

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Protection of the City’s environmentally sensitive areas and related “rural feel” is of prime importance to Elko New Market residents. Environmentally sensitive features help define the “rural character” of the community and have, to some degree, attracted residents to the City. In addition to their aesthetic value, the elements which comprise Elko New Market’s natural environment serve important ecological functions and create boundaries that define the pattern of urban development.

Recognizing the value of its natural resources, the Plan is the assurance that continued expansion of urban development in Elko New Market will not result in natural resource degradation. It is therefore necessary, as part of this Comprehensive Plan Update, to give specific attention to the protection of these areas. The focus of environmental protection efforts within the City is trending towards the integration of natural environmental features within development projects.

LAKES AND RIVERS

Technically, there are no lakes within the City of Elko New Market. The largest Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protected water body in the City is located south of County Road 2 and east of County Road 91 (adjacent to the Elko Speedway). The water body, technically a DNR protected wetland, is routinely referred as “Lake Elko” by Elko New Market residents. Another large wetland complex exists, directly west of “Downtown Elko.” Also to be noted is that no DNR protected lakes exist within the either the City’s 2040 MUSA or ultimate urban service area boundaries.

Of primary importance in the consideration of the City’s natural features is the headwaters of the Vermillion River which emerge in New Market Township, just north of the City’s public works site. The City’s 2040 MUSA boundary borders the south side of the river for a distance of just over one mile. Lands bordering the south side of the headwaters are largely undeveloped.

While the Vermillion River is a designated trout stream further downstream (east of the City of Elko New Market), its headwaters provide passive recreational opportunities for the City. The City’s Park and Trail Plan directs the future establishment of a greenway/trail along the south side of the river. In addition to providing passive recreational opportunities, such greenway would also provide a natural buffer between urban development and the river to help protect its ecological function. Further, the greenway could provide an area for natural wildlife habitat and movement.

To manage development which occurs along the headwaters, consideration should be given to the adoption of Shoreland Overlay District regulations in advance of forthcoming urban development. Adoption of a Shoreland Overlay District is intended to maintain the natural character of the shoreline and protect the waterbody from overcrowding, pollution and flooding.



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Such Overlay District regulations should be consistent with Minnesota Statutes and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Rules. Figure 4.1 illustrates DNR Protected Waters and Wetlands.

WETLANDS

Wetlands serve important ecological functions in the City Elko New Market. These functions include the following:

- Provide critical wildlife habitat
- Allow for nutrient assimilation and ground water recharge
- Add aesthetic value

Wetlands are protected by the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991 (as amended) and the Clean Water Act, and implemented through the City's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. Elko New Market's efforts to protect, preserve and enhance wetlands within the community include requirements for establishment of buffers and increased building setbacks from wetlands and waterways (based upon wetland quality).

Figure 4.2 illustrates the possible location of wetlands protected under the Wetland Conservation Act and the Clean Water Act, lying within Elko New Market's existing City limits and 2040 MUSA boundary. The map depicts the 2013 National Wetland Inventory wetland boundaries which is widely used as a reference for possible location of wetlands that would be protected under the Wetland Conservation Act and Clean Water Act. It is noted that there may be additional wetlands that are protected under the Wetland Conservation Act and Clean Water Act that are not shown on this figure, and which would be identified at the time of development through a wetland delineation.

Recognizing the important function of wetlands, the City will continue to protect wetlands through the use of vegetative buffer requirements and requiring that wetlands be conveyed to the City during the development process.

FLOODPLAINS

Development in floodplain areas creates risks to public safety and expenses (resulting from property damage). To minimize these risks, the City of Elko New Market adopted regulations (as a Zoning Ordinance amendment) to direct allowed uses and establish development standards for such uses within floodplain areas. The City's Floodplain Overlay District regulations are consistent with the rules and regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program and are intended to regulate development in the flood hazard areas of the City as a means of minimizing the impact of flood events upon the City.



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According to the official Flood Hazard Boundary map issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), two areas of the City presently lie within the 100-year floodplain. These include a portion of Elko New Market's public works campus site which abuts the Vermillion River and a small area within the Whispering Creek North Addition located in the northwest corner of the City.

The City will continue to apply the regulations of the Floodplain Overlay District to manage the type of development allowed in floodplain areas. Figure 4.3 depicts the flood hazard boundaries identified by FEMA.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND EROSION CONTROL

Issues related to stormwater management and erosion control in the City of Elko New Market are addressed within the City's 2040 Surface Water Management Plan which is attached to this document as Appendix C, and implemented through the City's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

TOPOGRAPHY

Figure 4.4 illustrates the topography within and surrounding the City of Elko New Market and depicts areas of steep slopes. The Elko New Market area features fairly substantial changes in elevation from approximately 1014 to 1228 feet above sea level, which is the highest elevation in Scott County. There are areas of moderate and steep slopes scattered throughout the City and 2040 growth area. Slopes exceeding 18% may present development challenges and function best if allowed to exist in a natural state or exist with limitation on development.

SOILS

Figure 4.5 illustrates the basic condition of soils within the City of Elko New Market and 2040 growth area. While there are many ways to classify soils, one of the most critical for the purposes of land use planning is hydric versus non-hydric soils. According to the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, hydric soil is "soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part." Hydric soils typically are not as well-suited for development as non-hydric soils. As the map shows, there is a significant amount of hydric soils in portions of Elko New Market, particularly in large wetland areas.

According to the Scott County Soil Survey, the most common soil associations in the area are the Lester and Webster soil types. In 2012, the Lester association was proclaimed to be the "Official Minnesota State Soil" by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. Webster soils are nearly level and



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generally occupy upland flats. Like the Lester association, Webster soils are well-drained and suitable for urban development.

SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS

A part of the *Thrive MSP 2040* development guide, the Metropolitan Council directs Twin Cities Metropolitan Area cities to preserve and protect regionally significant natural resource areas. The City has identified the areas listed below to be of importance and to be considered during the development process and when assessing the effects of development on the natural environment.

Natural Area Corridors. With strong public support for protecting the county's woodlands, wetlands, habitat areas, and ground water, Scott County began a process in late 2006 to undertake a natural resource inventory and to ultimately identify Natural Area Corridors. Figure 4.6, which was published by Scott County, depicts areas with known sensitive species or communities, unique natural communities, and high and medium quality natural communities. Natural Area Corridors have been identified in the City's 2040 growth area, particularly on the northern portion of the City surrounding the Vermillion River.

Regionally Significant Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Areas. The DNR has prepared a map of Regionally Significant Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Areas, Figure 4.7. The DNR suggests additional field work be done to determine the existence of significant features in these areas. Within the City's 2040 growth area and existing City limits, there are areas considered regionally significant.

Metro Wildlife Corridor Focus Areas. Figure 4.8 depicts the Metro Wildlife Corridor Focus Areas, also mapped by the DNR. The focus areas shown on the map identify regionally significant upland and/or wetland habitat area and wildlife corridors that the DNR, along with public and private partners, endeavor to preserve. Through the Wildlife Corridor Program partners purchase conservation easements which allow them to restore, enhance, or maintain significant habitat areas.

