JB Pritzker, Governor

Colleen Callahan, Director

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271 www.dnr.illinois.gov

MINUTES

Illinois Route 53 Expansion Land Alternative Use Task Force

Friday, January 28, 2022 11:00AM

Virtual Meeting

Dan Lewis, Advisor at the IL Department of Natural Resources and the point-person for administrative support for this Task Force, began the meeting at 11:04am by taking the roll for the task force members. All were present.

Co-Chair State Senator Melinda Bush ran the meeting and began by asking if there were edits to the December meeting minutes. As there were none, Mayor DiMaggio motioned to approve the minutes and State Representative Dan Didech seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion, which passed.

Senator Bush spoke briefly, suggesting that we create a survey or document for all Task Force members to fill out with their suggestions for alternative land usages and complimentary developments.

Senator Bush then gave the floor to IDOT District 1 Engineer of Program Development John Baczek, who presented a PDF of screengrabs from IDOT's forthcoming interactive online tool detailing the state-owned parcels that were purchased for the Illinois Route 53 expansion (attached). Mr. Baczek stated that once the tool was finished, he would make sure that everyone on the Task Force would see it. In the meantime, Mr. Baczek presented the screengrabs, scrolling through the entire set of parcels and generally discussing the potential that each one had, be it transportation, drainage, environmental buffer, etc.

Senator Bush then gave the floor to Ty Kovach, Executive Director of the Lake County Forest Preserves District, who presented a slideshow highlighting the ecological areas adjectent to the parcels and the potential that a few of them had (attached). Of particular significance to the LCFPD are 48 acres near or within Forest Preserve property in Almond Marsh, 24 acres near Countryside Golf Club, 54 acres in between Egret Marsh and Heron Creek, 171 acres south of Grayslake, and 270 acres south of the Midlothian Rd – Rt 60/83 intersection. There was discussion about all of these properties, in particular the potential connection between Egret Marsh and Heron Creek and the Almond Marsh area. Mr. Kovach promised to follow up with the Task Force after collecting information about the ecological significance of these areas and the impact that restoration would have there.

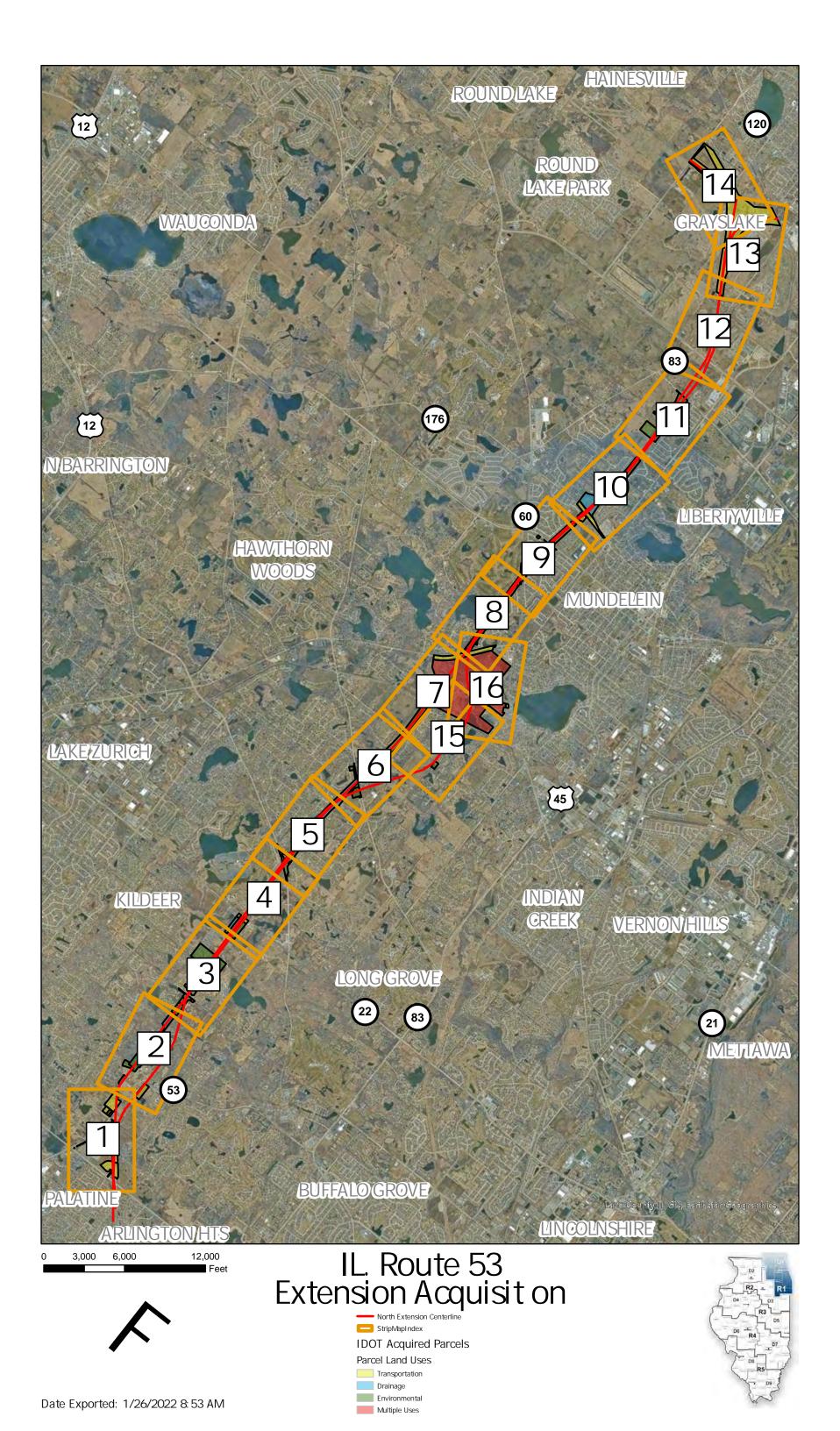
Senator Bush then gave the floor to Kurt Woolford and Jeff Laramy with the Lake County Stormwater Commission, who presented their Route 53 GIS Map (click here). Mr. Laramy went through all the layers of the map and explained what they showed, which includes state-owned parcels, flood areas, stormwater watersheds, identified wetlands, and more. Stormwater Management did not have any red flags or problem areas, but noted that there are tributaries flowing west to east across the parcels in question.

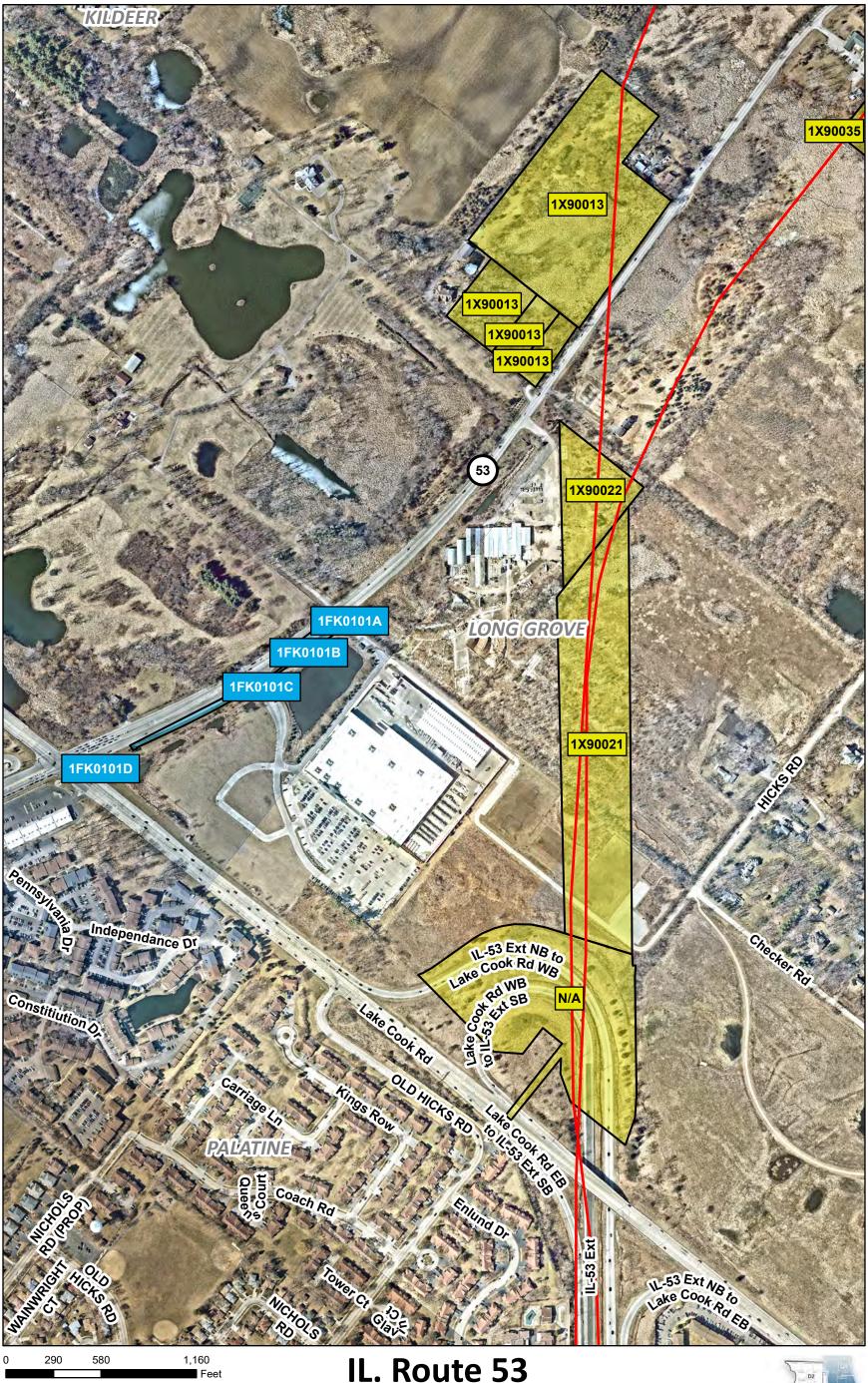
After the presentations, there was some discussion. Barbara Klipp, Executive Director of the Midwest Sustainability Group, asked about Mr. Woolford's opinion on open lands vs development, from a stormwater management perspective, to which Mr. Woolford replied that more development could lead to increased flooding and runoff. Open lands and green infrastructure are always encouraged and recommended, but Mr. Woolford deferred to local municipalities for individual areas and parcels. Lake County Board Member John Wasik asked if the 171 acres south of Grayslake, near the Mill Creek headwaters, should be restored and conserved. Mr. Woolford stated that this large area could be (and potentially should be) used to serve multiple purposes, including water quality improvement, floodwater storage and mitigation, and wetland restoration. Senator Bush requested that Stacy Meyers, Senior Counsel with Openlands, utilize information from maps and presentations from IDOT, Lake County Forest Preserve, and Stormwater Management, as well as Openlands' own maps, to create a comprehensive presentation for the Task Force at the next meeting.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, Linda Soto, Lake County resident, member of Pace Suburban Buses Executive Board, and Executive Director of the Lake County Transportation Alliance, spoke about the 2017 Tri-County Access Project (here) and how the Task Force should use a holistic approach to this project. Ms. Soto stressed the need to consider a multimodal transportation system involving bike trails, walkways, bus shelters, riding-sharing and public transportation hubs, and more. Senator Bush thanked her for her comments and suggested that she come back and present to the Task Force to expand on her comments. Also commenting was Scott Davis with the Fremont Public Library, who recalled public libraries being left out of previous commissions and studies of Rt. 53 and expressed his worry over property tax revenue being used elsewhere.

Grayslake Mayor Rhett Taylor recommended that the Task Force establish broad parameters to take to their local units of government and staff to draft ideas for land use. Senator Bush agreed and mentioned again the idea to send around a survey or document to all members. Senator Bush stated that this body would likely meet every month and would need to create subcommittees in order to complete the tasks assigned to us by the establishing legislation.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.







