

# Open Space Stewardship Plan

## **Homestead Acres**

Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin September 5, 2025

Project Number: 20241375

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### 1.0 Introduction

Homestead Acres (the "Development") is a residential subdivision development that is located southwest of the intersection of Dunkelow Road and Fenceline Road, in Section 35, T4N, R22E, Village of Caledonia, Racine County, WI (Figure 1, Appendix A). The proposed current phase of the development will contain 21 residential lots and two outlot areas, as depicted on the Plat (Appendix B) and Figure 2 (Appendix A).

The Village of Caledonia ("Village") has required the creation of a stewardship plan for the maintenance of open spaces in Outlot 2 for the Development. Heartland Ecological Group, Inc. ("Heartland") has prepared this Open Space Stewardship Plan on behalf of Newport Group, Ltd. (the "Developer"). The focus of this Plan is Outlot 2 which is approximately 5.14 acres and will be designated open space at the Development. The existing condition of the outlot includes upland agricultural land and wetland associated with a ditch/intermittent waterway. Upland areas in the outlot will be maintained for stormwater management purposes and as maintained turf by the Homeowners Association ("HOA") and existing wetland areas will be preserved and enhanced. This Plan includes a description of ownership and responsibilities, narrative of existing conditions, proposed preservation and enhancement goals for the wetland, site preparation and implementation measures for wetland enhancement, 3-year wetland maintenance plan, recommended long-term maintenance measures, seed mix for wetland enhancement areas, maintenance of the stormwater and turf areas, and a figure depicting open space areas covered by this Plan.

## 2.0 Ownership and Responsibilities

The Developer will be responsible for measures listed in this Plan during the Site Preparation and Implementation Stage and for following the wetland preservation restrictions listed on the Plat (Appendix B) during the period when the Developer is in control of the HOA. The HOA, and its successors and assigns will be responsible for the continued maintenance of the open space of the Development, including the Establishment and Long-Term Management Stages and following the wetland preservation restrictions listed on the Plat (Appendix B) after the Developer is no longer in control of the HOA. Individual lot owners are subject to the common support of maintenance and management activities by the HOA.



It is recommended that the Developer and the HOA contract qualified ecological contractors for wetland enhancement activities and contract landscapers for maintenance of the stormwater facilities and turf areas. Herbicide treatments shall be conducted by trained and licensed professionals.

The Developer and HOA are responsible for adhering to any bylaws, Declaration of Covenants, conditions, restrictions, maintenance agreements, etc. for this Development when implementing this Plan. This Plan shall be submitted to the Village for approval.

## 3.0 Existing Conditions

The immediate surrounding landscape of the Development consists primarily of residential development and agricultural lands. Heartland completed an assured wetland delineation within the Development on October 10, 2024. One (1) wetland area was delineated and one (1) intermittent unnamed tributary to Hoods Creek was identified along the southern portion of the Development (Figure 2, Appendix A). The intermittent tributary appears to originate as an agricultural ditch less than one mile to the west of the Development.

The wetland was described as a complex of wet meadow and shrub carr wetland communities that was overall low quality due to impacts from agricultural land use and encroachment by invasive species. The herbaceous layer was dominated by reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), an invasive grass. Other invasive species observed included narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). Native wetland species recorded included white panicle aster (*Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*), Bebb's sedge (*Carex bebbii*), cinnamon willow-herb (*Epilobium coloratum*), and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). Shrub carr areas contained a mix of native shrubs and tree saplings including sandbar willow (*Salix interior*), peachleaf willow (*Salix amygdaloides*), and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) over an herbaceous layer primarily dominated by reed canary grass.

Areas that were not delineated as wetland within the Development consisted of an agricultural field that was planted to soybeans in 2024. Further descriptions of the wetland and adjacent agricultural lands can be found in the Assured Wetland Delineation Report dated January 28, 2025 (Heartland).



## 4.0 Wetland Preservation and Enhancement

## 4.1 Goals

As discussed in section 3.0, the wetland within the Development is low in quality, degraded by historic and current adjacent agricultural land use, and lacks connectivity to high quality natural areas. The presence of the ditch/intermittent waterway within the wetland will provide continual inputs of stormwater and invasive species seed. The wetland will be enhanced as practicable but restoring the wetland to a high quality plant community would take considerable resources and would not be sustainable in the long-term without extensive maintenance. Wetland enhancement shall focus on an approximately 50-ft wide area extending inside the northern wetland perimeter, as depicted on Figure 3 (Appendix A). The wetland enhancement area totals approximately 1.35 acres. All wetland areas within the Development will be preserved. The goals for wetland preservation and enhancement within the open space areas of the Development are as follows:

- Preserve the existing wetland to provide flood and water quality protection functions.
- Reduce invasive species within the wetland, as practicable, and minimize the introduction or spread of new invasive species.
- Enhance floristic quality and pollinator habitat by installing a native wetland seed mix within a 50-ft wide buffer (Wetland Enhancement Area) inside the northern wetland perimeter.