The areas identified in Figures 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 are not intended to prohibit development. Rather, the intent is to guide development-related decisions. When a property within a mapped area is proposed for development, the City will evaluate the proposal alongside the following statements and make decisions accordingly:

- Determine if the property is within a mapped area;
- Identify what types of resources are present within the corridor;
- Identify the purpose of the corridor;
- Determine whether preservation of the resource(s) within the corridor is appropriate;
- Determine what levels of resource protection already exist for the area in question;
- Guide development such that the area is not impacted or impact is limited;



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Examples of implementation tools, to help in the preservation of mapped corridors, may include:

- Provide higher densities in exchange for preservation areas, through the use of PUD zoning;
- Developer dedicated conservation easements;
- Acquisition by location government (e.g. park dedication)
- Acquisition by conservation organizations

AGGREGATE

Metropolitan Council's *Thrive MSP 2040* regional development guide includes a policy which directs the conservation, restoration and protection of the region's natural resources to ensure availability, support public health, and maintain a high quality of life. Specifically, the Metropolitan Council considers aggregate (sand gravel and crushed rock) an important resource as it relates to the construction of regional transportation systems. The City of Elko New Market likewise recognizes that aggregate resources are of regional significance, particularly as it relates to the construction of regional transportation systems.

No "regionally significant" aggregate deposits exist in the Elko New Market area. Some smaller deposits do however, exist in isolated areas. Figure 4.9 depicts areas of aggregate deposits.

Recognizing that both the Metropolitan Council and City of Elko New Market consider aggregate to be a valued regional resource, the following policy statement has been incorporated into the Policy Plan chapter of this Plan:

1. *The City of Elko New Market shall identify locations of significant deposits of non-metallic minerals (sand, gravel and aggregate) and where appropriate, consider preservation and protection for future access and use as a regional resource.*

WATERSHEDS

Elko New Market is located within three watershed districts. The Vermillion River Watershed District encompasses the largest amount of land area of the three, stretching approximately two miles south of the Vermillion River. The Vermillion River Watershed District is the largest watershed in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The Sand Creek is the second largest watershed, overlaying land located in the extreme southwest corner of the City. The North Cannon Watershed overlays land generally located north of 270th Street and east of County Road 91 in the southeast area of the City. Watershed district boundaries are depicted on Figure 4.10. As developments are considered by the City, the City will continue to comply with individual watershed regulations.



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DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

Several of the natural features identified in this chapter, including but not limited to wetlands, flood plain areas, hydric soils, areas of steep slopes, and regionally significant ecological areas, will present constraints to future development in the 2040 growth area. Figure 4.11 illustrates these potential constraints to development. The boundaries on the map are a compilation of floodplain areas, DNR Protected Waters & Wetlands, National Wetland Inventory data areas, areas of steep slopes, and areas of hydric soils. It is noted that further review of these areas is required prior to development. This map is intended to provide a general overview of potentially constrained development areas.

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION / GREEN ACRES

The Metropolitan Agricultural Preserve Program was established to preserve areas of prime farmland. While there are no agricultural preserves within the City of Elko New Market or the 2040 growth area, it is recognized that there are many active farming operations. Several properties surrounding the City limits are enrolled in the Green Acres Program, which provides property tax relief for the owners of productive agricultural property. The City of Elko New Market supports the preservation of prime farmland by:

- Pursuing a growth plan that emphasizes compact and contiguous growth patterns
- Encourages 1 unit per 40 acre densities in rural areas

GROUNDWATER

Elko New Market draws its groundwater from the Prairie Du Chien - Jordan aquifer. Groundwater quality is thought to be generally good; however the City does treat for iron, manganese, and radium. Groundwater in the area is considered to be free from contamination; however the Minnesota Pollution control Agency reports seven confirmed instances of leaking underground storage tanks within the City dating back to 1989. All files on the sites have been closed as of the drafting of this Plan. The sites are identified in the following table:

Table 4- 1

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Tank Leak Sites		
ID	Site Name	Address
LS0001616	New Market Oil (bulk Plant)	341 Main St PO Box 38
LS0001796	Maynards Auto Service	10881 E 260th St
LS0004619	Home Oil Co	320 Main St
LS0004929	Mn Department Of Transportation	I35 N of Elko
LS0015935	G & T Trucking	11111 Deuce Rd Ste 5
LS0016832	G and T Trucking Co	11111 Deuce Rd Ste 5
LS0018629	Waconia Transport Co Tanker Spill	Main St & Balte Ave
Source: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (2019)		

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The City of Elko New Market has only one structure which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, that being the New Market Hotel and Store located at 441 Main Street.

In addition, the St. Nicolas Cemetery located within the St. Nicolas Church campus site (south of County Road 2 and east of Church Street) is also considered historically significant.

The City of Elko New Market is committed to the preservation of its history. As opportunities arise and funding is available, the City will take appropriate steps to ensure preservation.

AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION

Primary sources of air pollution within the City of Elko New Market are projected to be the high-volume streets which intersect and/or border the City. Within the 2040 planning period, these are anticipated to be County Roads 2 and 91 and Interstate 35.

Recognizing that residential uses currently abut such transportation corridors and will continue to do so in the future, buffer strips, including landscaping, berming and/or fencing should be established wherever possible (to mitigate adverse impacts). In addition, vehicular circulation associated with commercial and industrial uses should be discouraged, and in some cases prohibited, from using local residential streets.

The City is presently lacking in any significant industrial use sites. Recognizing however, that areas of the City are guided for such uses, assurances should be put in place which ensure that

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incompatible land use relationships will be minimized (via land use planning) and that thoughtful site designs are implemented (via site plan review efforts).

Further, new commercial and industrial developments (including expansions) should comply with existing State and Federal pollution emission standards. In this regard, environmental assessments should be conducted for new projects when required by State Rules.

While it is acknowledged that the Elko Speedway is a well-known source of noise within the community, parameters have been established to minimize adverse impacts. These include compliance with applicable Minnesota Pollution Control Agency standards and maximum dBA limits placed upon noise events (related to time of day) as measured from site property lines. Such standards have been imposed as conditions of past development approvals.

LIGHT POLLUTION

A common result of on-going urban development within cities are additional light sources which illuminate streets, intersections, yards, parks, parking lots, business signs, etc. The growing number of light sources within the cities results in increased levels of light being directed or reflected skyward that can obscure the dark rural skyline.

To minimize the effects of light pollution, the City should consider the adoption of comprehensive lighting standards to ensure appropriate levels of night time illumination (that are controlled in intensity and direction to preserve the dark sky). Such standards could be applied to both new developments and the redevelopment of existing uses within the City.

SOLID WASTE

The City of Elko New Market's 2040 MUSA and ultimate urban service area boundaries encompass a large area of undeveloped land. In recognition of the City's proximity to the Twin Cities urban area, the possibility exists that lands slated for long-term urbanization could be viewed as an attractive location for a solid waste facility at some future point.

Presently, lands which lie outside of the City's municipal boundaries are subject to Scott County and/or Township zoning regulation. With this in mind and recognizing the regional significance of such a use, consideration of a solid waste facility proposal within the Elko New Market's ultimate urban service area boundary should be a collaborative review effort which minimally involves appropriate State agencies, Scott County, impacted Townships and the City.

While Elko New Market remains open to any potential development proposal, this type of land use has historically been discouraged due to inherent conflicts with the type and rate of anticipated City urbanization. In responding to a development request, waste disposal facilities



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would not be allowed unless it is clearly demonstrated that such an activity can exist in harmony with both the natural environment as well as existing and anticipated urban land uses. In this regard, the following would be considered as part of a development request for such use:

- A comprehensive evaluation of potential environmental impacts.
- The proposed location, operation and long term use of the facility.
- The methods of collection, transportation, processing, and disposal.
- Potential for eventual reclamation and reuse of the site.

RESILIENCE

The Metropolitan Council's *Thrive MSP 2040* regional development guide encourages planning for climate change as part of the update of Twin Cities Metropolitan Area comprehensive plans. In this regard, cities must integrate strategies into their 2040 plans to be more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

Of specific concern is the impact which extreme weather events may have upon public facilities and the higher costs of providing services. Thus, there is growing need to not only plan for these events, but to also reduce the impacts through conscious climate adaptation and resilience planning.

