Surface Water Management District

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows (County Ditch No. 38)

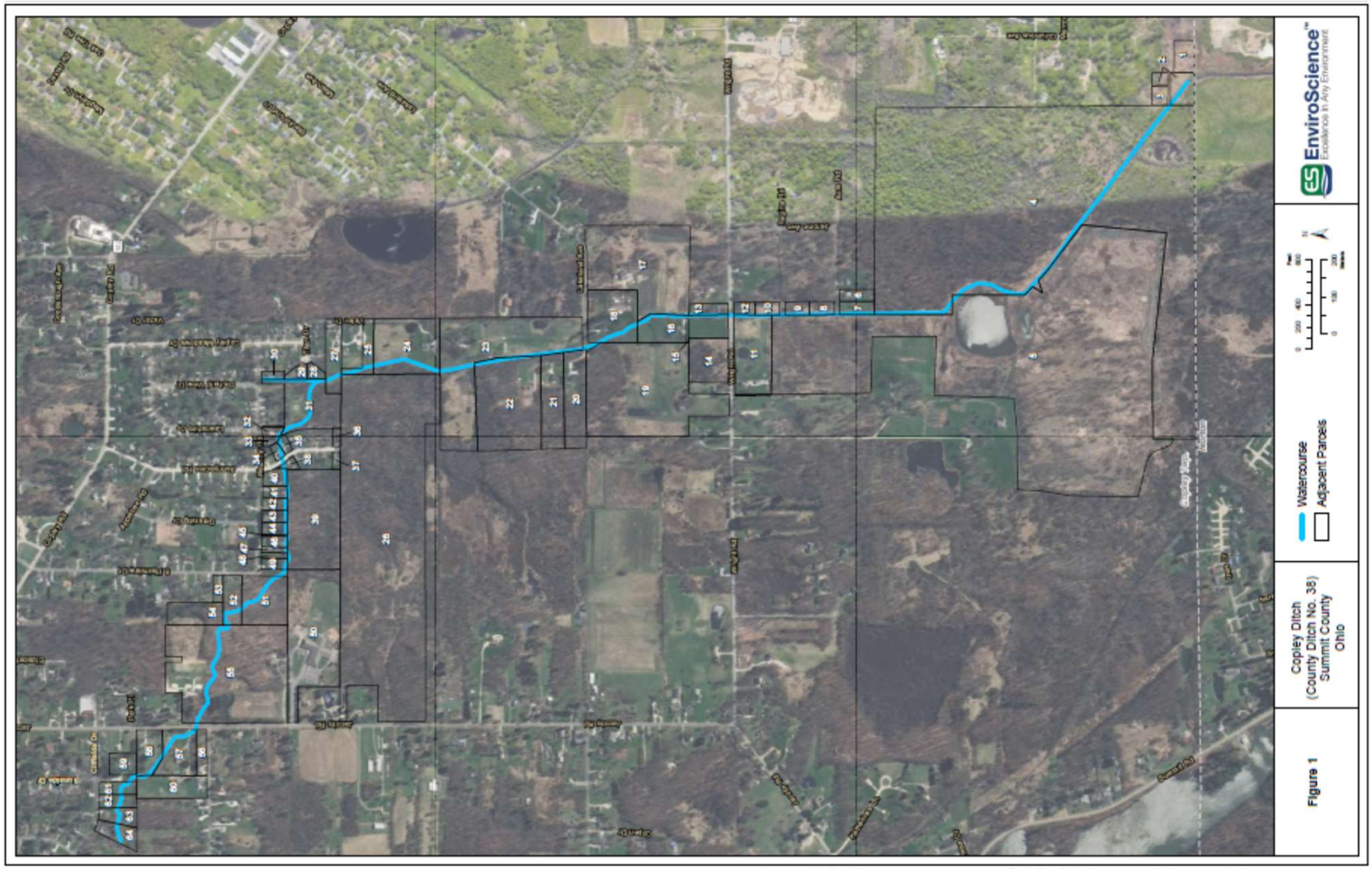
Drainage Improvement Project

Public Viewing Presentation July 21, 2025 4:30 PM

Copley Township Trustees Meeting Room

Alan Brubaker, PE, PS - Summit County Engineer
David Koontz, PE, SI - SWMD Coordinator
Charles Hauber, PE, PS, Engineering Project Manager
Stephanie Deibel, Stormwater Specialist

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows
Overall Project Area



Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Description and Benefits

- The channel will be cleaned and numerous obstructions removed, such as trees, debris and sandbars.
- A portion of the channel will be regraded and channel banks will be rebuilt to restore positive flow and adequate capacity.
- The channel improvements will include measures to stabilize the streambanks and mitigate erosion.
- The project will include improved access for more effective long-term maintenance.
- These measures will help to reduce flooding and erosion and will thereby improve stream water quality.

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Costs

- The Project Cost is estimated to be approximately $1,400,000 for design and construction.
- SWMD will pay all planning, design, permitting and construction costs of the project.
- SWMD revenues will cover the cost of long-term maintenance of the improvements.
- We are following the Petitioned Drainage Improvement process, defined in Ohio Revised Code 6131, but without assessments to the benefitting property owners for construction or maintenance of the project.

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Easements

- Easements will be obtained under the ORC 6131, to give Summit County the right & responsibility to maintain this length of improved stream.
- There will be an easement plat instead of individual easement descriptions & exhibits, and owners won't sign.
- New easements along the stream are proposed to enable future maintenance and repair. The existing county ditch right-of-way (70' +/-) over the southern 2/3 of the project will be replaced. It is important to note that the stream is also within a riparian corridor and FEMA flood zone. No compensation will be offered for these easements.
- Other easements, such as access easements not along the stream, will be compensated at amounts determined by an independent appraiser. The owners will have opportunities to appeal the amounts.

