



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sponsor: Polk County Conservation Board
12130 Northwest 128th Street,
Granger, Iowa 50109

Issued: July 07, 2023

Expires: August 05, 2023

Corps Project Number: CEMVR-RD-2023-0807

Proposed Project: Trails End Stream Mitigation Bank

STREAM COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

This notice is issued in accordance with the Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule (the Mitigation Rule) described in the Federal Register dated April 10, 2008 (33 CFR Parts 325 and 332).

1. **Project Location:** The proposed site consists of two parcels located within Sections 8/9, Township 79 North, Range 23 West, Polk County, Iowa. See attached location maps. Site A: Latitude 41.665154, Longitude -93.552895. Site B: Latitude 41.671106, Longitude -93.539439.

2. **Bank Objectives:** The fundamental objective of compensatory mitigation is to offset environmental losses resulting from unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States (WOTUS) authorized by Department of the Army Permits. Other Objectives include providing economically efficient and flexible mitigation opportunities, supporting the national goal of no-net-loss of WOTUS, enhancing, or creating additional wildlife and aquatic habitat, reducing flooding by restoring stream meanders, oxbows, and creating floodplain benches, and finally, to improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient loading.

3. **Project Description/Bank Establishment:** This project is the second phase of the overall Trails End Mitigation Bank project. The first phase of the project (Corps Project No. CEMVR-OD-P-2019-0433) included creation, restoration, and enhancement of emergent and forested wetlands, as well as creation of upland buffer under the same name and which occupies a portion of the site. The bank sponsor proposes to complete activities on 285.62-acres of property owned by the Polk County Conservation Board. Site A is comprised of 257.21-acres and is the location of the Trails End Wetland Mitigation Bank (Phase I). Site B is 28.41-acres and is located to the east of Site A. This project would result in the generation of approximately 180,427 stream compensatory mitigation credits. The stream mitigation work plan will consist of stream restoration along reaches of Fourmile Creek, an unnamed tributary (UNT) of Fourmile Creek, and Muchikinock Creek. Fourmile Creek restoration will include the rehabilitation of two oxbows, the construction of floodplain benches, reshaping creek banks, and the installation of toe wood protection, J-hooks, and in-stream habitat features (rock/log riffles). The restoration of Muchikinock Creek will include reshaping creek banks

along with the construction of floodplain benches and the installation of rock/log riffles to create pool/riffle/run complexes. The restoration of the UNT of Fourmile Creek will be based on re-meandering the stream to its estimated former location and dimensions. Stream buffer will be established surrounding each of the streams and will include treatment of invasive or other undesirable species by chemical or mechanical means. The buffer areas will be a minimum of 50-feet wide and will be seeded with a native grass seed mix or a wetland and stream buffer mix. A wetland delineation, and additional information on construction techniques, target plant community types, and detailed planting plans will be completed prior to the submission of the draft Mitigation Banking Instrument.

4. **Service Area:** The proposed mitigation bank will be in the Lower Des Moines Service Area.

5. **Bank Need/Technical Feasibility/Ecological Suitability:** Based on an analysis of the watershed, the following needs were identified: increased flood attenuation, improved water quality, and additional terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Reshaping banks and creating floodplain benches will both aid in increasing flood attenuation and improving water quality. Installation of toe wood protection, J-hooks, and rock/log riffles should help to improve water quality and provide aquatic habitat, as will the creation and enhancement of stream buffer. In terms of ecological suitability, the location of this bank was selected based on the potential for significant improvements in physical, chemical, biological, and ecological characteristics, such as, but not limited to, geomorphic integrity, water quality, fish and macroinvertebrate habitat, and floodplain connectivity.

6. **Long Term Management:**

A. Once all credits are sold or the bank is closed, the bank site will be maintained and managed by the bank sponsors or deeded to a non-profit organization, local government agency, or private individual for long-term stewardship, with the USACE's written approval and subject to the terms of the Conservation Easement. The mitigation bank will be protected in perpetuity with appropriate real estate arrangements and management plans. The bank sponsor will be responsible for long-term management unless a long-term stewardship entity agrees to take over management and is approved by the Interagency Review Team (IRT).

B. A long-term maintenance fund will be established per mitigation banking guidance and funded by depositing at least five percent of each credit sale into the fund. The fund will gain interest over time, which will increase the total amount. Foreseeable long-term maintenance of the bank site could potentially involve repairs to instream structures and the control of invasive species through burning and herbicide treatment. Any repairs needed to in-stream structures will be completed at the sponsor's expense. The sponsor will use its own employees to conduct the routine management activities.