With the preceding objectives in mind, the following efforts have been made by the City of Elko New Market:

Back-Up Power Systems. Within the City's sanitary sewer and water supply plans, efforts are being made toward addressing the impacts of severe weather. To minimize the risk of sewage backup in the event of electricity failure, such plans specify that new lift stations and wells should include standby power generators. Such a back-up system presently exists at the City's new water treatment plant which became operational in 2016, and the City is currently planning for stand-by generators at all City sanitary sewer lift stations.

Facility and Equipment Upgrades. In 2015, the Elko New Market Public Works Department moved into a new public works facility. Such facility (and additional floor area) enabled heavy equipment to be added to the City's fleet which is stored and maintained indoors. Such additional equipment enables a more expeditious response to damage resulting from extreme weather events. Specifically, streets (emergency travel routes) may be cleared of downed trees, debris and/or snow in a prompt manner.

Stormwater Storage. The City of Elko New Market recognizes that changing rainfall patterns may require additional storm water management capacity. Acknowledging such risks, the City has adopted stormwater rules that are implemented through the City's



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Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances that promote retention of rainfall on-site in a manner which mimics pre-development conditions.

Further, City requirements for developers to construct rear-yard stormwater drainage facilities reduce the incentive for residents to make illegal sump pump connections to the sanitary sewer system. This requirement reduces inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system, and in turn, reduces the financial costs associated with the transportation and treatment of water that is not technically “wastewater.”

GreenStep Cities Program. In 2013, the City of Elko New Market joined the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. The GreenStep Cities program is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program which is intended to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. This free, continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership, is based upon several best practice categories (29 in total) as reiterated below:

Buildings and Lighting:

Efficient Existing Public Buildings: *Benchmark energy usage, identify savings opportunities in consultation with state programs, utilities and others to implement cost-effective energy and sustainability improvements.*

Efficient Existing Private Buildings: *Provide incentives for energy, water and sustainability improvements in existing buildings/building sites.*

New Green Buildings: *Construct new buildings to meet or qualify under a green building framework.*

Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals: *Improve the efficiency and quality of street lighting, traffic signals and outdoor public lighting.*

Building Redevelopment: *Create economic and regulatory incentives for redeveloping and repurposing existing buildings before building new.*

Land Use:

Comprehensive Plans: *Build public support and legal validity to long-term infrastructural and regulatory strategy.*

Efficient City Growth: *Promote financial and environmental sustainability by enabling and encouraging walkable housing and commercial land use.*

Mixed Uses: *Develop efficient and healthy land patterns that generate community wealth.*



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Efficient Highway- and Auto-Oriented Development: Adopt commercial development and design standards for auto-oriented development corridors and clusters.

Design for Natural Resource Conservation: Adopt development ordinances or processes that protect natural systems and valued community assets.

Transportation:

Living Streets: Create a network of green complete streets that improves city quality of life and adds value to surrounding properties.

Mobility Options: Promote active transportation and alternatives to single-occupancy car travel.

Efficient City Fleets: Implement a city fleet investment, operations and maintenance plan.

Demand-Side Travel Planning: Implement Travel Demand Management and Transit-Oriented Design in service of a more walkable city.

Environmental Management:

Sustainable Purchasing: Adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies and practices.

Urban Forests: Add city tree and plant cover that increases community health, wealth and quality of life.

Stormwater Management: Minimize the volume of and pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Parks and Trails: Support active lifestyles and property values by enhancing the city's green infrastructure.

Surface Water Quality: Improve local water bodies.

Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems: Assess and improve city drinking water and wastewater systems and related facilities.

Septic Systems: Implement an effective management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.

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Solid Waste Reduction: Increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

Local Air Quality: Prevent generation of local air contaminants.

Economic and Community Development:

Benchmarks & Community Engagement: Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns.

Green Business Development: Support expansion of the city's green business sector.

Renewable Energy: Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.

Local Food: Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.

Business Synergies: Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.

Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience: Plan and prepare for extreme weather, adapt to changing climatic conditions, and foster stronger community connectedness and social and economic vitality.

As a current participant in the GreenStep Cities program, the City of Elko New Market will continue to work toward implementation of the preceding practices, as may be applicable.

Solar Access Protection. It is important to the City of Elko New Market that all properties have adequate access to sunlight. In this regard, solar access protection is considered a priority not only for solar energy systems but for the protection of property and aesthetic values as well.

Protection of solar access to properties will continue to be ensured by the City of Elko New Market via the uniform implementation of lot and building performance standards as established in the City's Zoning Ordinance. Requirements such as maximum building height and yard setback standards exist to create separation between structures and allow equal sunlight access such that a property is not in the shadow of an adjacent building.

Solar energy systems are a permitted accessory use in all zoning districts within the City. A specific set of performance standards applicable to solar systems is currently in place.

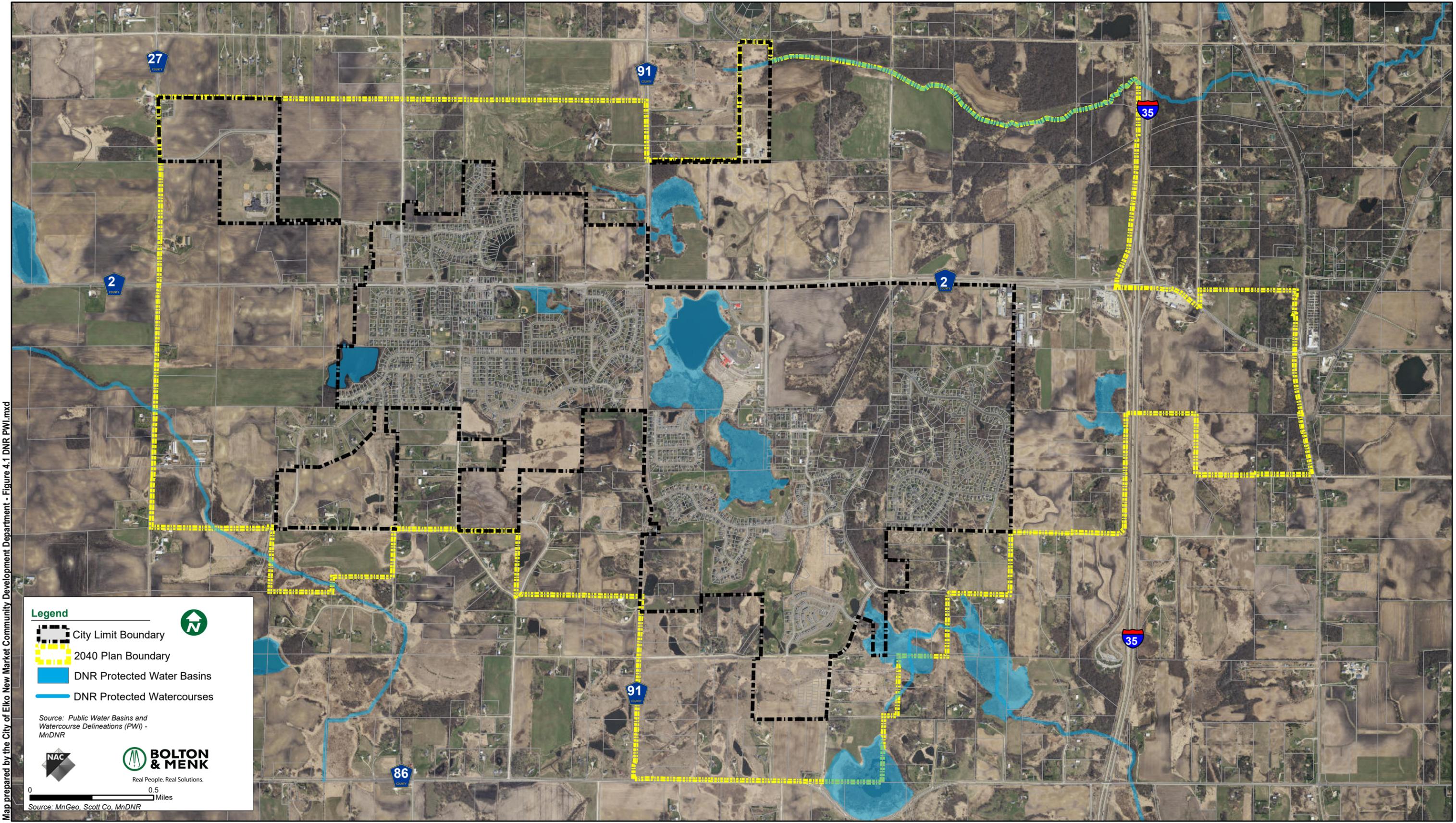
Wind Energy Protection. It is important to the City of Elko New Market that all properties have access to alternative energy systems. Wind energy systems are protected