North Extension Centerline

IDOT Acquired Parcels

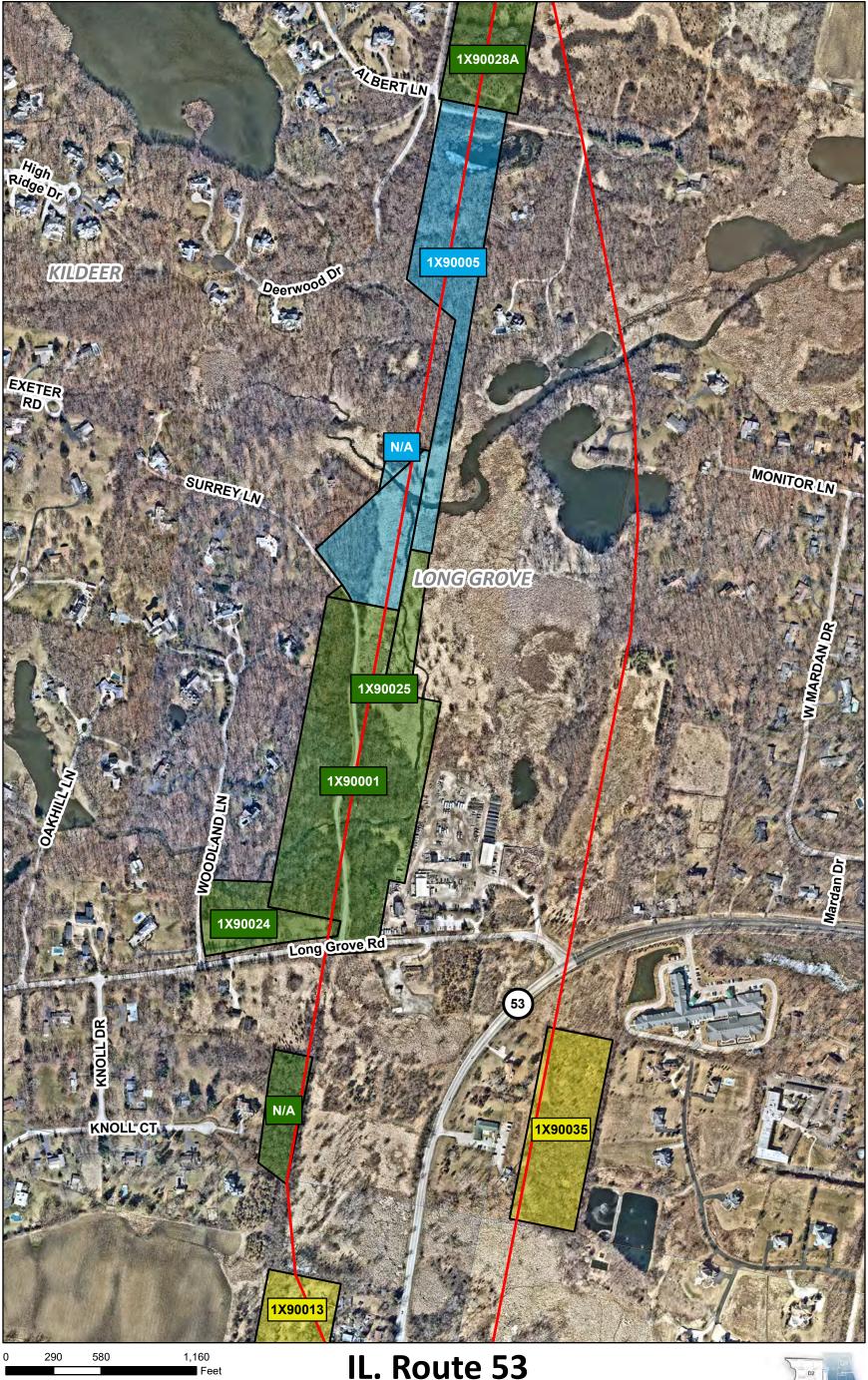
Parcel Land Uses

Transportation
Drainage

Environmental

Multiple Uses







North Extension Centerline
IDOT Acquired Parcels
Parcel Land Llace

Parcel Land Uses

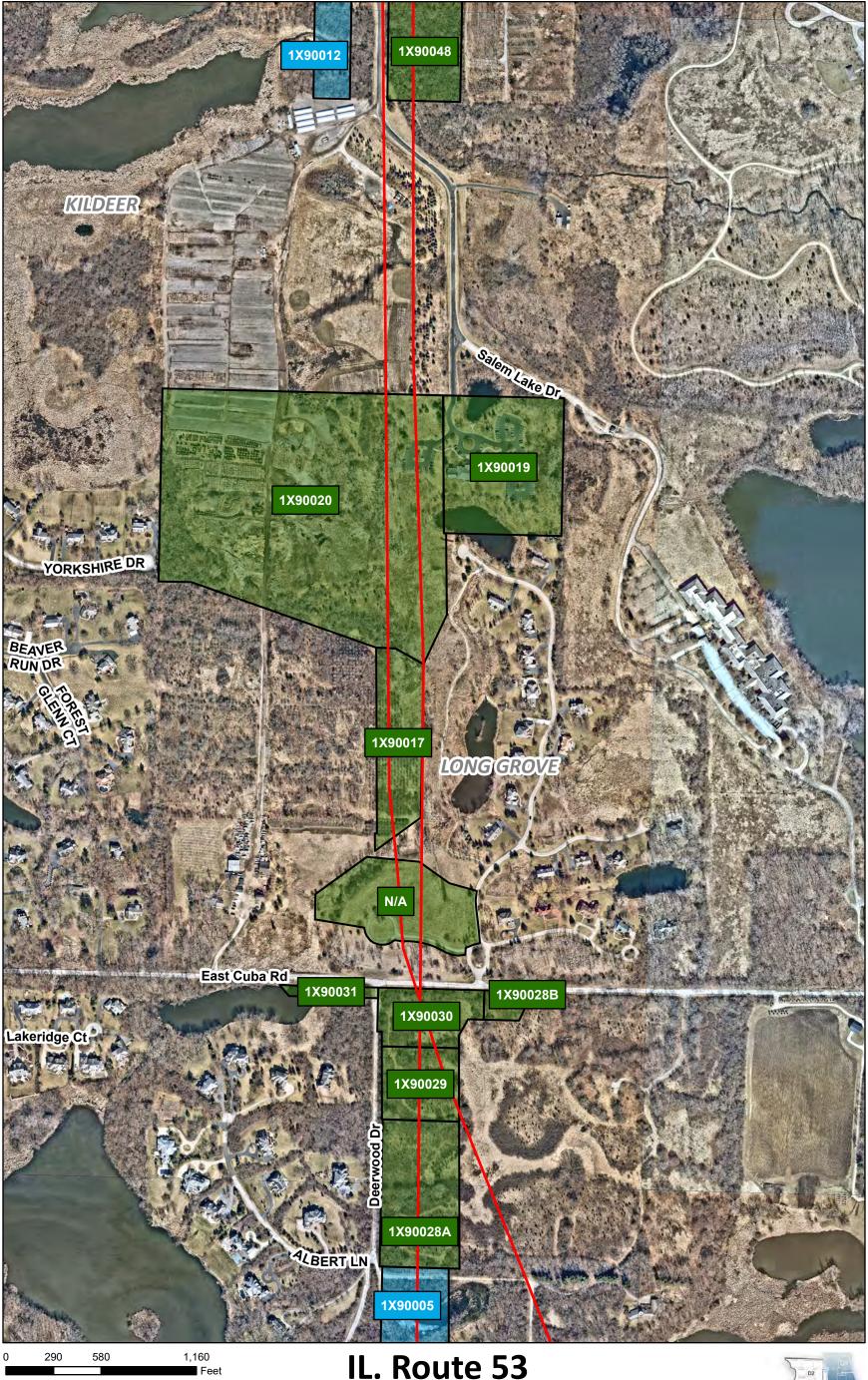
Transportation

Drainage

Environmental
Multiple Uses

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IL. Route 53 Extension Acquisition

North Extension Centerline

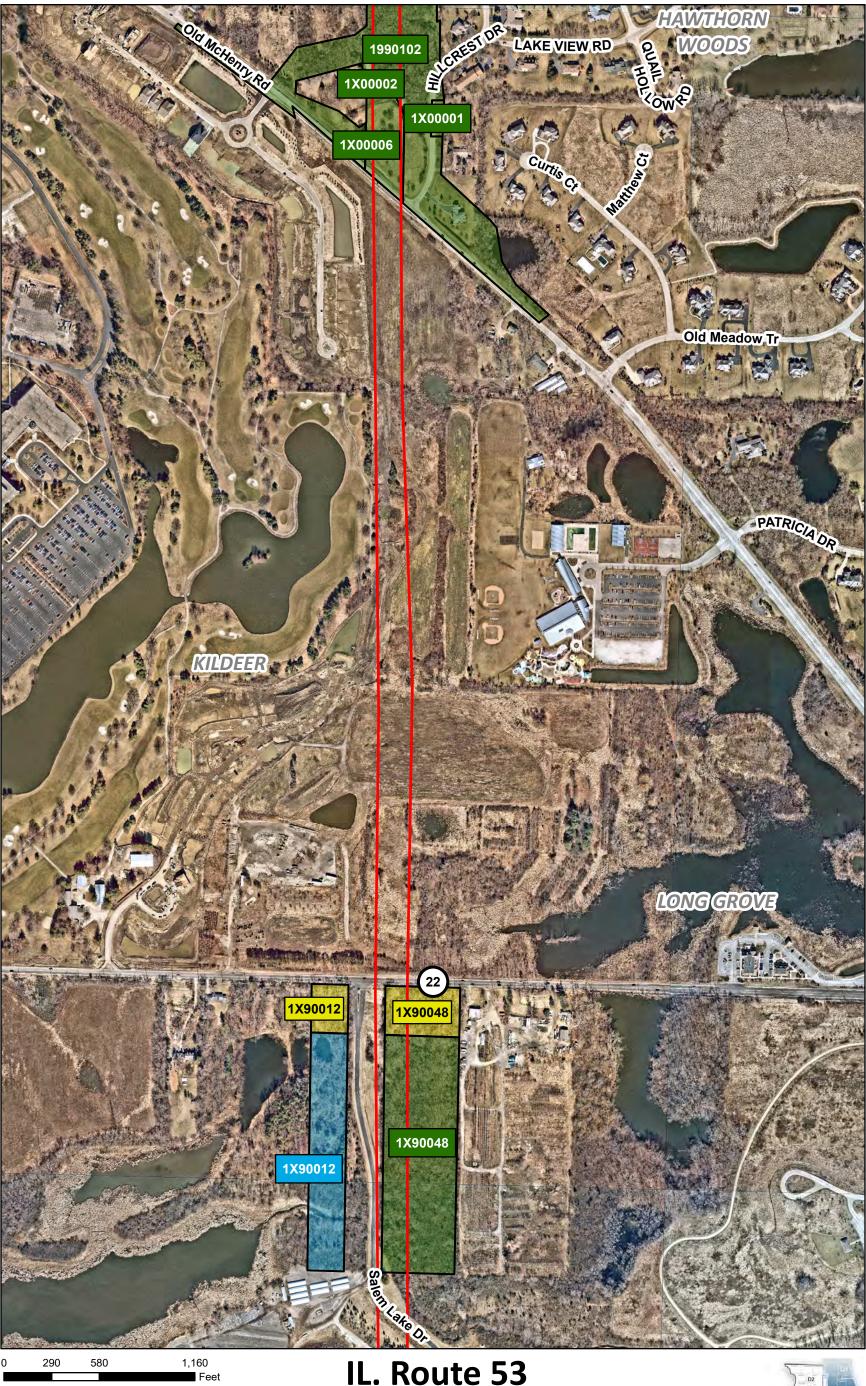
IDOT Acquired Parcels

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North Extension Centerline
IDOT Acquired Parcels

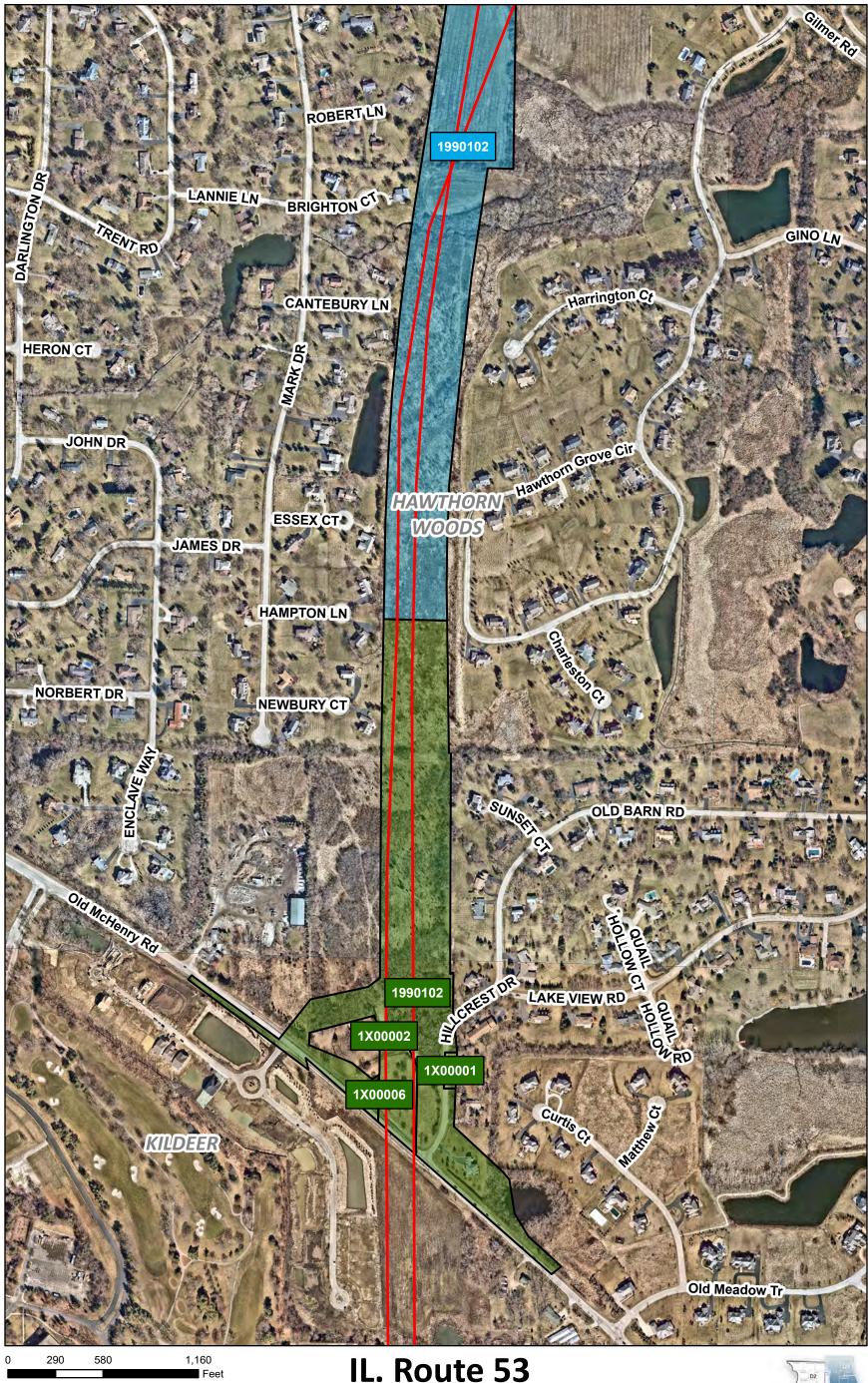
Parcel Land Uses

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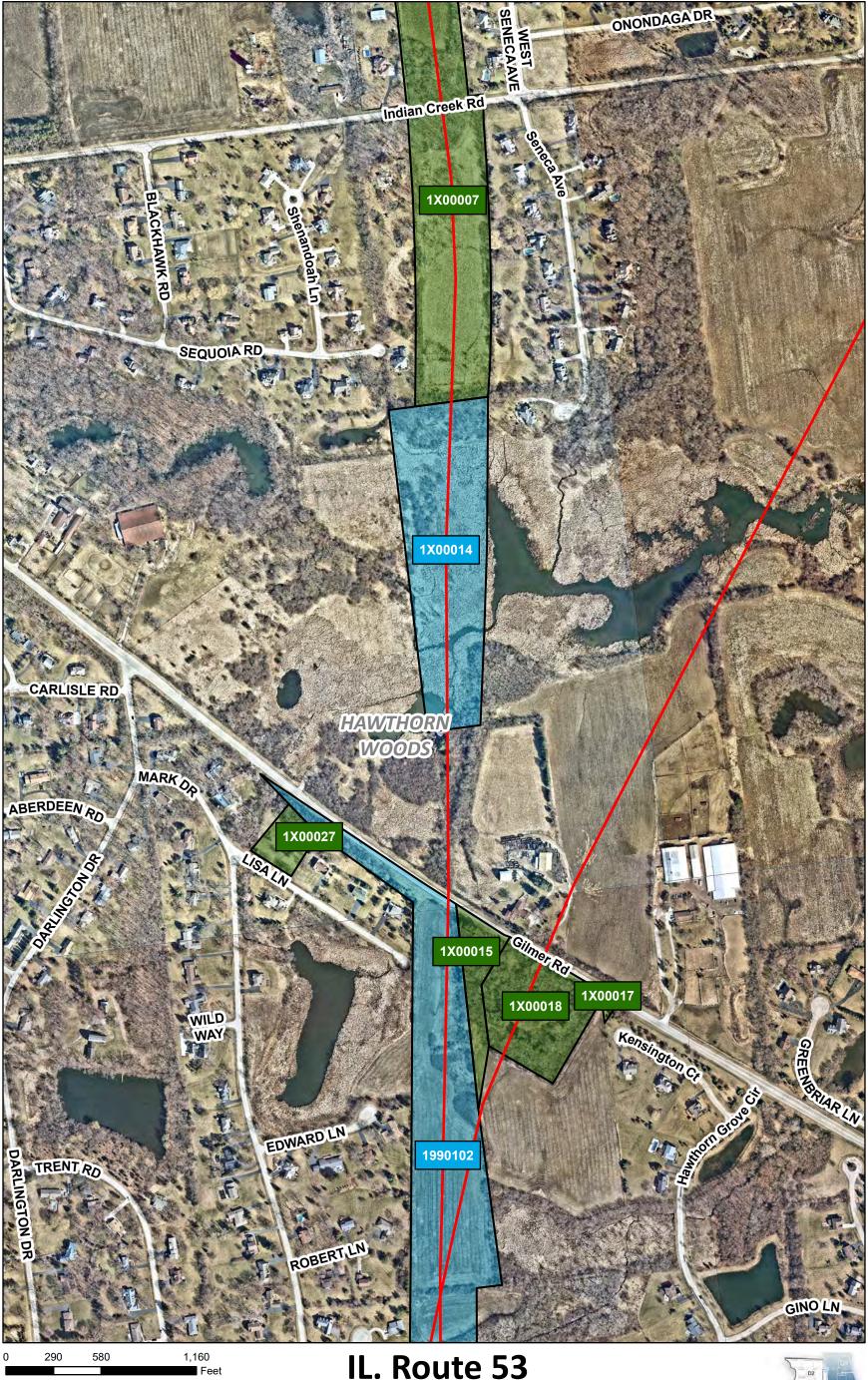
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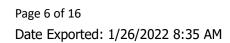
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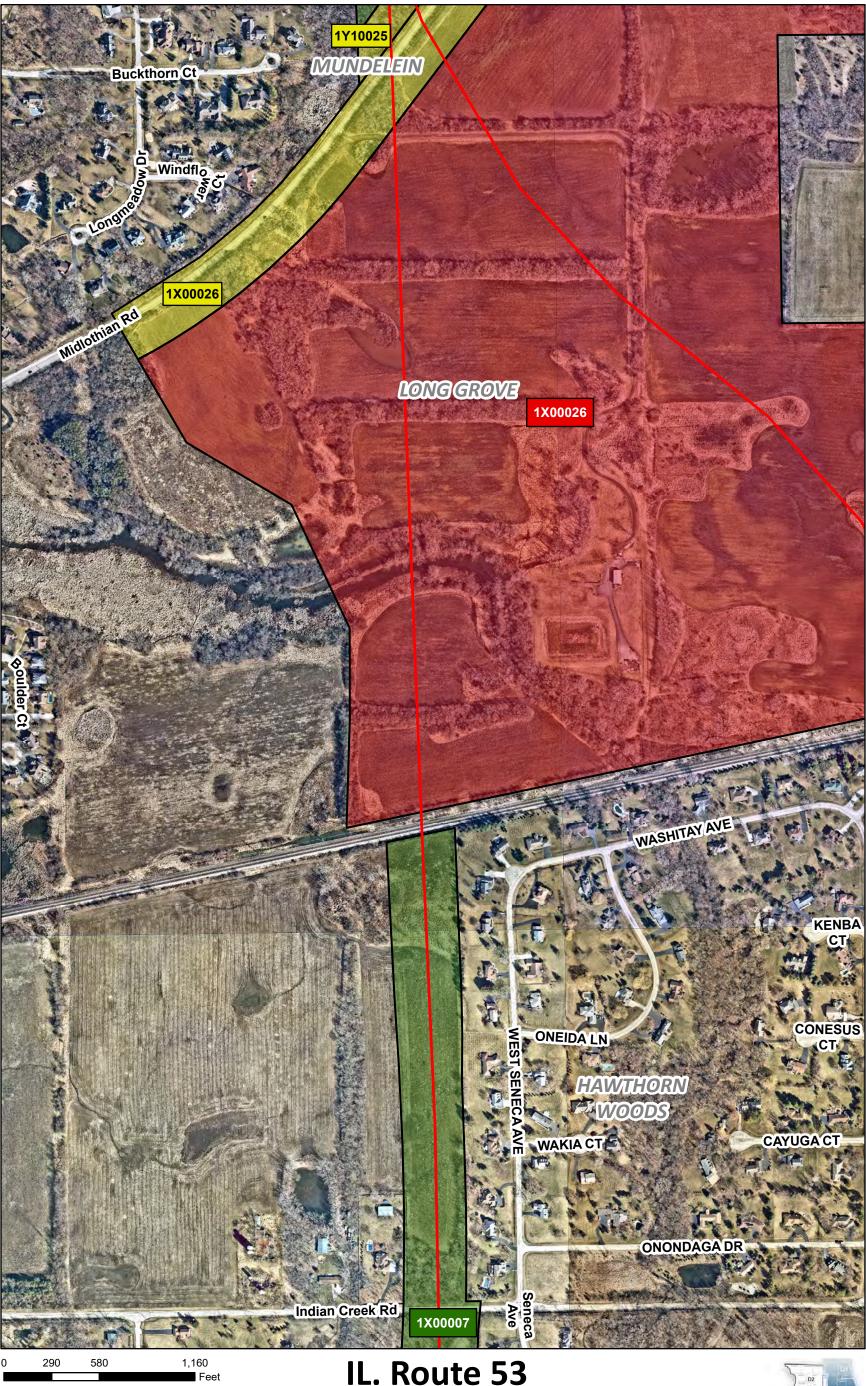
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North Extension Centerline **IDOT Acquired Parcels**