7. **Sponsor Qualifications:**

A. The sponsor of the Bank, Polk County Conservation Board, manages numerous natural areas within Polk County. The mission of Polk County Conservation Board is "to provide the citizens of Polk County with quality outdoor recreation, conservation education, and long-term protection of

Polk County's natural heritage" (Polk County Iowa, 2023). The sponsor has experienced staff and access to a wide variety of agricultural and construction implements including mowers, sprayers, and earth moving equipment. The cost of developing the site will be borne by the sponsor.

B. Foth is the sponsor's consultant for the Bank. Foth has extensive experience in the process of stream mitigation. Foth has an experienced staff of scientists, engineers, and ecologists with over 120 combined years of experience working with wetlands and other natural resources in Iowa and the Midwest.

8. **Water Rights:** No federal, state, or local agency has regulations governing water rights for this type of project at this location. No water would be stored or held as part of Trails End Stream Mitigation Bank.

9. **Agency Review:** Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Corps is participating in this matter as the chair of the IRT, which consists of the Corps, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The project would require Section 404, Clean Water Act authorization prior to the proposed construction. If approved, the proposed bank could provide stream credit for future, Section 404, authorized projects that require compensatory mitigation. Formal authorization of the bank proposal occurs through Corps approval of a Mitigation Banking Instrument.

10. **Historical/Archaeological:** Based on a review of historic and current aerial photos, topographic maps, and available cultural resource databases, it is the opinion of the Corps that the permit area may have the potential to contain historic properties, which may be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Corps will require the applicant to submit a Phase I archaeological survey and geomorphological evaluation report covering the permit area. Geomorphological investigation must extend at least 50 centimeters below the proposed depths of soil disturbance or to a depth below which no possibility of historic properties exists. The applicant, in addition to this Phase I report, may be required to conduct additional Phase II test excavations to evaluate sites for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP, as well as other studies, site avoidance, or data recovery as may be the case.

11. **Endangered Species:** This proposal will be coordinated with the USFWS. Any comments USFWS may have concerning Federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife, plants, or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

12. **Who Should Reply:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered in determining whether to approve the proposed bank. Received comments will be distributed to the members of the IRT. Comments should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page one. Comments should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable. Any person may also request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

13. Reply to the Corps of Engineers: Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Daniel Lange via phone (309/794-4209), email (Daniel.s.lange@usace.army.mil), or by writing to the following address: US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: Daniel Lange - RD, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.

14. Complete Prospectus: The complete prospectus can be found on our public website at: https://ribits.ops.usace.army.mil/ords/f?p=107:278:::RP,278:P278_BANK_ID:6631. Hard copies are also available by request.



