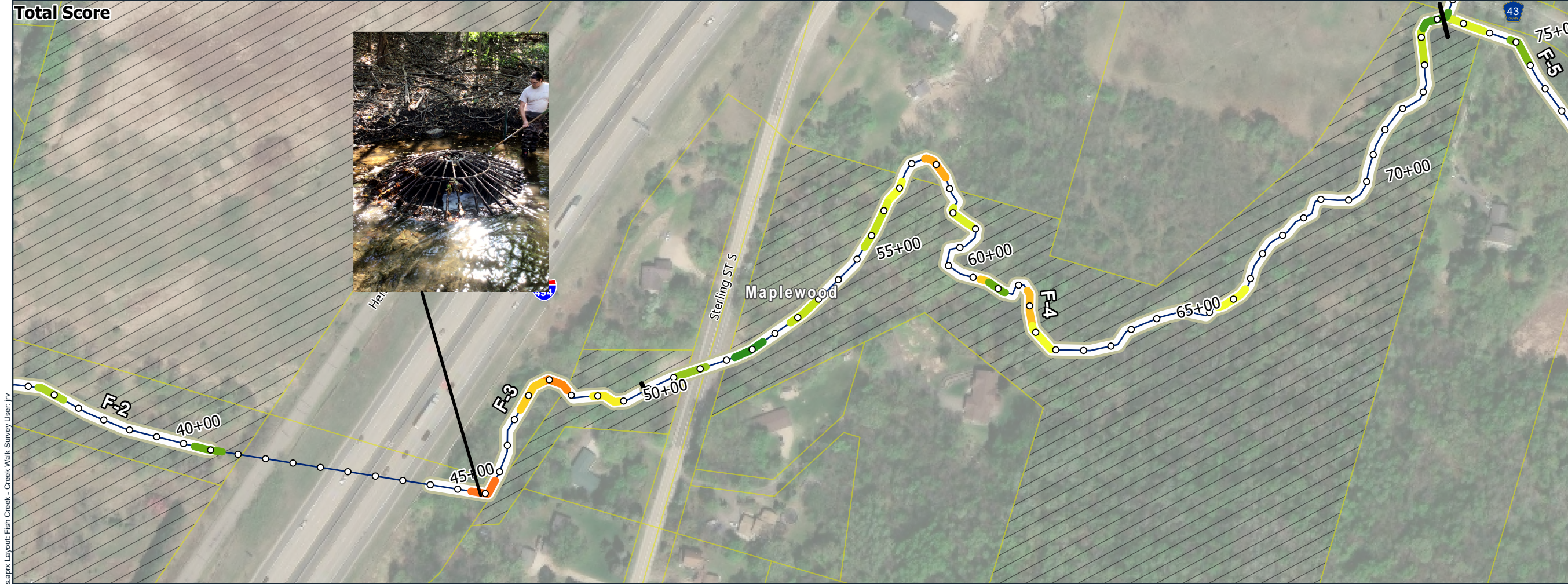


Bank Health

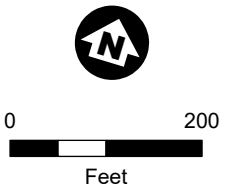
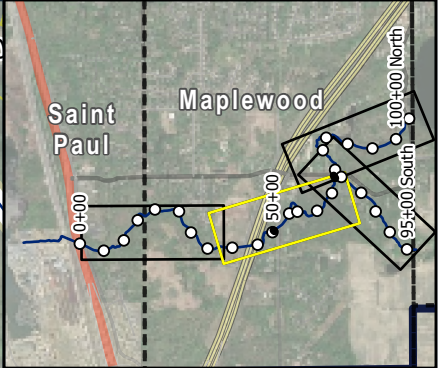
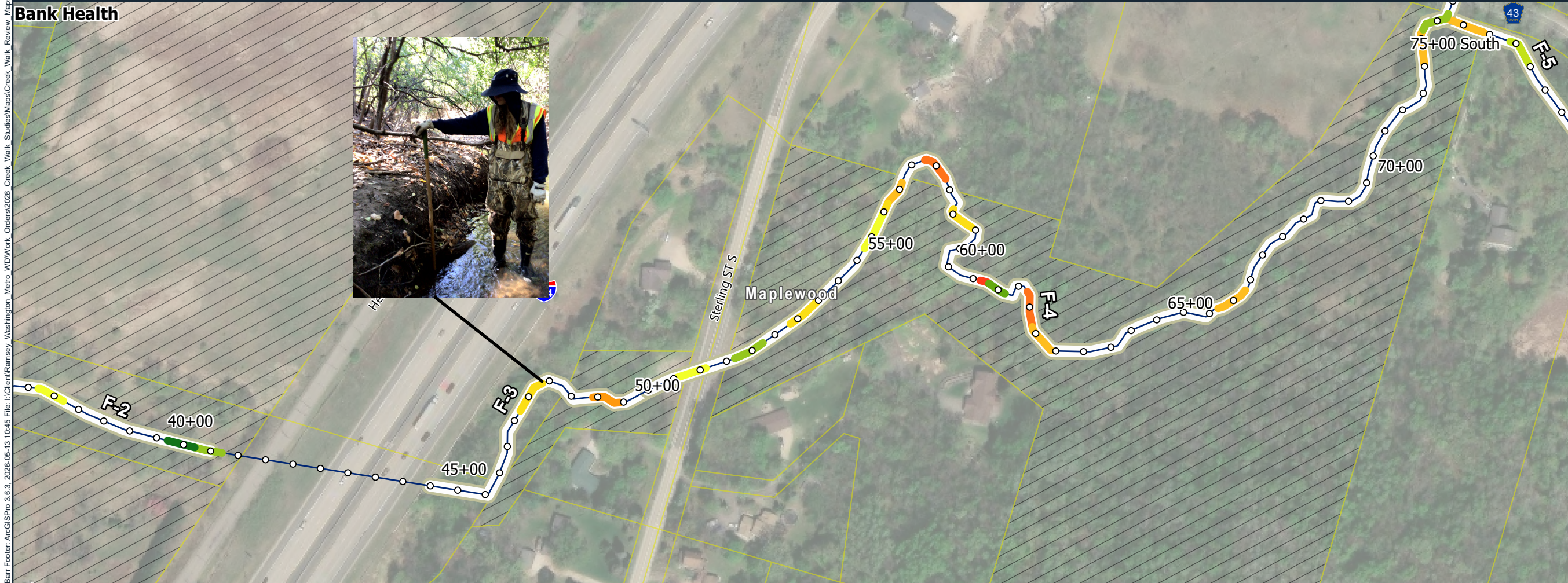


Creek Walk Survey Results
Fish Creek
Segments F-4, F-5, F-6 & F-7

Total Score

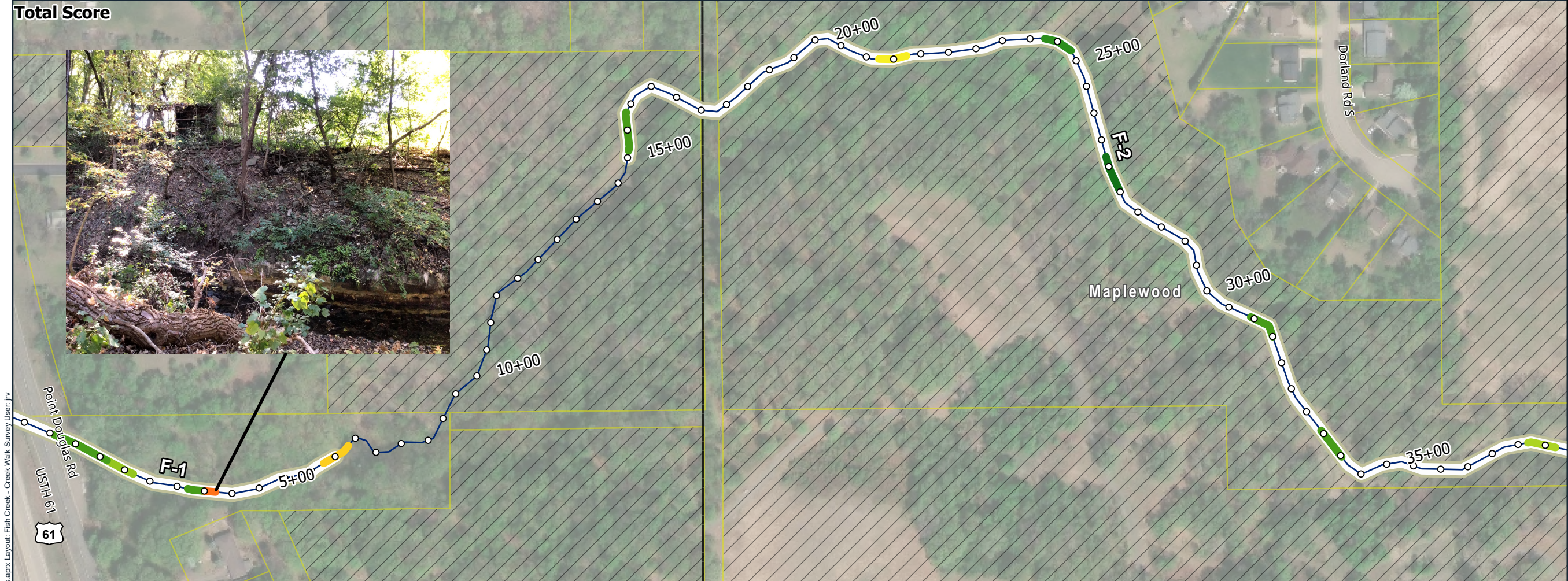


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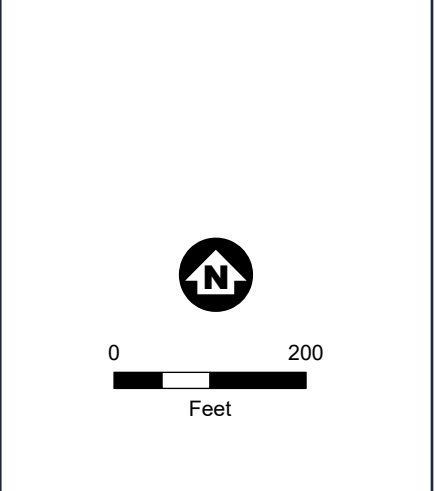
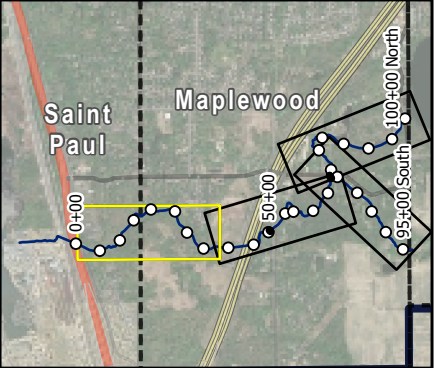


