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Consultants, Inc.

# Engineering, Partnerships, and Funding for Lyons Run Passive AMD Remediation

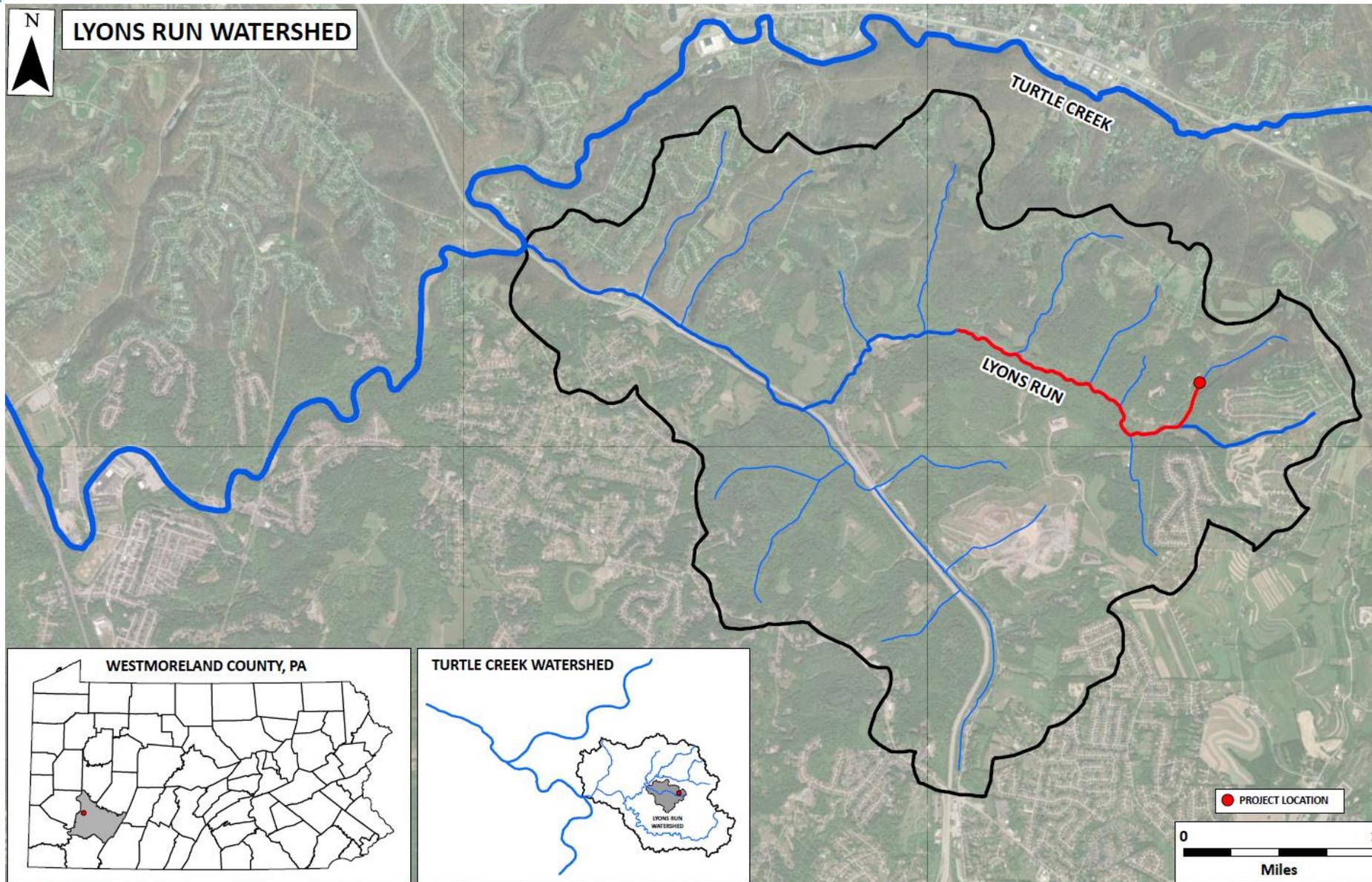
**Presented By**

Timothy A. Denicola, PG, CFM

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

March 2025

# Watershed



Lyons Run Watershed  
Westmoreland County,  
Pennsylvania

- 5.1 miles (8.2 km)
- 5.7 mi<sup>2</sup> (14.7 km<sup>2</sup>)