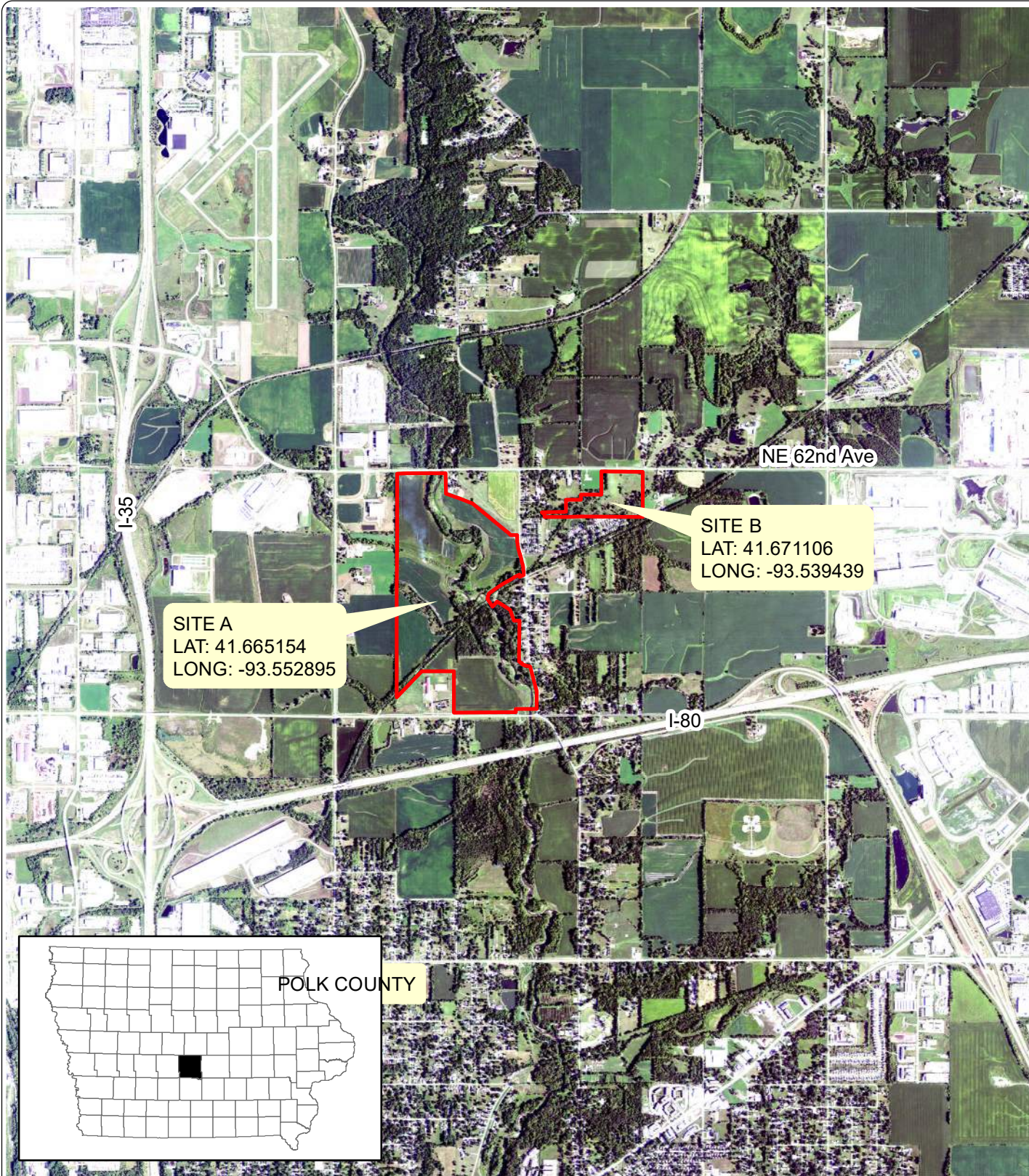
Attach
Plan

Aurora C. Scott
Chief, Eastern Branch
Regulatory Division

Document Path: Q:\Polk County Conservation Board\22P065.00\GIS\mxd\Prospectus Phase II\22P065 Exhibit 1.mxd

