



Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality
Waterways Section

Publication Date:
March 6, 2026

IDEM Permit Number:
SRIP01390

PUBLIC NOTICE

Closing Date:
April 2, 2026

Corps of Engineers ID Number:
LRC-2025-00540

To all interested parties:

This letter shall serve as a formal notice of the receipt of an application for a State Isolated Wetland Individual Permit by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The purpose of the notice is to inform the public of active applications submitted for permits required under IC 13-18-22 and to solicit comments and information on any impacts to water quality related to the proposed project. IDEM will evaluate whether the project complies with Indiana's water quality standards as set forth at 327 IAC 2 and all applicable provisions of IC 13-18-22.

1. Applicant: Steve King
Town of Merrillville
13 W 73rd Ave
Merrillville, IN 46410

2. Agent: Alicia Metzger
V3 Companies
7325 Janes Ave
Woodridge, IL 60517

3. Project location: Latitude 41.46228, Longitude -87.38396
Linear project along the Erie-Lackawanna Trail in Merrillville, Lake County.

4. Affected waterbodies: 6 Class I wetlands and 6 Class II wetlands.

5. Project Description: Improvements to the Whitcomb Street Corridor to accommodate increased traffic, including the construction of 2 roundabout intersections, pavement reconstruction along the corridor, the addition of a pavement shoulder, and the construction of a center turn lane in the northern portion of the project area that will serve the various one-way stop-controlled intersections along the corridor.

The project proposes to impact 0.56 acres of regulated Class II wetlands with clean earthen fill. Impacts to wetlands are designed to be as minimal as possible based on the constraint of the right-of-way and alignment of the existing roadway. Due to design requirements and existing constraints described above, the proposed impacts to wetlands are unavoidable.

Mitigation for the impacts will be provided at a mitigation ratio of 1.5:1, through the purchase of 0.84 acre of wetland credits from the Old City Light South Mitigation Bank in Porter County, Indiana.

Comment period: Any person or entity who wishes to submit comments or information relevant to the aforementioned project may do so by the closing date noted above. Only comments or information related to water quality or potential impacts of the project on water quality can be considered by IDEM in the water quality certification review process.

Public Hearing: Any person may submit a written request that a public hearing be held to consider issues related to water quality in connection with the project detailed in this notice. The request for a hearing should be submitted within the comment period to be considered timely. The request should also state the reason for the public hearing as specifically as possible to assist IDEM in determining whether a public hearing is warranted.

Questions?

Additional information may be obtained by contacting WaterwaysComments@idem.IN.gov. In the subject line of the email, please include the IDEM ID Number listed in the top right corner of the first page of this public notice. Indicate if you wish to receive a copy of IDEM's final decision. Written comments and inquiries may be forwarded to –

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue
MC65-42 WQS IGCN 1255
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251 FAX: 317/232-8406



February 24, 2026

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality
100 N. Senate Avenue IGCN 11
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**RE: IDEM State Regulated Wetland Permit
Whitcomb Street Corridor Improvements
USACE AJD No.: LRC-2025-540
Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana**

To IDEM Office of Water Quality:

This letter and the enclosed materials constitute an application for a State Regulated Wetland Permit submitted by V3 Companies (V3) on behalf of the applicant, The Town of Merrillville, relative to the proposed Whitcomb Street Corridor Improvements project located in Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

The Whitcomb Street Corridor runs from north to south along the existing Erie-Lackawanna Trail, south of U.S. Route 30 and terminating at Chase Street at 91st Avenue in Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana as seen on the Existing Conditions figure (**Appendix E**). The Town of Merrillville has experienced new development throughout the town which has created increased levels of congestion on the existing transportation network. Traffic increases have necessitated exploring improvements to the Town's current roadway network to provide motorists alternative routes throughout the town and surrounding region. The project area has experienced increased AM/PM peak hour delays, especially at the 91st Avenue at Chase Street stop-controlled intersection. The Whitcomb Street Corridor between U.S. 30 and 91st Avenue currently exists as an underutilized north-south connector with the potential to alleviate demand on Taft Street to the east, and to provide additional options to the regularly congested U.S. Route 30. Additionally, developers have identified the potential for the vacant lands along to the corridor and the Town has received various requests to subdivide and develop the land along this corridor as part of the ongoing Liberty Estates development. Together these factors have created the need to improve the corridor and increase its utilization for both current and future travel demands.