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through the City's ordinances in a manner that removes regulatory barriers and creates a clear path for wind energy, while still considering aesthetics and property values.

Protection of wind energy will continue to be ensured by the City of Elko New Market through uniform implementation of lot and performance standards as established in the City's Zoning Ordinance. Wind energy systems are permitted in all zoning districts within the City.



Legend

- City Limit Boundary
- 2040 Plan Boundary
- DNR Protected Water Basins
- DNR Protected Watercourses

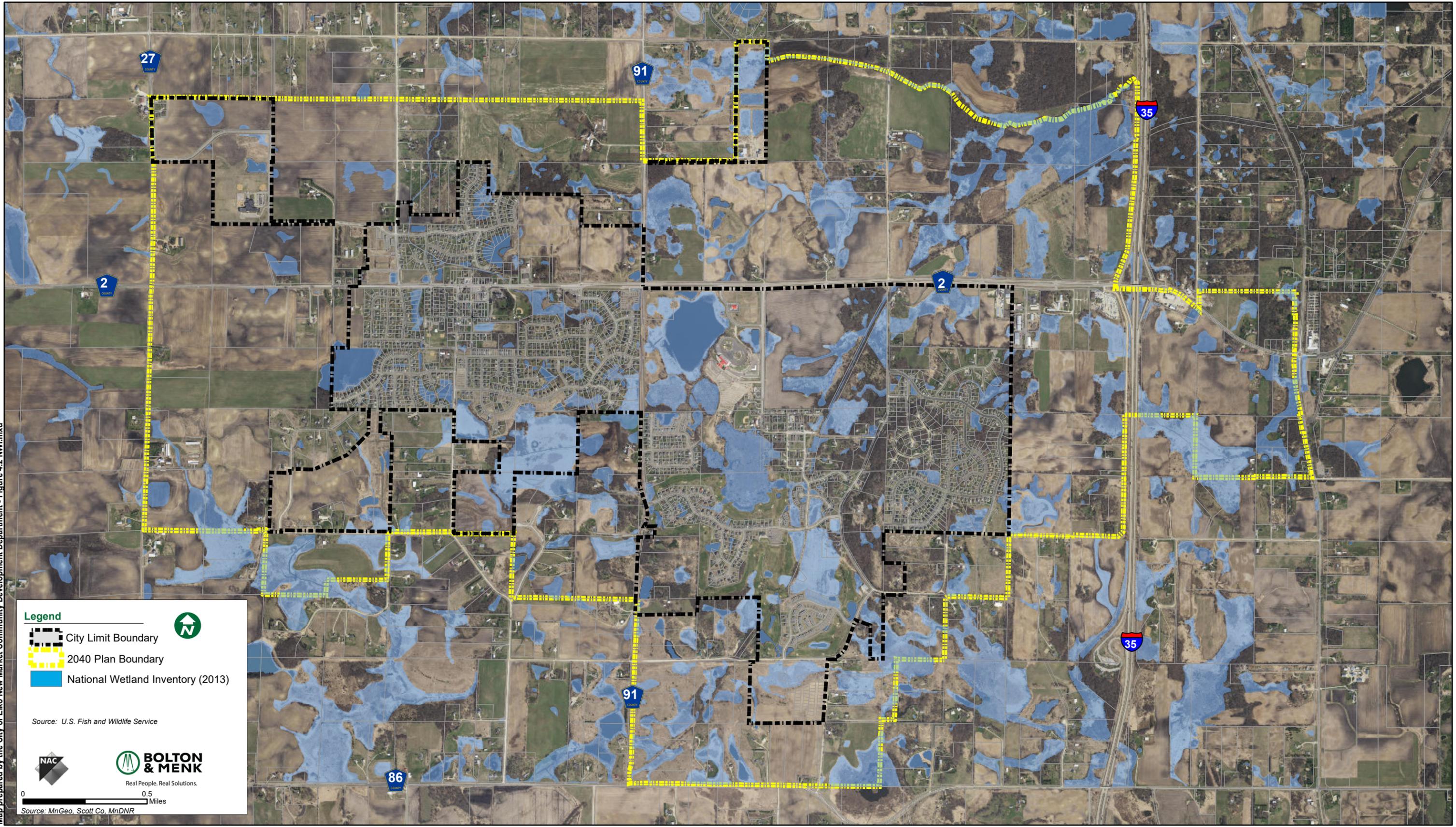
Source: Public Water Basins and Watercourse Delineations (PWI) - MnDNR

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0 0.5 Miles

Source: MnGeo, Scott Co, MnDNR

Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 4.1 DNR PWI.mxd



Legend

-  City Limit Boundary
-  2040 Plan Boundary
-  National Wetland Inventory (2013)