Document Name: 22P065 Exhibit 1

©2020 Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC



LEGEND



PN 2023-0807
Project Boundary
pg. 1 of 4



GENERAL LOCATION MAP

TRAILS END MITIGATION BANK PHASE II PROSPECTUS POLK COUNTY, IOWA

0 650 1300 2600
FEET

PROJECT ID. #: 22P065.01

DATE: 6/1/2023

PREPARED BY: HIM

CHECKED BY: MJH



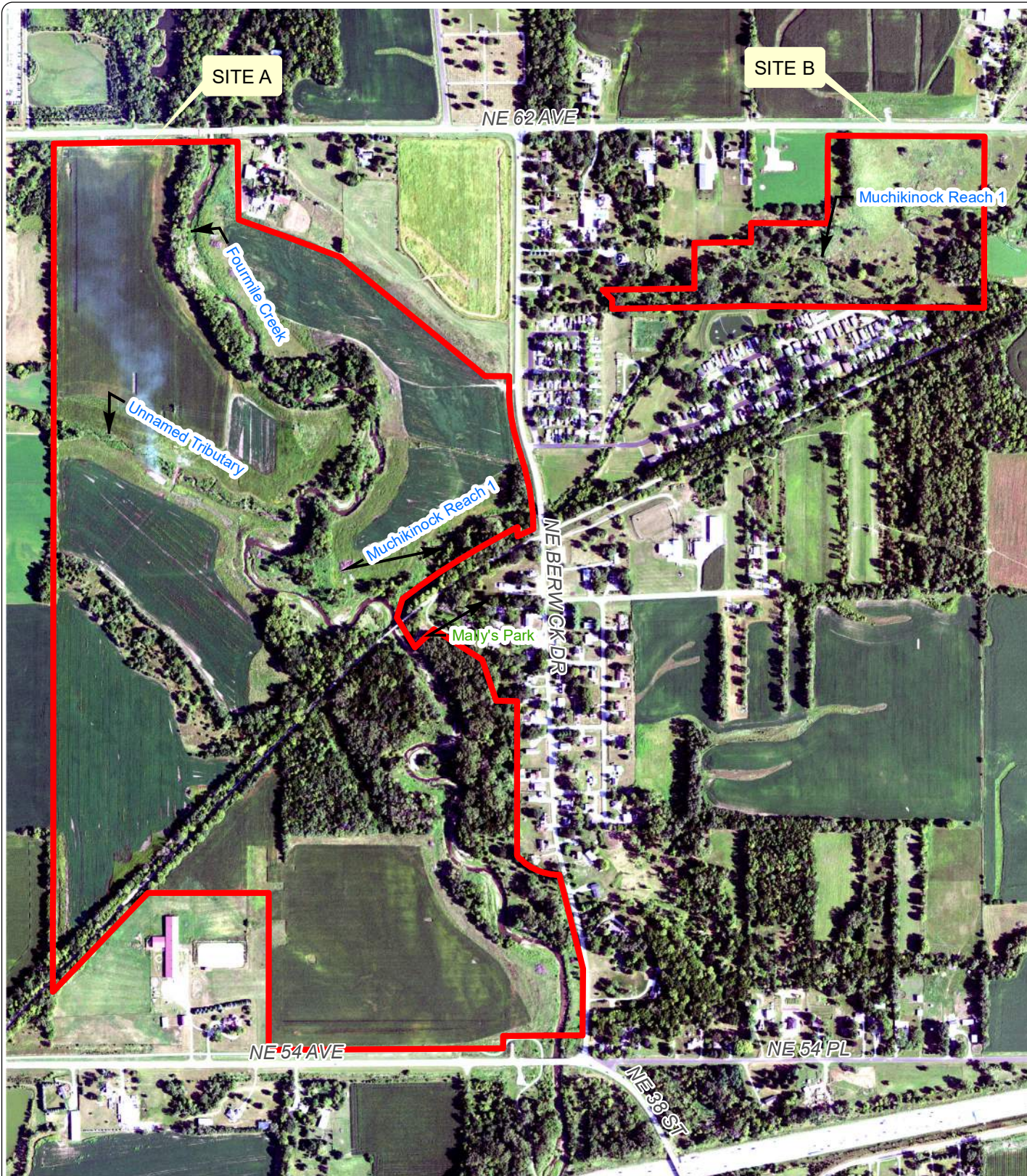
Foth

EXHIBIT
1

Document Path: Q:\Polk County Conservation Board\22P065.00\GIS\mxd\Prospectus Phase II\22P065 Exhibit 4.mxd

Document Name: 22P065 Exhibit 4

©2020 Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC



LEGEND



PN 2023-0807
Project Boundary
pg. 2 of 4



AERIAL LOCATION MAP

TRAILS END MITIGATION BANK PHASE II PROSPECTUS POLK COUNTY, IOWA

0 225 450 900
FEET

PROJECT ID. #: 22P065.01

DATE: 5/31/2023

PREPARED BY: HIM

CHECKED BY: MJH



EXHIBIT
4

Document Path: Q:\Polk County Conservation Board\22P065.00\GIS\mxd\Prospectus Phase II\22P065 Exhibit 6A - Stream Restoration Concept.mxd

Document Name: 22P065 Exhibit 6A - Stream Restoration Concept

©2020 Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC



LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Planned Riffles
- Existing Riffles
- Easements and Non_Credit Generating Areas
- 2022 Stream Centerlines
- Realigned UNT with Meanders
- J-Hook Vanes
- Oxbow Restoration
- Bank Reshaping with Wood Toe Protection
- Floodplain Benches