Improvements to the corridor include the construction of two (2) roundabout intersections, pavement reconstruction along the corridor, the addition of a pavement shoulder, and the construction of a center turn lane in the northern portion of the project area that will serve the various one-way stop-controlled intersections along the corridor. The intersection of 91st Avenue at Chase Street is being reconstructed as a roundabout to improve safety and level service at this intersection during the AM/PM peak hours. The construction of a roundabout is proposed to serve the future development of Liberty Estates, which will be located both east and west of the Erie-Lackawanna Trail where Whitcomb Street transitions into 87th Avenue. The geometrics of the existing sharp curves where 87th Avenue transitions into 89th Avenue and where 89th Avenue transitions into Chase Street are being softened to meet current design standards to improve safety along the corridor for the traveling public.

The project corridor was investigated by V3 on July 15, and 24, 2025 to determine the presence, extent, and quality of any wetlands or Waters of the U.S. under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and/or Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) jurisdiction. A copy of the Wetland & Waters Delineation Report dated February 10, 2026, is provided in **Appendix B**. Twelve (12) wetlands (Areas 1 through 12) and two (2) man-made stormwater management features (Area 13 and Area 14) were identified in and within 100-feet of the project corridor, as summarized in **Table 1** below.

A No Permit Required (NPR) with Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) letter from USACE dated January 27, 2026 (**Appendix D**) determined that “the property contains aquatic resources that are not subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act. Specifically, Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 were determined to be non-jurisdictional.”

In V3’s professional opinion, Areas 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 qualify as Class I wetlands, and Areas 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, and 12 qualify as Class II wetlands that support moderate hydrological function, as summarized in **Table 1** and as documented on the State Regulated Wetland Class Determination worksheets (**Appendix C**). Additionally, in V3’s professional opinion, Areas 13 and 14 are man-made stormwater management features exempt from IDEM jurisdiction per Indiana Code 13-11-2-74.5(2)(B).

Table 1. Aquatic Resources Summary & Impacts Table

Isolated Wetlands (Existing Conditions)				Isolated Wetlands (Proposed Impacts)				Exemption Request			
Area	Class	Type	Size (Acres)	Impacted?	Acres	Fill quantity (cys)	ATF	Exemption Request?	Exemption Reason		
1	II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	0.16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.04	64.53	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class II <0.375 acres		
2	II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	1.85	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	0.00	0.00	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Not Eligible		
3	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	0.19	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	0.00	0.00	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class I		
4	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	1.05	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.05	80.66	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class I		
5	II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	1.78	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	0.00	0.00	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Not Eligible		
6	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	0.06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.05	80.66	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class I		
7	II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	1.55	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.10	161.33	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Not Eligible		
8	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	0.06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.06	96.80	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class I		
9	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	0.04	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.04	64.53	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class I		
10	I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	0.26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.12	193.60	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Class I		
11	II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	4.49	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.33	532.40	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Not Eligible		
12	II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NF <input type="checkbox"/> F	2.23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	0.13	209.73	No	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Not Eligible		

As outlined under Indiana State Regulated Wetlands Law, Areas 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 qualify as exempt because they are Class I wetlands, and Area 1 qualifies as an Exempt Class II wetland because it is less than 0.375 acres in size. Areas 2, 5, 7, 11, and 12 are Class II wetlands that do not qualify for exemption.

The project proposes to impact 0.56 acres of Class II Wetlands in Areas 7, 11, and 12 as shown on the Proposed Conditions figure (Figure B, **Appendix E**). Impacts to wetlands are designed to be as minimal as possible based on the constraint of the right-of-way and alignment of the existing roadway. Due to design constraints requirements described above, the proposed impacts to wetlands are unavoidable.

Mitigation for the 0.56 acres of impacts will be provided at a mitigation ratio of 1.5:1 through the purchase of 0.84 acres of wetland credits. The required 0.84 acres of wetland mitigation credits will be provided through the purchase of credits from the Old City Light South Mitigation Bank in Porter County, Indiana, which was approved by the USACE on December 4, 2025. The draft Mitigation Credit Reservation and Purchase Agreement is provided in **Appendix G**.