Parcel Land Uses

Transportation

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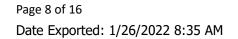
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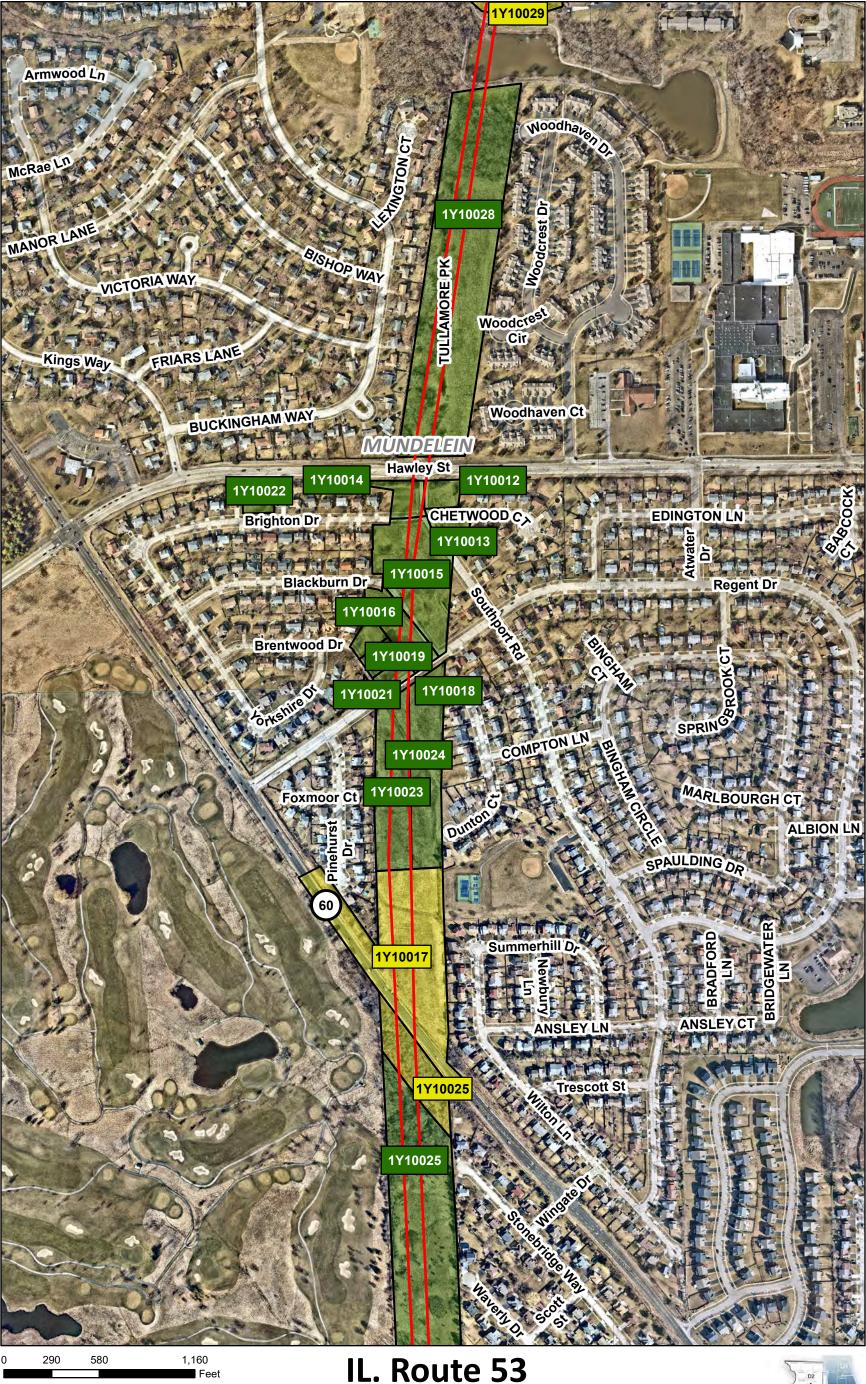
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IDOT Acquired Parcels

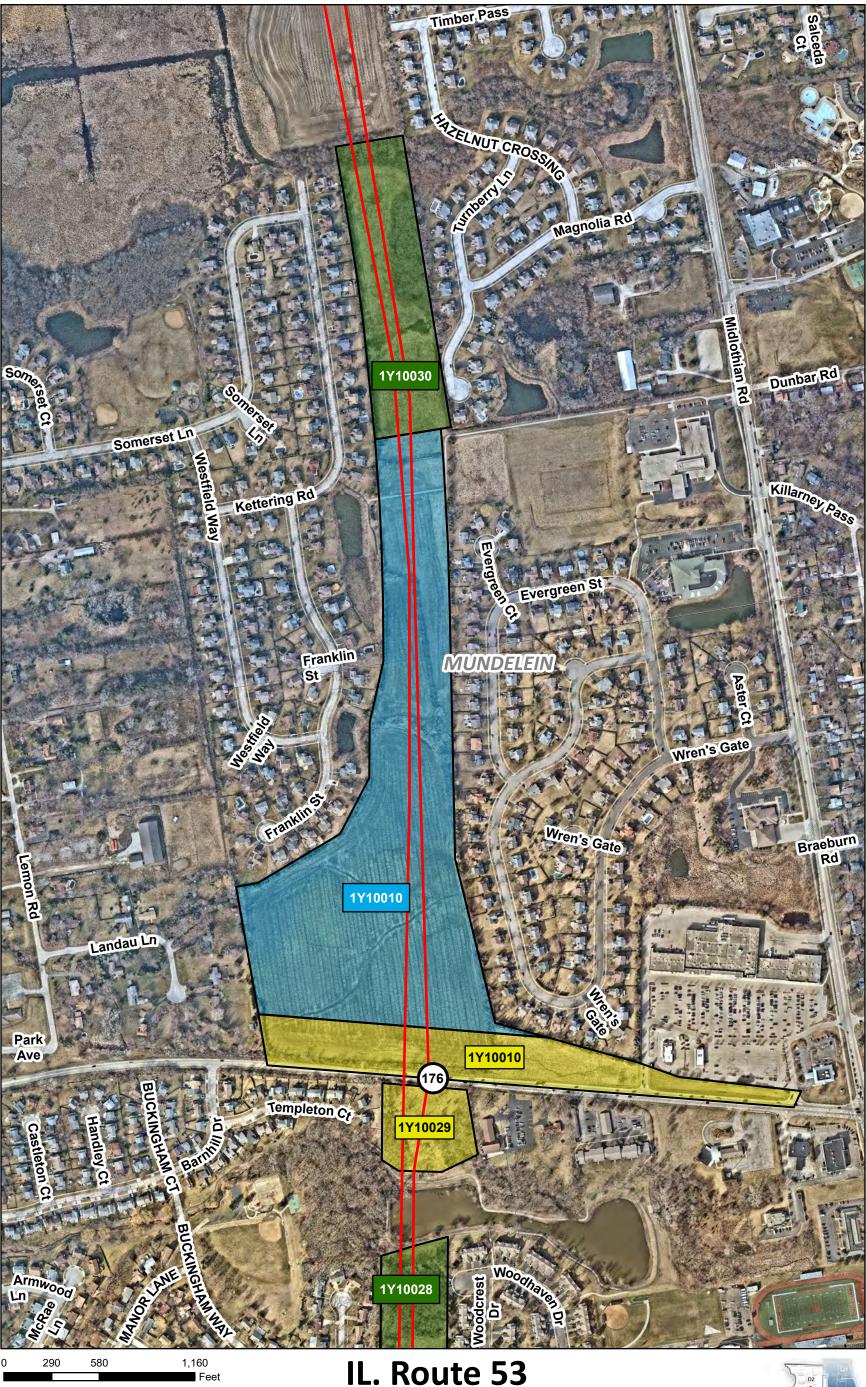
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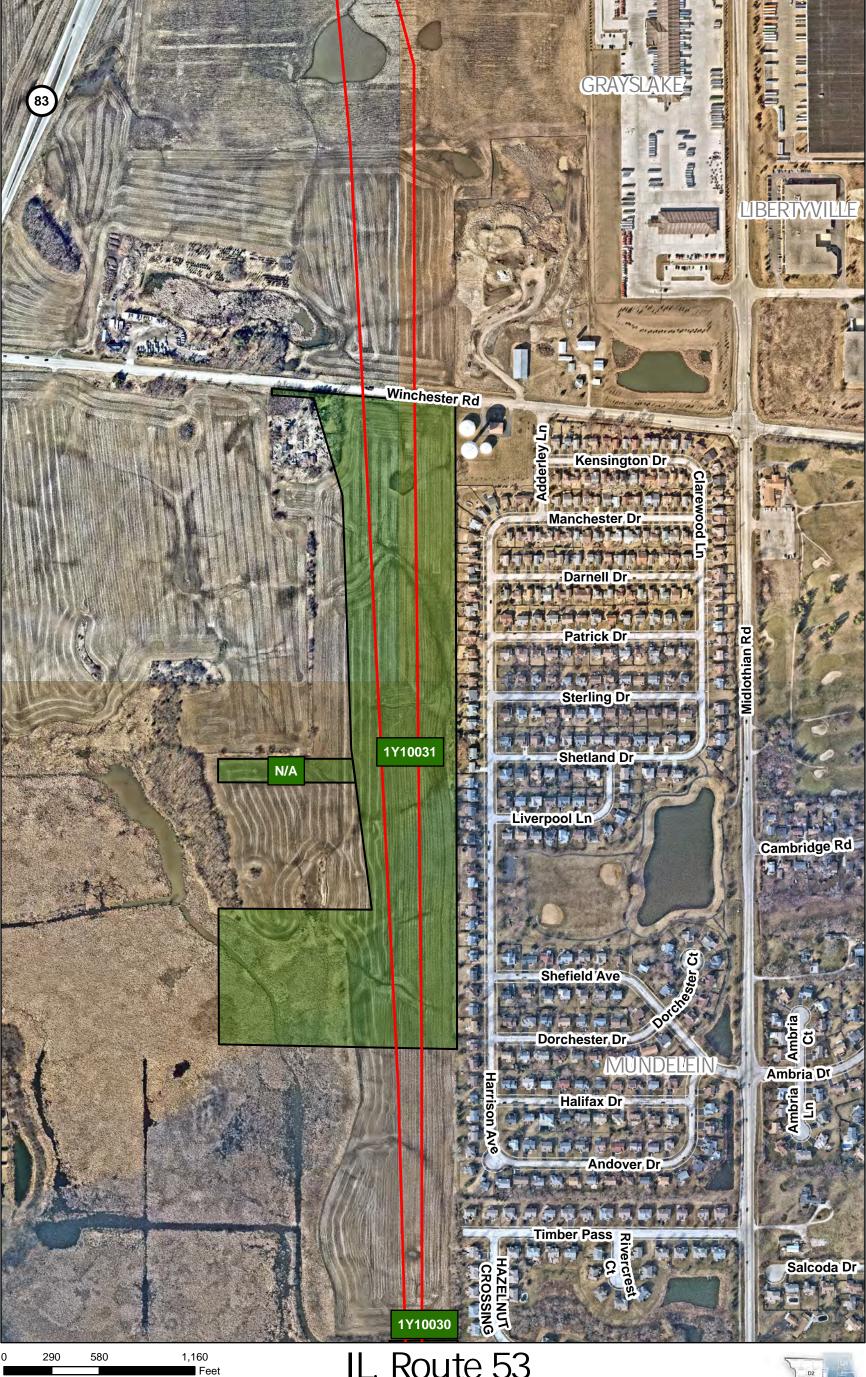
Parcel Land Uses

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North Extension Centerline

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Parcel Land Uses

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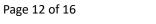