AMD impairment

- ~2.5 miles

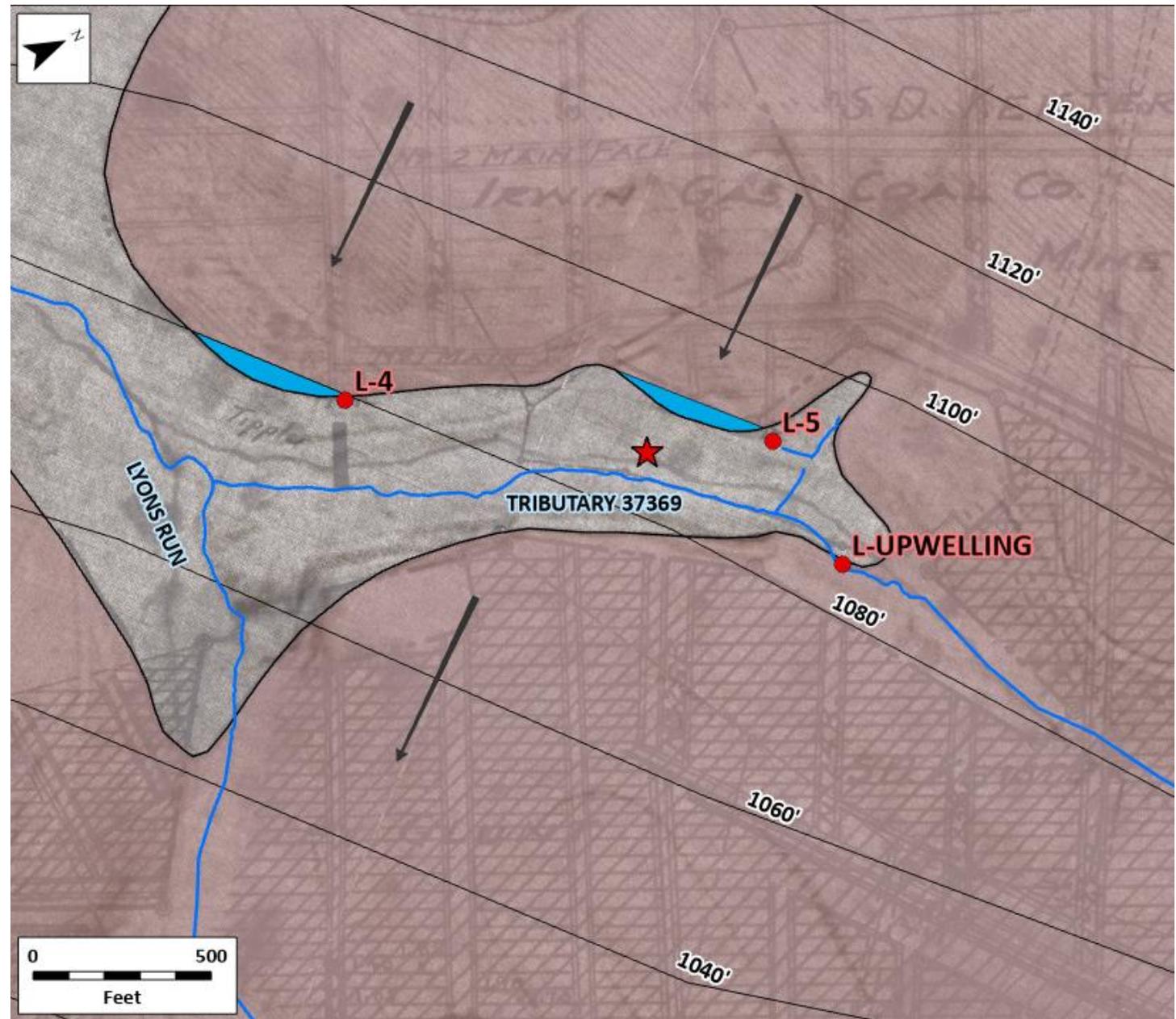
Larger Turtle Creek  
Watershed

Monongahela River  
Watershed



# Mining

- Irwin Gas Coal Company Mine No. 2
- Operated 1917 - 1924
- Perched above-drainage mine pools
- Three AMD Sources
  - High acidity
  - High iron and aluminum
  - Seasonally influenced