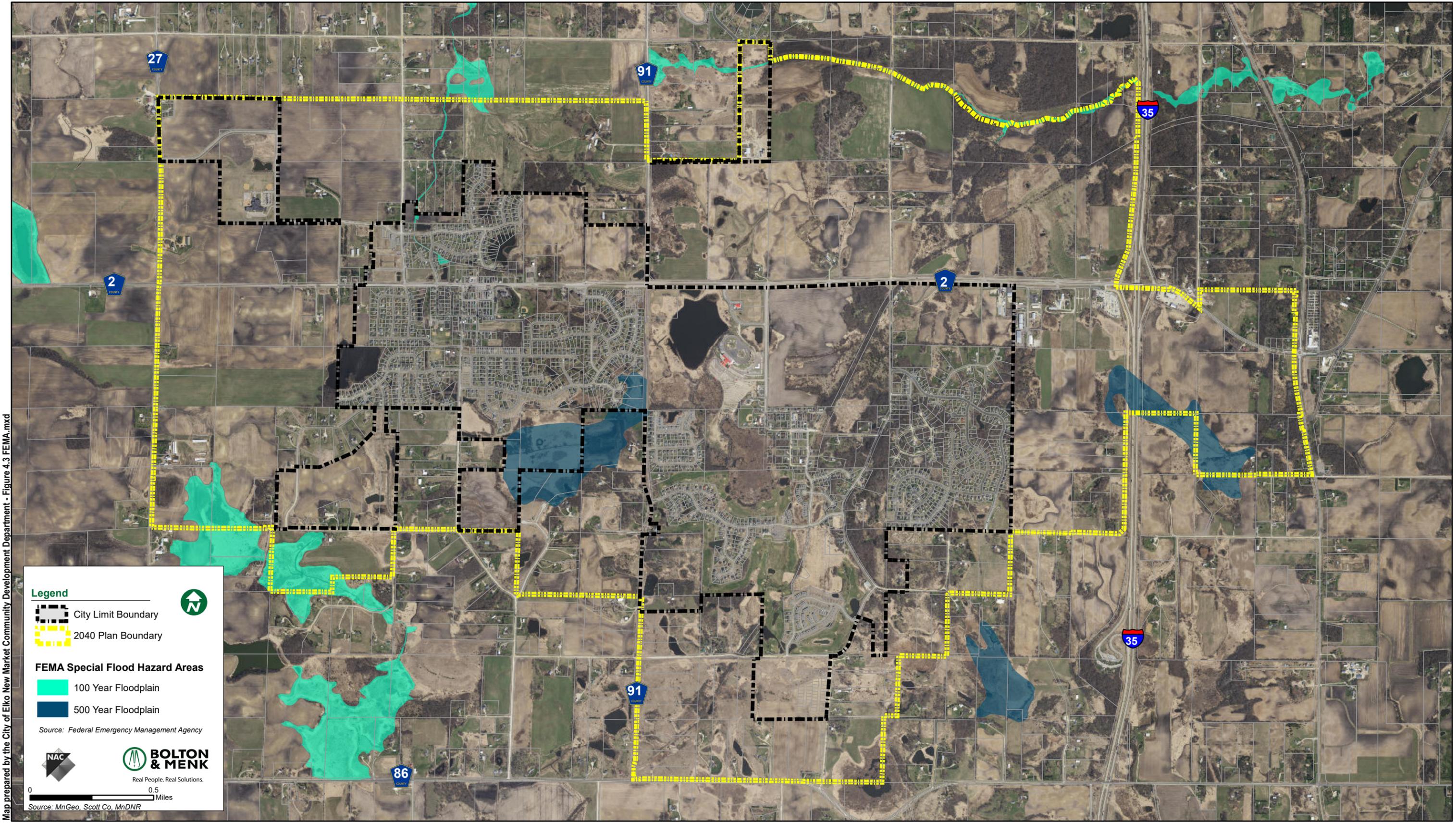
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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0 0.5 Miles

Source: MnGeo, Scott Co, MnDNR

Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 4.2 NWI.mxd



Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 4.3 FEMA.mxd

Legend

- City Limit Boundary
- 2040 Plan Boundary

FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas

- 100 Year Floodplain
- 500 Year Floodplain

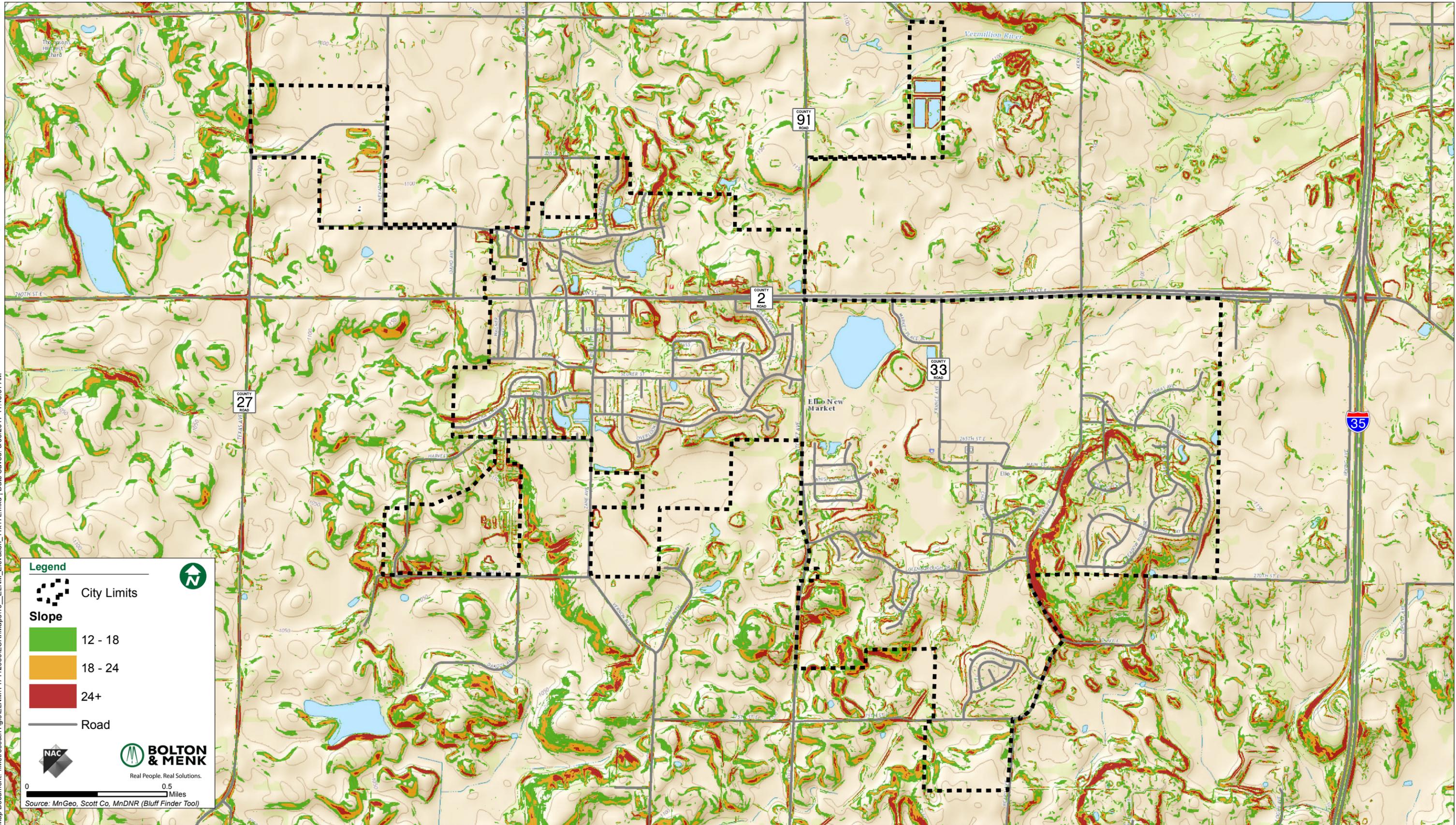
Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

NAC

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0 0.5 Miles
 Source: MnGeo, Scott Co, MnDNR