North Extension Centerline **IDOT Acquired Parcels**

Parcel Land Uses Transportation

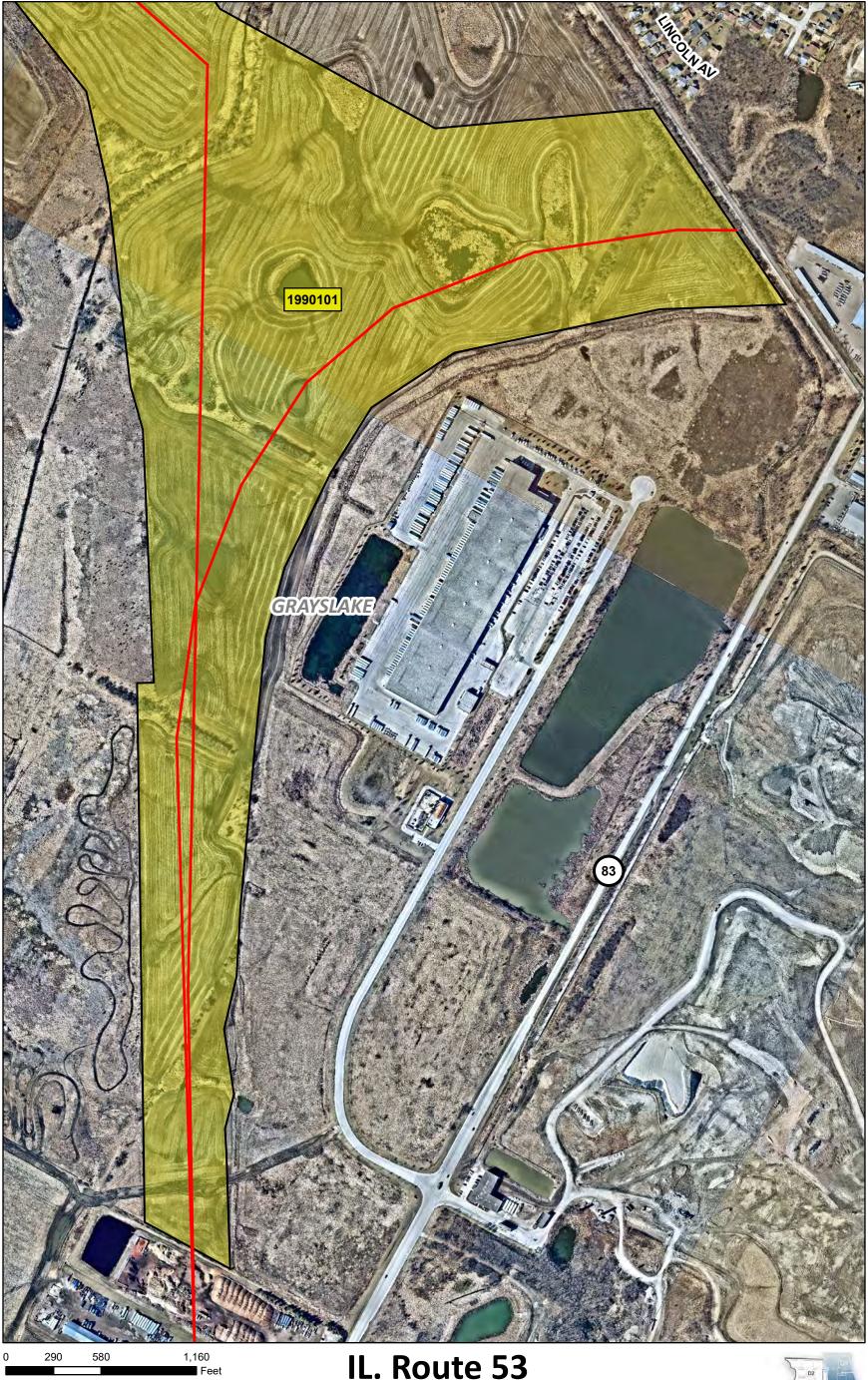
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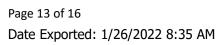
IL. Route 53 Extension Acquisition North Extension Centerline

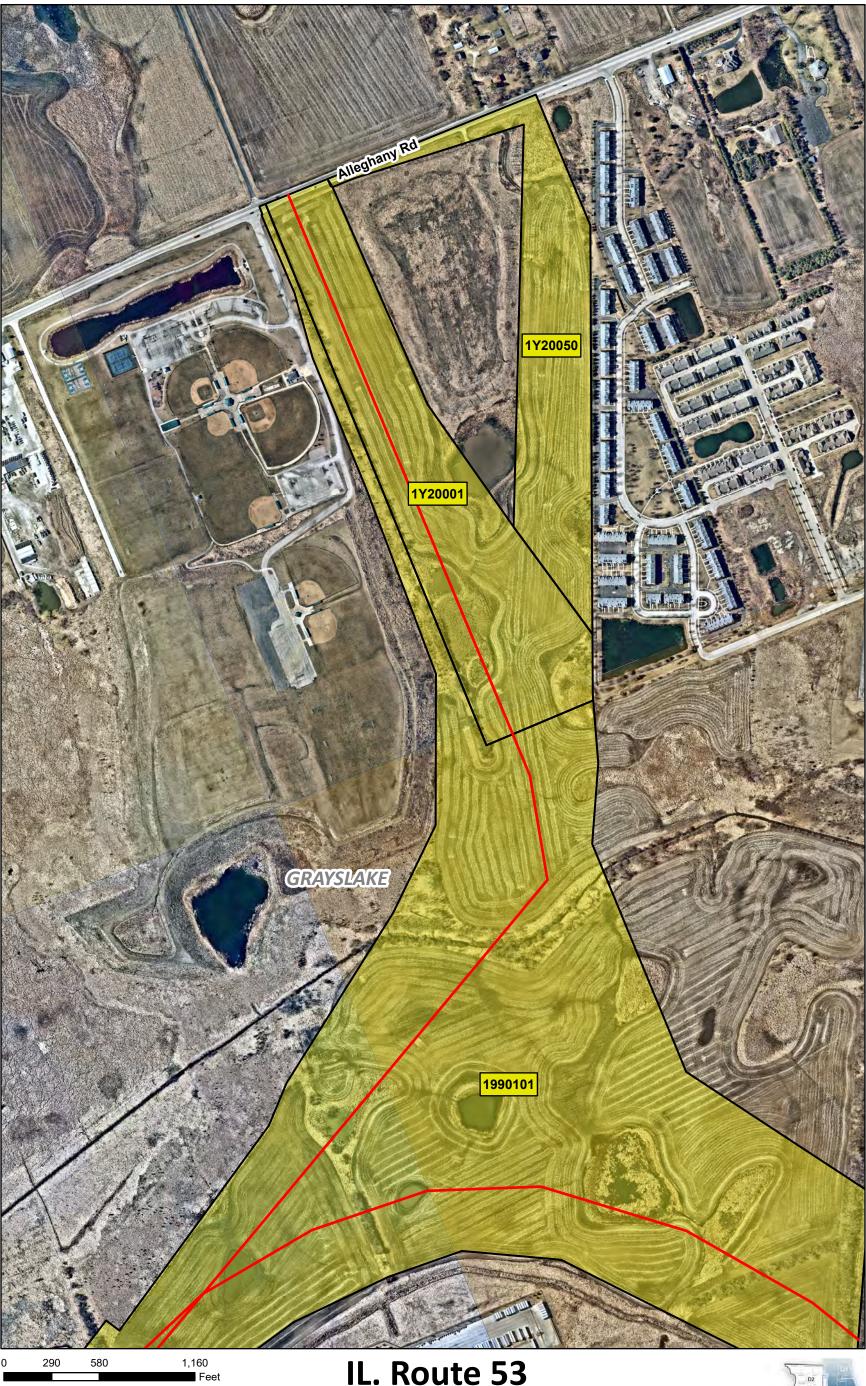
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North Extension Centerline

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North Extension Centerline

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Parcel Land Uses

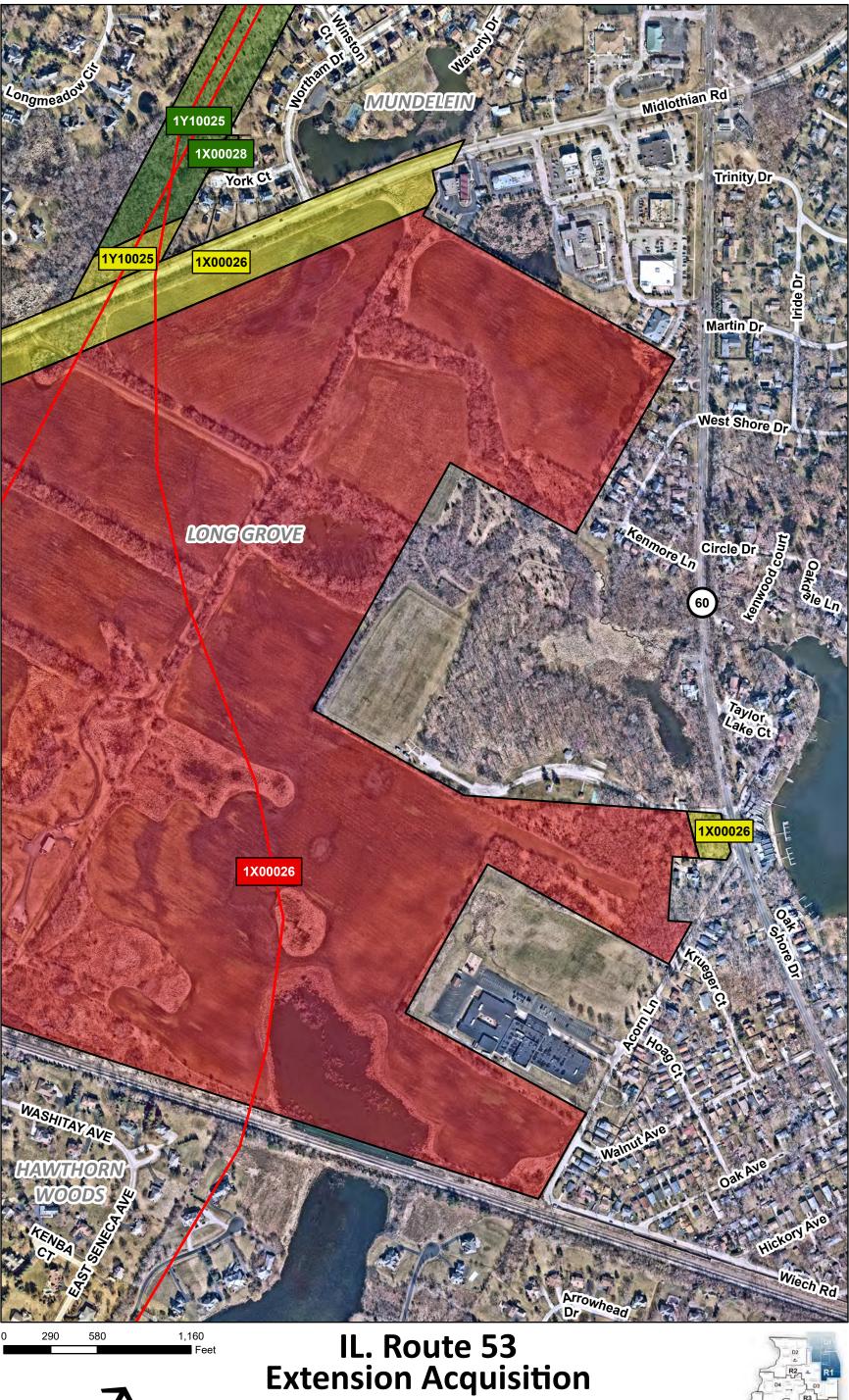
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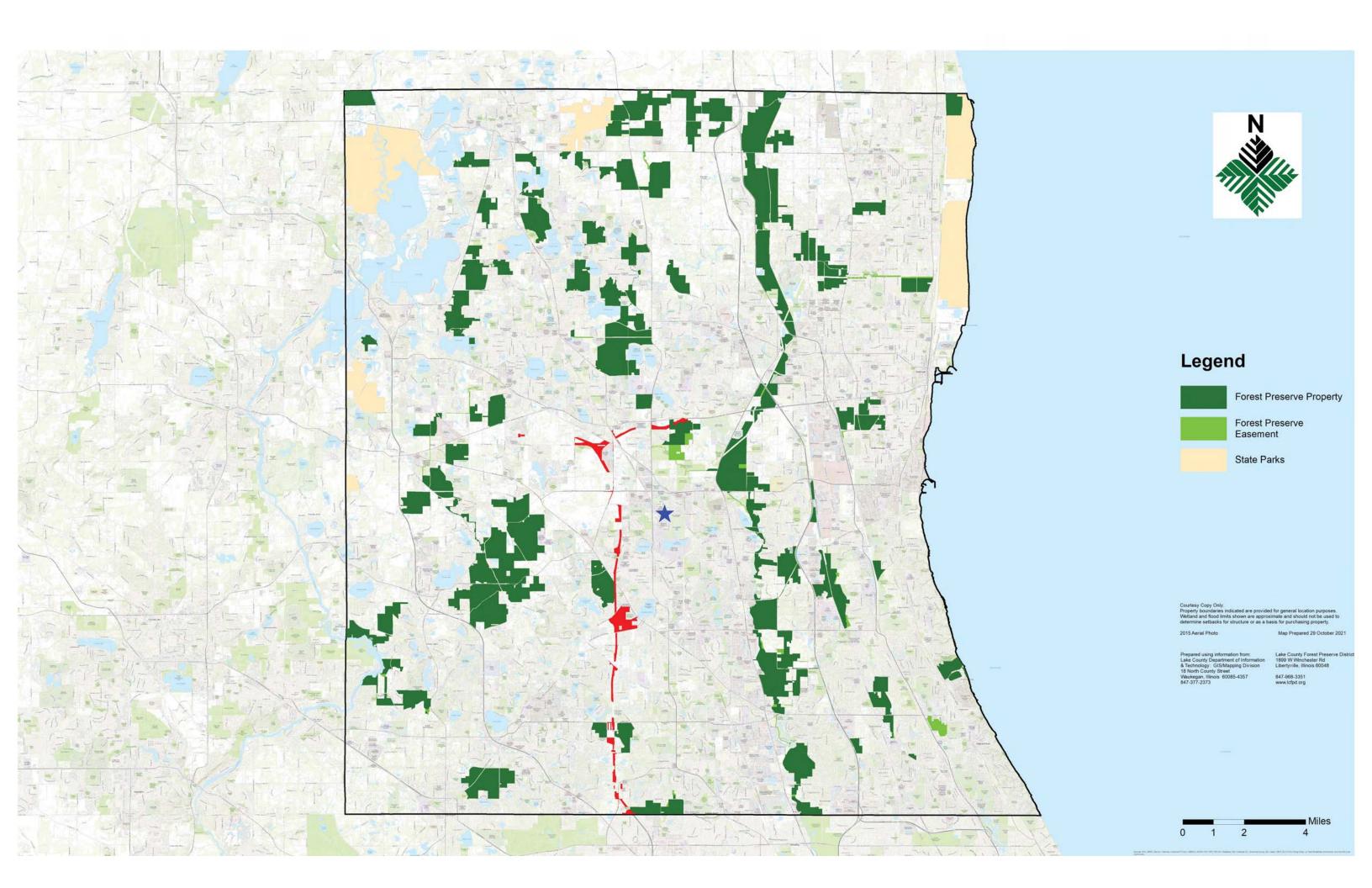
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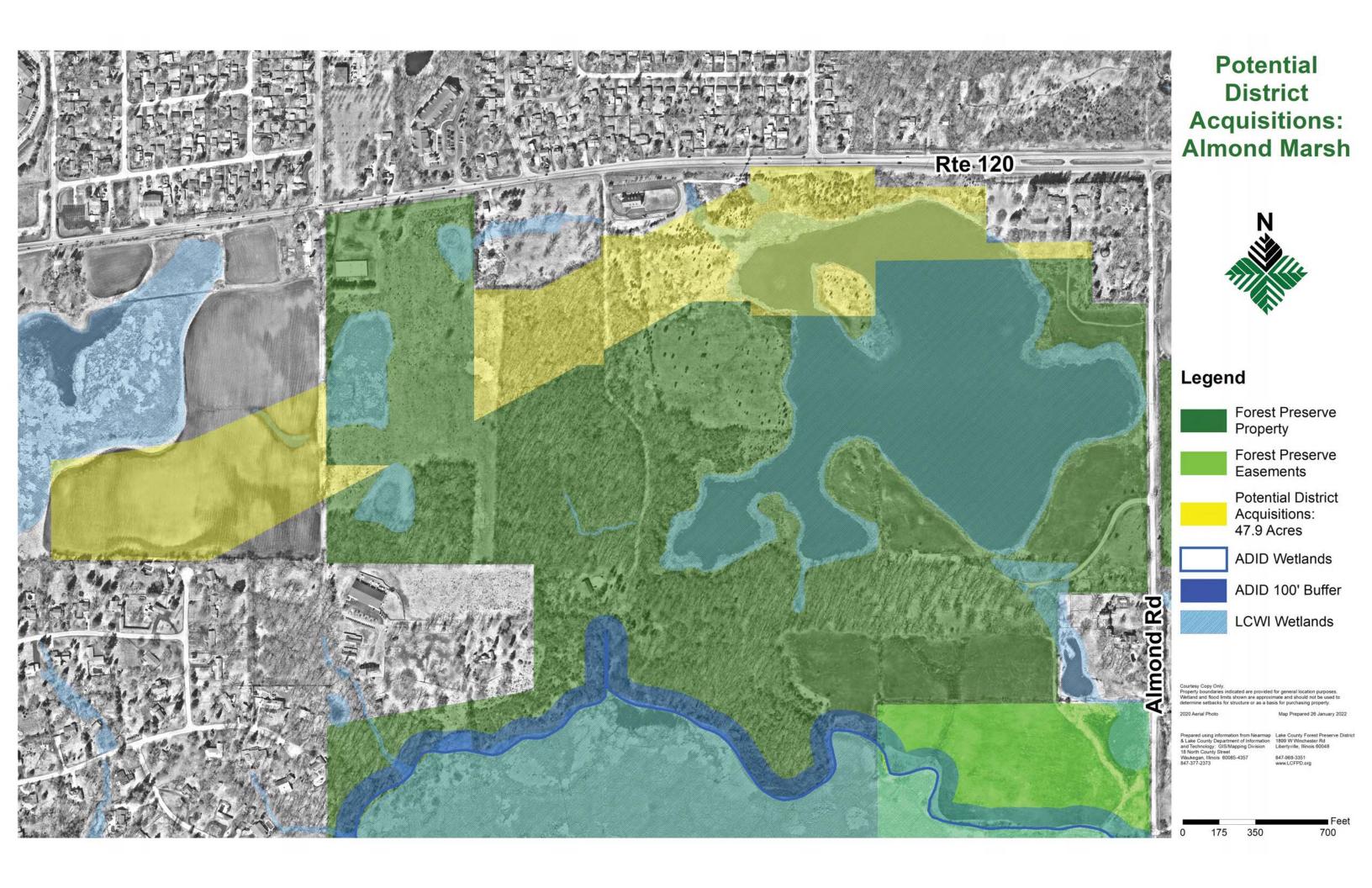
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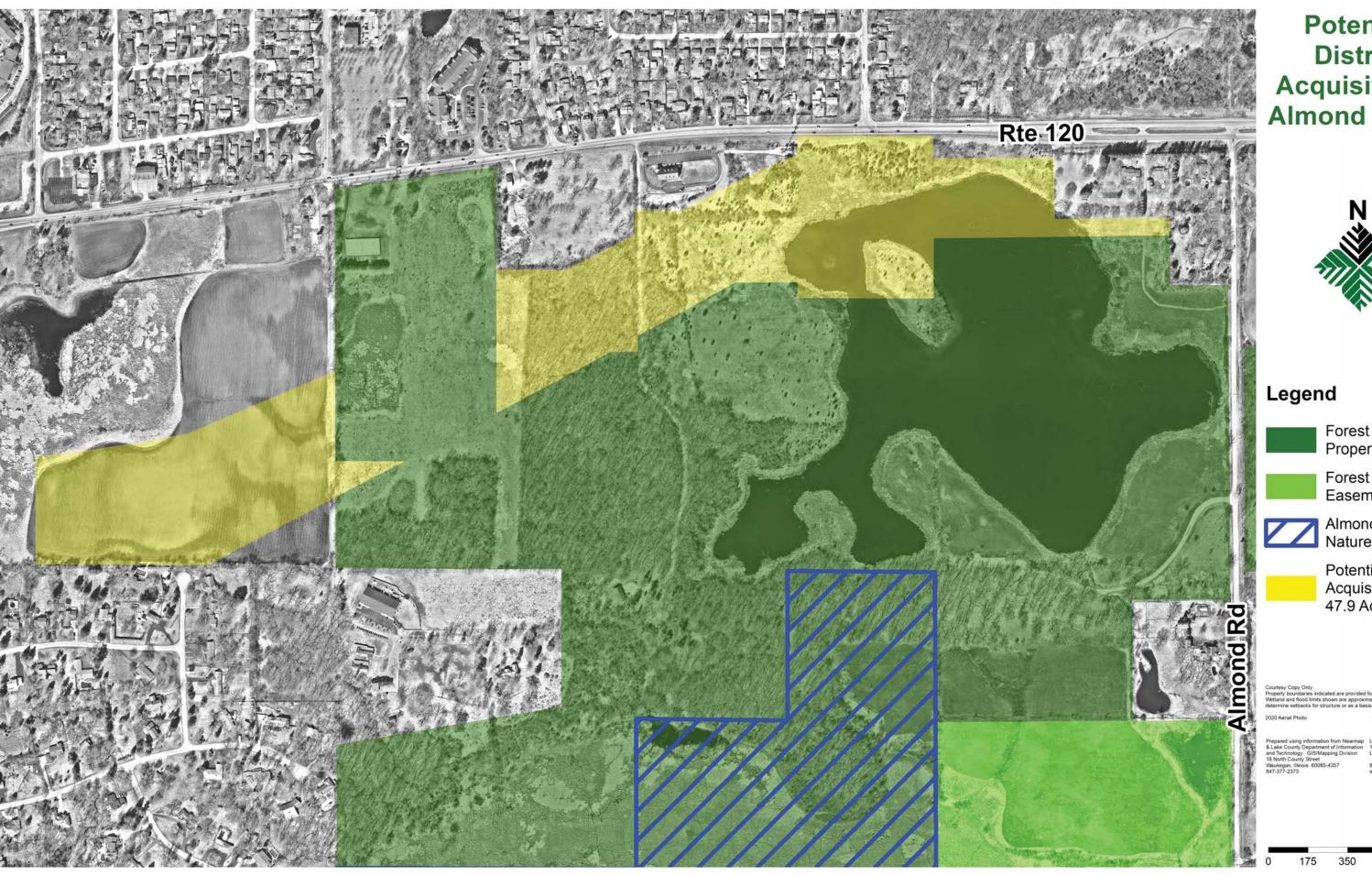
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Routes 53 & 120: State-Owned Property Bree Loch Mippersink Rte 120 Colf Club Rte 120 Marsh Rte 60 Peterson Rd Winchester Rd Ceneral Offices Ray & Dunn Museum Lake Rte 176 Rte 176 Hawley St Country slide Lekewood Club Rie 60 Widlothian Rdi Rte 60 / Townli Old McHenry Rd **Rte 22** Half Day Rd Egret <mark>II</mark> Marsh Quentin,Rd Heron **Creek** Rte 53 Cuba Marsh Buiitalo Creek Lake Cook Rd Forest Preserve Easement Casey Trail Waukegan, Illin 847-377-2373 Fort Hill Trail - Planned Fort Hill Trail Other Regional Trails Millennium Trail - Planned 0 1,050 2,100 Map Prepared 26 January 2022