# AMD Sources

L-4



L-5



L-UPWELLING

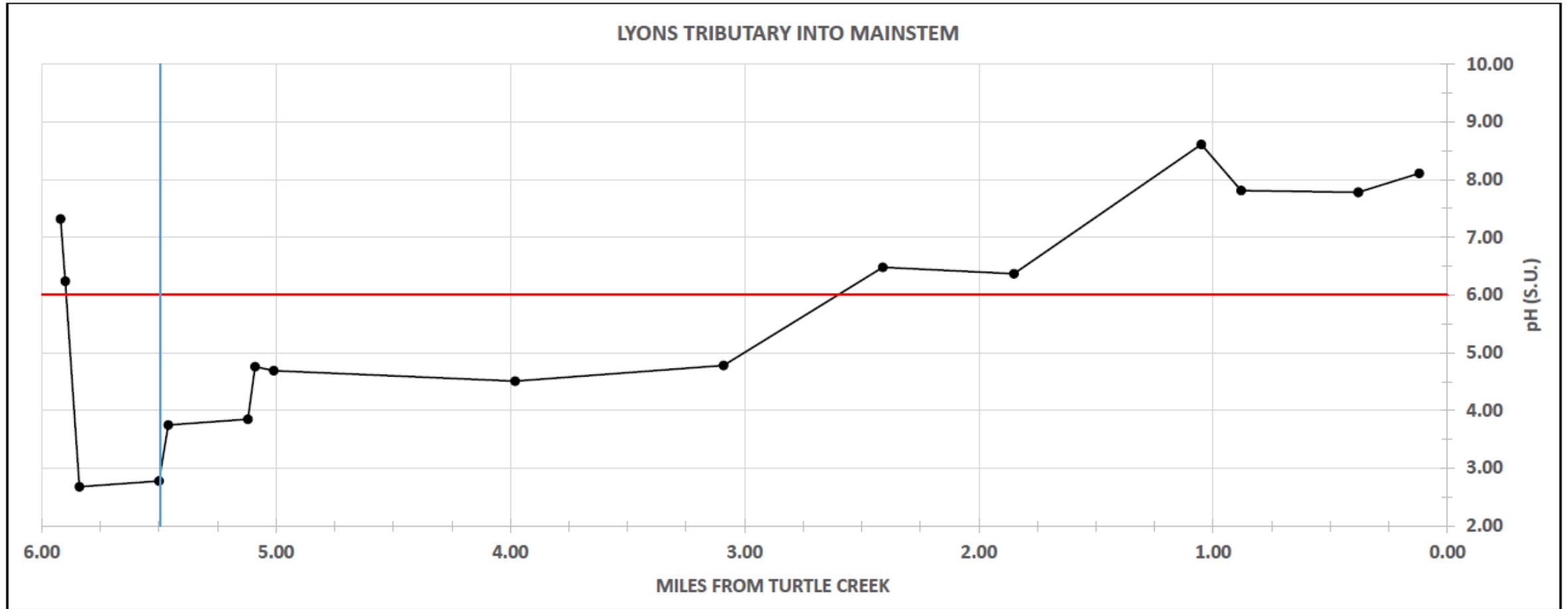


# Water Quality

Date	AMD Source	pH	Specific Conductance	Dissolved Oxygen	Discharge Q	Hot Acidity	Total Alkalinity	Ca Total	Fe Total	Fe Dis	Al Total	Al Dis	Mn Total	Mn Dis	Mg Total	SO4 Total
m/d/y			μS/cm	mg/L	L/s	mg/L as CaCO3		mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L
3/1/2023	L-4	2.71	2017	9.14	1.20	336	0	97.3	28.6	28.7	32.7	33.1	3.1	2.9	32.3	816
3/1/2023	L-5	2.58	2809	9.69	1.78	490	0	83.1	42.8	41.9	49.3	48.0	4.5	4.4	28.5	988
3/1/2023	L-UPWELL	2.69	2190	7.13	1.80	335	0	65.4	30.9	29.7	31.0	36.1	3.2	3.0	22.9	732

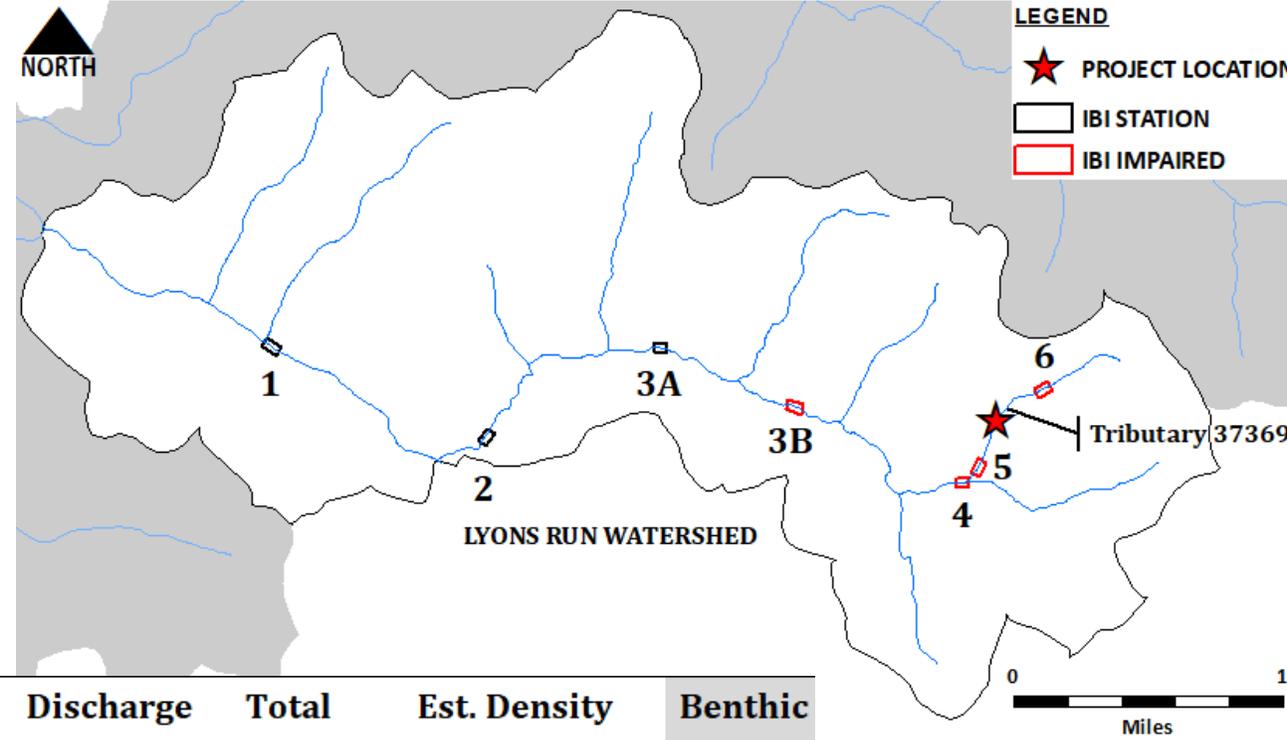


# Watershed Impact



# Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)

- Low score upstream (Site 6)
  - Ephemeral and circum-neutral pH
- Low score below AMD (Sites 4, 5)
  - Perennial low pH
- Moderate score downstream mainstem (Site 3B)
  - Dilution and precipitation
- Good score lower watershed (Sites 1, 2, 3A)
  - Dilution, neutralization, attenuation