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Legend

- City Limits
- Slope**
- 12 - 18
- 18 - 24
- 24+
- Road

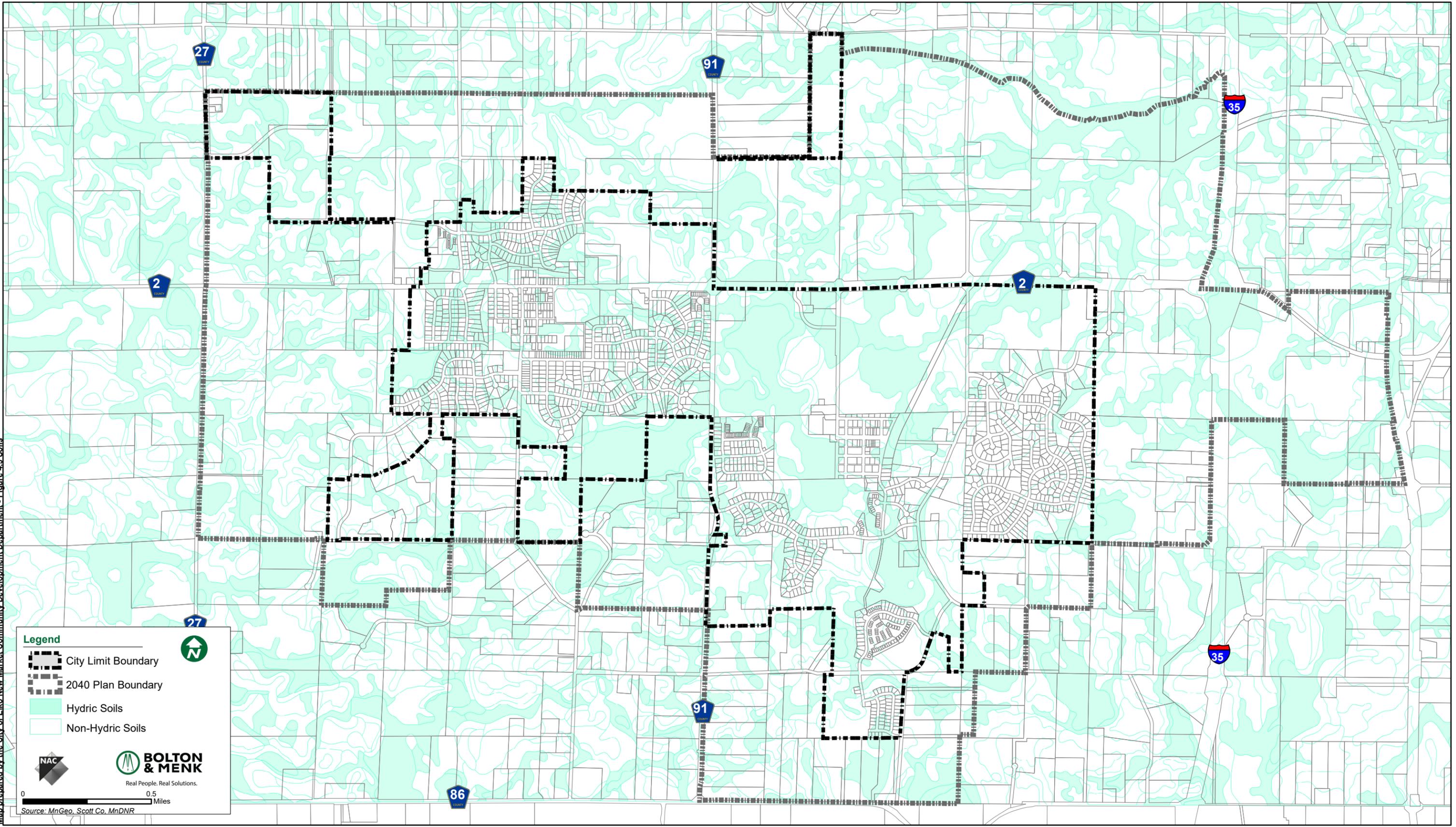
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Source: MnGeo, Scott Co, MnDNR (Bluff Finder Tool)

Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 4.5 Soils



Legend

- City Limit Boundary
- 2040 Plan Boundary
- Hydic Soils
- Non-Hydic Soils

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Source: MnGeo, Scott Co, MnDNR