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Petition Steps and Meetings

- 4/14/25 – Springfield Twp. trustees voted to sign petition for improvements.
- 5/12/25 – Petition filed with Summit County Council.
- 7/21/25 4:30 PM - Public Viewing in Copley Twp. Hall.
- 9/8/25 4:30 PM – First Hearing at Summit County Council. SWMD will present the Preliminary Report stating project's necessity and public benefit.
- Public comments can be made in writing to the council clerk before the meeting or in person at the hearing.
- 9/22/25 - Council vote to either proceed with the design or to dismiss the petition.
- 10/01/25 est. – SWMD will submit the Final Report (if authorized 9/22/25) including final plans, construction cost estimate, easement plat and schedule of estimated damages and compensation for easements.
- 10/27/25 est. – Final Hearing at Summit County Council. SWMD will present the Final Report. Council will vote whether to accept the plans and easement plat and proceed with project bidding, or to dismiss the petition.
- There is a process available to appeal any council action.

Meeting Notices Will Be Mailed to Affected Property Owners and published in the newspaper.

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Engineering Steps

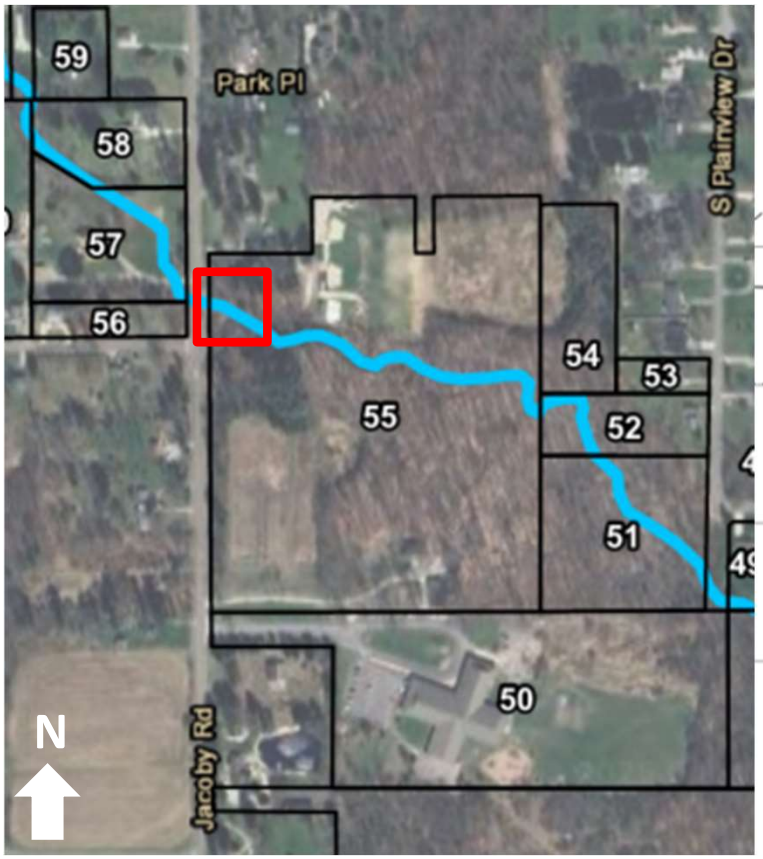
- 2022 – EnviroScience, Inc. (ES) hired to study Copley Ditch and Black Pond Outlet
- July, 2022 – ES started field reconnaissance and hydrologic & hydraulic study
- March, 2023 – ES presented 30% preliminary plans
- August, 2023 – ES presented final concept plan
- 2024 – ES hired to perform study of upper segment of Copley Ditch through Copley Meadows area and perform final design, permit coordination and plan preparation.
- July, 2024 – Concept plan submitted
- January, 2025 – 60% Plans submitted
- July, 2025 – Final Plans to be completed

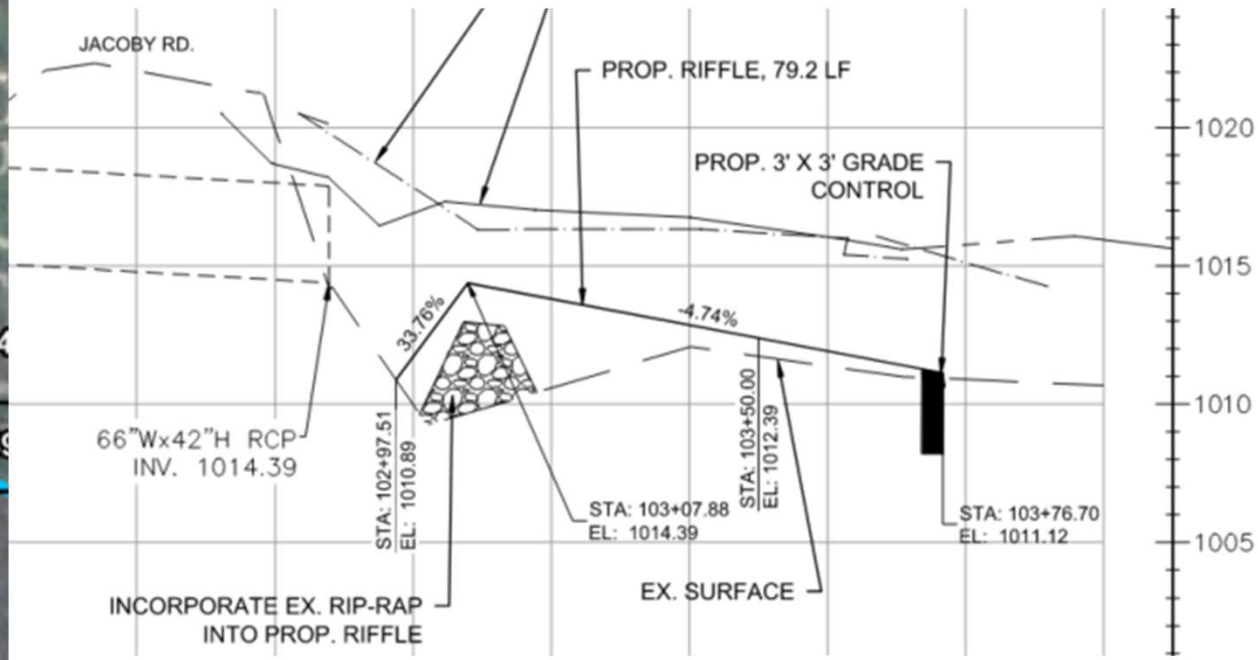
Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows
Existing Channel Features