Enclosed with this submittal are the following:

1. Signed Application for Authorization to Discharge Dredged or Fill Material to Isolated Wetlands and/or Waters of the State in **Appendix A**.
2. A Request for a Waters of the State Determination (WOSD), prepared by V3 and dated February 10, 2026 in **Appendix C**.
3. A copy of the Wetland & Waters Delineation Report prepared by V3 Companies updated February 10, 2026 is provided in **Appendix B**. The Wetland & Waters Delineation Report was updated to reflect the Waters of the State Determination (WOSD) conducted by V3.
4. **Appendix E** contains Figure A, Existing Conditions figure, and Figure B, Proposed Conditions figure, which depict the proposed 0.56 acres of wetland impacts. Photographs of the identified areas are provided in *Appendix II* of the Wetland & Waters Delineation Report (**Appendix B**).
5. Engineering Plans prepared by Robinson Engineering dated January 28, 2026, are provided in **Appendix F**.
6. Draft Mitigation Credit Reservation and Purchase Agreement is provided in **Appendix G**.

Please contact me at (630) 276-3759 or ametzger@v3co.com with questions or comments.

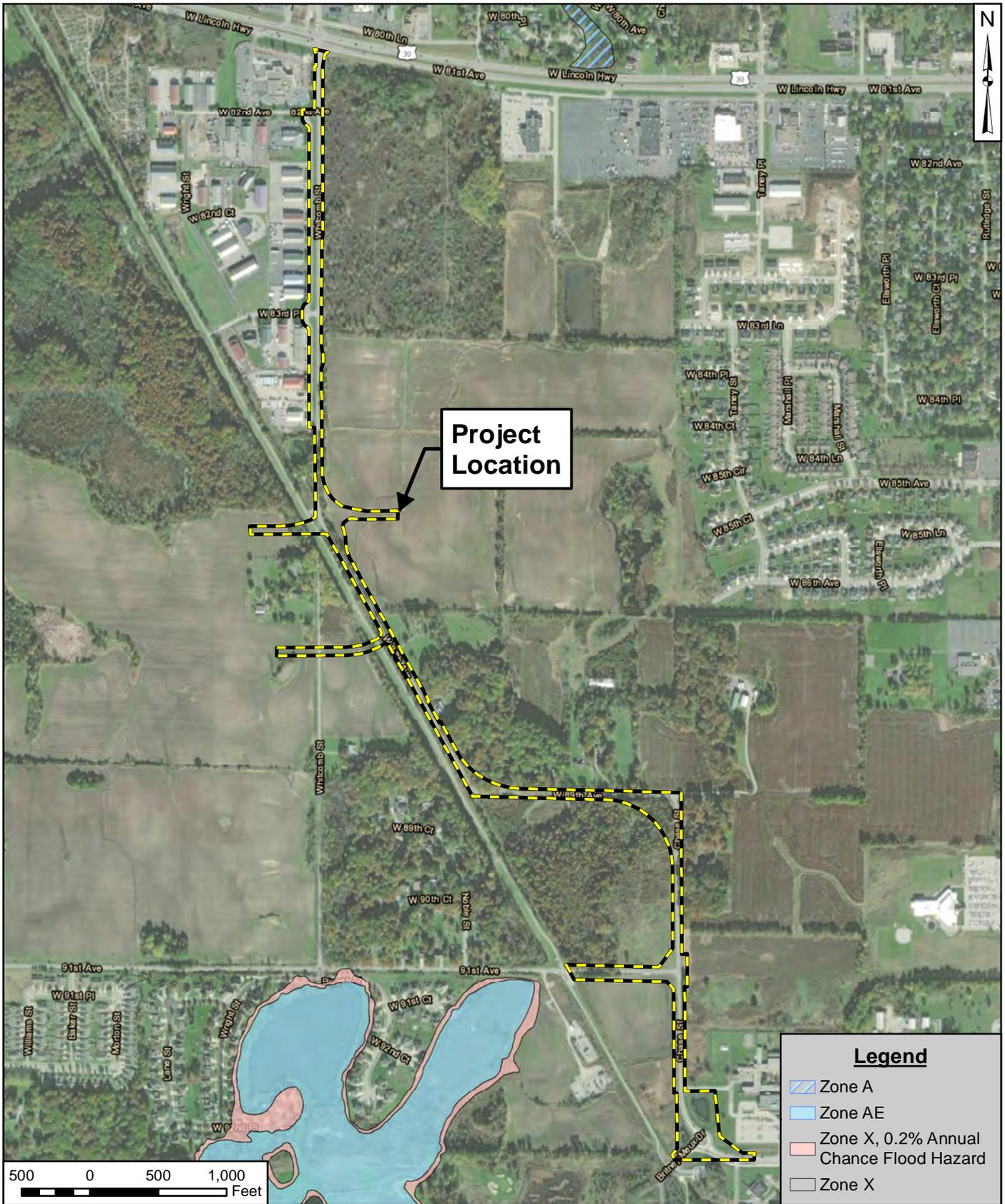
Sincerely,

V3 Companies



Alicia Metzger, CPSC, PWS
Project Manager
Wetland & Ecology Group

Enclosures: Appendices A – G



Project Location

Legend

- Zone A
- Zone AE
- Zone X, 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Zone X

500 0 500 1,000
Feet

<p>7325 Janes Avenue Woodridge, IL 60517 630.724.9200 phone www.v3co.com</p>	<p>PROJECT NO.: 250595</p>	<p>CLIENT: Robinson Engineering, Ltd. 233 E 84th Street Merrillville, IN 46410</p>	<p>TITLE: FLOOD ZONES OF LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA (2024)</p>		
	<p>CREATED BY: AMM</p>	<p>DATE: 07/18/2025</p>	<p>BASE LAYER: Maxar Aerial Imagery (2021)</p>	<p>SITE: Whitcomb Roadway Improvements Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana</p>	<p>FIGURE: 6</p>
<p>Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform with Excellence"</p>		<p>SCALE: See Scale Bar</p>			