Scott County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update



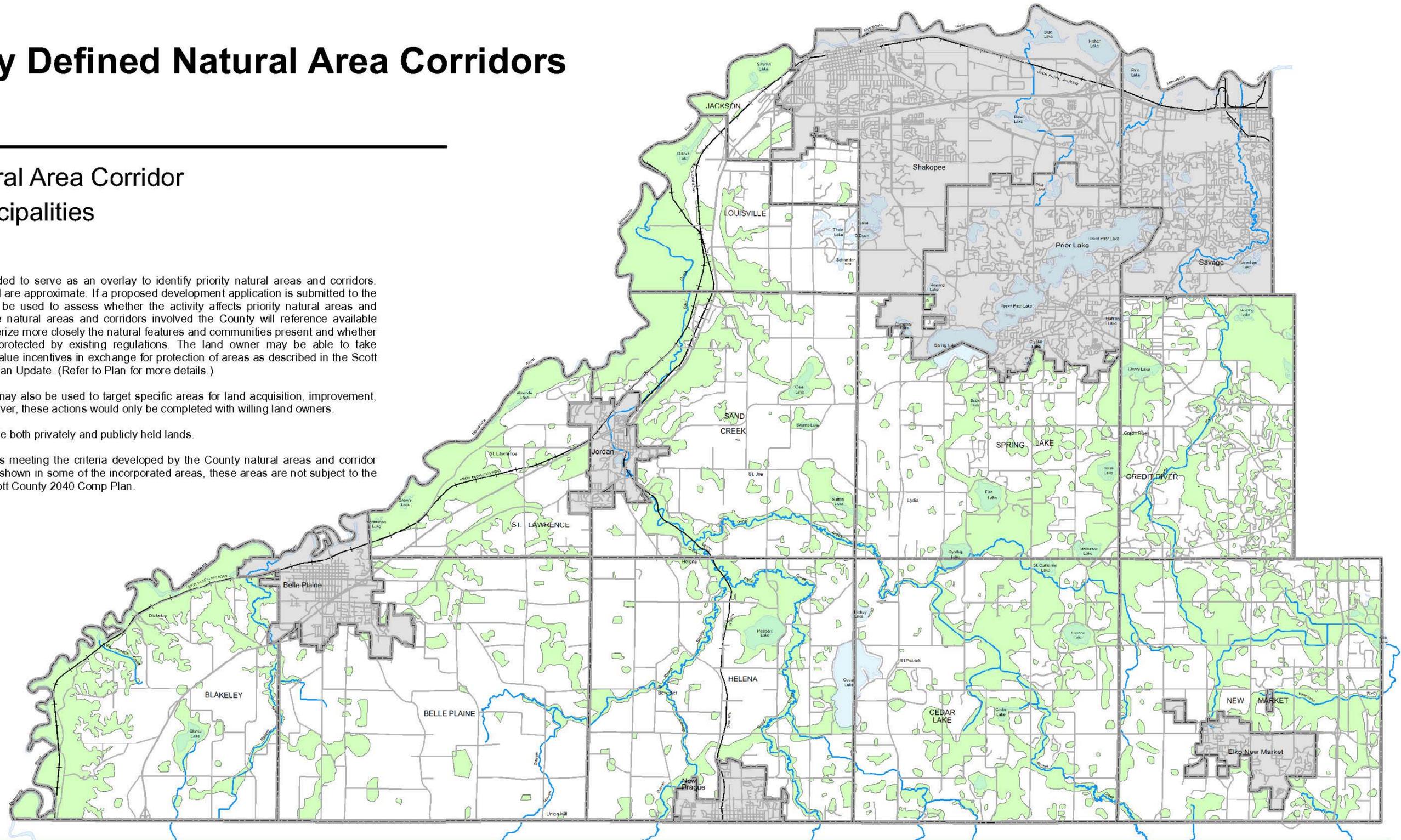
County Defined Natural Area Corridors

Legend

- Natural Area Corridor
- Municipalities

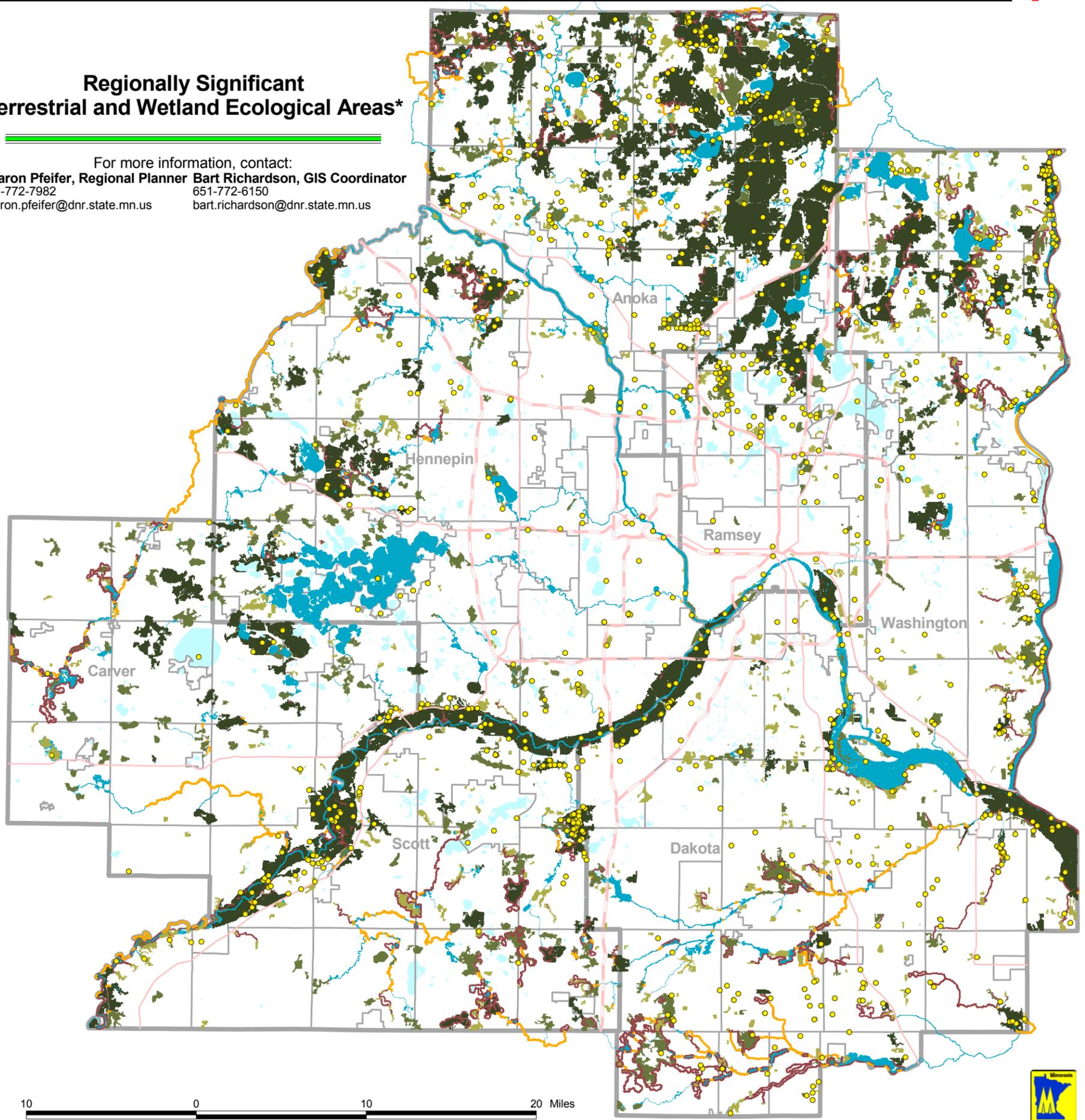
Note:

- 1) This map is intended to serve as an overlay to identify priority natural areas and corridors. Boundaries presented are approximate. If a proposed development application is submitted to the County this map will be used to assess whether the activity affects priority natural areas and corridors. If there are natural areas and corridors involved the County will reference available databases to characterize more closely the natural features and communities present and whether the land is already protected by existing regulations. The land owner may be able to take advantage of public value incentives in exchange for protection of areas as described in the Scott County 2040 Comp Plan Update. (Refer to Plan for more details.)
- 2) This overlay map may also be used to target specific areas for land acquisition, improvement, and restoration. However, these actions would only be completed with willing land owners.
- 3) Areas shown include both privately and publicly held lands.
- 4) While priority areas meeting the criteria developed by the County natural areas and corridor planning process are shown in some of the incorporated areas, these areas are not subject to the approaches in the Scott County 2040 Comp Plan.



Regionally Significant Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Areas*

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MN DNR, January 31, 2003
 /heron05/eco_patch/ecopatch_maps.apr

Ecological Score**

Regionally Significant Ecological Areas were given a score of 1, 2, or 3 (3 being the highest possible score) based on how well continuous natural areas met standards for size, shape, connectivity, adjacent land use, and species diversity.

3 - These areas tend to be larger in size, and/or with few adjacent land cover types or land uses that could adversely affect the area; may have greater diversity of vegetation cover types; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.

2 - These areas tend to be moderate in size and/or with more adjacent land cover types or land uses that could adversely affect the area; may have less diversity of vegetation cover types; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of high biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.

1 - These areas tend to be smaller in size while still meeting the minimum size requirements for regional significance (minimum size is variable based on cover type); may have less diversity of vegetation cover types; may have more adjacent cover types or land uses that could adversely affect the area; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of moderate biodiversity significance by the Minnesota County Biological Survey.

River and Stream Corridors* +

Shortest-distance paths in and along rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands that connect at least two RSEAs.

- Terrestrial Species Routes
link upland derived RSEAs using natural/semi-natural vegetation cover along the banks of open water.
- Aquatic Species Routes
link wetland derived RSEAs using any open water (streams, rivers, or lakes).
- Sections where Routes Coincide

Rare Species and Animal Aggregations** +

Mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

- Animals and plants, federally- or state-listed, found after 1970, excluding aquatic species.
- Open Water
- Interstate Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Federal Trunk Highway
- County Boundary

*Copyright 2003, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Regionally Significant Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Areas (RSEA) are derived from a modeling process that predicts the likelihood that regionally significant natural resources exist in a contiguous area. These areas must meet specific criteria that were established to qualify an area as regionally significant (size, shape, connectivity, adjacent land use, and species diversity). The River and Stream Corridors show connections via rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands for the RSEAs. The data for the modeling process was compiled from several different sources and its completeness or total accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The data and products have not been ground truthed. NOTE: The Terrestrial and Wetland Ecological Assessment does not model for aquatic species, although some aquatic features appear in the results. The Metropolitan Council, in association with DNR staff is undertaking a separate Aquatic Ecological Assessment.