Creek Walk Survey Results
Fish Creek
Segments F-2, F-3, F-4 & F-5

Total Score



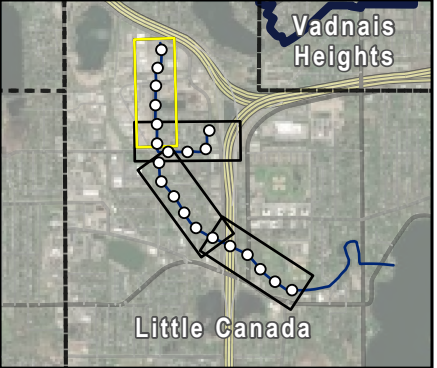
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Total Score

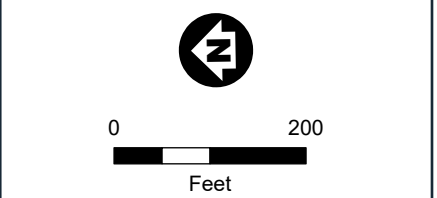


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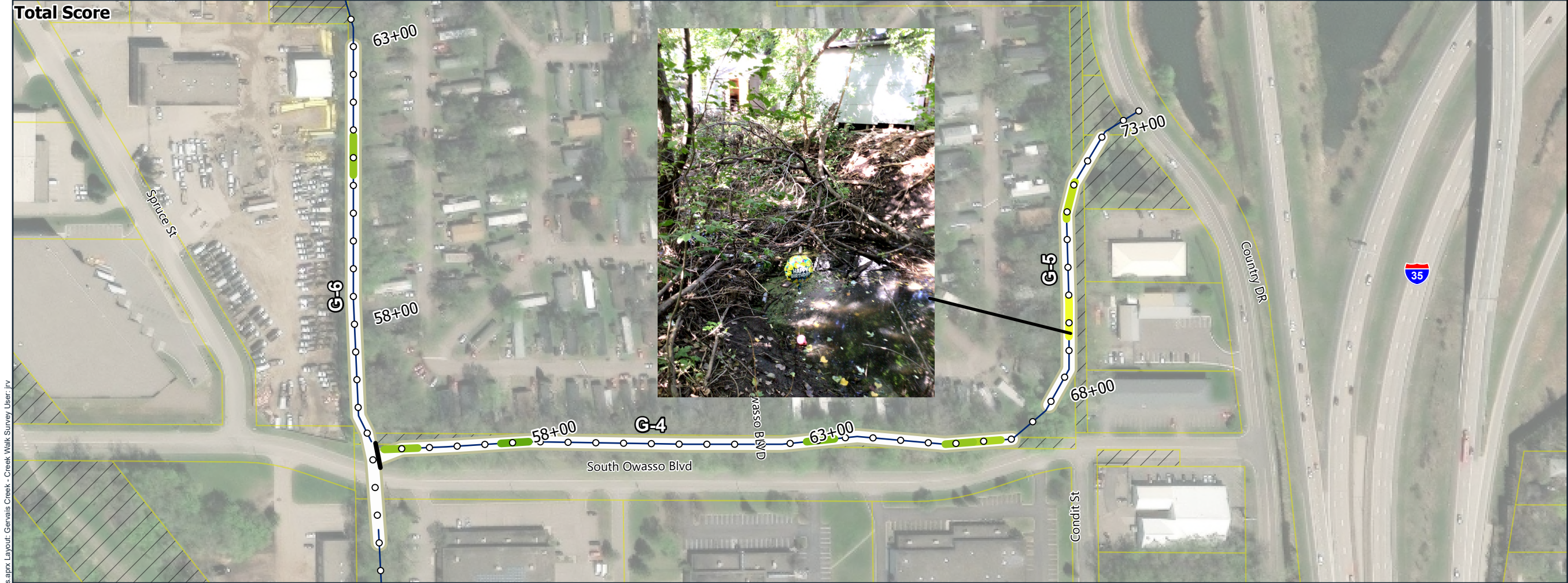
Segment Score

- Higher Priority
- Lower Priority
- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

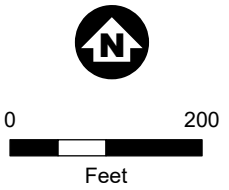
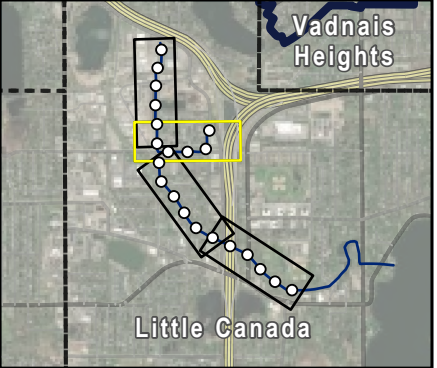


Creek Walk Survey Results
Gervais Creek
Segments G-7 and G-6

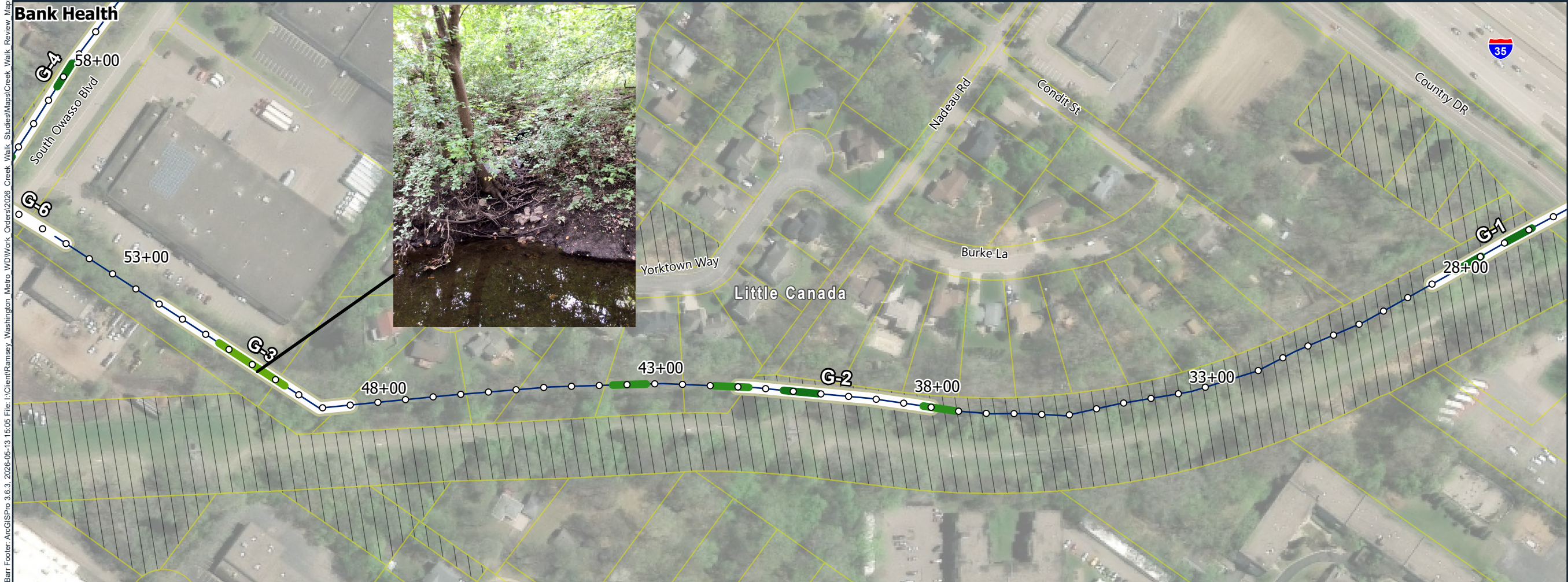
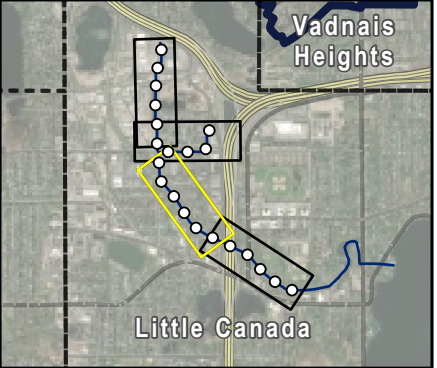
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Bank Health

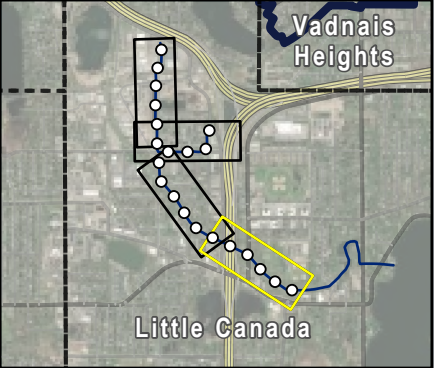
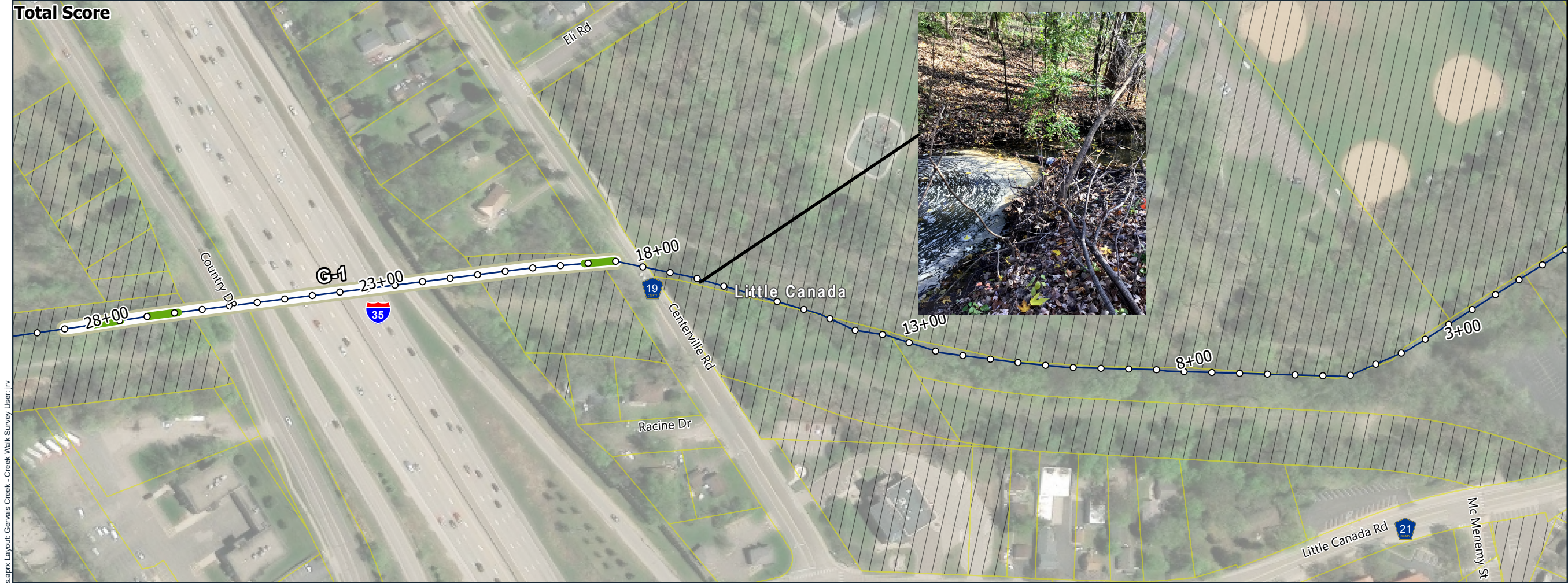