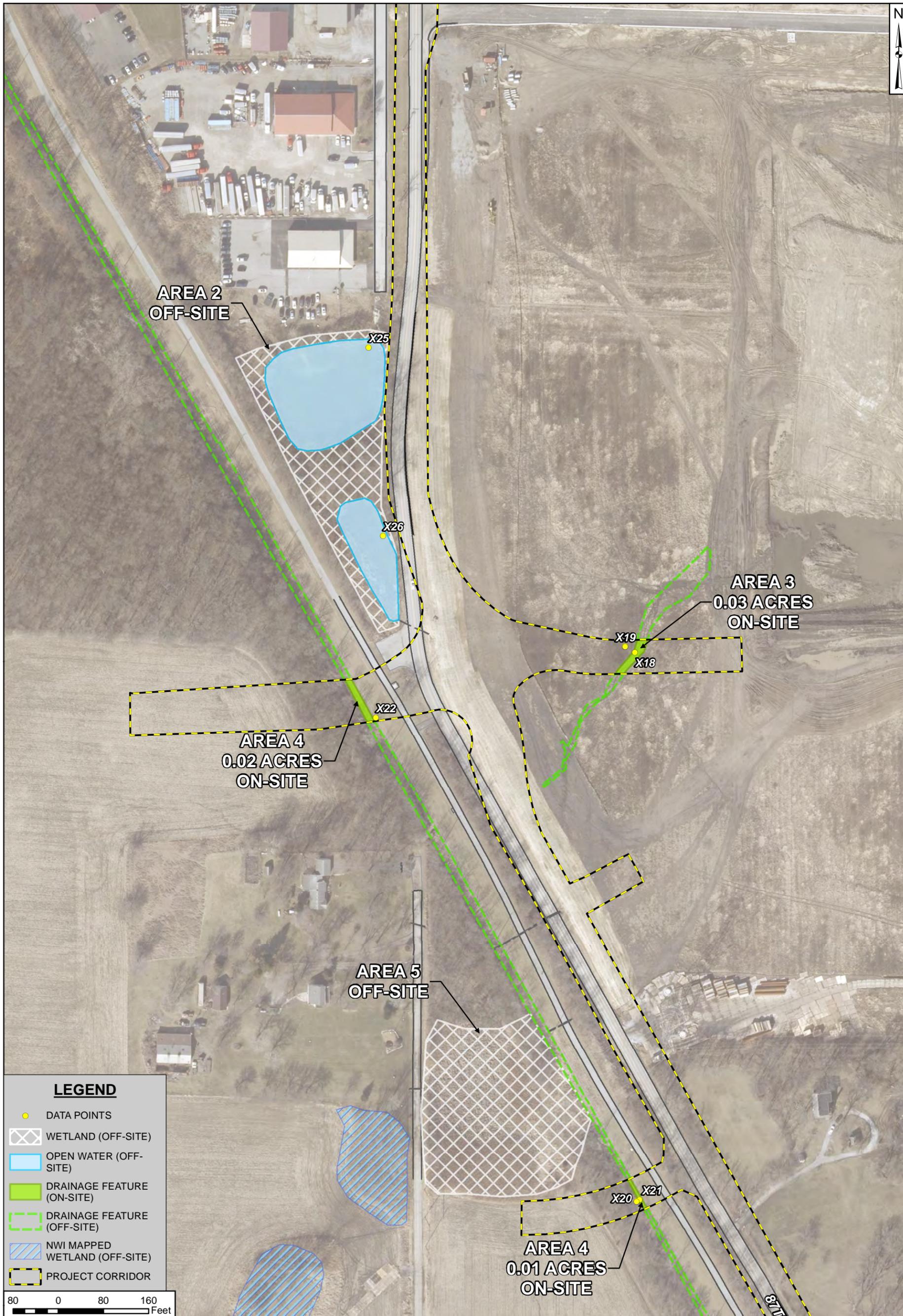


LEGEND

- DATA POINTS
- WETLAND (ON-SITE; 0.97 ACRES)
- WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- NWI MAPPED WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- PROJECT CORRIDOR

80 0 80 160 Feet

 Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform With Excellence"	PROJECT NO.: 250595	CLIENT: Robinson Engineering, Ltd. 233 E 84th Street Merrillville, IN 46410	WETLAND & WATERS DELINEATION	
	CREATED BY: AMM	DATE: 08/06/2025	BASE LAYER: Indiana Aerial Imagery (2023)	TITLE: Whitcomb Roadway Improvements Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana



LEGEND

- DATA POINTS
- WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- OPEN WATER (OFF-SITE)
- DRAINAGE FEATURE (ON-SITE)
- DRAINAGE FEATURE (OFF-SITE)
- NWI MAPPED WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- PROJECT CORRIDOR

80 0 80 160
Feet

	PROJECT NO.: 250595	CLIENT: Robinson Engineering, Ltd. 233 E 84th Street Merrillville, IN 46410	WETLAND & WATERS DELINEATION	
	CREATED BY: AMM	DATE: 08/06/2025	BASE LAYER: Indiana Aerial Imagery (2023)	SITE: Whitcomb Roadway Improvements Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana
Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform With Excellence"	SCALE: See Scale Bar			FIGURE: 8B



LEGEND

- DATA POINTS
- WETLAND (ON-SITE; 0.97 ACRES)
- WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- DRAINAGE FEATURE (OFF-SITE)
- NWI MAPPED WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- PROJECT CORRIDOR



7325 Janes Avenue
Woodridge, IL 60517
630.724.9200 phone
www.v3co.com

Visio, Vertere, Virtute...
"The Vision To Transform With Excellence"

PROJECT NO.:	250595
CREATED BY:	AMM
DATE:	08/06/2025
SCALE:	See Scale Bar

CLIENT:	Robinson Engineering, Ltd. 233 E 84th Street Merrillville, IN 46410
BASE LAYER:	Indiana Aerial Imagery (2023)

TITLE:	WETLAND & WATERS DELINEATION
SITE:	Whitcomb Roadway Improvements Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana

FIGURE:
8C

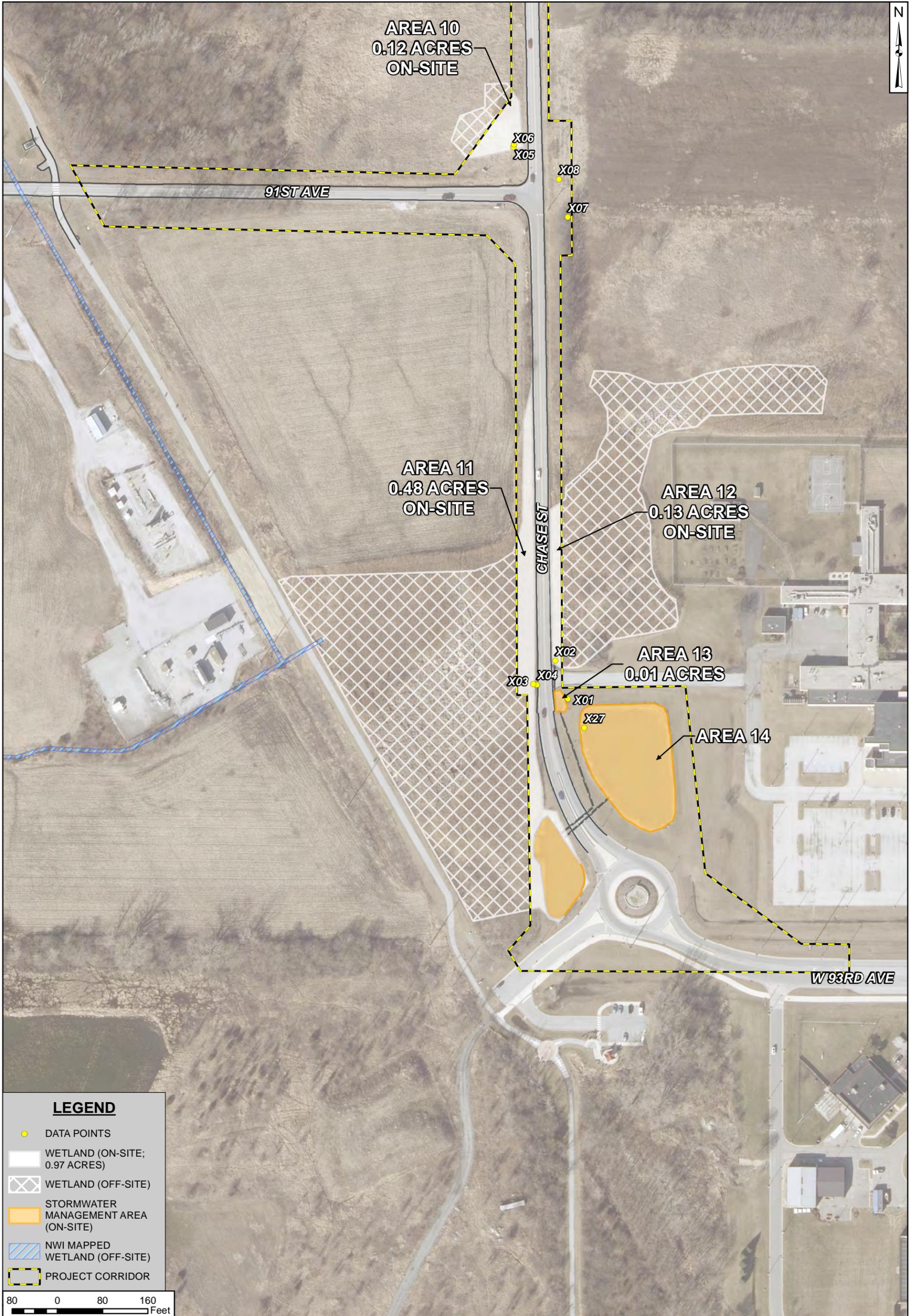


LEGEND

- DATA POINTS
- WETLAND (ON-SITE; 0.97 ACRES)
- WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- NWI MAPPED WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- PROJECT CORRIDOR

80 0 80 160 Feet

 Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform With Excellence"	PROJECT NO.: 250595	CLIENT: Robinson Engineering, Ltd. 233 E 84th Street Merrillville, IN 46410	WETLAND & WATERS DELINEATION	
	CREATED BY: AMM	DATE: 08/06/2025	BASE LAYER: Indiana Aerial Imagery (2023)	SITE: Whitcomb Roadway Improvements Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana



LEGEND

- DATA POINTS
- WETLAND (ON-SITE; 0.97 ACRES)
- WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AREA (ON-SITE)
- NWI MAPPED WETLAND (OFF-SITE)
- PROJECT CORRIDOR

80 0 80 160 Feet

<p>7325 Janes Avenue Woodridge, IL 60517 630.724.9200 phone www.v3co.com</p> <p>Visio, Vertere, Virtute... "The Vision To Transform With Excellence"</p>	PROJECT NO.: 250595	CLIENT: Robinson Engineering, Ltd. 233 E 84th Street Merrillville, IN 46410	WETLAND & WATERS DELINEATION	
	CREATED BY: AMM	DATE: 08/06/2025	BASE LAYER: Indiana Aerial Imagery (2023)	TITLE: Whitcomb Roadway Improvements Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana
SCALE: See Scale Bar				