## 4.2 Site Preparation and Implementation

The site preparation, implementation, and maintenance schedule is summarized in Table 1.

#### **Seedbed Preparation**

Conduct herbicide treatments within the wetland enhancement area to target reed canary grass, cattail, and other persistent invasive species over three events during the growing season prior to native seed installation. Estimated timing for treatments is late April/early May, mid to late May, and September. Herbicide may be applied with backpack sprayers or UTV/ATV-mounted pistol sprayers. Areas of native vegetation shall be avoided, as feasible. If there is not sufficient native vegetation (approximately 20% relative cover) to protect, the entire wetland enhancement area may be boom sprayed to remove existing vegetation. Herbicide shall consist of an aquatic approved glyphosate formulation.



Conduct a prescribed burn of the wetland from the northern perimeter to the top of bank of the ditch/intermittent waterway. The purpose of the prescribed burn is to remove existing vegetation thatch which will facilitate efficient herbicide treatments and improve seed to soil contact for the native seed. The ecological restoration contractor shall prepare a burn plan that describes the burn units, goals, locations of burn breaks, hazards, required notifications, weather parameters, equipment and burn crew requirements, and maps. Burn breaks will be installed prior, as needed, and may consist of field edge or mowed breaks around the burn unit perimeters. Burning shall be conducted in accordance with Village regulations. The prescribed burn should be conducted during the spring or fall burn season prior to native seed installation, as feasible based on site and weather conditions.

#### **Native Seed Installation**

A Wetland Seed Mix designed for the Development is provided in Appendix C. The seed mix contains native wetland grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs that will enhance floristic diversity of the wetland and provide competition for reed canary grass.

Native seed mixes should be obtained from a reputable native plant nursery that can provide species with local genotype. Seed should be installed during the spring, fall, or frost native seeding windows which are typically from April 1-June 15, October 31-frozen ground, and early winter before snowfall or during snow free periods until spring, respectively, after one growing season of invasive species treatment. Seed should be installed with an appropriate temporary cover crop (i.e., oats, winter wheat, and/or annual rye) based on the time of year. Native seed can be installed with native seed drills, drop seeders, broadcast seeders, and/or hand-broadcast depending on site conditions and constraints.

### 4.3 3-Year Maintenance Plan

Establishment/short-term maintenance should be conducted within the wetland enhancement area for three (3) growing seasons after native seed installation to support the establishment of native species and reduce invasive species. Target invasive species shall include all species listed as Restricted or Prohibited under the Wisconsin Invasive Species Rule (Wis. Admin. Code NR 40) and reed canary grass. Because the wetland is currently dominated by invasive species, specifically reed canary grass, invasive species management goals within the remainder of the wetland preservation area within the Development will be to control new invasive species, minimize the spread of existing



invasive species, and reduce the abundance of existing invasive species where practical and where there is the best public or ecological benefit.

Mowing and spot spray herbicide treatments are anticipated to be the primary management strategies to reduce invasive species and foster native species establishment within the wetland enhancement area. An adaptive management approach should be used whereby observations made during and after management activities by the management crews guide the tasks and timing of the next management event.

Mechanical mowing with a tractor or UTV-mounted mower should be used to reduce weed competition, reduce weed seed production, and to increase surface light levels to allow for the germination of native seeds within the wetland enhancement area. Wetland areas susceptible to rutting due to wet ground conditions should be avoided or mowed with handheld trimmers. Mowing shall be timed when weed species are in later bud stage/flower and prior to seed maturation. Vegetation should be cut to a minimum height of approximately 6-8 inches during the first year of establishment and then to a height of 10-12 inches in the second and third year of establishment as needed. Selective mechanical mowing or mowing with handheld brush-saws shall be used on an as-needed basis once the native vegetation is established to reduce select patches of annual or biennial weeds as well as reduce seed production by perennial weeds.

Herbicide treatments should be used to control target invasive species. The appropriate herbicide, application methodology, and timing should be selected to achieve the most effective control of the target species. Spot treatments with backpack sprayers should be used, as possible, to minimize off-target damage. Aquatic-approved herbicides should be applied in areas that may have standing water or where the herbicide may come in contact with surface water.

## 4.4 Recommended Long-Term Management

Long-term management should occur after the three-year establishment period. The goal of long-term management is to maintain the native plant diversity and habitat values of the restored wetland enhancement area and to manage new or spreading invasive species within the remainder of the wetland preservation area of the Development. It is recommended that annual monitoring be conducted by the HOA to identify management needs or restoration concerns such as erosion, incompatible land use by homeowners or



adjacent property owners, or new or spreading invasive species that pose a threat to the health of the wetland. Long-term management strategies may include mowing, herbicide treatments, supplemental seeding, prescribed burning, and erosion control.