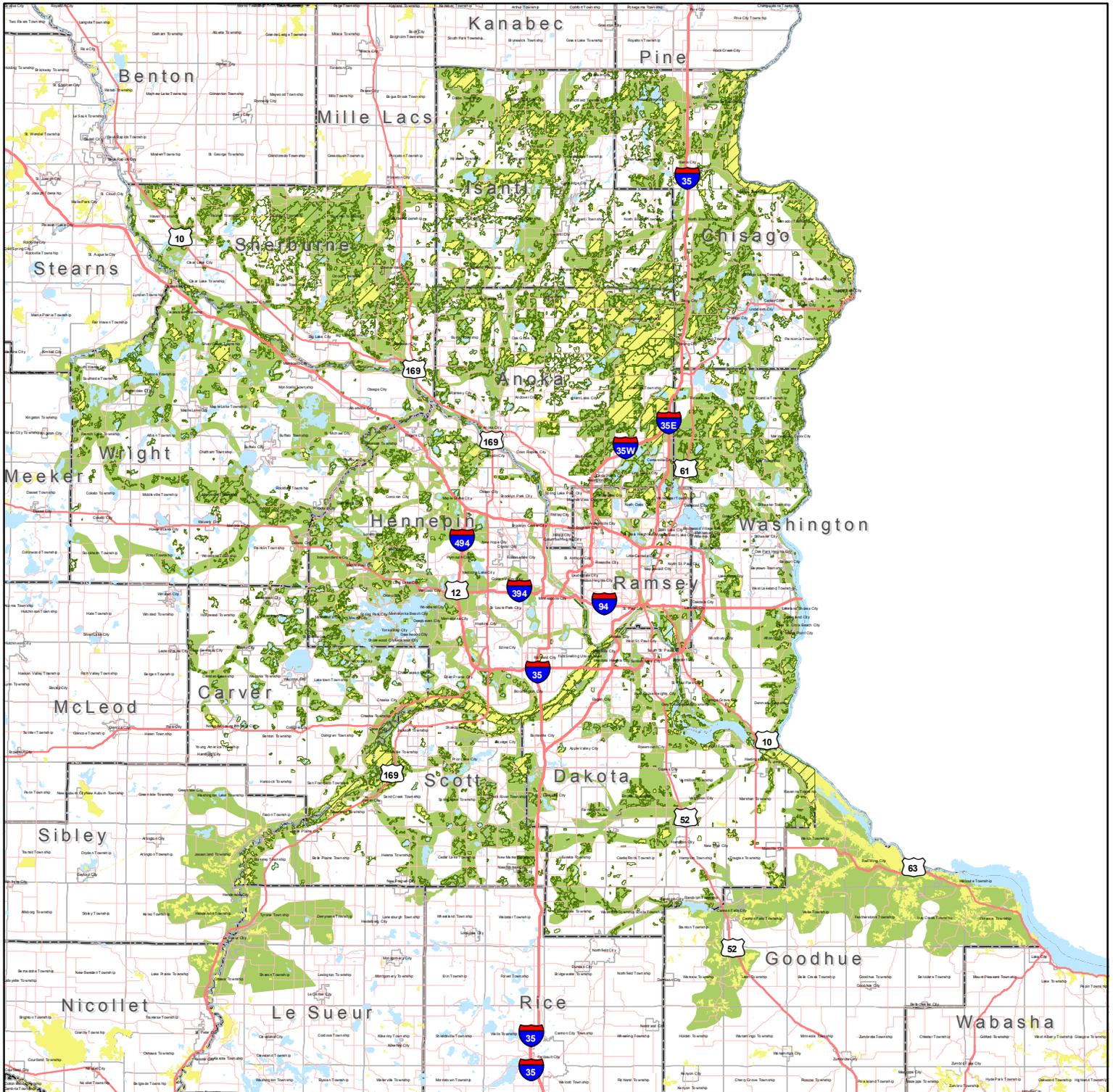
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Rare features data included here were provided by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program of the Division of Ecological Services, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and were current as of January 31, 2003. These data are not based on an exhaustive inventory of the state. Permission to use these data does not imply endorsement or approval by the DNR of any interpretations or products derived from the data.

*There may be inaccuracies in the data or which the DNR is not aware and for which the DNR will not be held responsible. The lack of data for any geographic area shall not be construed to mean that no significant features are present.

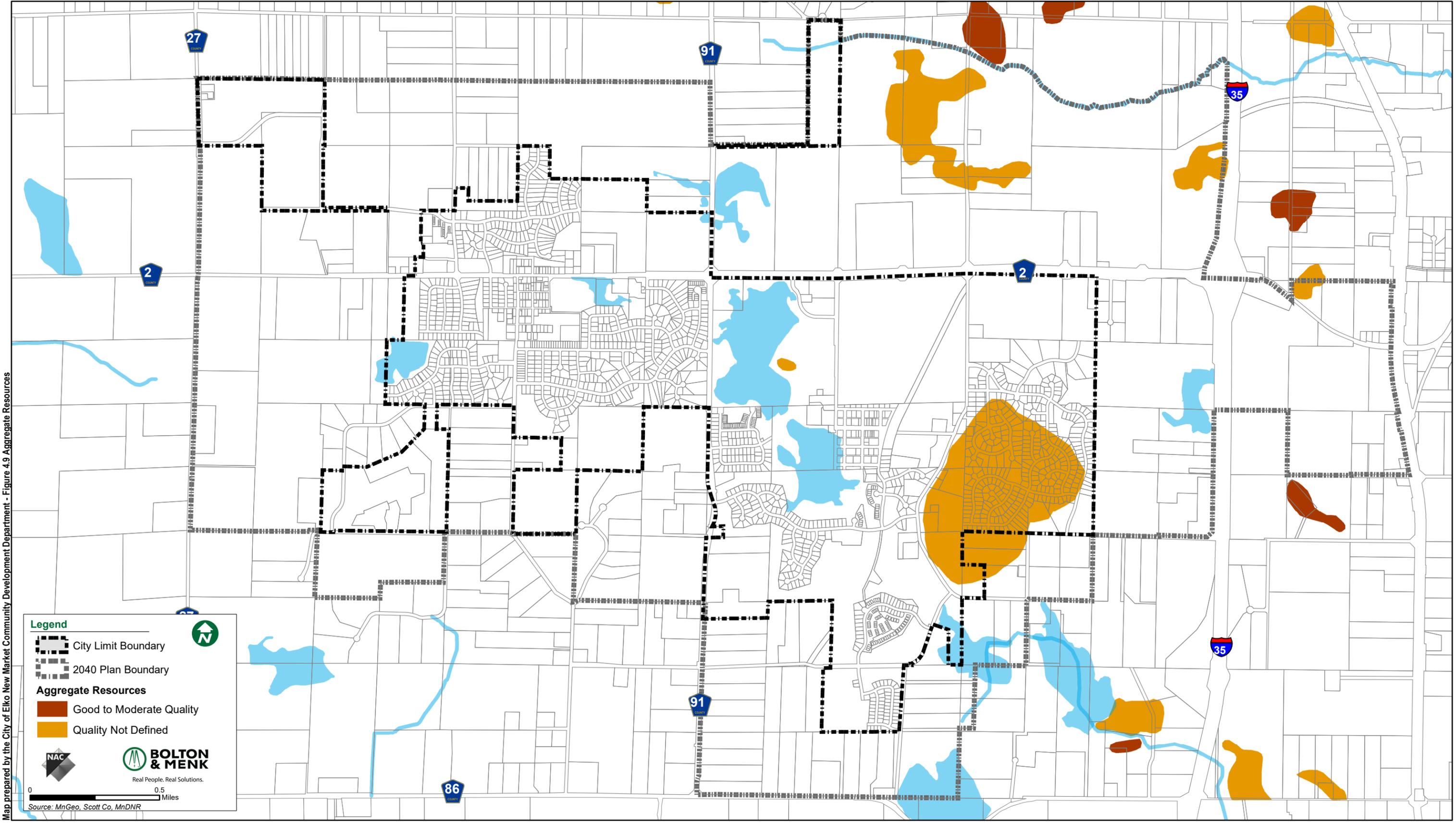
Metro Conservation Corridors - 2007

Figure 4.8



-  Metro Conservation Corridors
-  Regionally Significant Ecological Areas
-  MCBS Sites of Biodiversity Significance
-  Lake, Pond, Stream, River
-  Interstate Highways
-  Secondary Highways
-  County Roads
-  County Boundaries





Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 4.9 Aggregate Resources

Map prepared by the City of Elko New Market Community Development Department - Figure 4.10 Watersheds