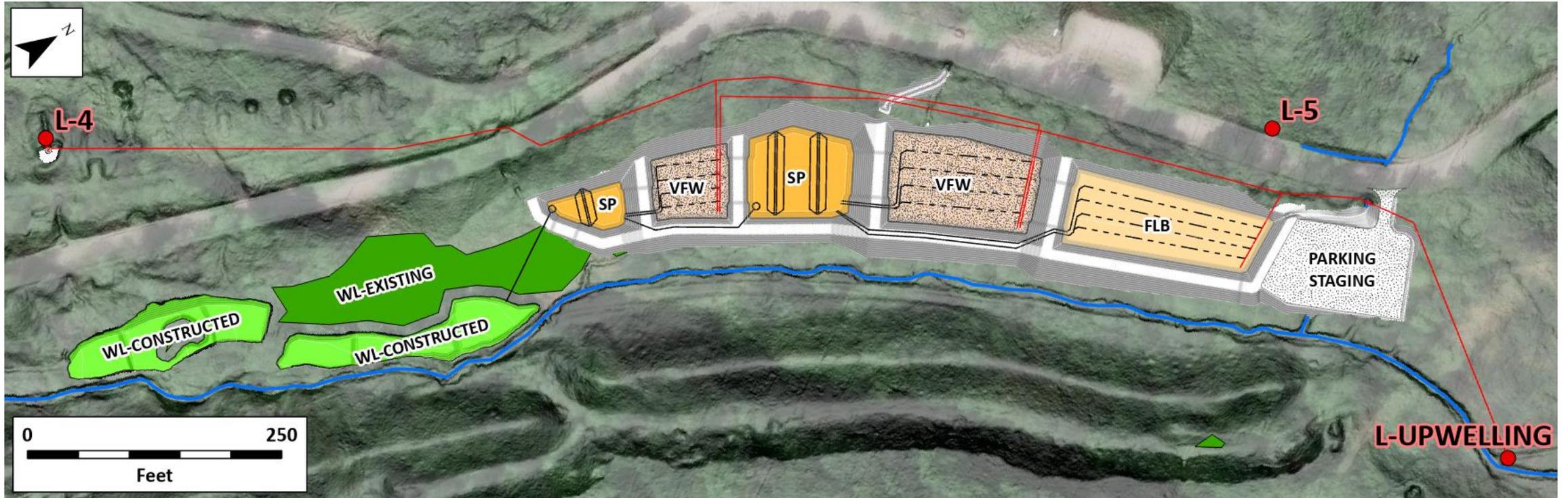
Station No.	pH	Specific Conductance μS/cm	Dissolved Oxygen mg/L	Discharge Q gpm	Total Taxa	Est. Density #Organisms/m <sup>2</sup>	Benthic IBI Score
1	8.49	568	15.5	1,168	25	409	60.9
2	8.24	390	14.5	606	33	280	68.7
3a	7.61	483	13.7	257	24	96	65.0
3b	5.23	595	13.9	154	13	28	44.5
4	2.78	1,108	14.0	63	8	27	14.7
5	2.70	1,065	13.9	62	4	265	11.3
6	6.03	295	13.7	30	11	124	24.6



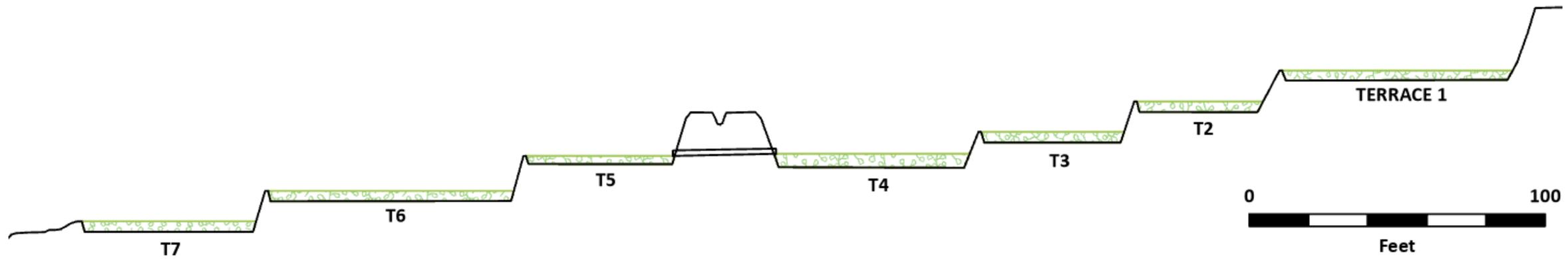
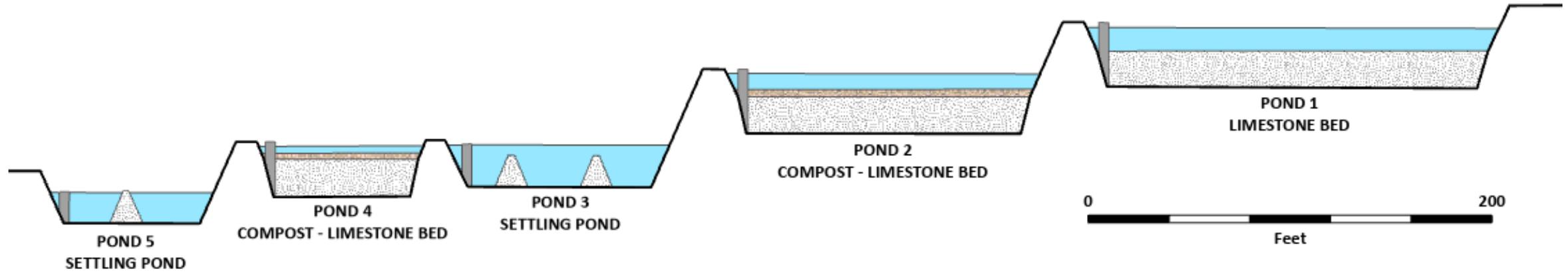
# Proposed Project