Table 1. Preparation, Establishment, and Long-Term Management Schedule for the Wetland

Stage	Task	Timing	
Site Preparation and	Conduct prescribed burn of wetland up to the northern bank of the ditch/waterway.	Spring or fall burn windows before native seeding, dependent on site and weather conditions	
Implementation: Year 0	Herbicide treatment to target invasive species within wetland enhancement area.	3 events: late April/early May, May, and September	
	Install wetland seed mix within wetland enhancement area.	Nov./Dec. after growing season of herbicide treatments (preferred)	
Establishment: Year 1-3	Spot spray herbicide treatment to target invasive species within wetland enhancement area.	2 events: late April/early May and May	
	Management mow or spot mow native seeding areas, as feasible, within wetland enhancement area.	1-2 events: June and July/August, as feasible	
Long-Term Management	Monitor for incompatible land use and concerns, scout for new or spreading invasive species, develop management recommendations for wetland areas within the Development.	Annually	
	Control new or spreading persistent invasive species within wetland areas of the Development.	As needed	

## 5.0 Upland Open Space

Upland areas within Outlot 2 will be maintained for stormwater retention purposes and/or maintained as turf. A site-appropriate turf grass seed mix will be installed within these areas following final grading. The turf will be mulched, fertilized, and watered as needed for establishment. Overseeding will occur in areas with poor seed establishment. The turf will be maintained by regular mowing.

## 6.0 Conclusion

Heartland prepared this Open Space Stewardship Plan for Outlot 1 of Homestead Acres on behalf of Newport Group, Ltd. The Development is located in the Village of Caledonia,

#### OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP PLAN



Racine County, Wisconsin. The purpose of this plan is to guide the implementation and management of the open spaces which will consist of preserved and enhanced wetlands as well as stormwater facilities and turf areas within the uplands. The Developer will be responsible for the initial construction and implementation of the open space components, including the Site Preparation and Implementation Stage described within this Plan. A homeowner's association will ultimately be responsible for the maintenance and long-term management of the open spaces, including the Establishment and Long-Term Management Stages described within this Plan.