- Disconnected from existing floodplains
  - Leveed areas, high banks
  - Limited access to storage for frequent storms
- Channel Issues
  - Channelized
  - Inefficient cross-sectional area
  - Inability to move sediment
  - Steep and Eroding banks
- Infrastructure Issues
  - Undersized culverts, resulting in road overtopping/flooding
- Poor in-stream habitat
  - Lack of flow diversity
  - Sedimentation
  - Invasive Species

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

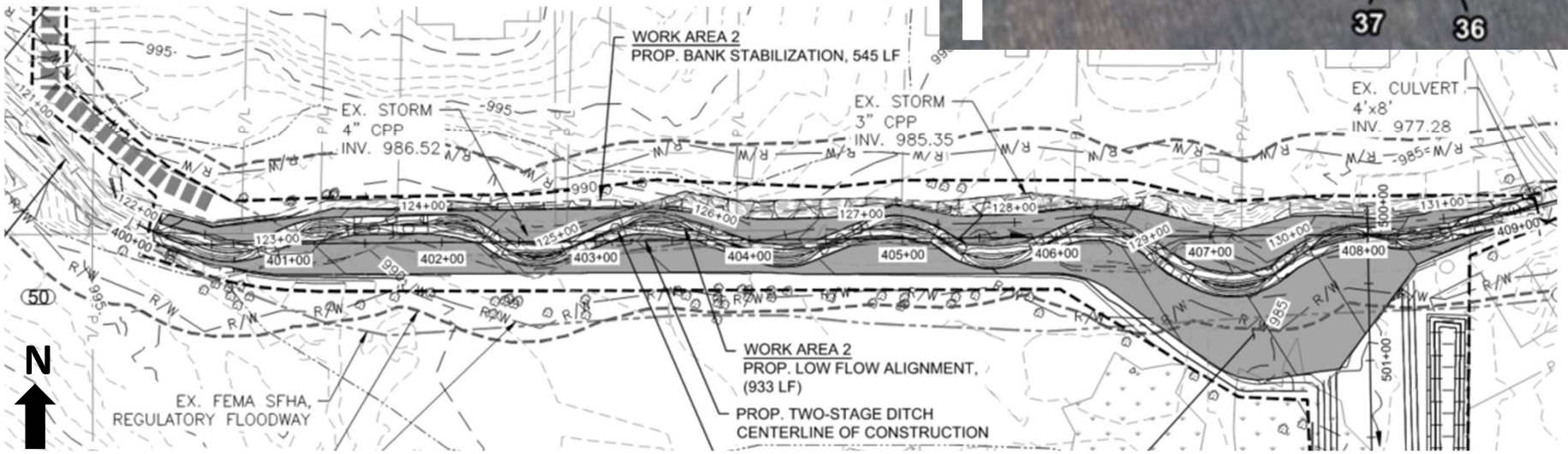
- Work Area 1
  - Riffle Installation for Stabilization and Fish Passage
  - Grade Control Installation to stabilize streambed





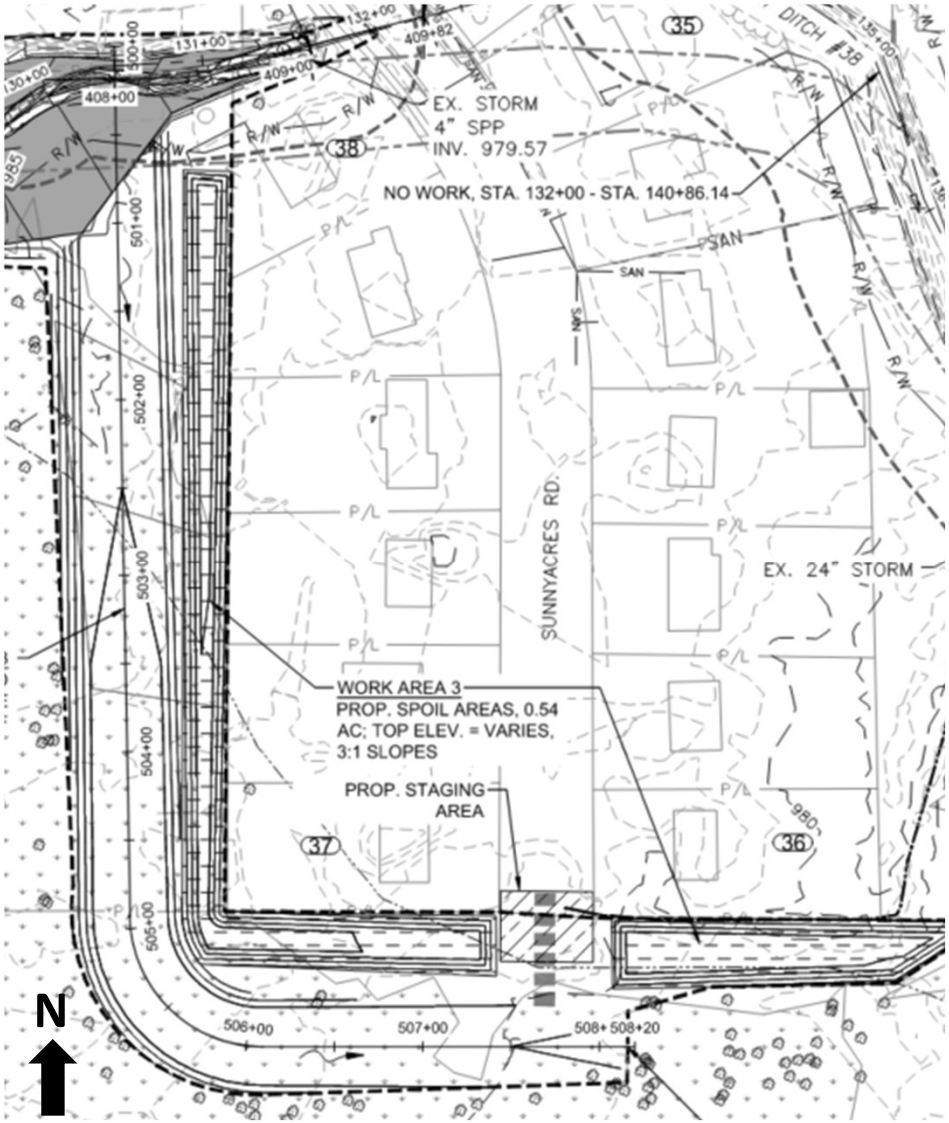
Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