## Successive alkalinity producing system (SAPS)

- Flushable limestone beds – vertical flow wetlands (compost-over-limestone)
- Settling ponds
- Polishing wetlands



# Proposed Project



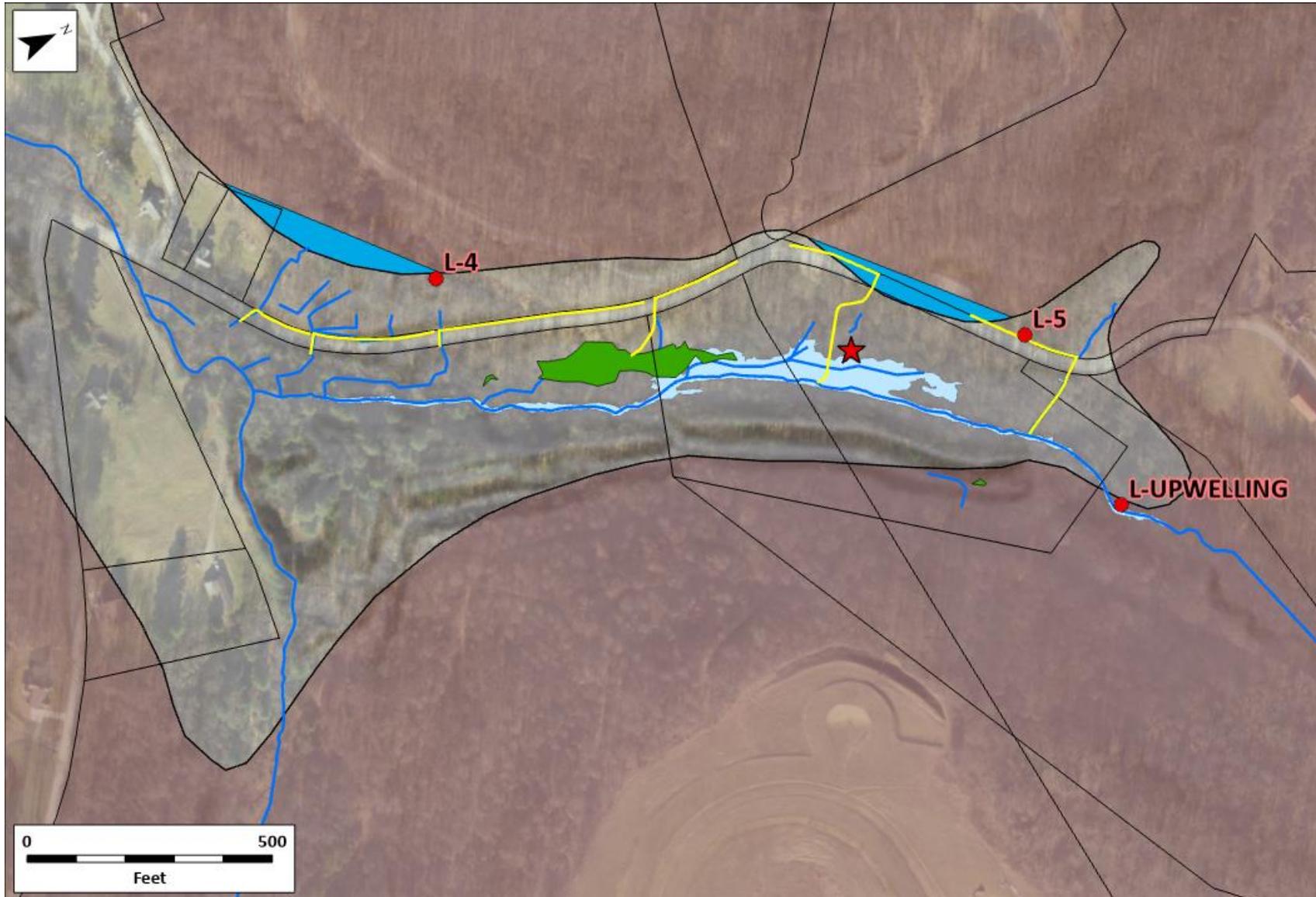


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# CONSTRAINTS

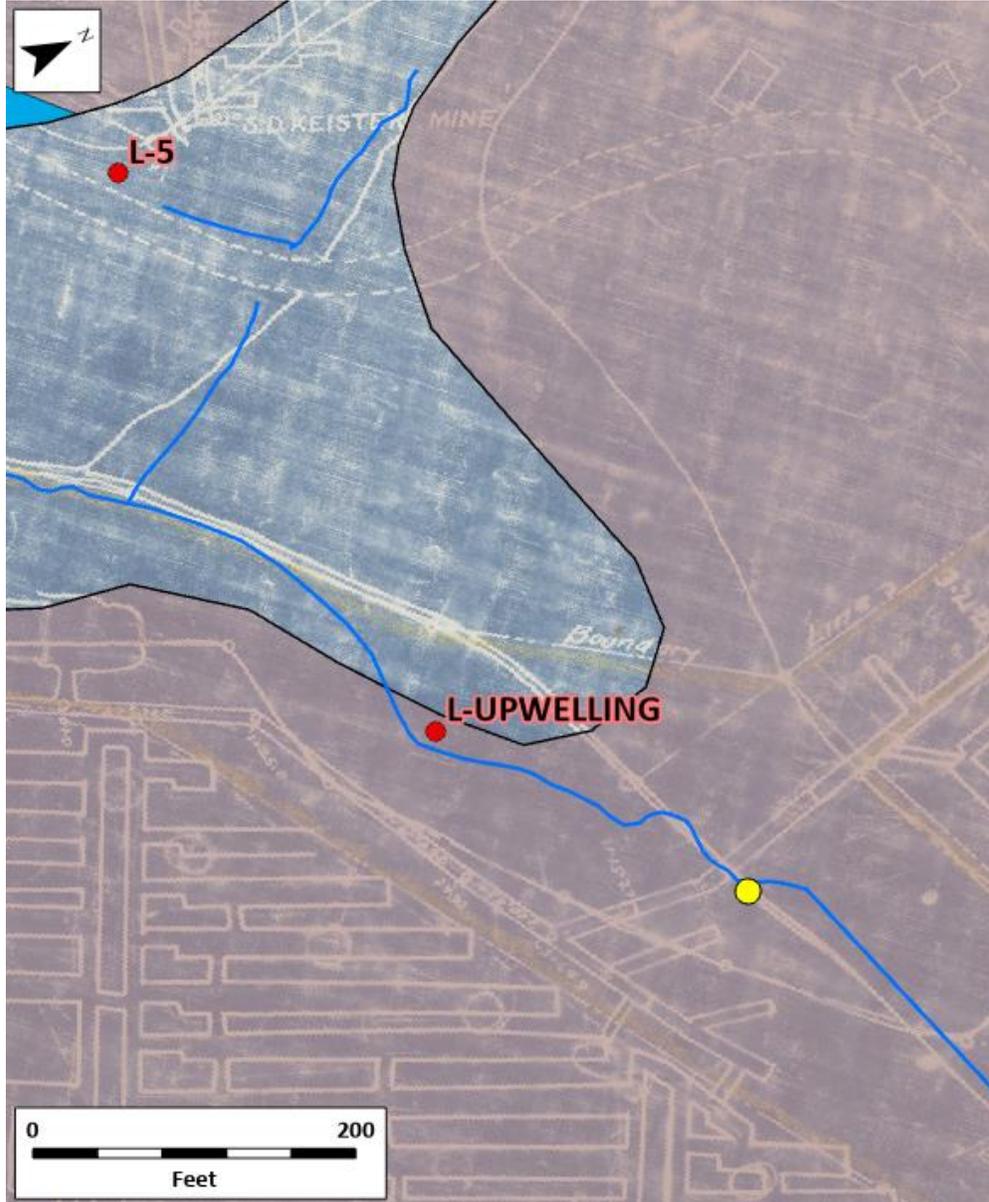
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# Property and Aquatic Resources