Creek Walk Survey Results
Gervais Creek
Segments G-5, G-5 & G-6



Creek Walk Survey Results
Gervais Creek
Segments G-2, G-3 & G-6

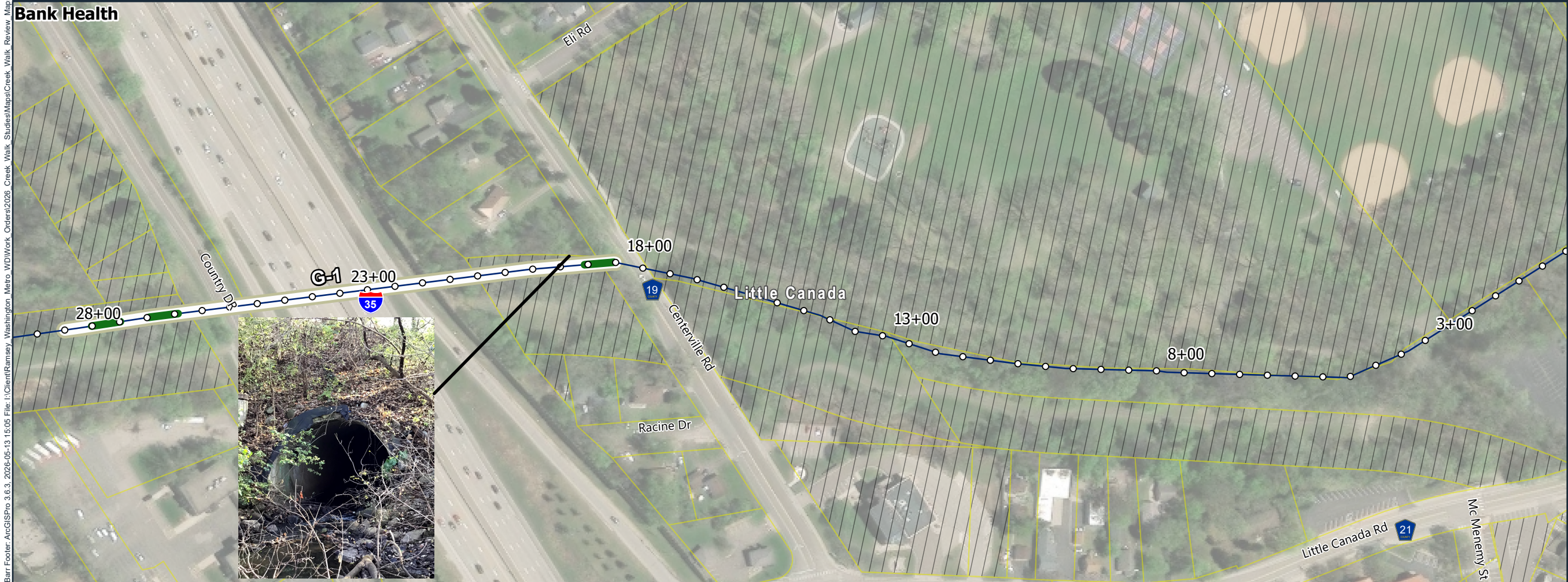
Total Score



Segment Score

- Higher Priority
- Lower Priority
- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

Bank Health

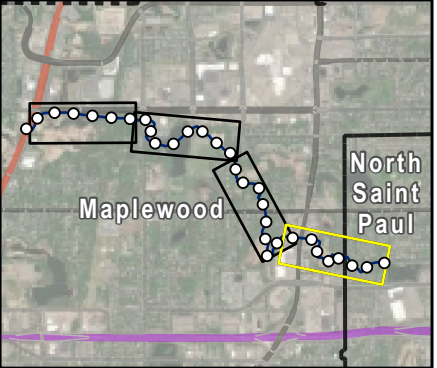
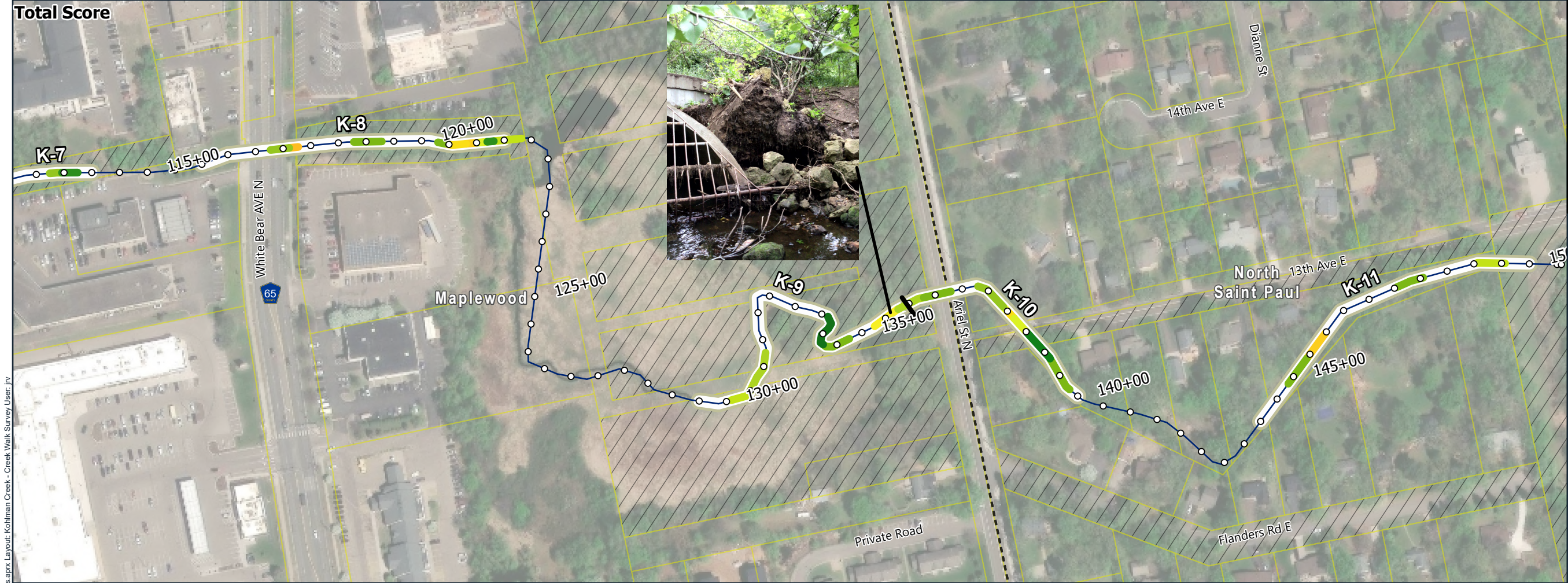