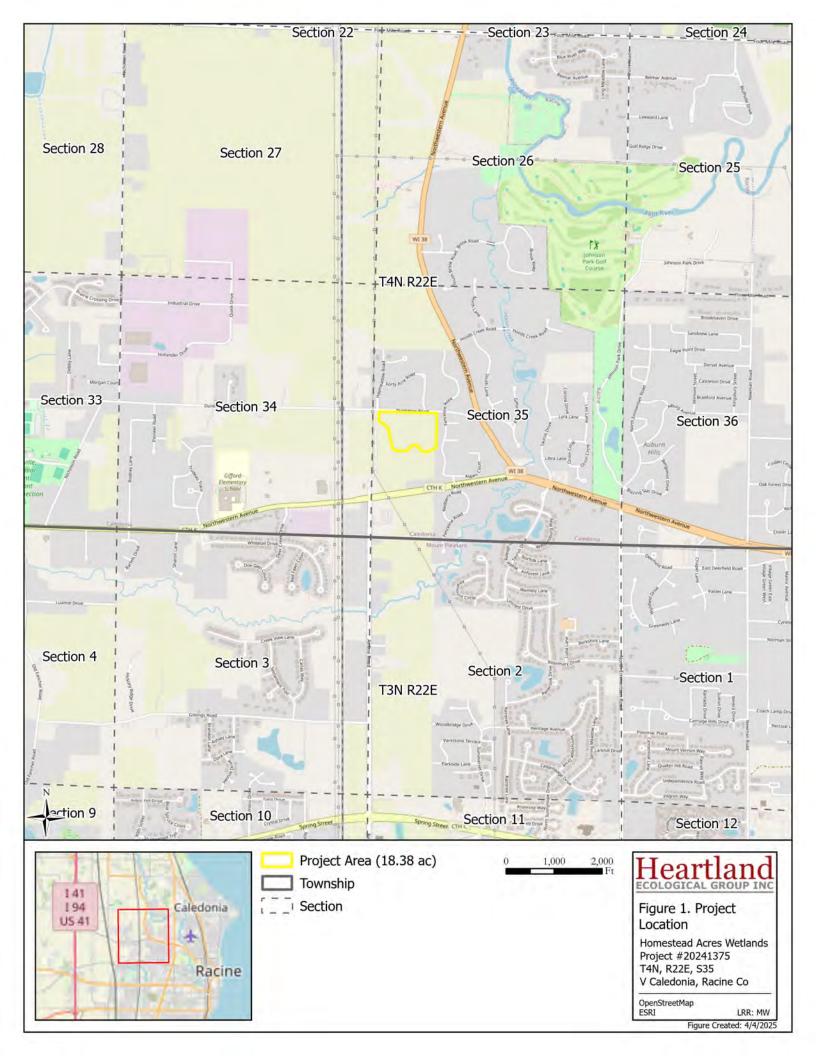


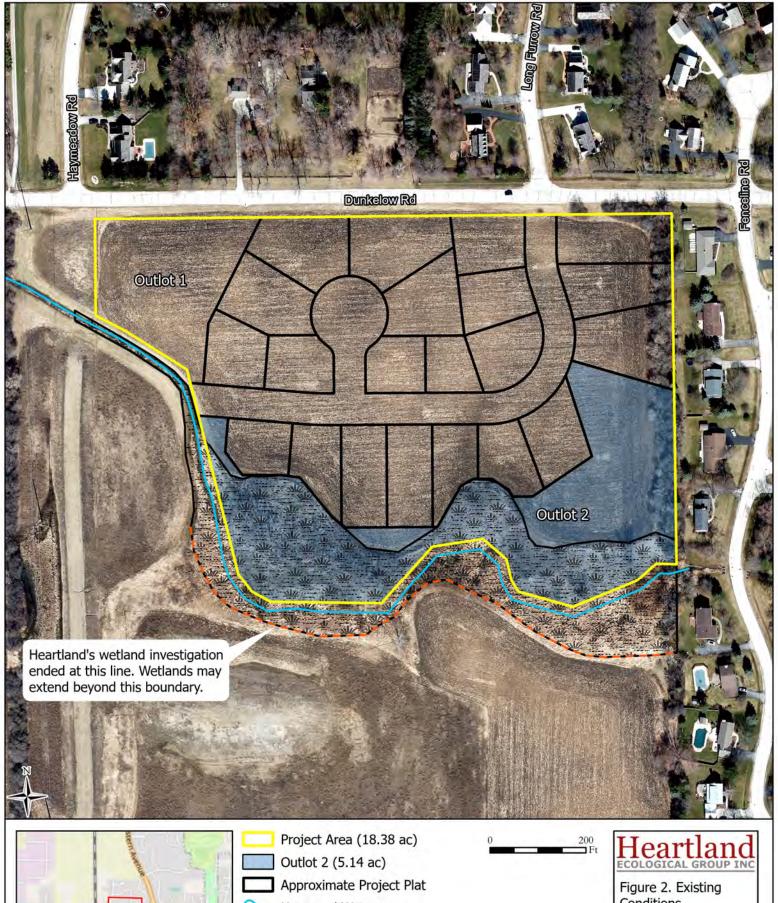
## Appendix A | Figures

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Existing Conditions

Figure 3. Open Space Stewardship Plan







**Unnamed Waterway** 

Field Delineated Wetlands (5.49 ac)