Potential District Acquisitions: Almond Marsh



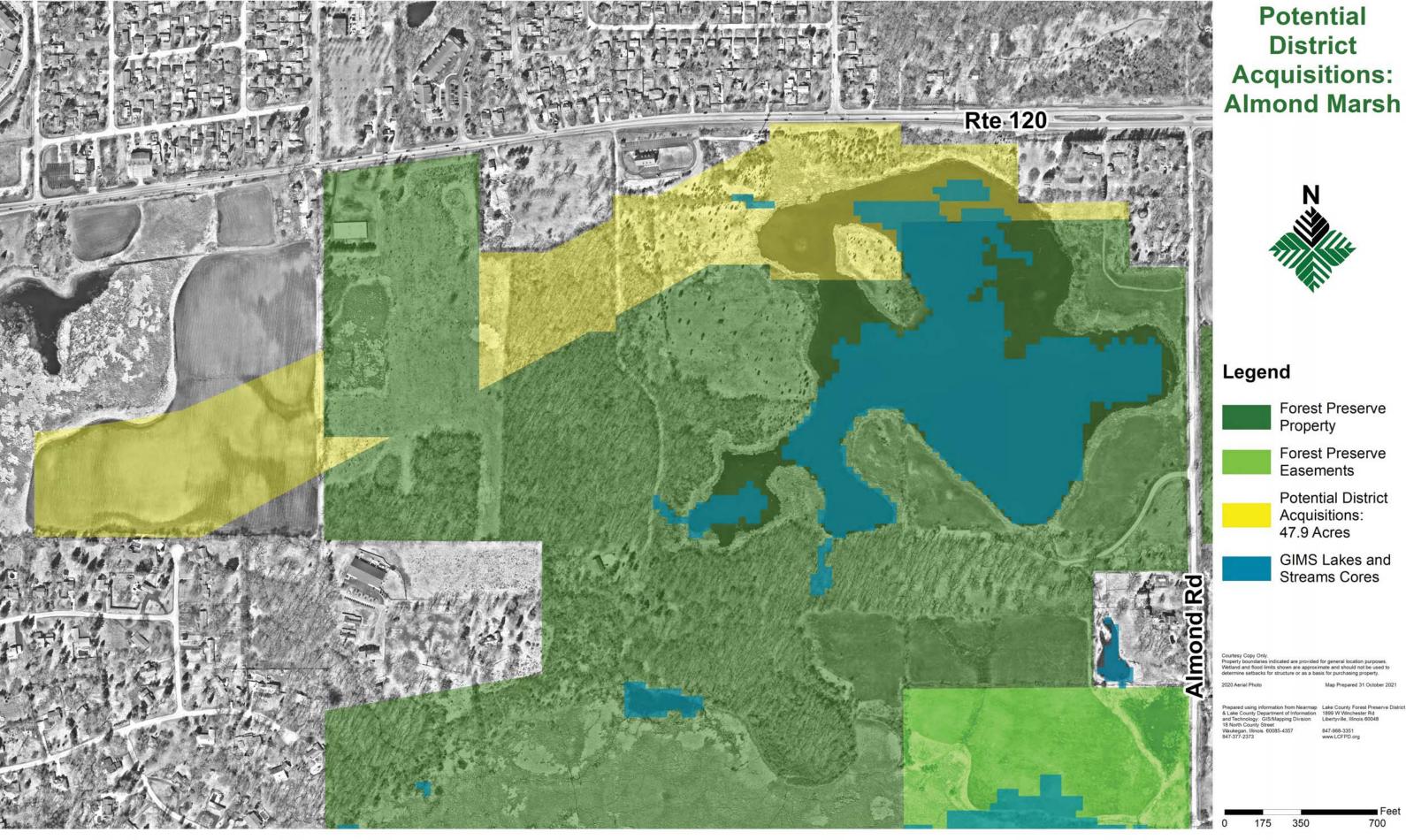
Forest Preserve Property

Forest Preserve Easements

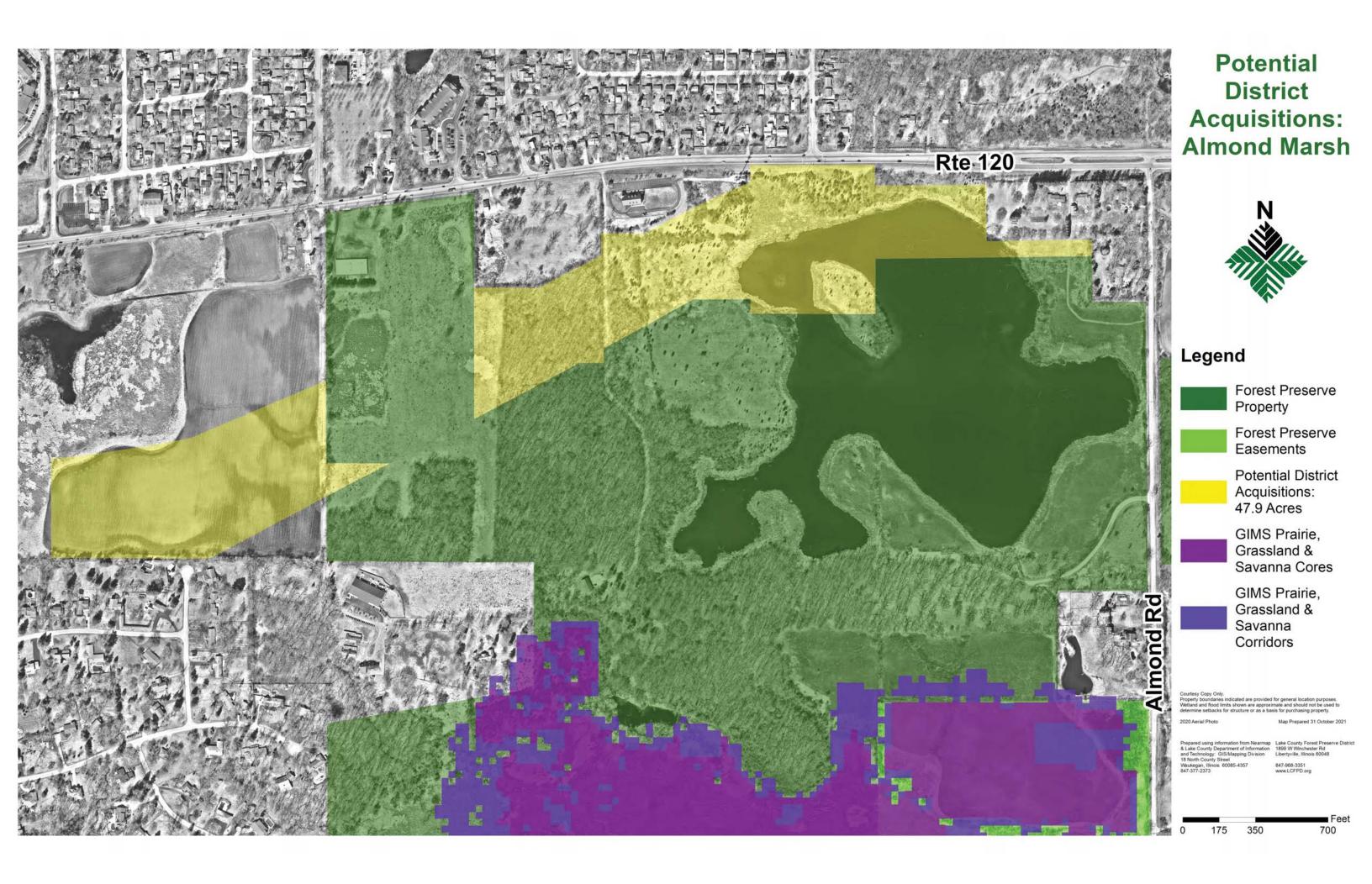
Almond Marsh Nature Preserve

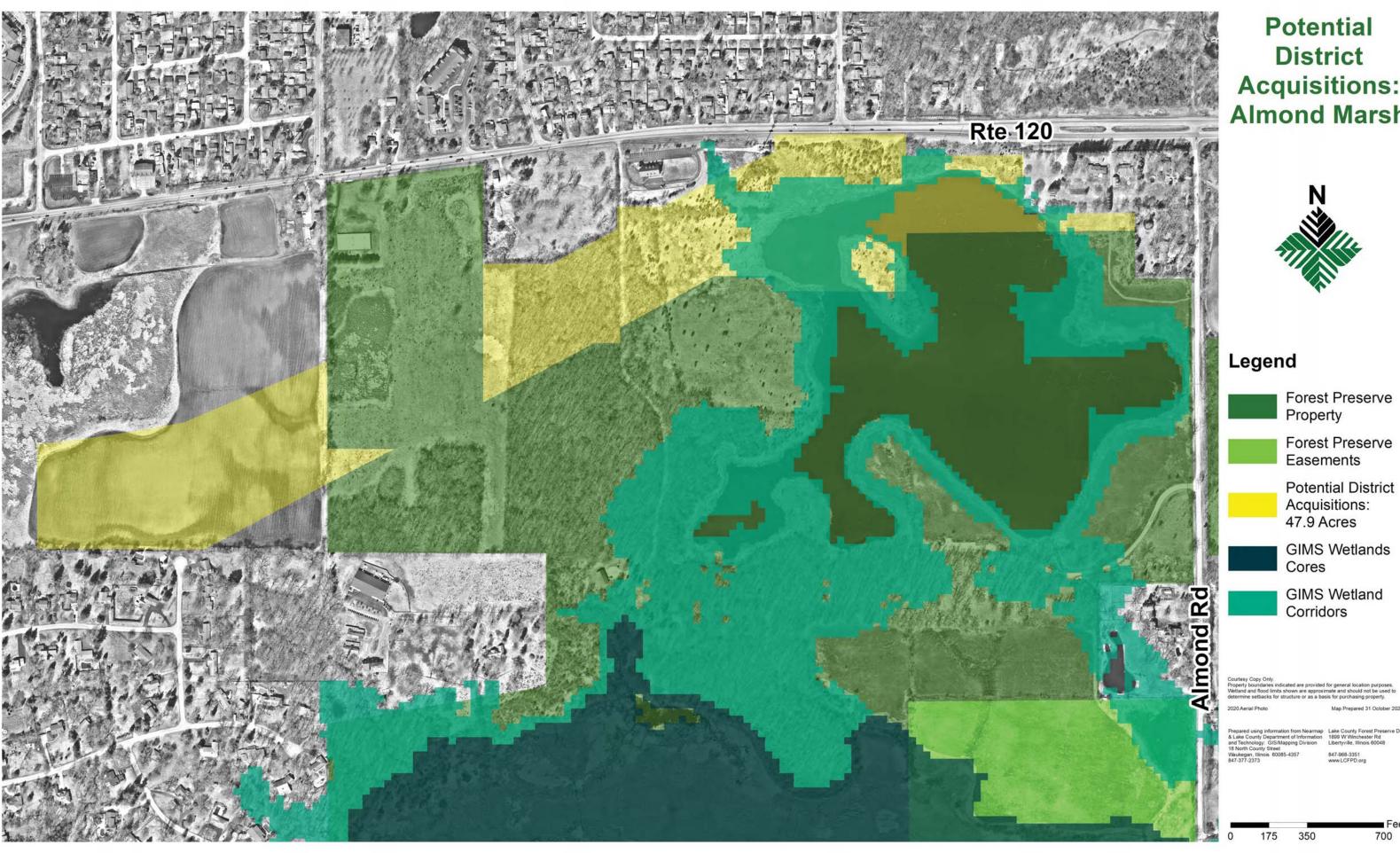
Potential District Acquisitions: 47.9 Acres