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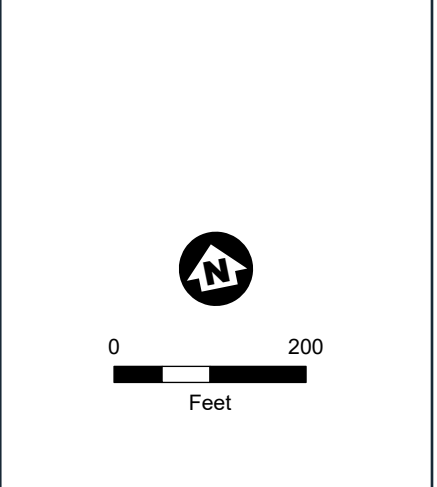
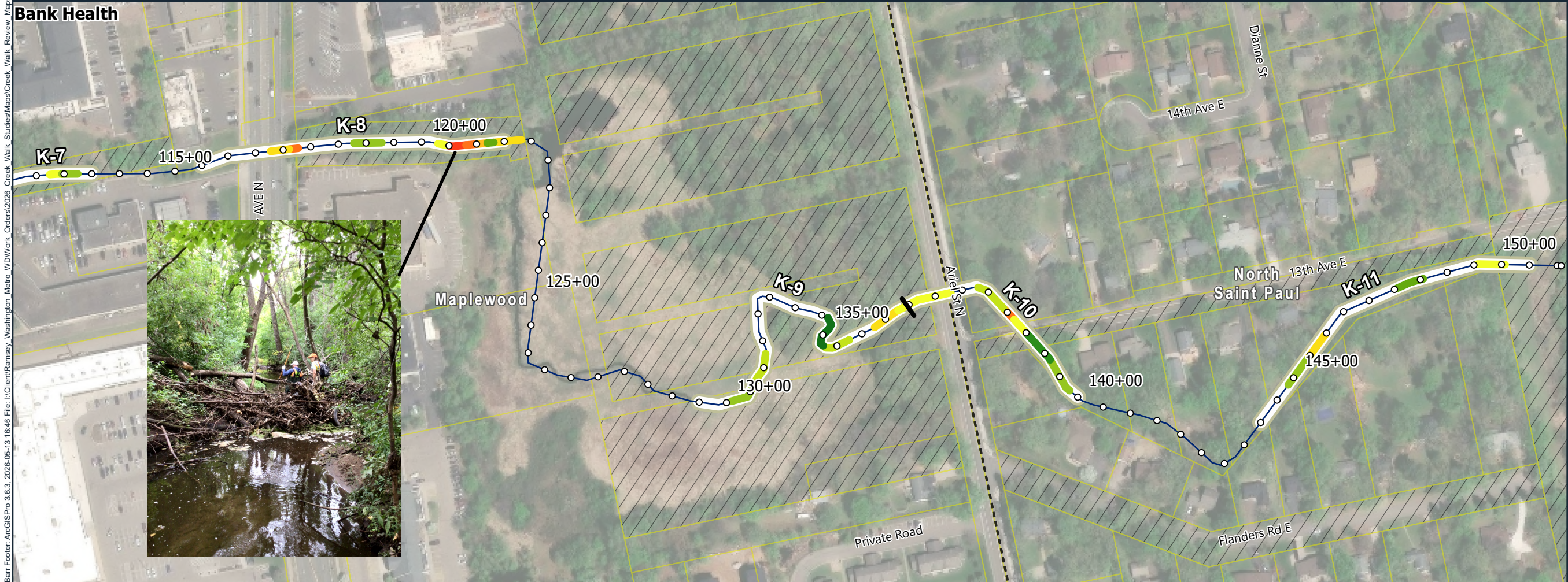
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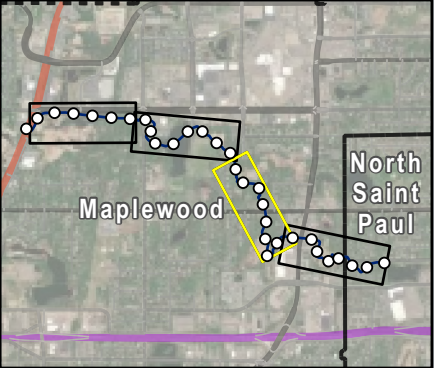
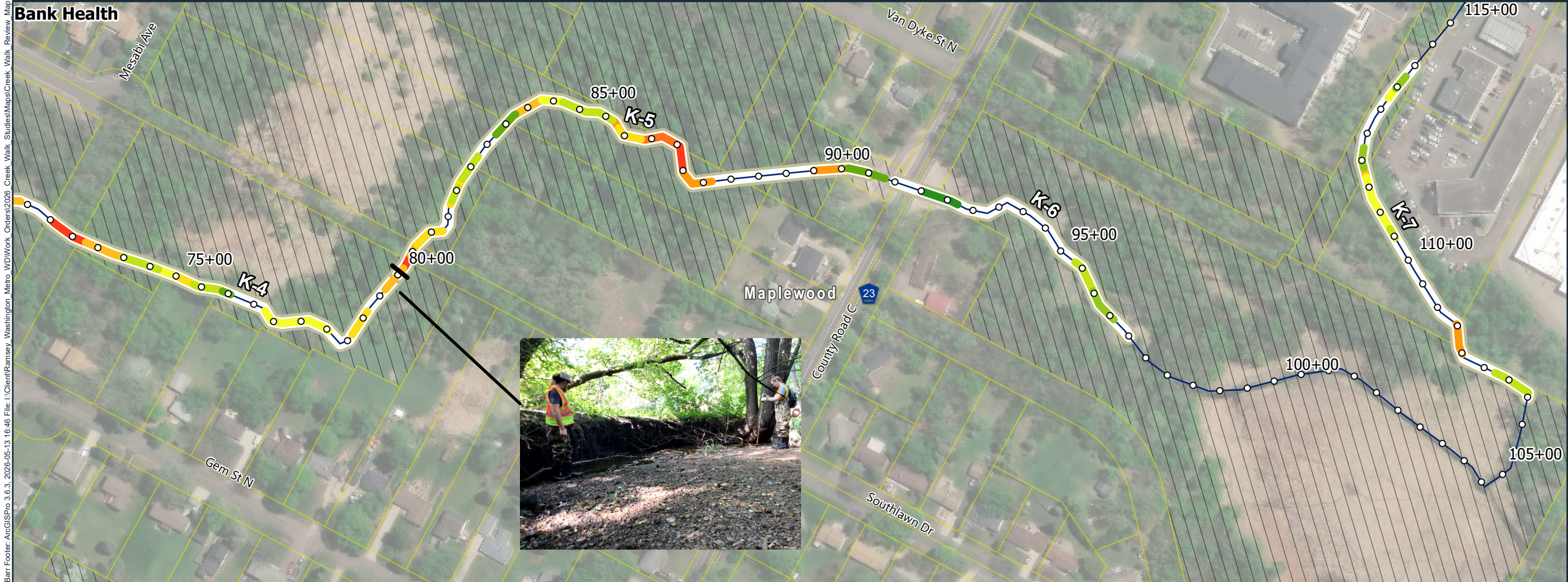
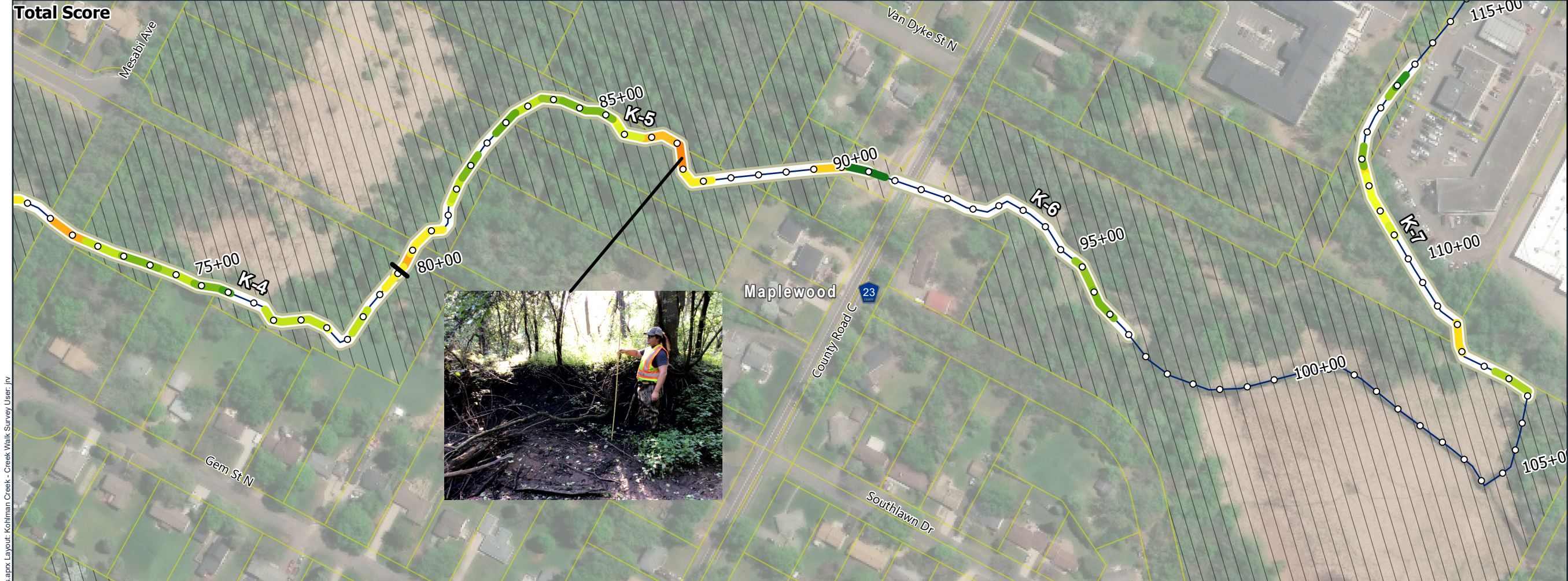
Creek Walk Survey Results
Gervais Creek
Segment G-1

Total Score

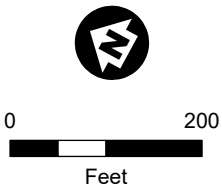


Bank Health





- #### Segment Score
- Higher Priority
 - Lower Priority
 - Reach Segment
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Jurisdictional Boundary
 - Creeks
 - Public Parcel Boundary
 - Parcel Boundary

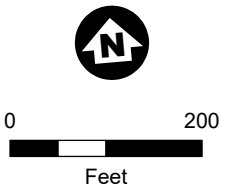
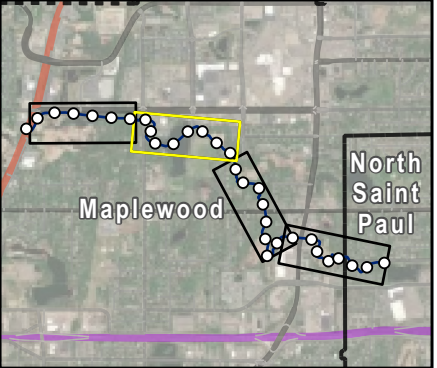
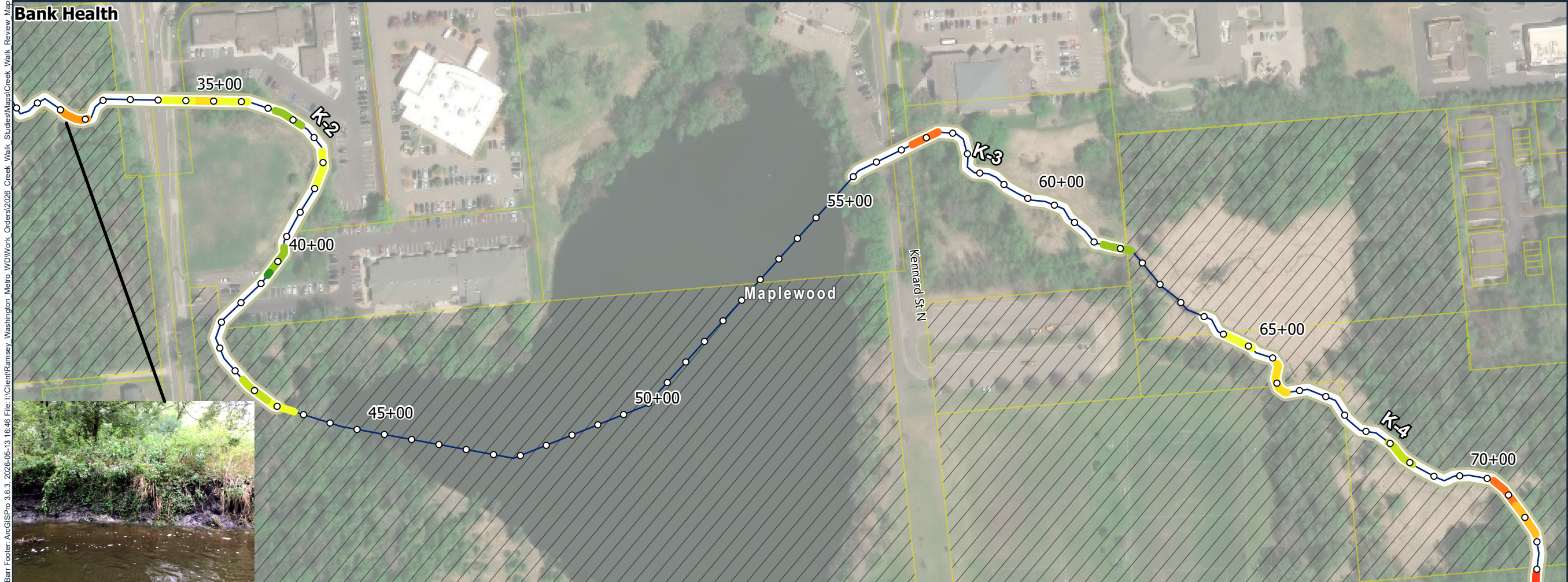


Creek Walk Survey Results
Kohlman Creek
Segments K-4, K-5,
K-6, & K-7

Total Score



Bank Health



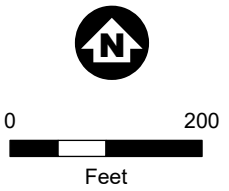
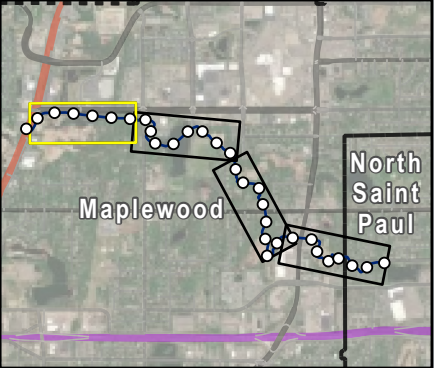
Creek Walk Survey Results
Kohlman Creek
Segments K-2, K-3 & K-4