Approximate Wetland Boundary

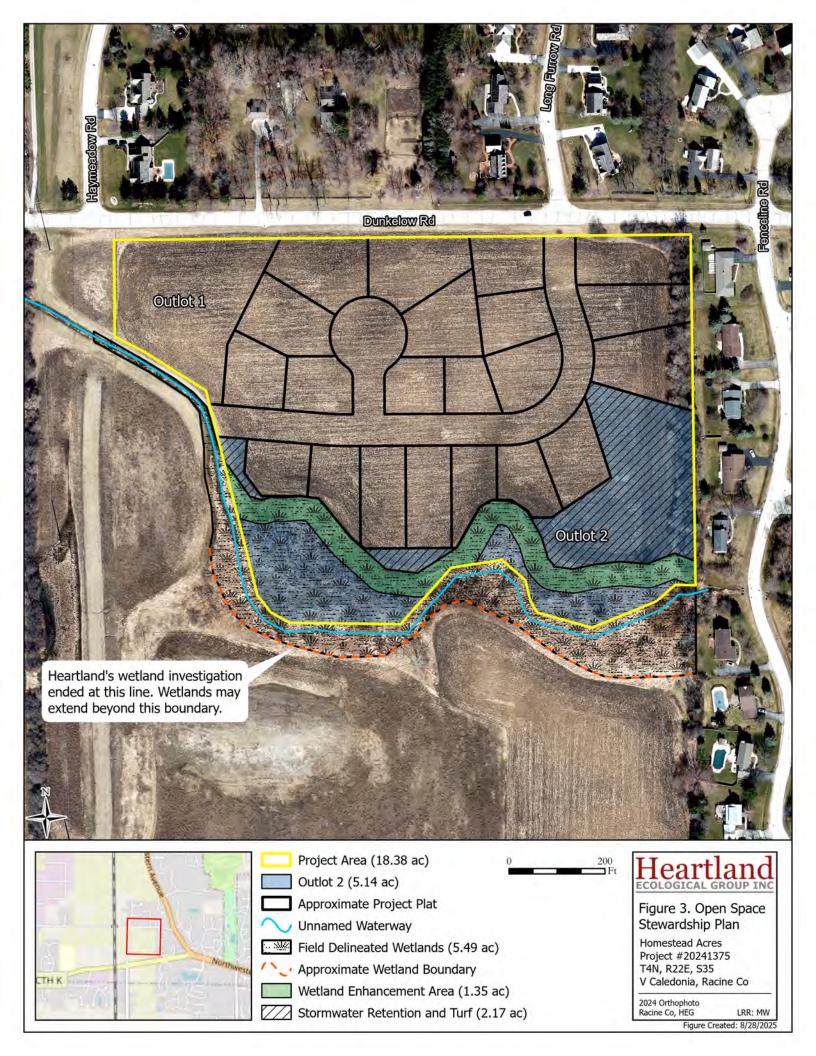
Conditions

Homestead Acres Project #20241375 T4N, R22E, S35 V Caledonia, Racine Co