Acquisitions:





Potential District Acquisitions: Almond Marsh

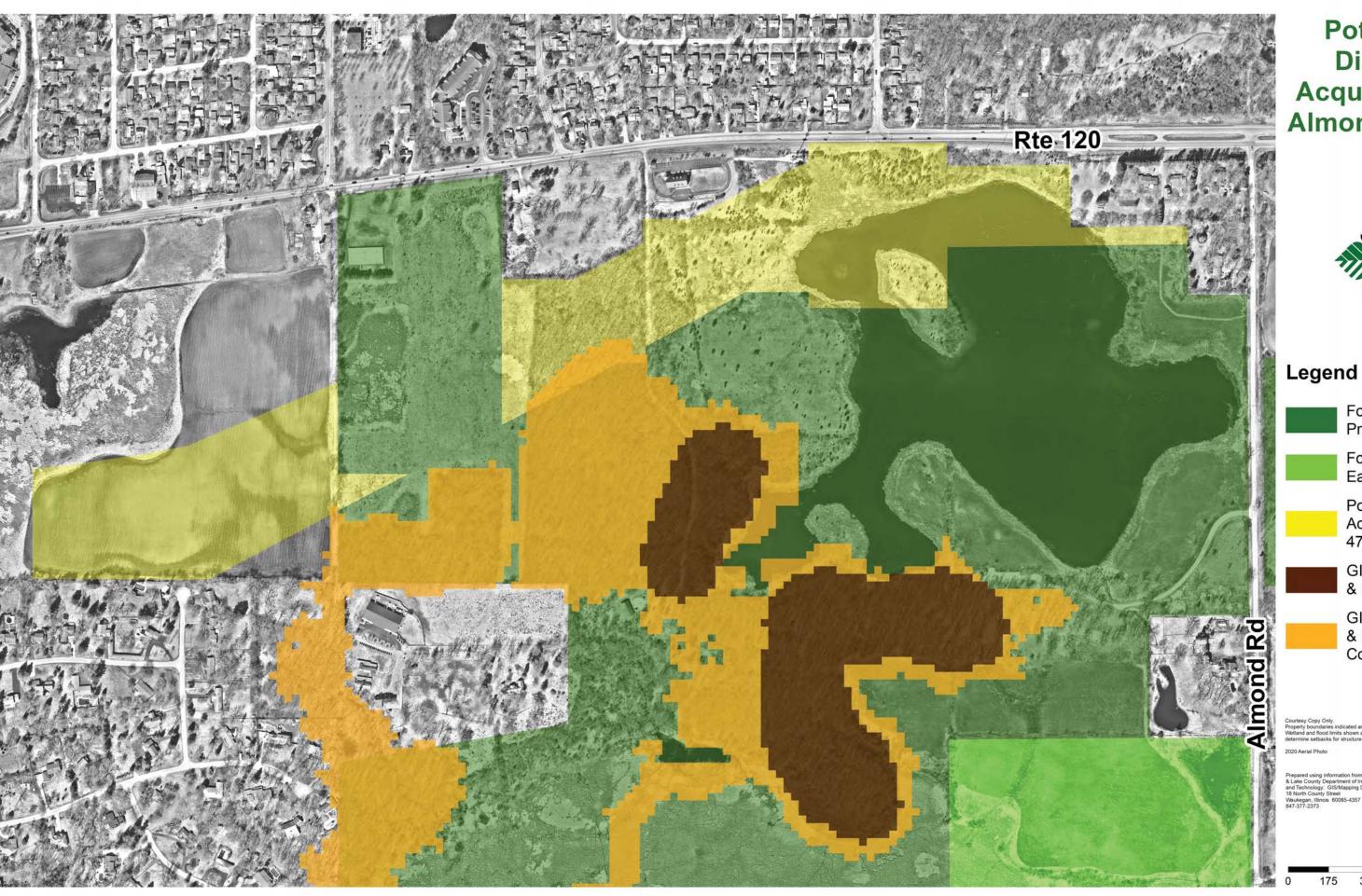


Forest Preserve Easements

Acquisitions: 47.9 Acres

GIMS Wetlands Cores

GIMS Wetland Corridors



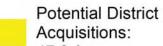
Potential District Acquisitions: Almond Marsh