- Work Area 2
  - Two Stage Ditch Construction
    - Low Flow Channel, 933 LF
    - 12 Riffle/Pool Complexes
    - Floodprone Area Expansion, 0.68 AC
  - Bank Stabilization, 545 LF



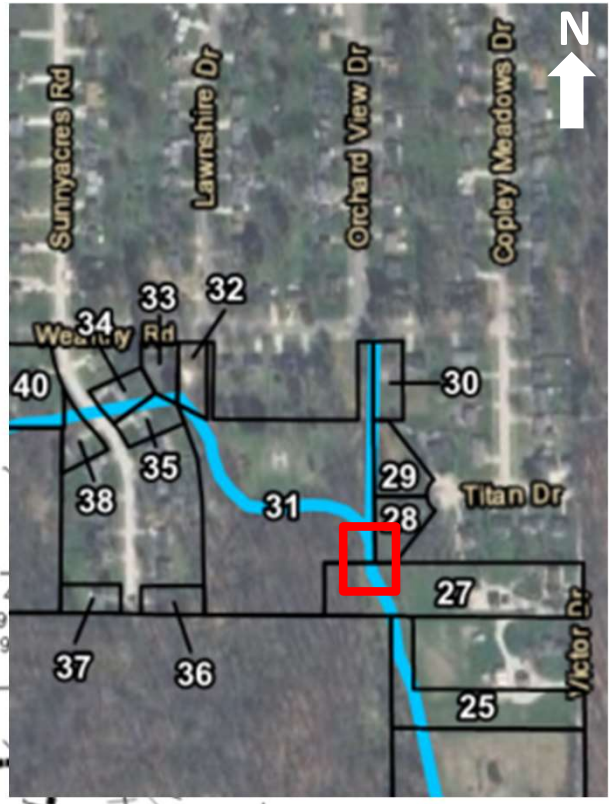
Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

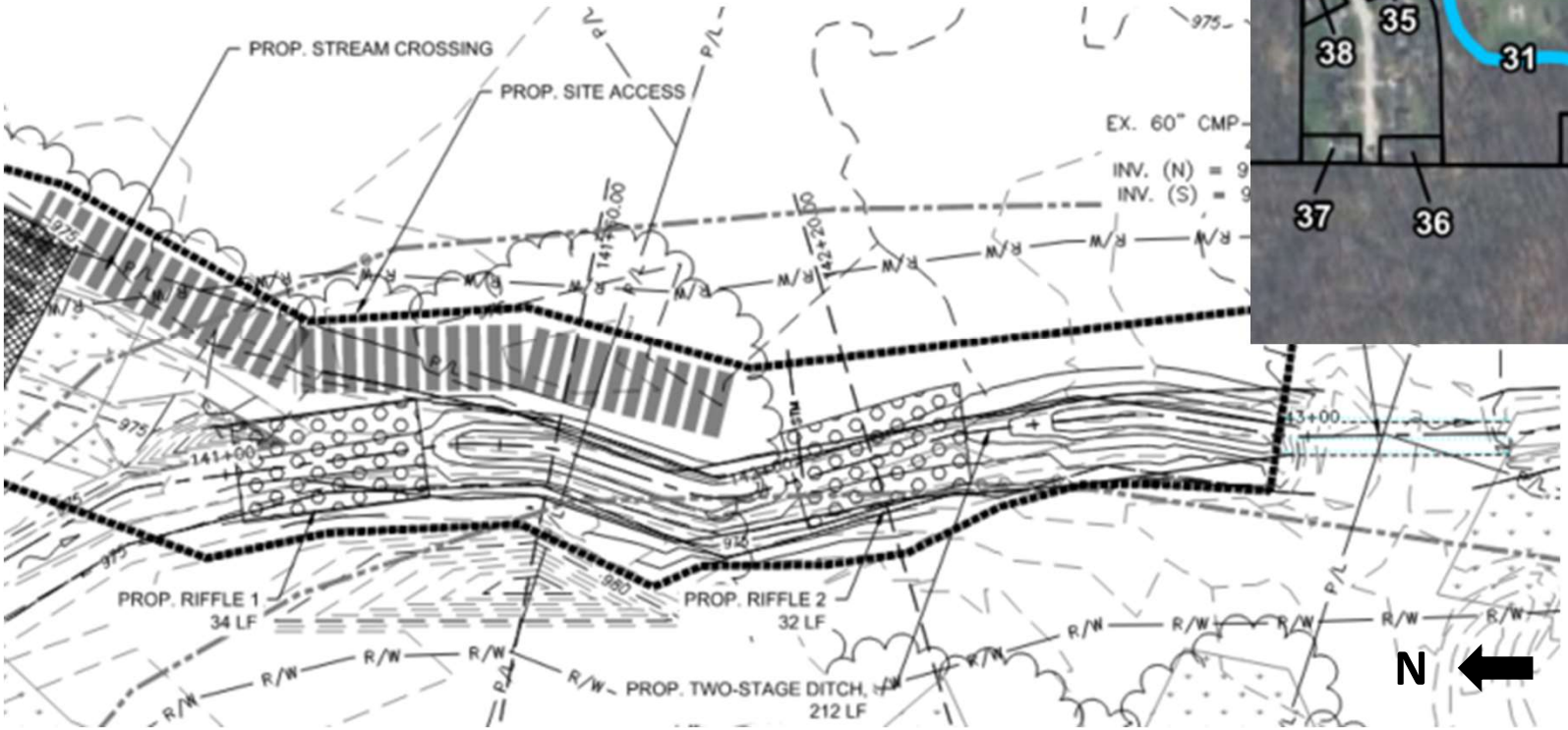
- Work Area 3
  - Wetland Diversion Swale, 736 LF (1.02 AC)
  - Spoil Berm, 0.47 AC
    - Plantings (Eastern White Pines)



Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

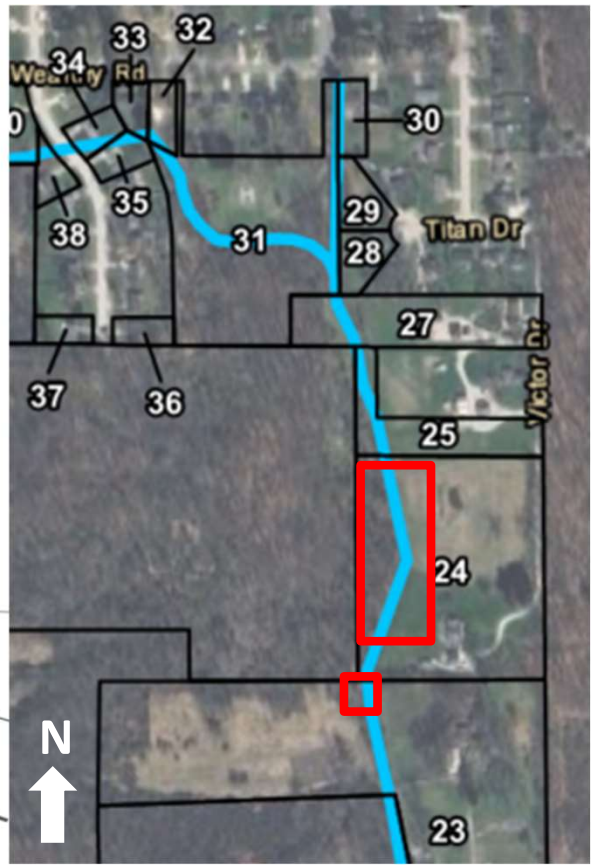
- Work Area 4
  - Two-Stage Ditch Construction
    - Channel Improvements, 212 LF
    - 2 Riffle/Pool Complexes

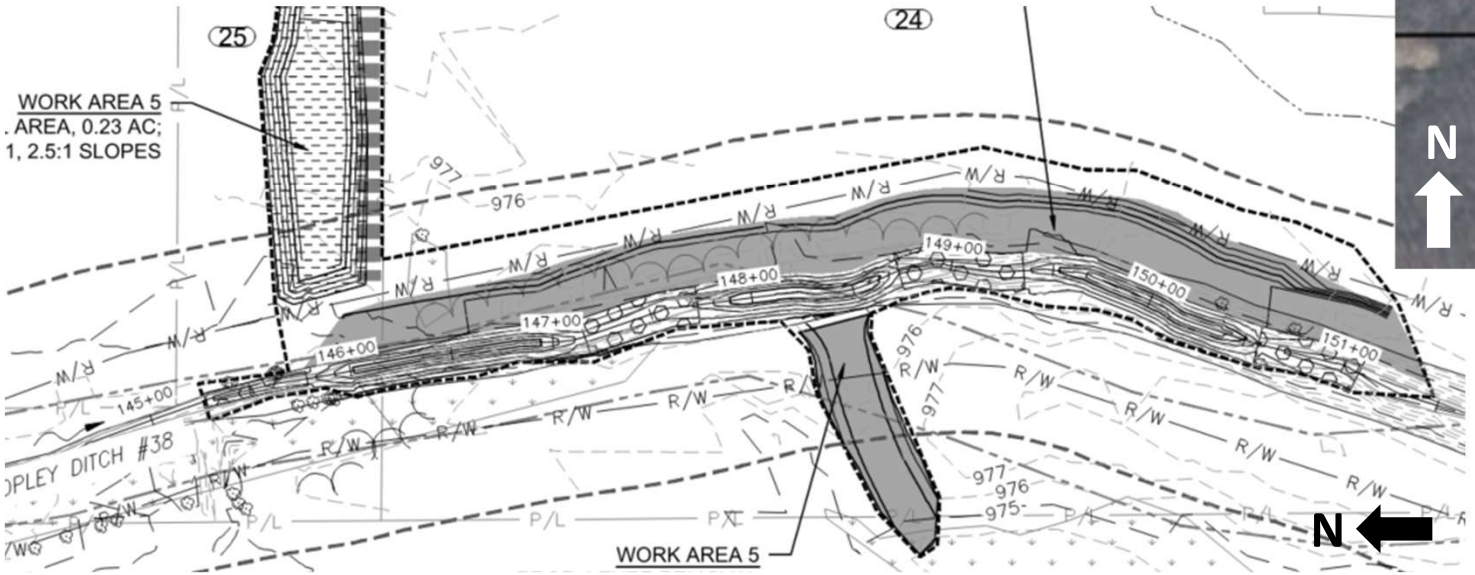


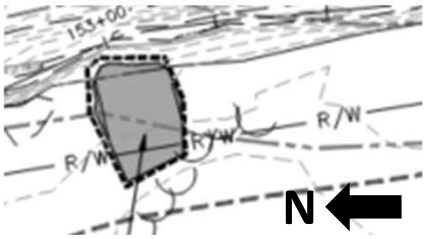


Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

- Work Area 5
  - Two-Stage Ditch Construction
    - Channel Improvements, 589 LF
    - 4 Riffle/Pool Complexes
  - 2 Levee Removal Areas
    - Provides access to wetlands for stormwater storage