PN 2023-0807
pg. 3 of 4



MITIGATION BANK RESTORATION CONCEPT - SITE A

**TRAILS END MITIGATION BANK
PHASE II PROSPECTUS
POLK COUNTY, IOWA**

0 200 400 800
FEET

PROJECT ID. #: 22P065.01

DATE: 5/16/2023

PREPARED BY: HIM

CHECKED BY: MJH

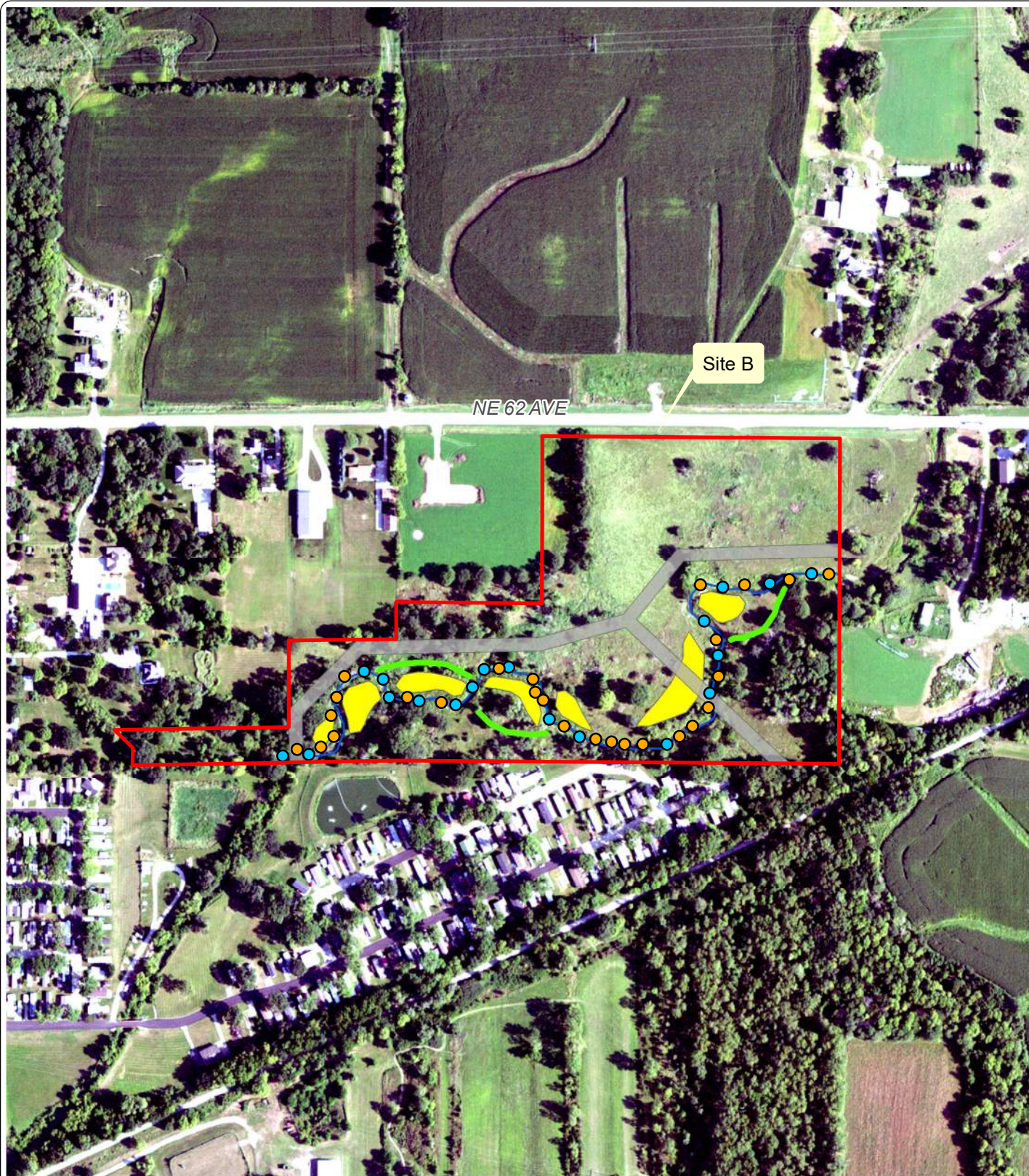


EXHIBIT
6A

Document Path: Q:\Polk County Conservation Board\22P065.00\GIS\map\Prospectus Phase II\22P065 Exhibit 6B - Stream Restoration Concept.mxd

Document Name: 22P065 Exhibit 6B - Stream Restoration Concept

©2020 Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC



LEGEND

- Project Boundary
- Planned Riffles
- Existing Riffles
- Easements and Non_Credit Generating Areas
- 2022 Stream Centerlines
- Oxbow Restoration
- Floodplain Benches

PN 2023-0807
pg. 4 of 4



MITIGATION BANK RESTORATION CONCEPT - SITE B

TRAILS END MITIGATION BANK PHASE II PROSPECTUS POLK COUNTY, IOWA

0 100 200 400
FEET

PROJECT ID. #: 22P065.01

DATE: 5/16/2023

PREPARED BY: HIM

CHECKED BY: MJH



EXHIBIT
6B