Forest Preserve Property



Forest Preserve Easements

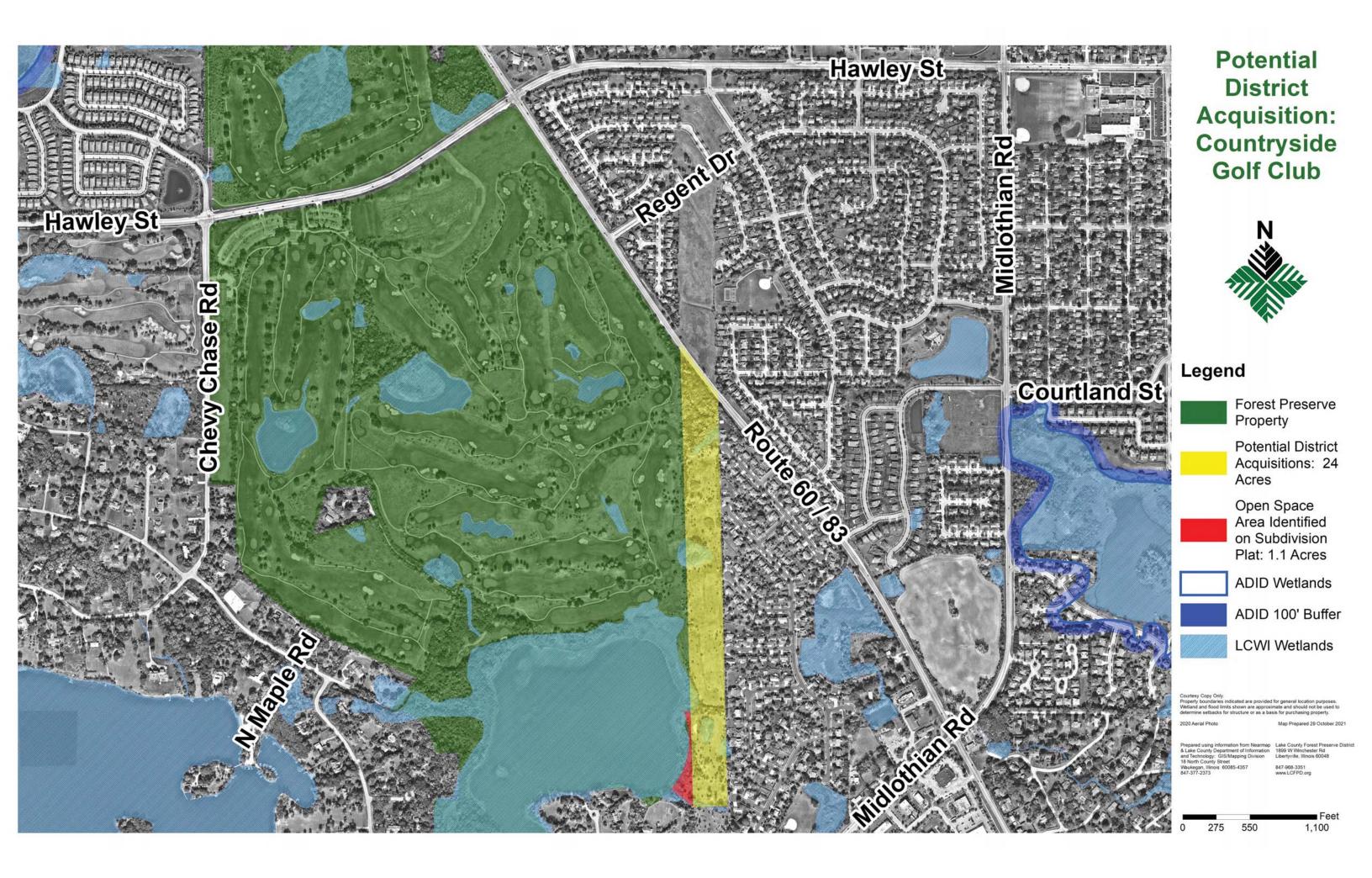


Acquisitions: 47.9 Acres

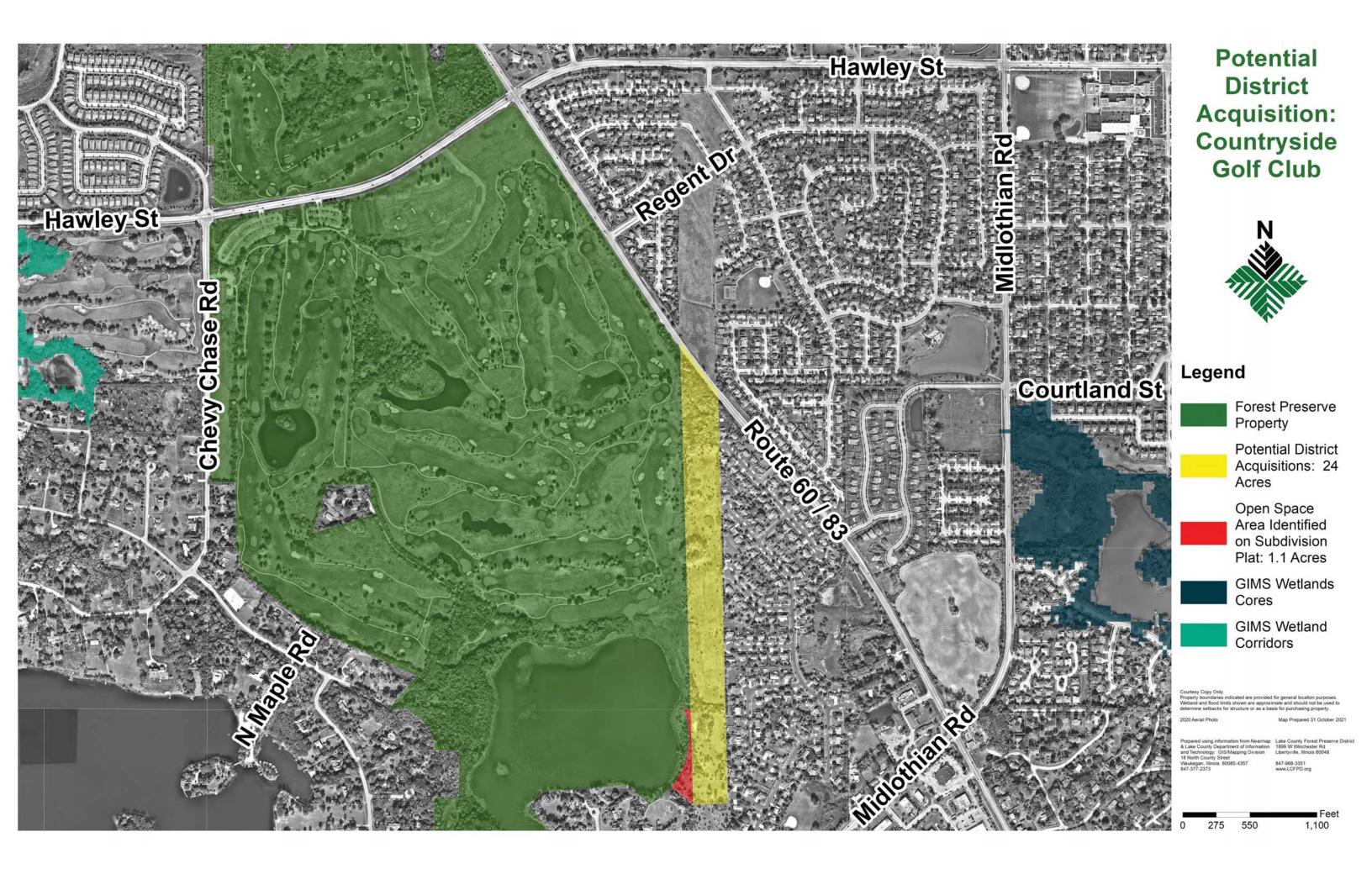


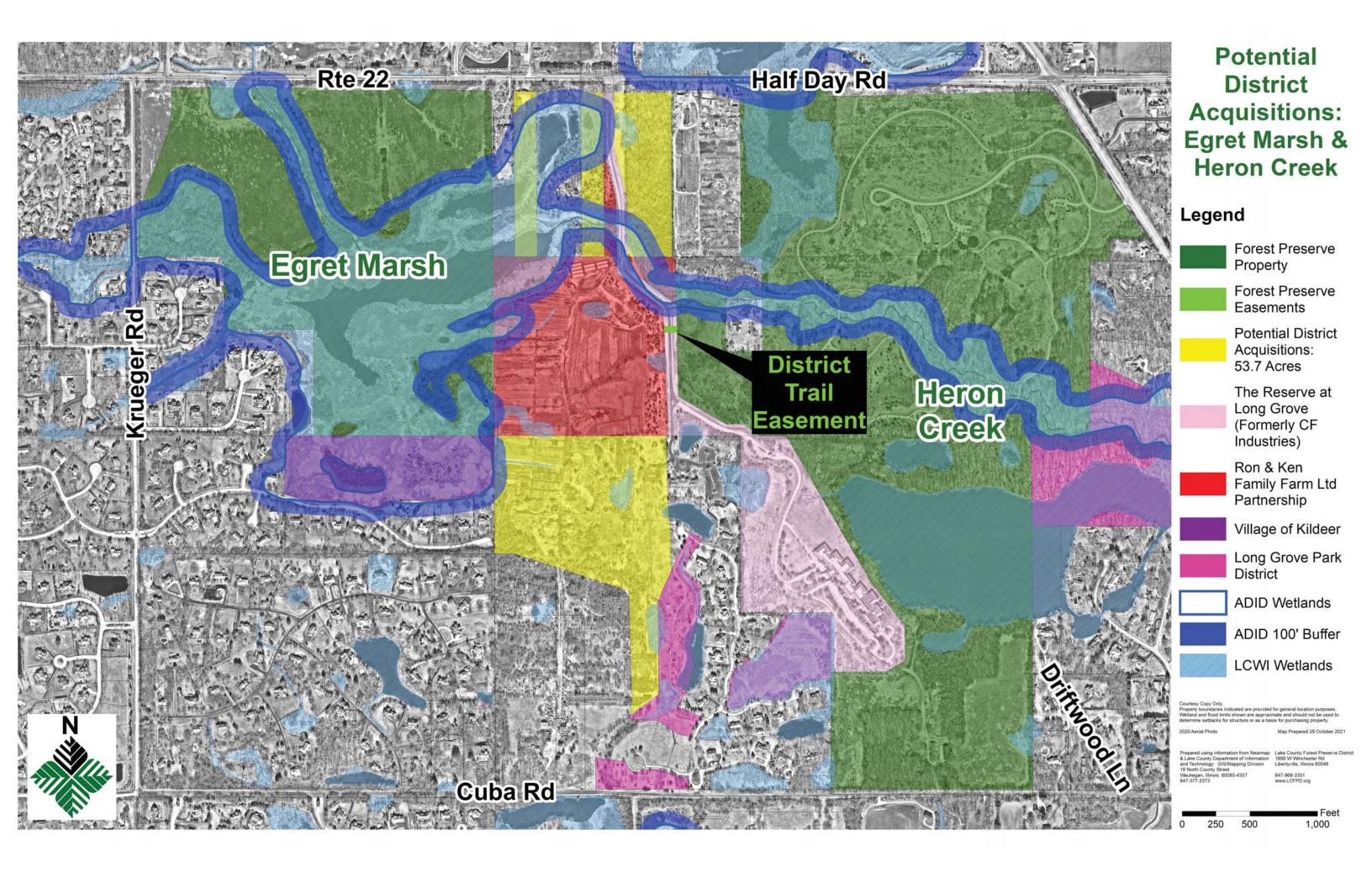
GIMS Woodland & Forest Cores

GIMS Woodland & Forest Corridors



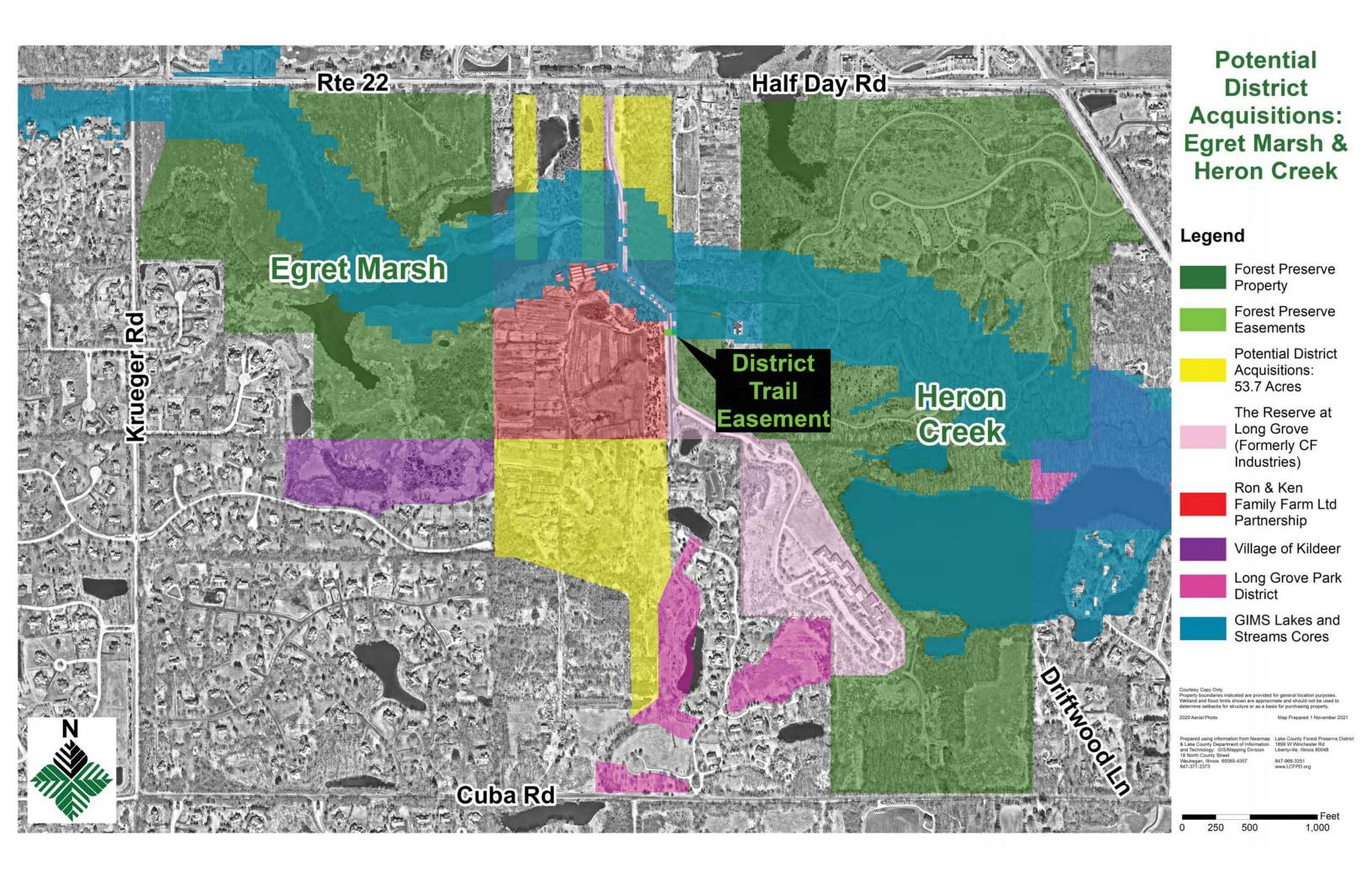






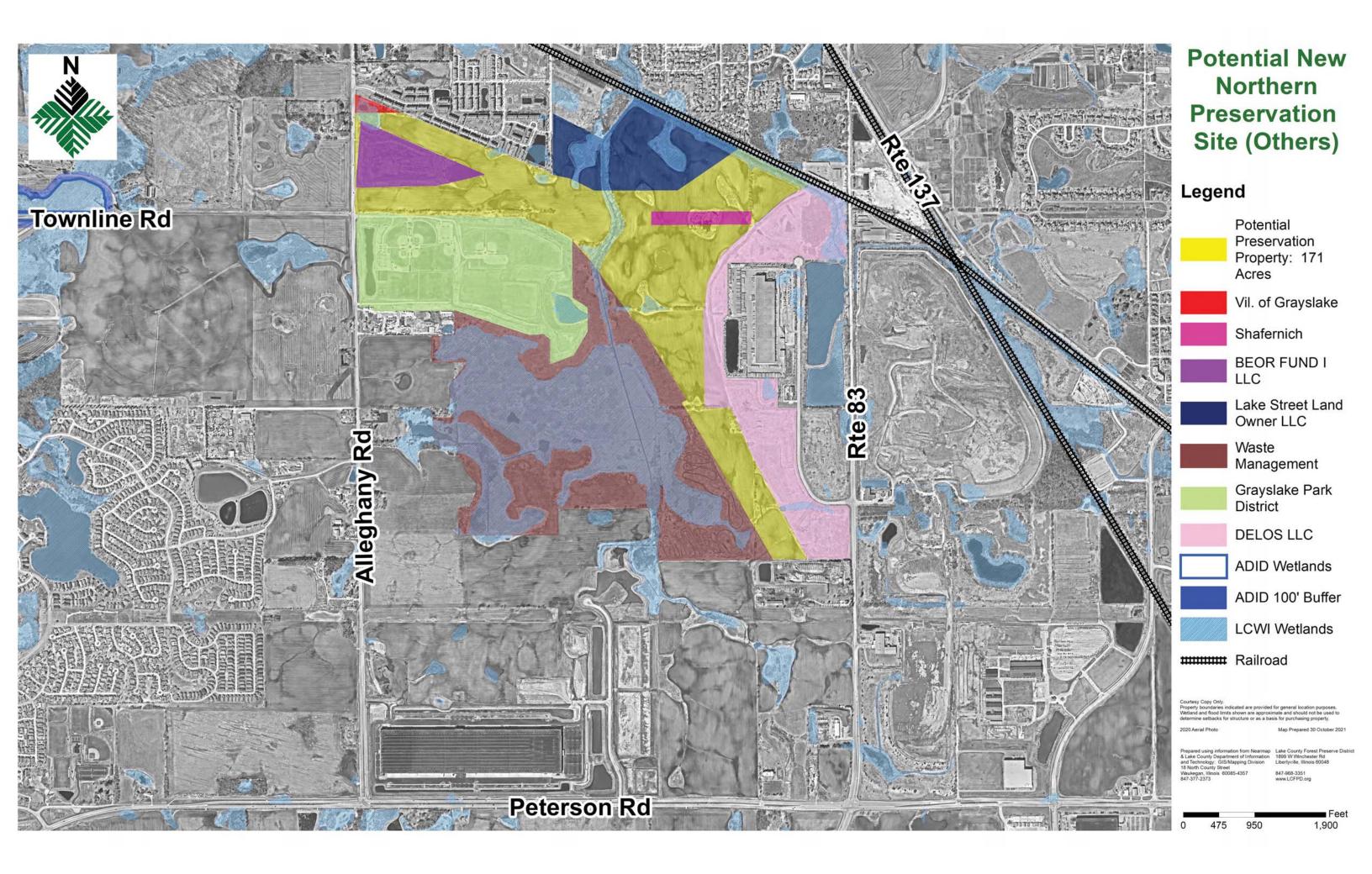


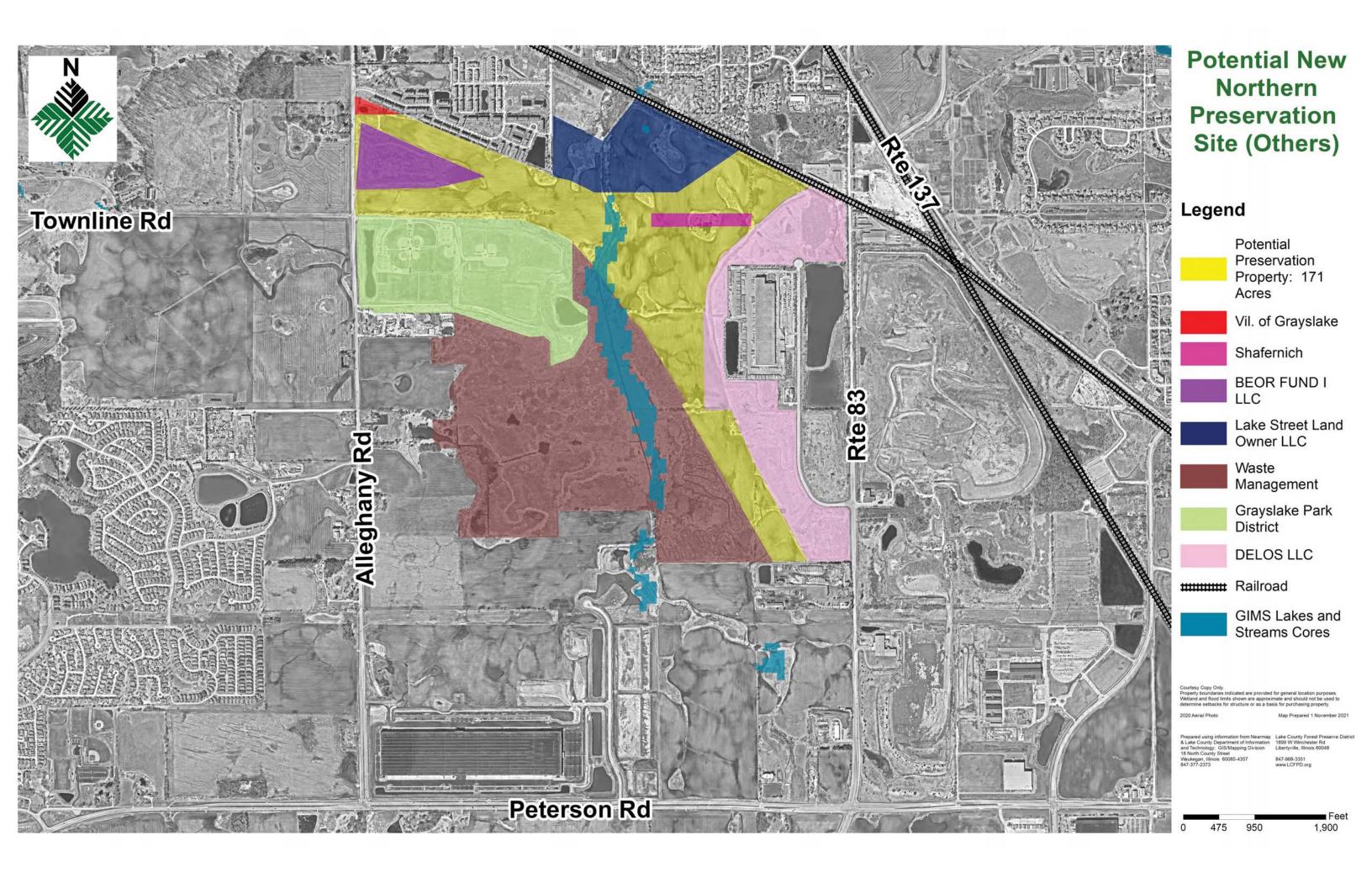