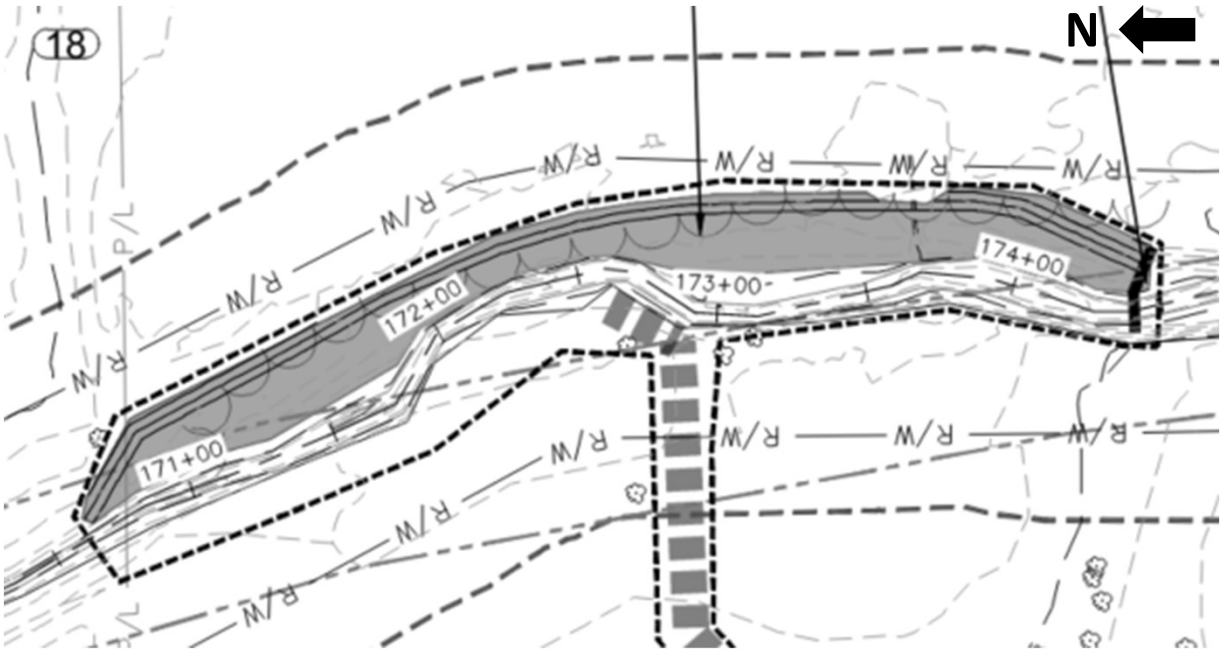


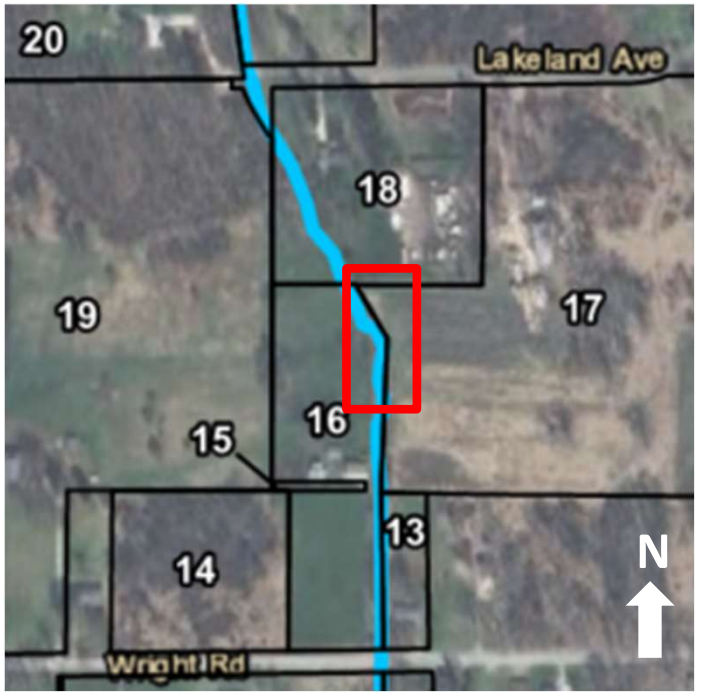




Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

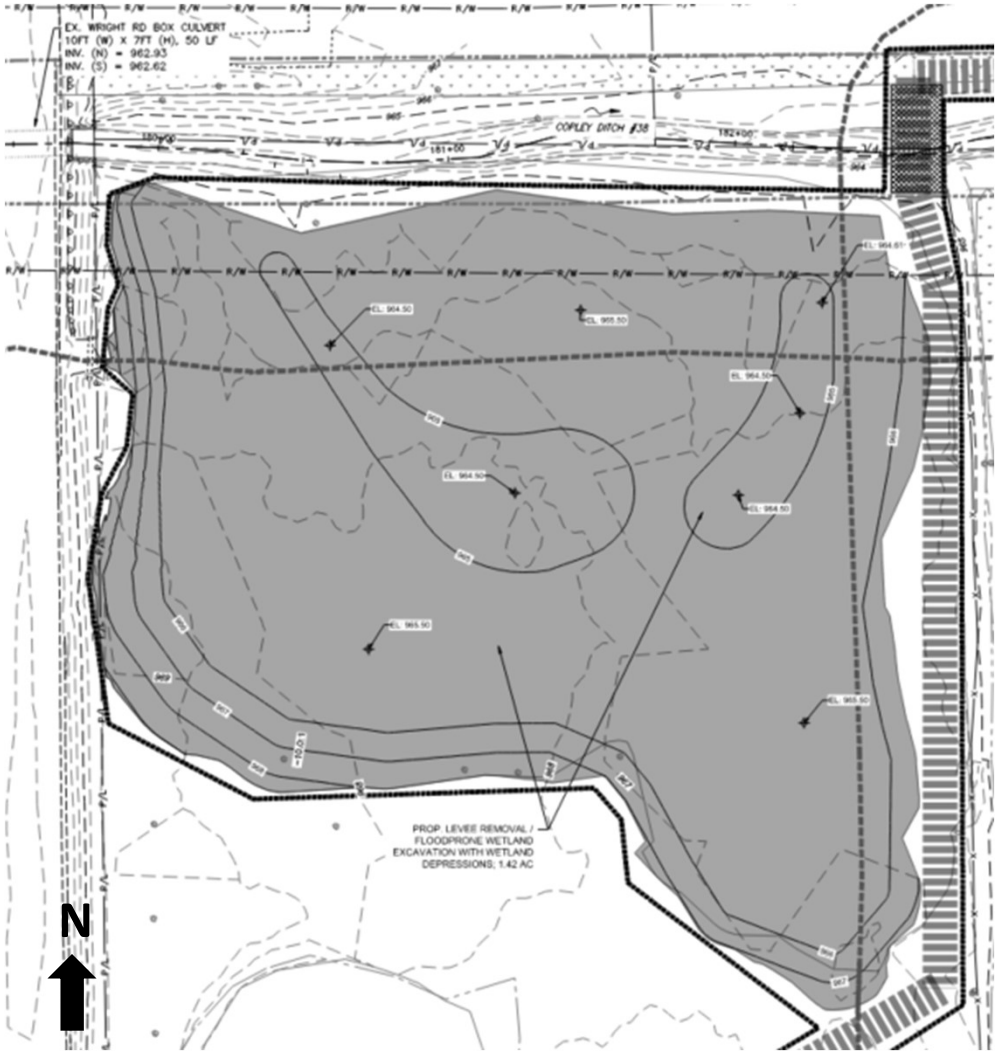
- Work Area 6
  - Floodprone Bench Creation, including Levee Removal, 367 LF (0.18 AC)