2024 Orthophoto Racine Co, HEG

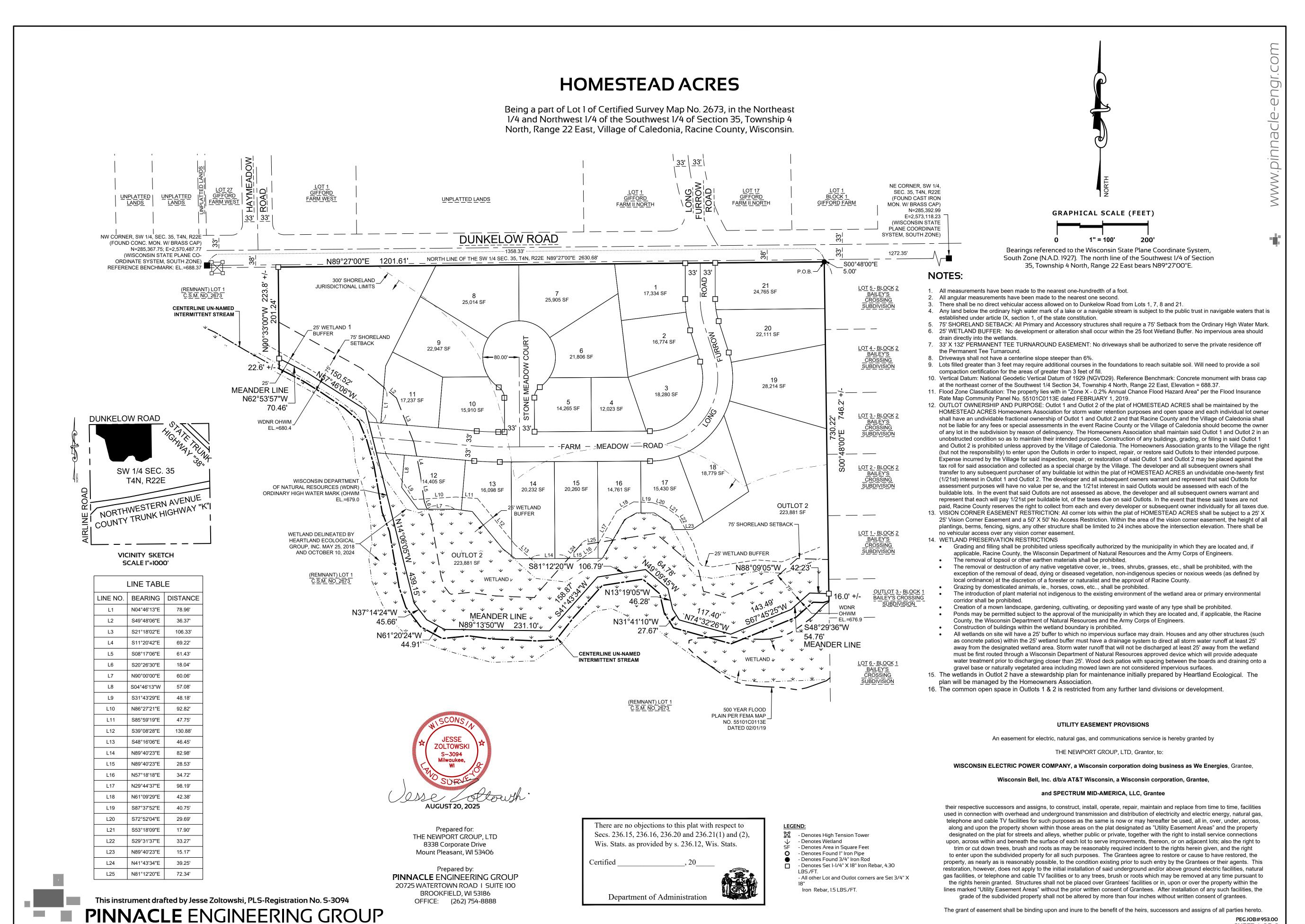
LRR: MW

Figure Created: 8/28/2025