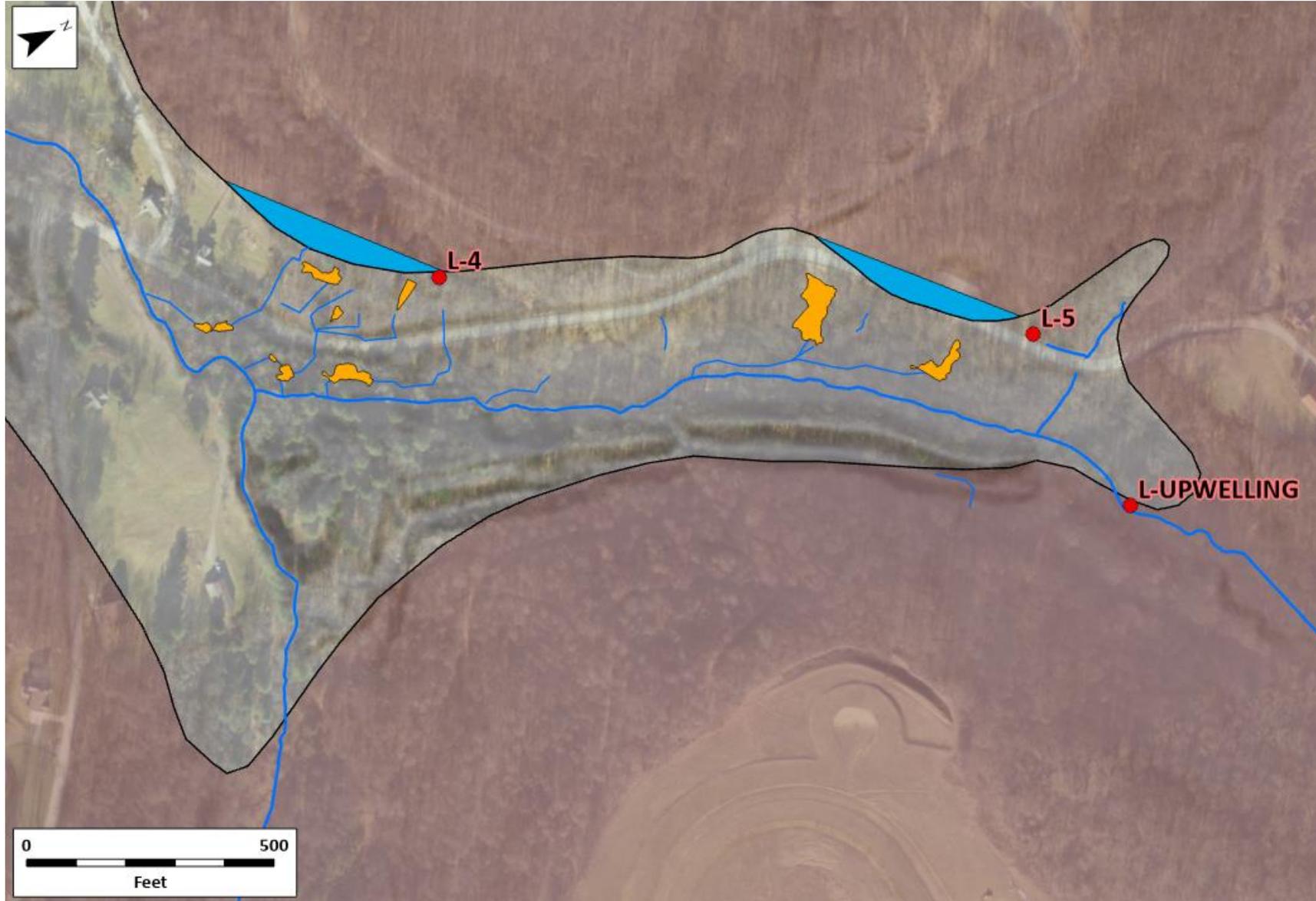


- Property Boundaries
- Delineated Streams
- Delineated Wetlands
- Modeled 100-yr Floodway
- Public Road
  - Ditches and Culverts
  - Stormwater Mgmt.