  - Grade Control Installation





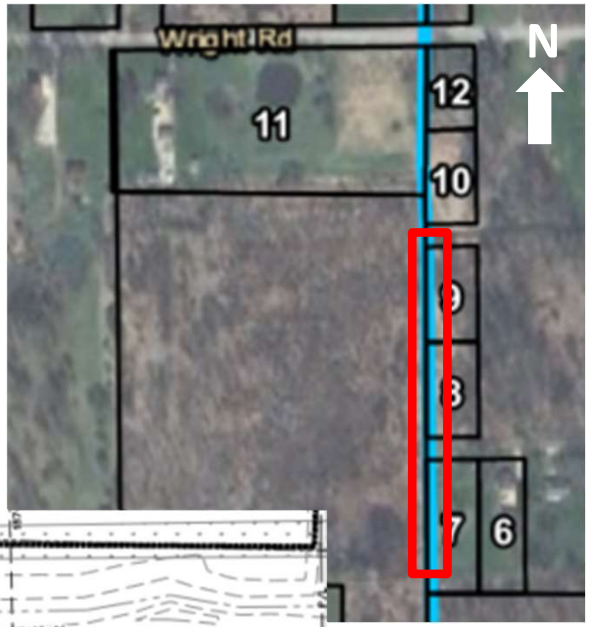
Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

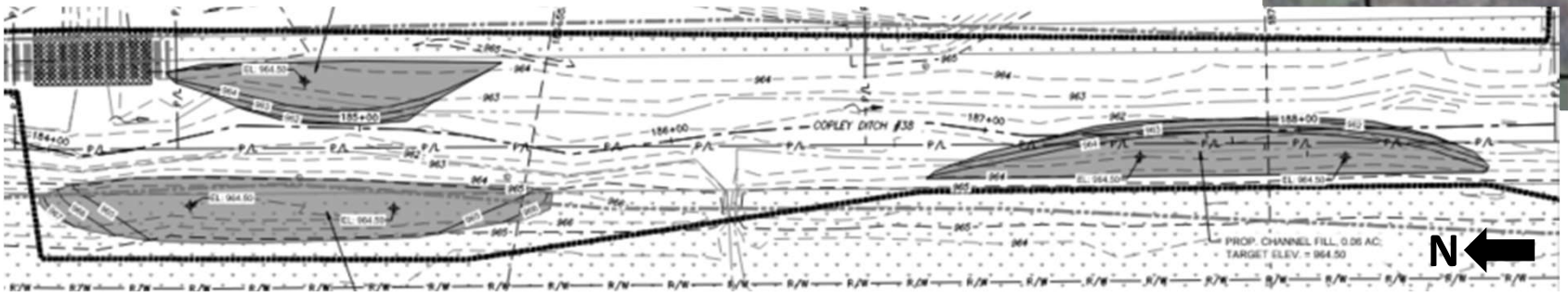
- Work Area 7
  - Floodprone Area Expansion, including Levee Removal & Wetland Depressions, 1.42 AC