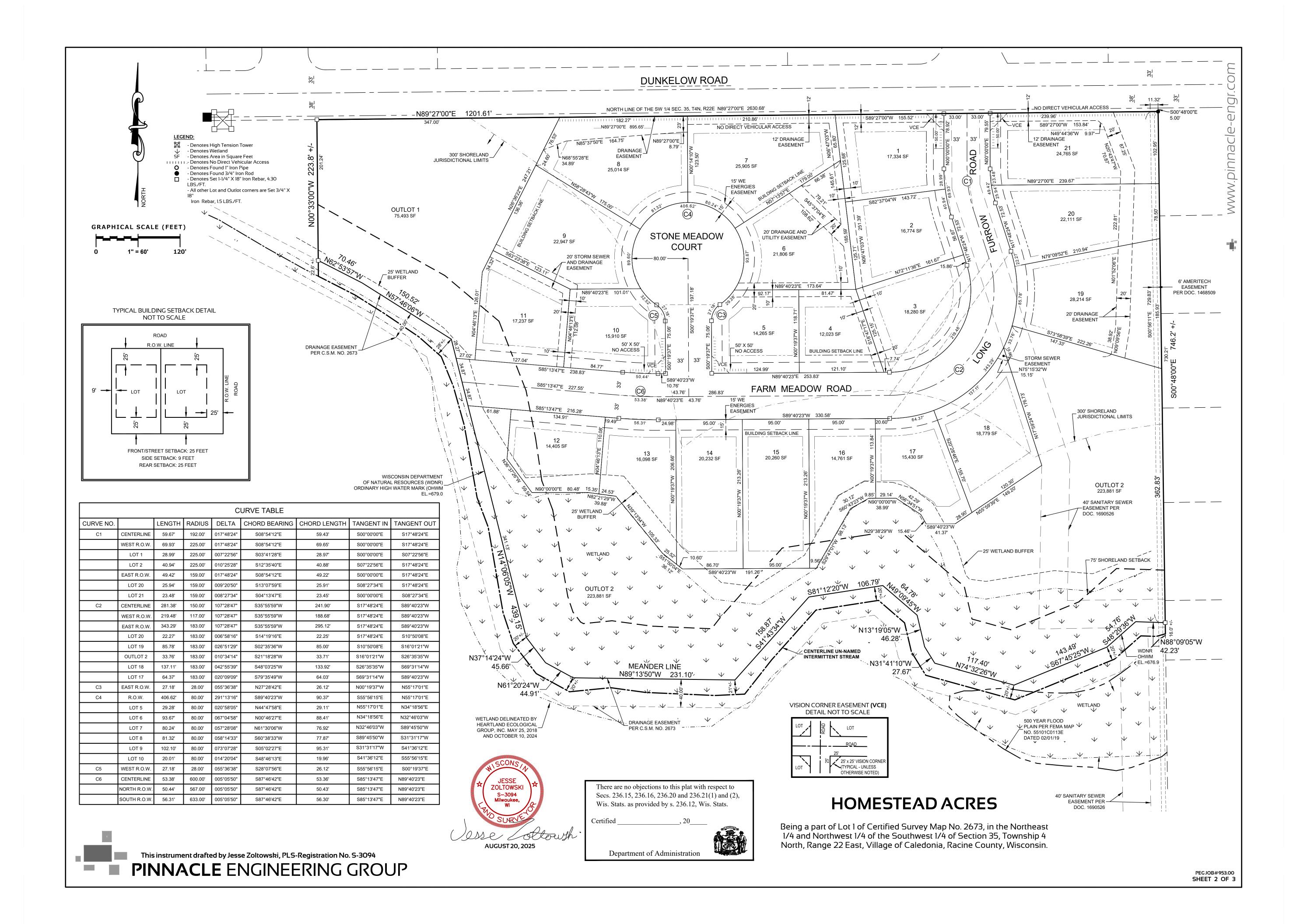




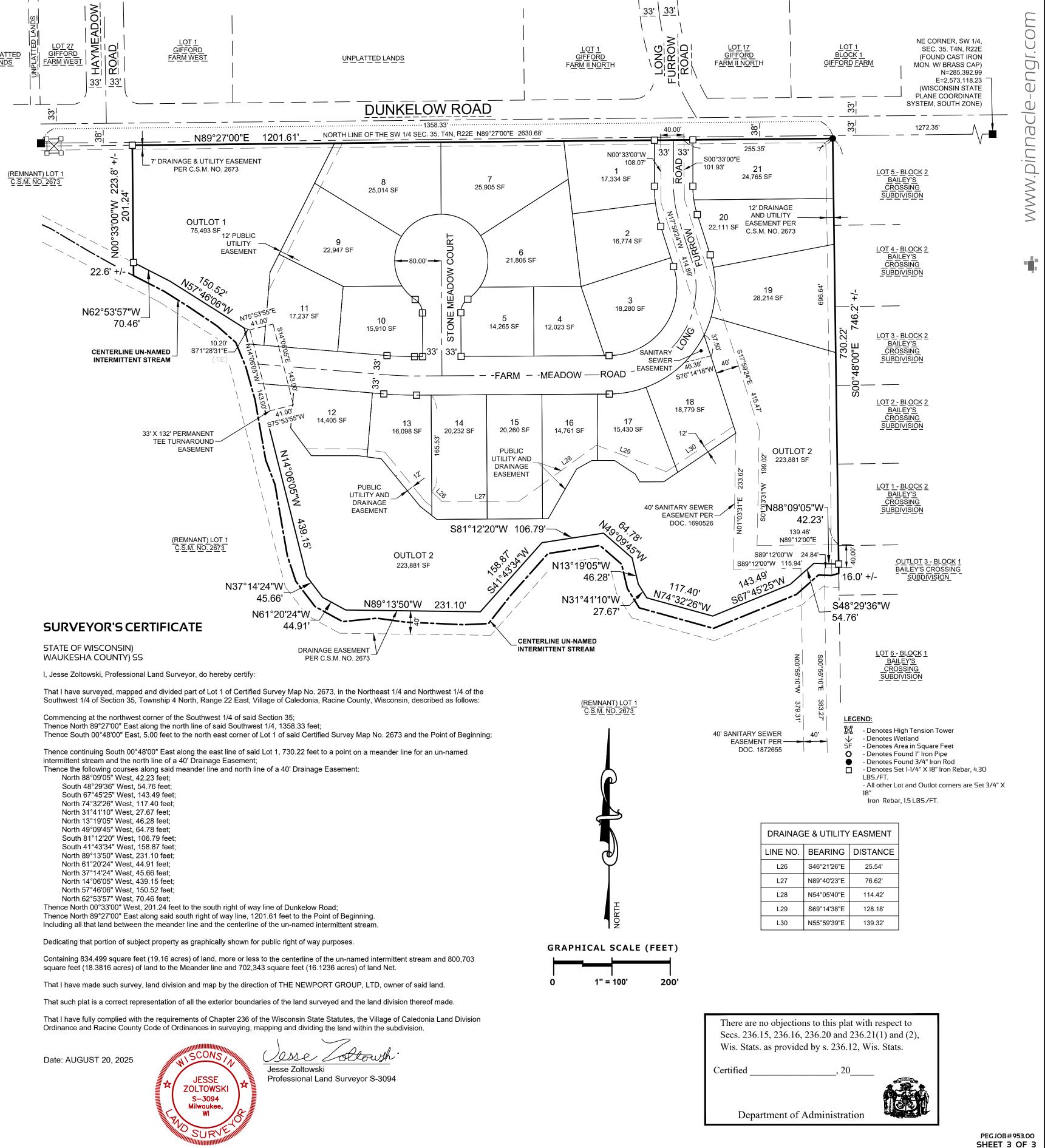
Appendix B | Homestead Acres Plat (Pinnacle Engineering)