Page 3 of 4

Total Score

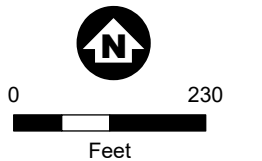
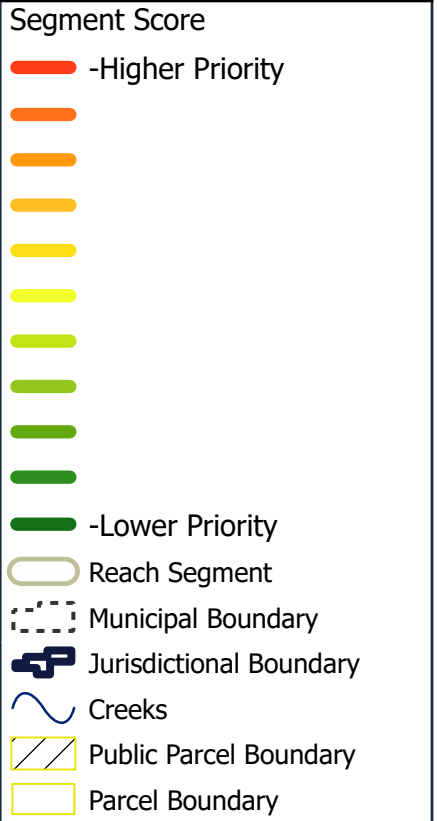
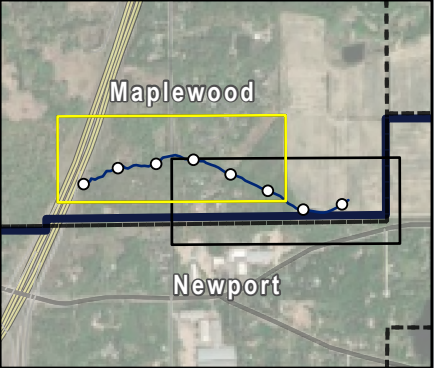


Bank Health



Creek Walk Survey Results
Kohlman Creek
Segments K-1 and K-2

Total Score

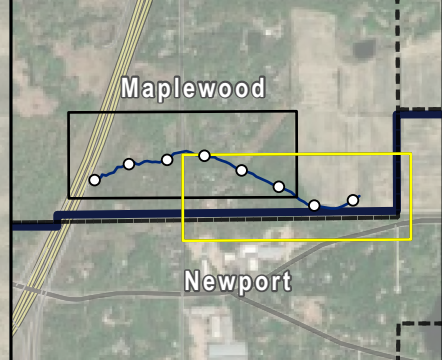
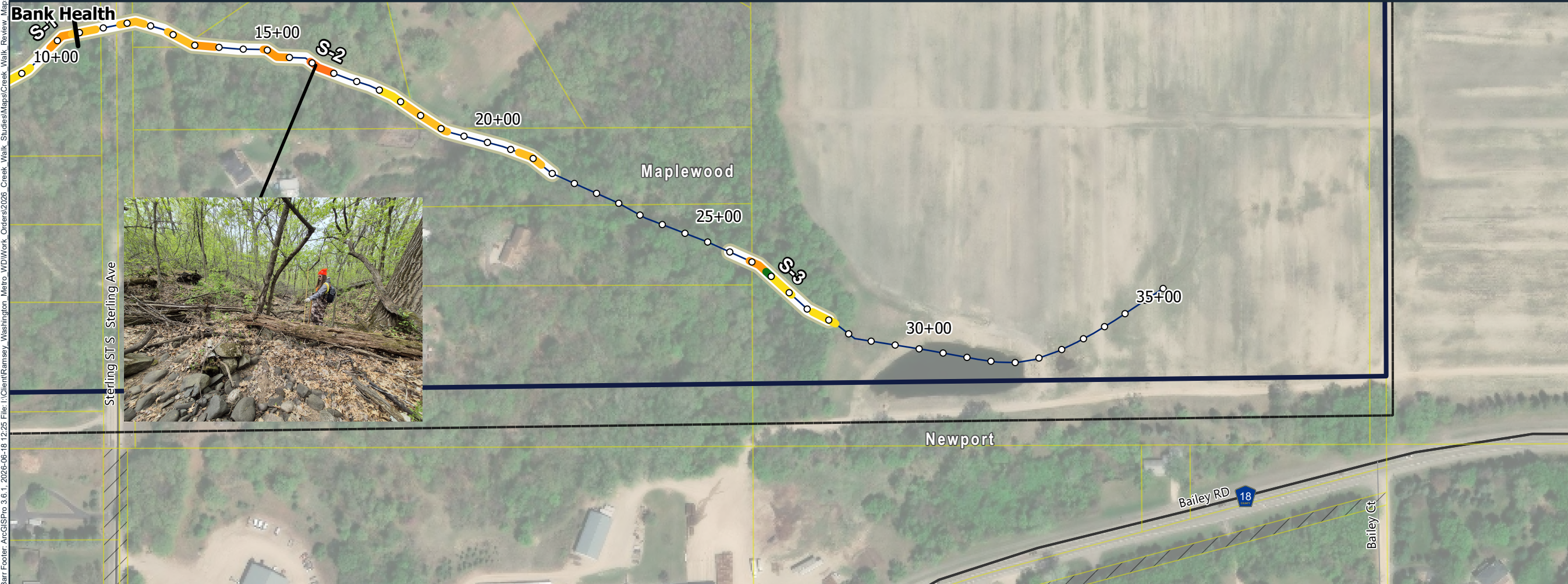


Creek Walk Survey Results
Snake Creek
Segments S-1, S-2 & S-3

Total Score

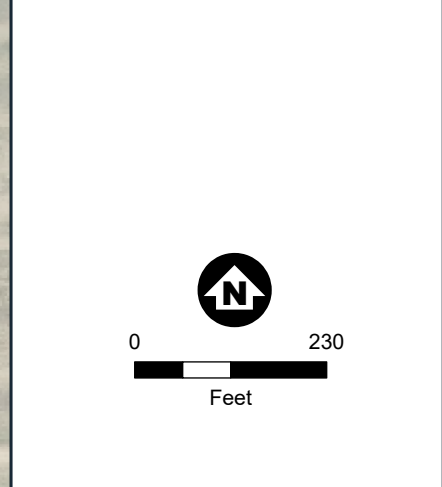


Bank Health



Segment Score

- Higher Priority
- Lower Priority
- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary

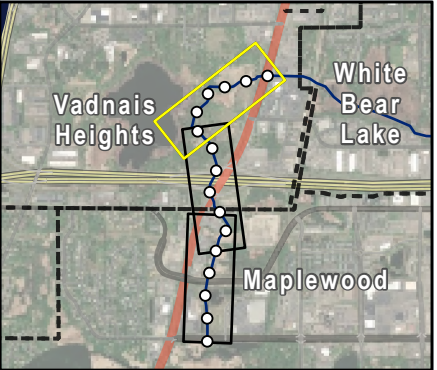


Barr Footer ArcGISPro 3.6.1, 2026-06-18 12:25 File: I:\Client\Ramsay Washington Metro WDW\Work Orders\2026 Creek Walk Studies\Maplewood\Snake Creek - Creek Walk Survey User:lp

Total Score

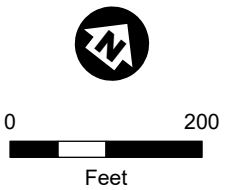


Bank Health



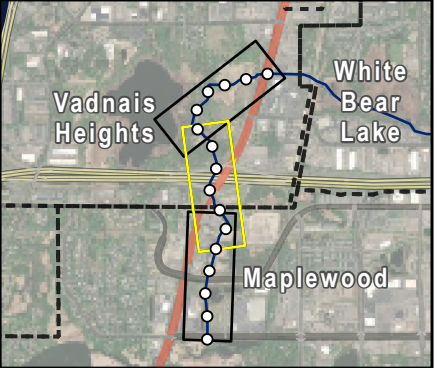
Segment Score

- Higher Priority
- Lower Priority
- Reach Segment
- Municipal Boundary
- Jurisdictional Boundary
- Creeks
- Public Parcel Boundary
- Parcel Boundary