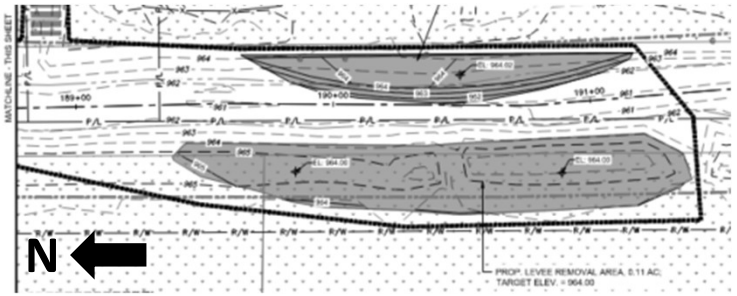


Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Proposed Channel Improvements

- Work Area 8
  - 2 Levee Removal Areas, 0.17 AC
  - 3 Alternating Channel Fill Areas, 0.14 AC

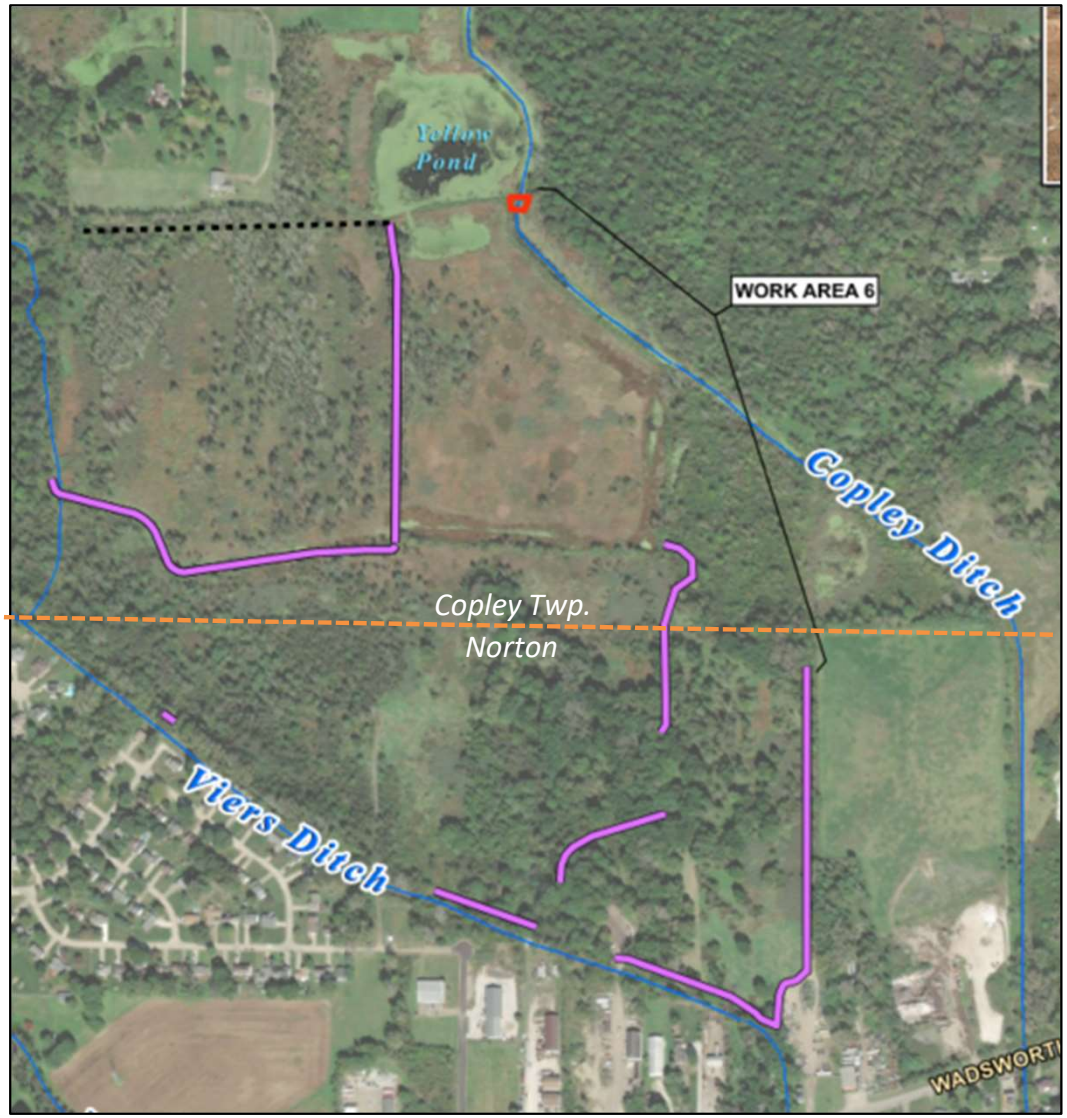






Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Panzner Wetland Wildlife Reserve

- **Preliminary Design Options – Work Area 6**
  - Leverage existing wetlands for stormwater storage
    - Berm Creation
    - Level Spreader
    - Grade Control/Plug
    - Depressional wetlands within existing PWWR wetland areas
  - Work Areas extend south into Norton



Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Panzner Wetland Wildlife Reserve

- **Final Design Conclusions**
  - Modeling Results
    - Negligible stormwater storage benefits at 2-yr storm
    - 100-yr storm, Prop. Water Surface increases 0.02’
    - Additional storage “fills up” prior to storm peak
  - Significant Costs for Limited Benefits
    - 40% of original budget
    - Plus, additional costs necessary for invasive species management
  - Construction implementation difficulties
    - Potential import/export of materials > $
    - Difficult/limited access
- **Recommendation**
  - Removal of Work Area from final design documents
  - Final Design Work Area 8 to remain: provides some access to PWWR at bankfull elevation

Copley Ditch / Copley Meadows Q&A