PEG JOB#953.00 SHEET 1 OF 3



## **HOMESTEAD ACRES** Being a part of Lot 1 of Certified Survey Map No. 2673, in the Northeast 1/4 and Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 35, Township 4 North, Range 22 East, Village of Caledonia, Racine County, Wisconsin. **OWNER'S CERTIFICATE** THE NEWPORT GROUP, LTD, a Corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Wisconsin, as owner, does hereby certify that said limited company caused the land described on this plat to be surveyed, divided, mapped and dedicated as represented on this THE NEWPORT GROUP, LTD, as owner, does further certify that this Plat of HOMESTEAD ACRES is required by s.236.10 or s 236.12 of the Wisconsin State Statutes to be submitted to the following for approval: 1. Village of Caledonia 2. County of Racine 3. Department of Administration IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said THE NEWPORT GROUP, LTD, has caused these presents to be signed by (name - print) In the presence of: THE NEWPORT GROUP, LTD Name (signature) - Title STATE OF WISCONSIN) \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY ) SS Personally came before me this \_\_\_\_\_ , 2025, (name) of the above named THE NEWPORT GROUP, LTD, to me known to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and to me known to be such (title) of said limited company, and acknowledged that they executed the foregoing instrument as such officer as the deed of said limited company, by its authority. Notary Public State of Wisconsin My Commission Expires: **CONSENT OF CORPORATE MORTGAGEE** , a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Wisconsin, mortgagee of the \_above described land, does hereby consent to the surveying, dividing, mapping and dedication of the land described in the forgoing affidavit of Jesse Zoltowski, surveyor, and does hereby consent to the above certification of owners. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said , has caused these presents to be signed by \_ Senior Vice-President, and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed this day of Senior Vice-President STATE OF WISCONSIN) Personally came before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ , 2025, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, to me known to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument and to me known to be such officer of said corporation and acknowledged the same. Notary Public Name: State of Wisconsin My Commission Expires: **VILLAGE OF CALEDONIA CERTIFICATE** RESOLVED that the plat of HOMESTEAD ACRES in the Village of Caledonia, is hereby approved by the Village Board of the Village of Caledonia. Jennifer Bass, Village Clerk CERTIFICATE OF VILLAGE FINANCE DIRECTOR STATE OF WISCONSIN) RACINE COUNTY ) SS I, Wayne Krueger, being duly elected, appointed, qualified and acting Village of Caledonia Finance Director do hereby certify that in accordance with the records in my office, there are no unpaid taxes or special assessments as of this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ included in the Plat of HOMESTEAD ACRES. Wayne Krueger, Village of Caledonia Finance Director CERTIFICATE OF COUNTY TREASURER STATE OF WISCONSIN ) RACINE COUNTY ) SS I, Jeff Latus, being duly elected, qualified and acting Treasurer of Racine County, do hereby certify that the records in my office show no unredeemed tax sales and no unpaid taxes or special assessments as of \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_, 2025 affecting the lands included in the Plat of HOMESTEAD ACRES. Jeff Latus, County Treasurer This instrument drafted by John P. Konopacki, PLS-Registration No. S-3094 **PINNACLE** ENGINEERING GROUP





## Appendix C | Wetland Seed Mix

Table 1. Wetland Seed Mix

Nomenclature		Seed Metrics			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Oz/Acre	Seeds/ft <sup>2</sup>	% Mix by No. Seeds	
Grasses, Sedges, Rushes					
Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem	6.0	1.4	1.33	
Calamagrostis canadensis	Blue Joint Grass	0.5	3.2	3.11	
Carex bebbii	Bebb's Oval Sedge	2.0	1.6	1.51	
Carex comosa	Bottlebrush Sedge	1.0	0.7	0.67	
Carex molesta	Field Oval Sedge	3.0	1.7	1.66	
Carex stipata	Common Fox Sedge	2.5	2.0	1.89	
Carex vulpinoidea	Brown Fox Sedge	5.0	11.5	11.09	
Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	40.0	3.9	3.73	
Juncus dudleyi	Dudley's Rush	0.2	14.7	14.2	
Juncus effusus	Common Rush	0.5	11.5	11.09	
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	Softstem Bulrush	1.5	1.1	1.03	
Scirpus atrovirens	Dark-green Bulrush	1.3	13.2	12.76	
Scirpus cyperinus	Wool Grass	0.3	11.7	11.31	
Spartina pectinata	Prairie Cord Grass	2.0	0.3	0.29	
Forbs		•		•	
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	1.0	0.1	0.11	
Asclepias syriaca	Common Milkweed	1.0	0.1	0.09	
Bidens cernua	Nodding Bur Marigold	2.0	1.0	0.93	
Eupatorium perfoliatum	Boneset	0.5	1.8	1.77	
Euthamia graminifolia	Grass-leaved Goldenrod	0.5	4.0	3.88	
Eutrochium maculatum	Joe Pye Weed	0.5	1.1	1.05	
Helenium autumnale	Sneezeweed	1.0	3.0	2.88	
Helianthus grosseserratus	Saw-tooth Sunflower	1.5	0.5	0.50	
Pycnanthemum virginianum	Mountain Mint	0.5	2.5	2.44	
Symphyotrichum lanceolatum	Panicled Aster	0.5	1.8	1.73	
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae	New England Aster	0.3	0.5	0.44	
Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain	4.0	8.5	8.25	
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	1.0	0.3	0.24	

### **Diversity and Density Metrics**

Plant Type	Species Richness	Total Oz/Acre	Total Seeds/ft <sup>2</sup>	% Mix by No. Seeds
Grasses, Sedges, Rushes	14	65.8	78	75.7
Forbs	13	14.3	25	24.3
Totals	27	80.1	103	100.0