Creek Walk Survey Results
Willow Creek
Segment W-2

Total Score

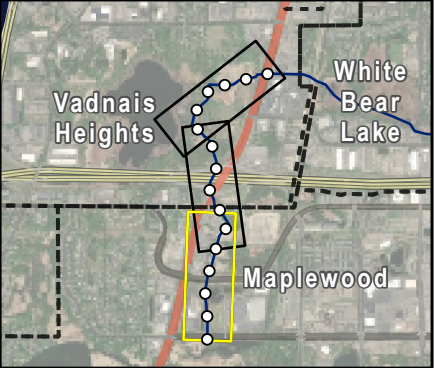


Bank Health

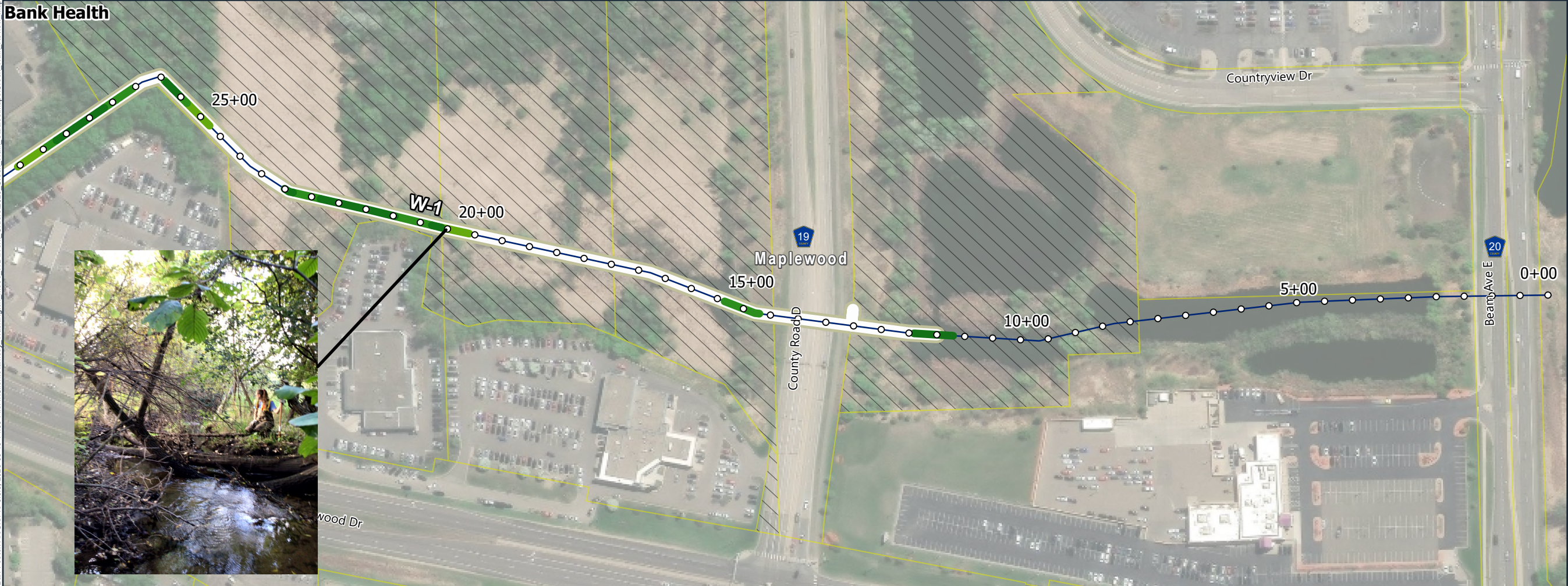


Creek Walk Survey Results
Willow Creek
Segments W-1 and W-2

Total Score



Bank Health



Attachment 4

Stream Score and Priority Tables

RWMWD Creek Assessment and Project Prioritization

Stream	Segment	South/ North Tributary	Station start	Station end	Combined reach lengths	Distinct stream repair segments	Bank Health Priority (lowest score in reach)	BHP (avg)	Total Score (lowest score in reach)	TS (avg)
Battle Creek	B-1		500	1600	1100	9	13	13.7	28	33.2
Battle Creek	B-2		3200	3350	150	4	14	15.0	34	36.5
Battle Creek	B-3		5400	6000	600	5	16	19.6	35	41.6
Battle Creek	B-4		7200	8200	1000	7	14	14.7	33	35.7
Battle Creek	B-5		8900	10100	1200	14	12	14.2	31	34.4
Battle Creek	B-6		10250	12500	2250	19	10	13.9	29	34.7
Battle Creek	B-7		14000	15800	1800	20	9	12.2	27	31.6
Battle Creek	B-8		15800	16550	750	8	12	13.4	28	31.4
Battle Creek	B-9		16700	17350	650	7	10	13.6	27	29.4
Battle Creek	B-10		17650	18900	1250	13	9	13.2	24	31.0
Battle Creek	B-11		19150	20750	1600	14	12	14.1	27	32.4
Battle Creek	B-12		21150	22500	1350	12	10	13.6	28	32.5
Fish Creek	F-1		0	650	650	6	12	16.0	29	39.3
Fish Creek	F-2		1500	4100	2600	9	12	17.4	36	43.3
Fish Creek	F-3		4500	5050	550	4	10	12.0	29	32.3
Fish Creek	F-4		5050	7350	2300	15	11	14.9	32	38.4
Fish Creek	F-5	South	7350	7800	450	4	14	16.0	38	41.3
Fish Creek	F-6	South	8000	9500	1500	21	10	14.3	29	34.9
Fish Creek	F-7	North	7350	8750	1400	16	9	14.0	32	38.2
Fish Creek	F-8	North	10000	10450	450	5	13	16.4	39	40.6
Gervais Creek	G-1		1800	2800	1000	3	21	21.0	43	43.0
Gervais Creek	G-2		3750	4100	350	2	20	20.5	44	45.0
Gervais Creek	G-3		4100	5400	1300	5	19	19.6	39	39.6
Gervais Creek	G-4	East	5400	6700	1300	5	19	20.4	40	41.4
Gervais Creek	G-5	East	6700	7300	600	2	19	19.0	37	38.0
Gervais Creek	G-6	North	5400	6300	900	1	21	21.0	41	41.0
Gervais Creek	G-7	North	7300	7800	500	3	20	20.5	36	40.5
Kohlman Creek	K-1		0	750	750	3	18	18.3	41	43.0
Kohlman Creek	K-2		2400	4350	1950	16	12	15.9	33	39.0
Kohlman Creek	K-3		5600	6200	600	3	10	13.3	28	34.0
Kohlman Creek	K-4		6400	8000	1600	19	11	15.1	32	38.5
Kohlman Creek	K-5		8000	9100	1100	20	11	15.0	30	38.2
Kohlman Creek	K-6		9150	9700	550	3	17	18.3	41	43.7
Kohlman Creek	K-7		10600	11350	750	11	12	15.7	30	38.0
Kohlman Creek	K-8		11600	12150	550	9	11	14.7	33	38.8
Kohlman Creek	K-9		12950	13600	650	6	15	17.3	36	40.5
Kohlman Creek	K-10		13600	14000	400	8	12	15.6	34	39.5
Kohlman Creek	K-11		14400	14650	250	2	15	16.5	34	38.0
Snake Creek	S-1		0	1150	1150	14	9	14.0	29	33.1
Snake Creek	S-2		1150	2200	1050	9	12	13.7	31	33.0
Snake Creek	S-3		2600	2850	250	4	13	16.0	30	32.8
Willow Creek	W-1		1100	3200	2100	29	19	20.3	38	42.9
Willow Creek	W-2		4100	7200	3100	19	19	19.6	38	41.3

Administrator's Report

MEMO

TO: Board of Managers and Staff
FROM: Tina Carstens, Administrator
SUBJECT: September Administrator's Report
DATE: October 1, 2026

A. Meetings Attended

Wednesday, September 9	10:00 AM	St. Paul Local Water Planning
	6:30 PM	Board Meeting
Thursday, September 10	9:30 AM	MAWA Executive Committee
	10:00 AM	Stormwater Seminar
Friday, September 11	9:00 AM	RCLLG Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 14	9:30 AM	We are the River Movie Viewing
	2:00 PM	Metro-INET Onsite Visit
Tuesday, September 15	1:30 PM	Ames Lake Flood Risk Outreach
Monday, September 21	11:00 AM	Program Manager Meeting
	1:30 PM	East Suburban Water Planning Meeting
Friday, September 25	9:00 AM	Parking Lot Bid Opening

B. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Metro Watersheds Meeting	October 20, 2026
CAC Meeting	October 27, 2026
November Board Meeting	November 4, 2026
Watershed Excellence Awards	November 19, 2026
Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference	December 2-4, 2026
CAC Meeting	December 8, 2026
December Board Meeting	December 9, 2026

C. Staff Anniversaries in October - NONE

D. Board Action Log and Updates

The board action log is attached. I review this list monthly and incorporate any suggestions from the previous meeting.

E. Minnesota Watersheds Updates

The board always has access to the monthly newsletters by going here:

<https://www.mnwatersheds.com/news-letters>. If you proceed to the members-only section of the website, you can also find the legislative platform and update information.

The Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference is coming up December 2-4. You can find a tentative schedule [HERE](#). Emily and Tina will be in touch soon to see if you will be able to attend.

Board of Managers 2026 Action Log

October 7, 2026

Item	Anticipated Action Date	Means of Action
Shoreland Assessment	Winter 2027	Presentation and Board Discussion
Impervious Surface Reduction Planning	DONE	Included in WMP Update
Wetland Rule Updates – buffers, variances, bounce	2026/2027	Rules Technical Advisory Committee
Chloride Reduction Strategies for Regulatory Program	2026/2027	Rules Technical Advisory Committee
Watershed Data Strategies	Winter 2027	Presentation and Board Discussion

Project and Program Status Reports

Memorandum

To: Board of managers and staff
From: Tina Carstens, Brad Lindaman, Erin Anderson Wenz, and Brandon Barnes
Subject: Project and program status report: October 2026
Date: September 30, 2026

Note: The location, brief description, and current status of each project described below can be found on the [2026 Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District \(RWMWD\) engineering services story map](#).

Project feasibility studies

A. Landfall best management practice (BMP) study (manufactured-homes resilience study project 1) (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

This project aims to complete an inventory of manufactured home developments within the RWMWD, identify potential project opportunities to increase resilience to regional flooding, reduce localized flood risk, improve water quality, and connect with developments to provide information on opportunities to improve stormwater conveyance and/or water quality within each development.

During this period, Barr and the RWMWD reviewed the conceptual BMP designs, planning-level cost estimates, pollutant reductions, and supporting documentation for each BMP at Landfall Terrace. In the coming weeks, the concepts will be shared with property owners to gauge their interest in participating in a project.

B. Five Star Estates feasibility study (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the feasibility of the flood risk reduction and water quality project concepts from the manufactured homes resiliency study at Five Star Estates in Vadnais Heights.

During this period, Barr and the RWMWD prepared for an onsite meeting with property management. The outcomes of that meeting, along with recommended next steps for the project, will be included in next month's project status update.

C. Chloride reduction strategy (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg and Ashlee Ricci)

The purpose of this project is to develop a chloride reduction strategy that will inform and guide the implementation of a multifaceted approach combining prevention, mitigation, and behavioral change and leverage all of the district's regulatory and operational programs to reduce chloride pollution to aquatic ecosystems.

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During this period, Barr developed a presentation and memorandum summarizing the work completed to date on the chloride reduction strategy, which was included in last month's board packet to provide the managers with an opportunity to review the priority mapping and draft strategic actions and offer high-level feedback. Over the next month, Barr and the RWMWD will meet to discuss priorities for 2027 and finalize the first version of the chloride reduction strategy document.

Barr and the RWMWD were accepted to present on the development of the chloride reduction strategy at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference in October. We also submitted an abstract to present at the Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference in December.

D. Tanners Lake, Battle Creek Lake, and Battle Creek resiliency feasibility study (Barr project manager: Jay Hawley; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

The purpose of this project is to develop concept designs and operation plans for outlet modifications on Tanners Lake, Battle Creek Lake, and McKnight Basin that can remove up to 19 habitable structures from the 100-year floodplain in the areas near these water bodies and significantly reduce flood risk for vulnerable communities, such as the Landfall.

During this period, Barr continued developing conceptual designs for the outlet improvements. Barr and the RWMWD continued coordinating with the City of Woodbury to align construction of the Battle Creek Lake outlet improvements with the city's planned street improvement project. Work this month included finalizing a memorandum evaluating the accuracy of National Weather Service rainfall forecasts and completing continuous model simulations to assess how operation of the Tanners Lake and Battle Creek Lake outlet control structures could reduce flood risk. The feasibility study is expected to continue throughout the year.

E. RWMWD stormwater model updates (Barr project manager: Michael McKinney; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

This project maintains and updates the RWMWD hydrologic and hydraulic (stormwater) model in response to updates to best-available information, including recently completed and ongoing stormwater modeling projects.

During this period, Barr completed final modeling and QA/QC for the Dayton's Bluff watershed. We also generated combined subwatershed and inundation mapping deliverables for incorporation into the RWMWD plan update and online mapping tools. During the next period, Barr will complete minor refinements to finalize modeling-merging efforts and documentation.