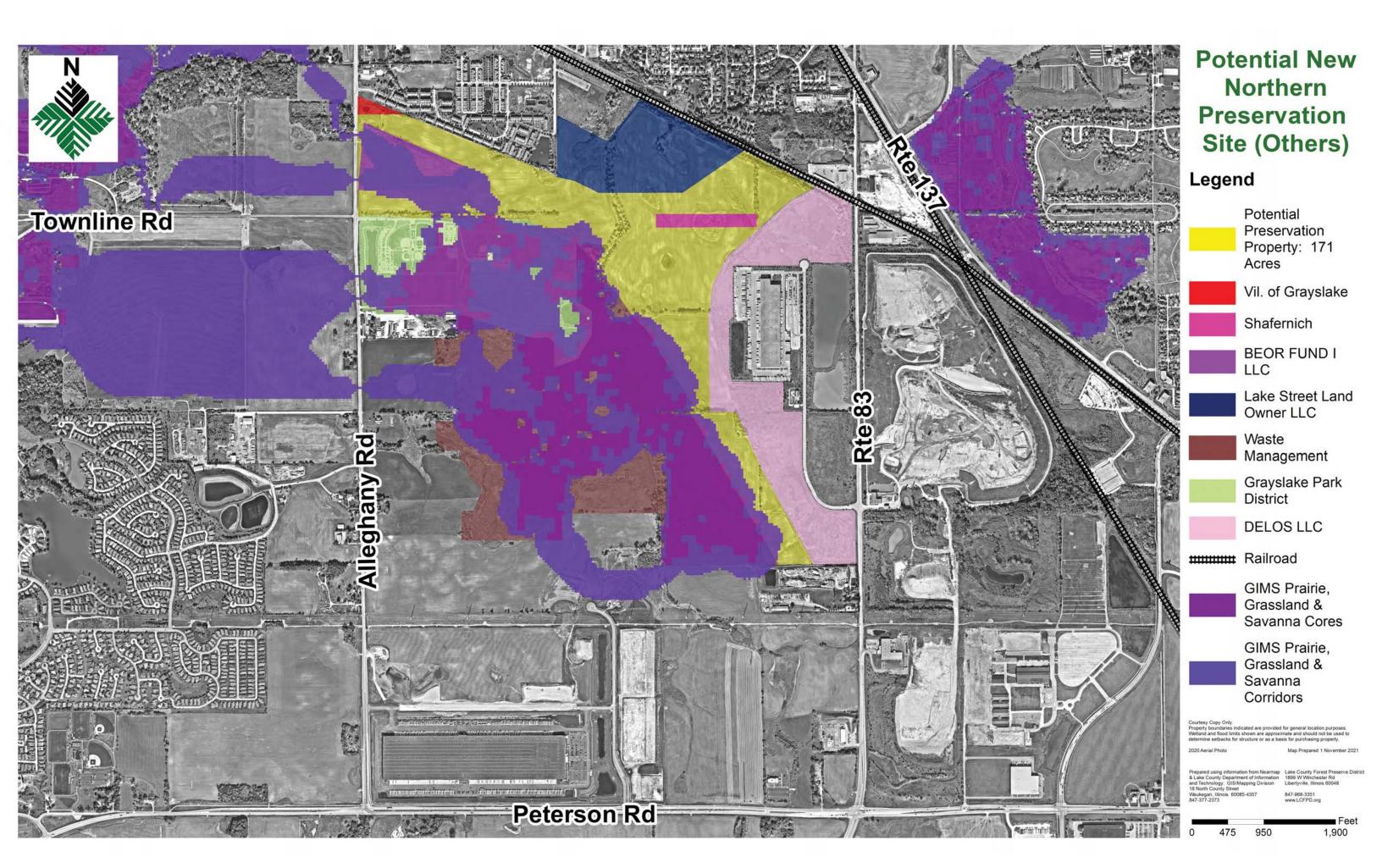


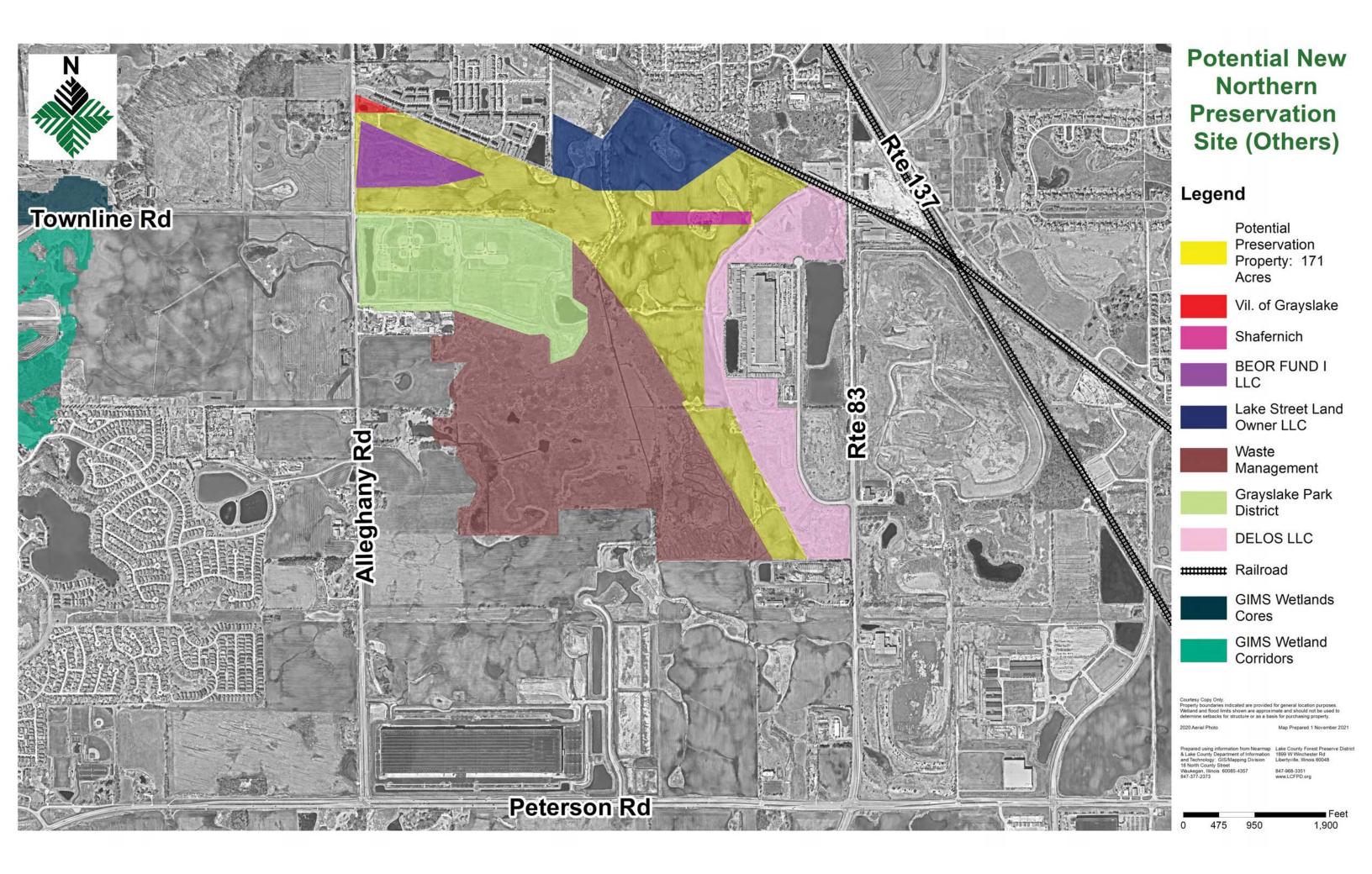


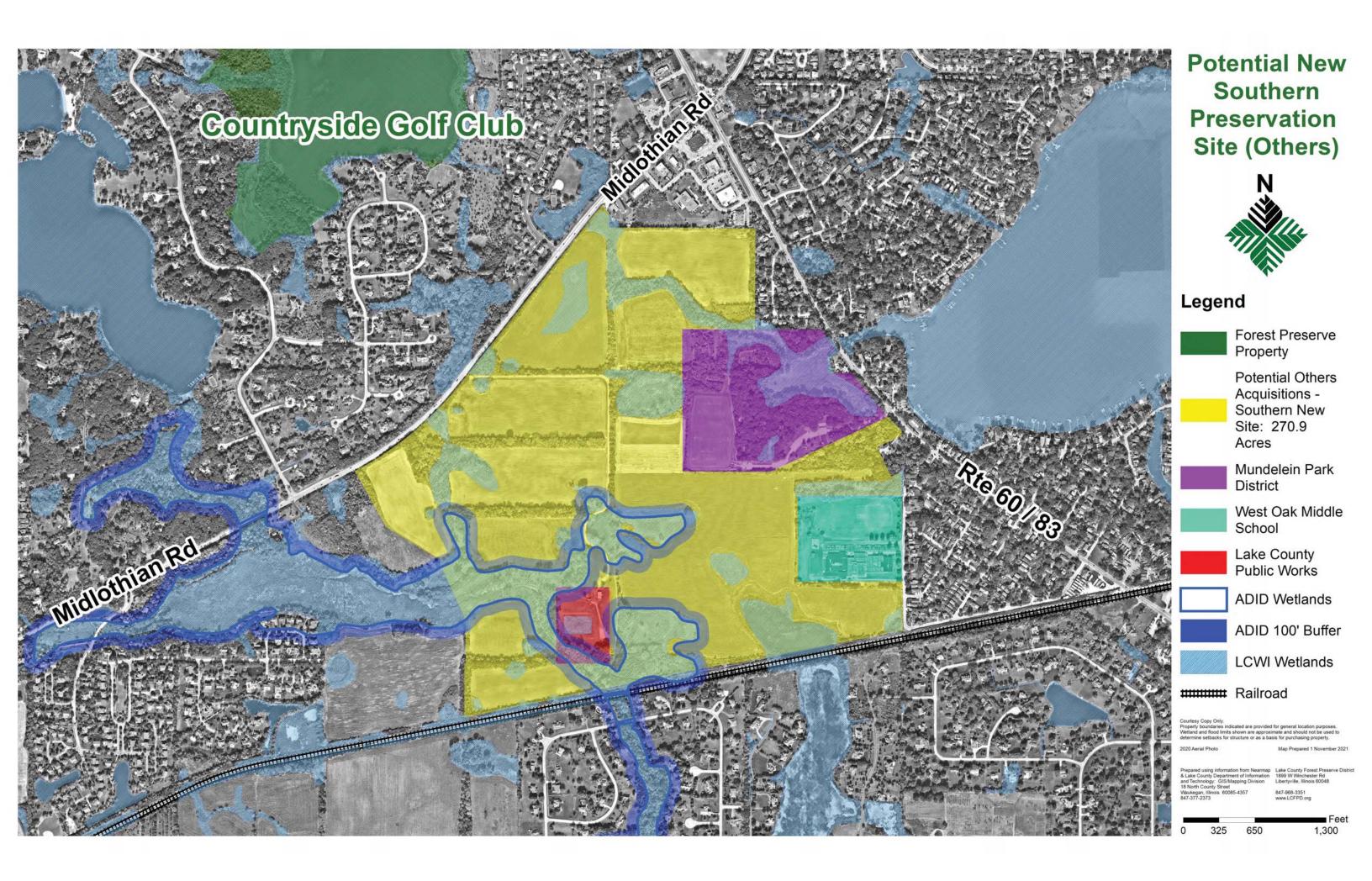


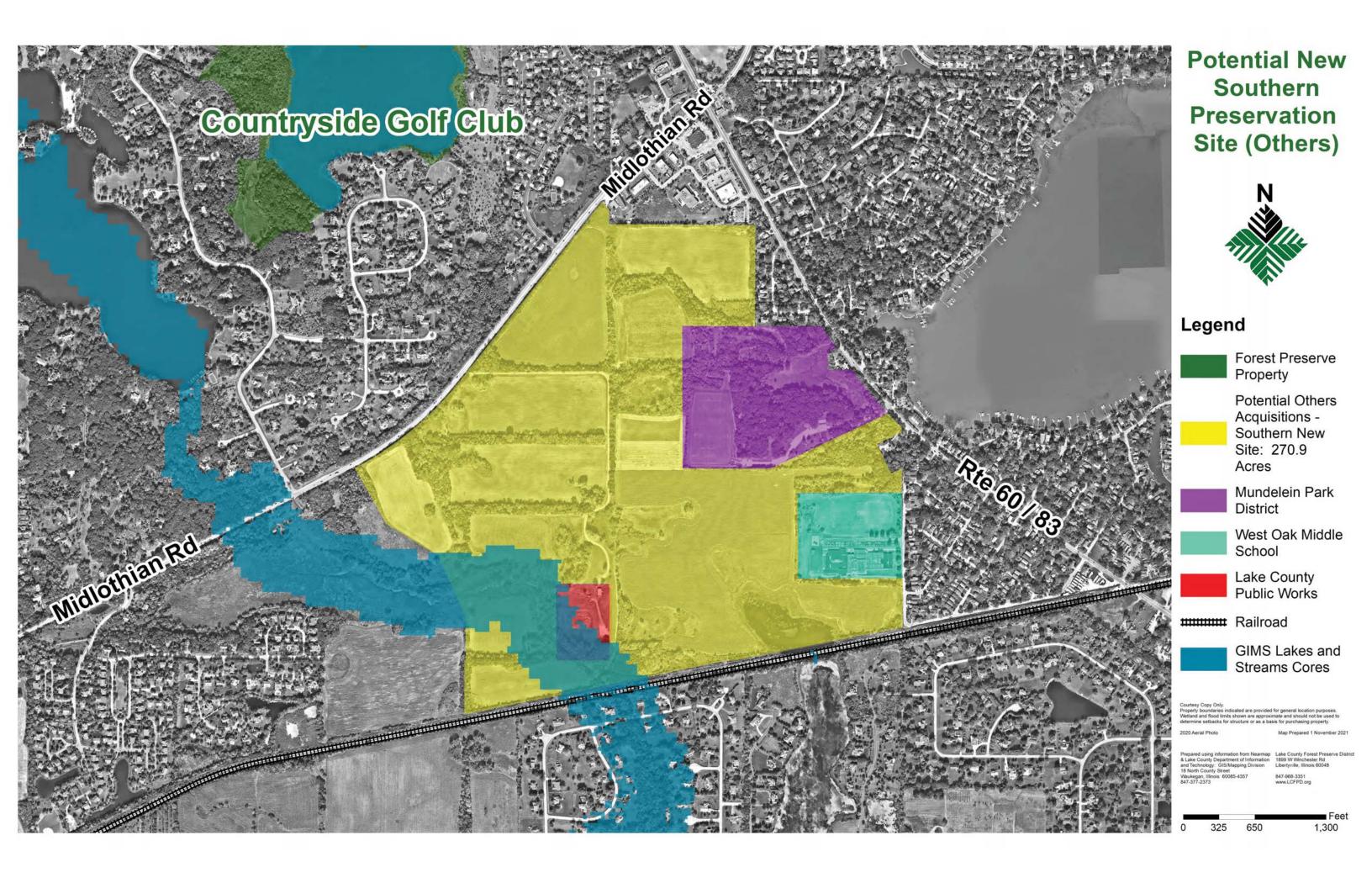


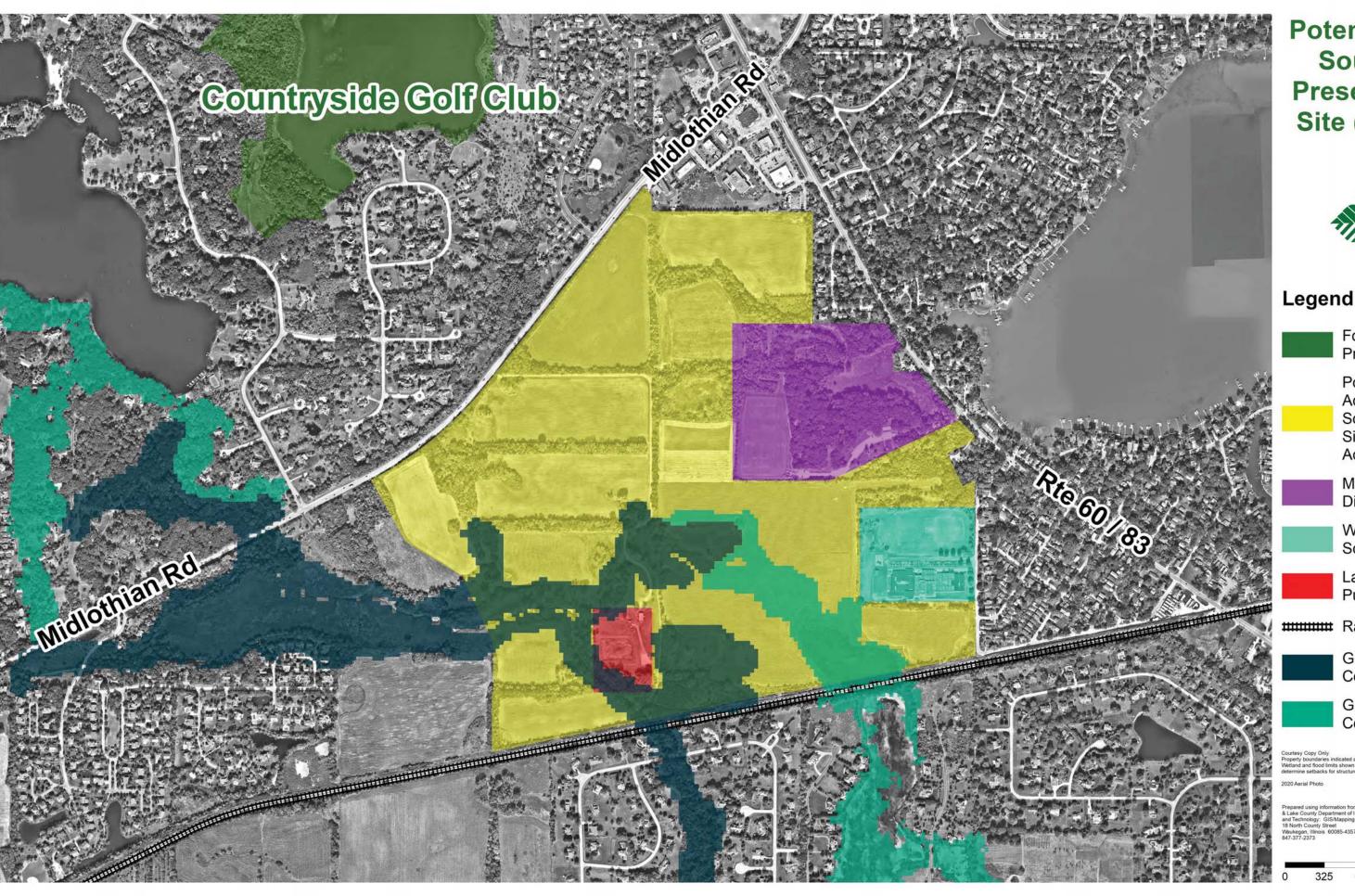












Potential New Southern **Preservation** Site (Others)



Forest Preserve Property

Potential Others Acquisitions -Southern New Site: 270.9 Acres



Mundelein Park District