F. Studies stemming from creek walks (Barr project manager: Jessica Olson; RWMWD project manager: Eric Korte)

The purpose of this project is to review information collected during creek walks and identify and prioritize locations for future creek improvement and stabilization projects.

Earlier this year, Barr presented a framework for prioritizing creek stabilization and restoration projects. Building on the RWMWD's existing prioritization tools and incorporating newly collected creek data, the framework provides a consistent approach for evaluating potential projects. In

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late July, Barr identified initial creek segments for stabilization or restoration. This month, the final study documentation is included in the board packet. The documentation summarizes the data collection methodology, the framework used to prioritize creek segments for stabilization and restoration, and the highest-priority segments identified through the evaluation. This represents the final deliverable for 2026. Next year, Barr and the RWMWD will continue collecting creek condition data to track changes over time. We will also begin the final design for stabilization of the highest-priority segment along Battle Creek.

G. Wetland restoration planning (Barr project manager: Brendan Dougherty; RWMWD project managers: Paige Ahlborg and Paul Erdmann)

This project aims to lay the groundwork for what will hopefully be the district's next two wetland restoration projects: the Plateau wetland in Saint Paul and the Schletty wetland in Little Canada.

During this period, Barr completed a site inspection and advanced restoration planning efforts for the Plateau wetland, including development of restoration construction plans and a cost estimate. We also assisted with the preparation of a Conservation Partners Legacy grant application to support project funding and implementation.

H. Battle Creek subwatershed feasibility study (phase 2) (Barr project manager: Jay Hawley; RWMWD project managers: Paige Ahlborg and Eric Korte)

The purpose of this project is to compile and analyze the 2025 sample data and identify BMPs that could reduce pollutant loading to Battle Creek.

During this period, Barr continued evaluating potential BMP options and locations while coordinating efforts with the creek walk team and the Tanners Lake and Battle Creek Lake outlet modification team. This analysis will continue over the coming months, with the goal of identifying and sizing potential BMPs this winter.

Monitoring water quality/project monitoring

I. Special-project BMP monitoring (Barr project manager: Erin Anderson Wenz; RWMWD project manager: Eric Korte)

This project aims to collect data from and monitor the performance of BMPs in the district.

During this period, Barr continued evaluating options to optimize flows into the Arbogast filter, balancing treatment efficiency with maintenance requirements and fish passage needs.

The RWMWD and Barr also assessed and modified the inlet pipe for the Willow Pond continuous monitoring and adaptive control (CMAC) system to address a pipe flotation issue that was preventing flow through the filter basin.

J. Water quality data management (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen, RWMWD project manager: Eric Korte)

The purpose of this project is to help the RWMWD manage monitoring and laboratory data and develop water quality dashboards.

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During this period, Barr integrated multiple data types into the district's water quality database, including historic monitoring and laboratory data, field monitoring data, and continuous data. We also continued migrating historic laboratory data into EQuIS to support data visualization. Over the next month, Barr will begin developing visualization reports for the various data types and coordinate with the RWMWD to identify additional functionality for the tool.

Watershed management plan update

K. Watershed management plan update, phase 3: Draft plan development (Barr project manager: Greg Williams; RWMWD project manager: Tina Carstens)

This project involves developing and revising content for the watershed management plan in coordination with RWMWD staff members and the board of managers before the formal plan review process.

During this period, Barr completed edits to the draft plan text, tables, and figures to address remaining content gaps, including the references section and floodplain figure. We also attended the September 9 meeting to receive manager feedback on the draft plan. At that meeting, the board authorized submittal of the draft plan for 60-day review following any necessary revisions. Barr subsequently revised the draft plan to address manager comments and feedback on the implementation table provided by the technical advisory committee. Following these revisions, the draft plan was submitted for formal 60-day review on September 25.

Research projects

L. Wakefield Pond spent lime study (Barr project manager: Greg Wilson; RWMWD project manager: Eric Korte)

The purpose of this project is to conduct a pilot scale application of spent lime slurry to the sediments of Wakefield Pond for the purposes of reducing the pond's internal load of phosphorus.

During this period, Barr coordinated with the treatment contractor, the RWMWD, and the water treatment facility in advance of the spent lime application, which was completed on August 25. During and immediately following the treatment, we worked with the RWMWD to conduct pH monitoring and water quality testing. Barr is currently planning post-treatment sediment sampling and testing.

M. Shoreview Commons Pond alum treatment (Barr project manager: Greg Wilson; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

The purpose of this project is to restore the treatment capacity of Shoreview Commons Pond and further evaluate the cost-benefit of small-scale, phased (unbuffered) alum applications through long-term monitoring, while comparing their effectiveness and costs with other control options.

During this period, Barr coordinated with the treatment contractor, the RWMWD, and the City of Shoreview in preparation for the alum treatment, which is scheduled for mid-October 2026. Barr is also planning pre-treatment sediment sampling and testing.

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Project operations

N. 2026 Tanners alum facility monitoring (Barr project manager: Meg Rattei; RWMWD project manager: Eric Korte)

This project aims to complete the monitoring and reporting required by the general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permit for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

The plant restarted in mid-May but went offline in late June following a failure of the computer that controls plant operations. Although a replacement computer was installed in mid-August, dry conditions limited inflows until mid-September, when rainfall generated enough flow to resume operations. Routine monitoring resumed when the plant returned to service and will continue until the facility shuts down for the season this fall. Barr has also been preparing the 2025 monitoring data for submission to the MPCA's EQuIS database and expects to submit it soon.

O. Phalen and Keller lakes level station forecast integration (Barr project manager: Brandon Barnes; RWMWD project manager: Eric Korte)

The purpose of this project is to integrate tools developed in 2025 to automate operation of the Keller and Phalen outlet control structures. Updates will notify the RWMWD when adjustments are needed so the district does not have to monitor rainfall forecasts and water levels manually.

Barr and the RWMWD met with InControl to review planned updates to the control system for the Phalen and Keller outlet control structures. InControl anticipates completing these updates later this fall. Barr and the RWMWD will continue supporting implementation of the approved operation plan by assisting with integration of the control scripts developed for the Phalen and Keller outlet control structures.

Capital improvements

P. 2026 targeted retrofit projects (Barr project manager: Marcy Bean; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

This project aims to design BMP retrofits on previously identified commercial, school, and faith-based properties in the district, and to provide bid assistance and oversee construction.

Development of future retrofit projects

During this period, Barr developed concept diagrams for potential project sites. Current candidate sites include Hazelwood Professional Center (2785 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood), E-Stem Middle School (600 Weir Drive, Woodbury), and Tanners Lake Park (400 Glenbrook Avenue North, Oakdale). Pending property owner approval of the concepts, we anticipate completing surveys and soil borings at the selected site(s) in October to inform the design.

Thirty Twenty Estates in Little Canada (2026)

To: Board of managers and staff
From: Tina Carstens, Brad Lindaman, Erin Anderson Wenz, and Brandon Barnes
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Sandstrom Land Management is scheduled to construct the project, with site preparation beginning in early September. Most of the work will now occur in spring 2027.

Redeemer Lutheran in White Bear Lake

Barr worked with the RWMWD and the property owner to identify a preferred path forward for project modifications that minimize impacts and align with a stewardship grant approach. Plans were provided to the church to solicit construction quotes.

1670 Beam Avenue in Maplewood

This commercial property is home to several dental service providers, including Community Dental, a nonprofit organization. The owner is interested in exploring additional tree plantings, with tree trenches identified as the primary BMP for the site. Design is underway; however, the project is now anticipated to be bid in late winter 2026–2027 for spring 2027 construction.

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church of Saint Paul

Construction is substantially complete, and planting was completed in September. The construction contractor will maintain the vegetation over the next two years.



Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church of Saint Paul

Maplewood Toyota, Cochran Recovery Services, and SPYS Green Roof

These projects were contracted in 2025, and Barr continues to provide observation and support to the property owner as needed.

Q. Double Driveway and Fish Creek tributary improvements (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen; RWMWD project manager: Tina Carstens)

This project aims to design and implement vegetation improvements around Double Driveway Pond, as well as stream stabilization improvements in the Fish Creek tributary upstream.

During this period, Barr conducted a site visit to document that no wetland impacts occurred within the project area. Barr and the RWMWD also continued coordinating on a potential implementation schedule, including bidding and construction. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources anticipates issuing grant agreements in late 2026, which could delay the start of work until winter. Because the stream restoration components must be constructed under non-frozen conditions, construction is not expected to begin until spring 2027. We will reevaluate the bidding schedule this winter to determine the appropriate path forward.

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R. Ames Lake improvements (Barr project manager: Matt Metzger; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

The purpose of this project, supported by the City of Saint Paul, is to complete the final design of modifications to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses near Ames Lake. Work includes characterizing the sites, coordinating discussions with the city, and preparing final plans and specifications. Bidding and construction management will be part of a separate task. This follow-up planning study was identified in the Beltline resiliency study.

During this period, Barr and the RWMWD began planning public outreach activities focused on gathering feedback from residents near the project site. Outreach efforts will include coordination with Saint Paul council member Yang's office. To support schematic design and public engagement, Barr is developing two site landscape concepts and continuing to advance preliminary plans. Preliminary design work is expected to continue through summer 2027.

Next month, a geotechnical investigation is planned to collect soil borings. This investigation is the final site characterization effort needed to inform the final design of flood risk reduction improvements. In addition, the RWMWD and Housing and Redevelopment Authority are nearing completion of a long-term agreement for use of the HRA parcel for floodwater detention storage.

S. Kohlman Lake alum treatment (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen; RWMWD project manager: Paul Erdmann/Eric Korte)

This project aims to collect the required information and design an alum treatment for Kohlman Lake in Maplewood.

During this period, Barr coordinated with SOLitude Lake Management, the alum contractor, to schedule this fall's alum application and evaluated pH and water levels in Kohlman Lake in preparation for treatment. The alum application is planned for October 13 to 21.

T. Wakefield Lake aeration (Barr project manager: Tyler Olsen; RWMWD project managers: Paige Ahlborg and Eric Korte)

The purpose of this project is to finalize the design and implementation of an oxygen saturation technology system in Wakefield Lake to reduce internal phosphorus loading and improve water quality.

During this period, Barr provided the City of Maplewood with information on the proposed site design and solicited feedback. This fall, we will continue advancing site design elements in preparation for implementation, which is anticipated in spring 2027.

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CIP project repair and maintenance

U. Routine CIP inspection and unplanned maintenance identification (Barr project manager: Gareth Becker; RWMWD project manager: Dave Vlasin)

This program aims to address unplanned and routine maintenance of the RWMWD's existing capital improvement projects that are not included in the annual CIP maintenance and repairs project.

Program activity continues at an accelerated pace. Site inspections, coordination with Public Entity Cost Share (PECS) program participants, survey work, computer-aided drafting and design development, and sediment sampling are underway and will continue through the fall. Surveying and sediment sampling are in progress, and costs incurred at the PECS sites will be reimbursed to the RWMWD by the public entities that requested district assistance.

A 90-percent design package, table of contents, and preliminary cost estimate are anticipated to be presented to the board for consideration at the November meeting.

V. McKnight Basin outlet repairs (Barr project manager: Joe Welna; RWMWD project manager: Dave Vlasin)

The purpose of this project is to develop plans and specifications for maintenance of the McKnight Basin outlet. McKnight Basin is located along Battle Creek, east of McKnight Road. The basin outlet consists of an approximately 300-foot pipe that conveys flow to Battle Creek. During large rainfall events, water levels in the basin may reach the turfed emergency spillway. The embankment is classified as a high-hazard dam, as overflow through the spillway could cause erosion and potential failure of the embankment, resulting in life-threatening flash flooding downstream.

During this period, Barr continued advancing design drawings and identified and documented all taps connected to the McKnight Basin outlet pipe. Barr and the RWMWD also began coordinating with Ramsey County Parks and Recreation regarding site access during construction. At the end of September, preliminary plans were provided to the RWMWD, Ramsey County, and Ramsey County Parks and Recreation for review. Design development will continue through the remainder of the year, with final design and permitting anticipated in winter 2026. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer or fall 2027.

W. RWMWD office exterior improvements (Barr project manager: Marcy Bean; RWMWD project manager: Paige Ahlborg)

This project aims to develop plans and specifications and engage a contractor to improve the RWMWD office parking lot, including a heated porous paver system, ADA-related accessibility improvements, and electric-vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Bids were opened on July 21, and two bids were received. However, both were rejected because they significantly exceeded the project budget. Barr revised the drawings and specifications, and the project was rebid with the heated pavement system included as an alternate. The

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construction schedule was also extended to give contractors the flexibility to complete portions of the work next year, if needed. The second round of bids was opened on September 25.

Additional information is provided in the attached memorandum.

X. Natural resources update: Paul Erdmann

Supplemental Planting & Woody Management

The Natural Resources team has been busy in recent weeks with supplemental planting and woody management. We expanded our work in several areas at the Gateway Prairies and the Keller Shoreline restoration, adding more conservative plant species that are often overtaken by taller, more aggressive native plants. A volunteer group from Hawkins, Inc. helped us remove buckthorn and other invasives from a slope above Keller Creek. We then collected native seed from the adjacent Gateway Prairie and sowed it on the slope. We were also joined by Communications Intern, Carina, who not only helped remove buckthorn and collect seed but also documented the event to share with our community. We also assisted St. Paul Natural Resources staff with an Abbott volunteer event focused on woody removal in a savanna area on the east side of Lake Phalen.



For the second consecutive year, the Natural Resources Program interns are heading up a project at Gervais Mill Park. Nick, Caitlin and Seth planned the entire project and led the on-the-ground work. As part of the project, invasive plants and a few weedy trees were removed to improve habitat and allow for more sunlight for the native plants. The interns are still planning to install a turtle/wildlife basking log in the pond as part of the project.



Keller Creek slope site before and after. Above: Carina collects seed

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Left: Supplemental Planting at Gateway Prairie (slope site in background) Right: Prepping GMP intern site

BeaverCon

At the end of September, the NR team was joined by Ashlee and Kendra for BeaverCon which was held at the Alumni Center and the University of Minnesota. BeaverCon is a biennial, international conference dedicated to advancing beaver-based watershed restoration, human-beaver coexistence, wetland restoration and protection, and climate resilience. We learned all about beavers, their important history in North America and beyond, and how watershed managers and conservationists are bringing beaver back for the many benefits they provide: increased biodiversity, improved water quality, water storage, reduced flooding, replenished groundwater, and lessening the impact of wildfires. Learn more about this emerging field at the [Beaver Institute](https://www.beaverinstitute.org/) website, the host of the conference.



Scenes from BeaverCon

Y. Communications and engagement program: Lauren Hazenson

Youth Education Program

Teacher Meetings: September was a busy month for reconnecting with school partners and planning classroom and field-based learning opportunities for the year ahead. We met with teachers from 10 schools and programs, representing elementary, middle and high school students as well as adult GED, ESL, citizenship and ABE learners. These meetings helped us identify opportunities to tailor RWMWD programming to each school's curriculum and site, including classroom lessons, field trips and hands-on field work. We also met with supervisors of

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Harding High School's Earth Club, which currently has 40–60 students participating in the after-school program.

Classroom & Field Experiences: We also provided several opportunities for students to connect classroom learning with real-world watershed work, reaching at least 221 students through the classroom and field experiences described below.



At **Mounds Park Academy**, 12 high school Environmental Chemistry students visited Wakefield Lake to learn about wetland restoration, monitoring equipment and a test cell. The visit built on their classroom study of water quality and encouraged students to think beyond measuring healthy water to considering how water quality can be protected and improved, while also introducing potential career pathways.

Eighteen **Metro State University** students in a Social Welfare History and Policy course visited Woodland Hills Church to learn about watersheds, watershed districts, and the intersection of water management with community development, poverty, social justice, and public policy. Students explored the process behind Woodland Hills' water quality improvements and learned about the church's broader community initiatives, including food access, housing and youth employment.

We also continued our *Watershed 101 + Campus Garden Exploration* programming at schools with established native plant restorations. At **St. Peter Catholic School**, 36 fourth- and fifth-grade students explored their school's restoration, participated in Native Plant Bingo, and collected native plant seed for their winter seed curriculum. At **Island Lake Elementary**, 155 fifth-grade students explored their school's native plant restoration, participated in Native Plant Bingo and researched individual native plants. Students also received an introduction to using binoculars in preparation for an upcoming walking field trip.

Community Engagement & Communications

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LEAP Program in the News: Cynthia Haukland, 2026 Award Winner
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLAOR8WecP8>



An award-winning oasis in North St. Paul gets attention of researchers

One of our 2026 award winners, Cynthia Haukland, has a bee magnet property. Kare 11 interviewed staff from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab about the impact of properties like Cynthia's. Lauren spoke on the segment about the LEAP program, starting a native plant garden, Stewardship Grants, and the water quality benefits of properties like these. The Kare 11 10 pm news has a 3.7 Nielsen rating, and this particular segment had 19,113 YouTube views as of September 29.

Management Plan Engagement Update

The formal review and public comment portals for the Management Plan were launched in Konveio this month. Both versions allow users to leave context-specific comments and reactions, while embedded GIS map links let users explore several plan figures in greater detail. An expanded glossary also helps reviewers better understand plan content, particularly for members of the public. The formal review period runs from September 25 through November 24, and the public comment period runs from October 1 through November 24. An information session and public input meeting will also be held during the October 27 Community Advisory Committee meeting from 7–8 p.m. at the RWMWD offices and via Zoom.

Recognition Dinner and Awards

Thursday, November 19

6:00 PM

Keller Golf Course

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Formal invitations out on October 8th.

Glass artist Alli Luhman has completed this year's award design and is fabricating five lanterns with the award name and title on the base. Our aim was to offer award designs that could be used as an award or displayed as an art piece without the award information, depending on the awardee's preference.

The Landscape Ecology Awards Program (LEAP) volunteers also met to create the program's new award gift: painted Chickadee houses. These gifts are easier for award winners of all abilities to handle, take up less RWMWD storage, and require less volunteer time to create. We're excited to see how award winners respond to this new option, along with the standard award certificate and Prairie Moon Nursery gift card.

"Behind the Scenes" Social Campaign

The Communications team launched a social media series highlighting the work of RWMWD's field staff and the behind-the-scenes work that helps protect and improve local water resources. This series aims to demystify our daily work and make it more visible to residents. Videos have featured staff from the Regulatory, Water Monitoring, Natural Resources, and Projects and Grants teams, giving residents a closer look at what these teams do and why their work matters. The Regulatory and Water Monitoring videos have performed particularly well on Instagram, receiving above-average views and engagement. Our Engagement Intern Carina has done excellent work on this campaign and continues to develop her filming and video editing skill set.

Newsletter and Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn)

Facebook

Reach: 10,483
Engagement (likes, shares): 404
Followers: 1,873

Instagram

Reach: 4,323
Engagement: 207

Audience: 1,091

YouTube

Views: 4,182
Watch time (hours): 29.1
Subscribers: 422

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LinkedIn

Reach: 2,621

Engagement: 88

Audience: 676

Newsletter

Opens: 49.4%

Link clicks: 3.6%

Other education/outreach initiatives and professional development:

- 9/9/26 – September Watershed Partners meeting – tour of Hočokata Ți in Shakopee
- 9/10/26 – Blue Thumb Steering Committee
- 9/17/26 – Blue Thumb Strategic Planning Workstream
- 9/20/26 – Woodbury Farmers Market Outreach
- 9/22/26 – September CAC meeting
- 9/24/26 – Meeting with Urban Bird Collective to discuss potential collaboration with K-12 field trips
- 9/26/26 – Snow Summit (Ashlee and Cooper staffed the event), 300 event attendees
- 9/29/26 – EMWREP 20th Anniversary (and awards ceremony)

Z. Community Advisory Committee (CAC): Carrie Magnuson

The Citizen Advisory Committee met on September 22nd, 2026, at 6:30 pm at the RWMWD office and on Zoom.

In attendance were 11 CAC members, 2 staff members, and 1 board member. The group discussed and further developed the following initiatives.

General Business

Watershed Management Plan: Lauren provided an update as to the status of the Watershed Management Plan process and timeline. The next CAC meeting in October will include training on the Konveio feedback platform and host facilitated breakout sessions to gather public input.

Review of Other Strategic Plans: The CAC has been asked to review the Communications & Engagement Plan, the Chloride Reduction Strategy (CRS), and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.

Watershed Excellence Awards: Prior to the meeting, CAC members received nomination entries for the 2026 Watershed Excellence Awards. Each individual or group was discussed for their merit in earning the award. Voting takes place anonymously via a Google Doc form and formally closes Friday 10/1/26.

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Volunteer opportunities: Several CAC members supported Watershed events over the past summer. Staff will continue posting any upcoming community outreach events on the CAC Sign Up Genius. Several members indicated interest in doing a buckthorn removal activity this year.

2026 Work Plan Items

The following initiatives are those the CAC wishes to continue or pursue in the following year:

1. Outreach & engagement volunteer program (continued support)
2. Watershed Management Plan (continued support)
3. Chloride outreach & education
4. CAC rain garden or buckthorn cleanup project – CAC, Staff, Carrie
5. CAC/LEAP Team planting
6. WaterFest Support (Completed 5/30/26)
7. Watershed Excellence Awards & Volunteer Recognition Dinner planning (focus of this month)
8. LEAP Program nominations & subcommittee (Environmental Forum)
9. Standardize bringing in staff as guest speakers twice per year to review RWMWD programs
10. Explore if there are citizen science opportunities that would support RWMWDs work
11. Researching Ecosystem Service Values for existing RWMWD projects and programs
12. Seek opportunities to learn about contaminants of emerging concern (Mercury, PFAS)

2026 Remaining Meeting Dates: October 27th, December 8th