# Undermining and Water Losses

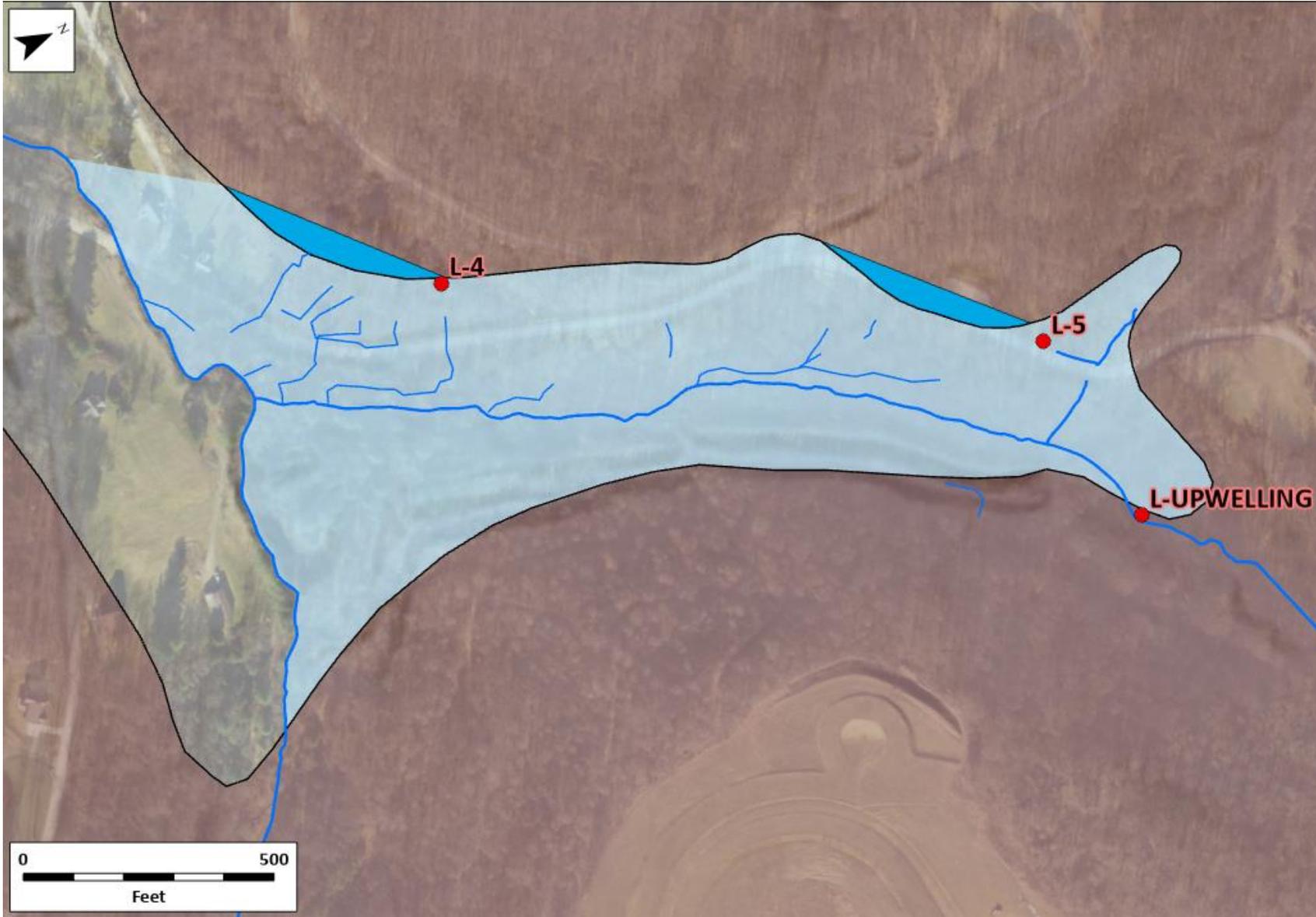


# Acidic Seeps



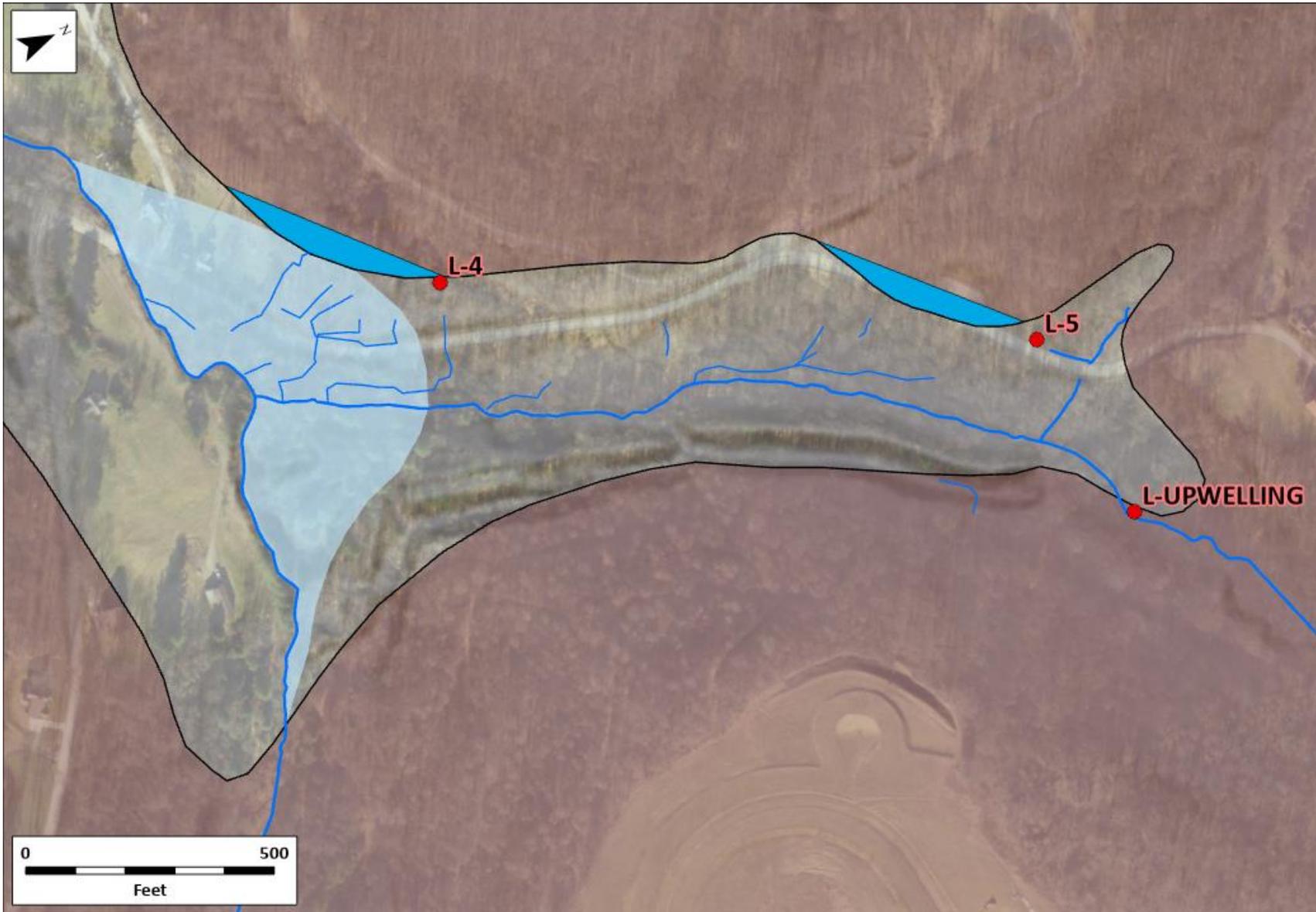
Seep Name	Acres	pH
Seep #1	0.001	2.70
Seep #2	NA	2.20
Seep #3A	0.057	2.82
Seep #3B	0.143	2.72
Seep #5	0.051	3.33
Seep #7	0.021	3.03
Seep #8	0.022	3.26
Seep #9	0.037	2.81
Seep #10	0.009	2.90
Seep #11	0.021	2.94

# Seasonal Variation and Aquifer Depletion



- Wet season
- Saturated watershed
- AMD sources at maximum discharge
  - Combined ~200 gpm
  - Higher concentrations and contaminate loads

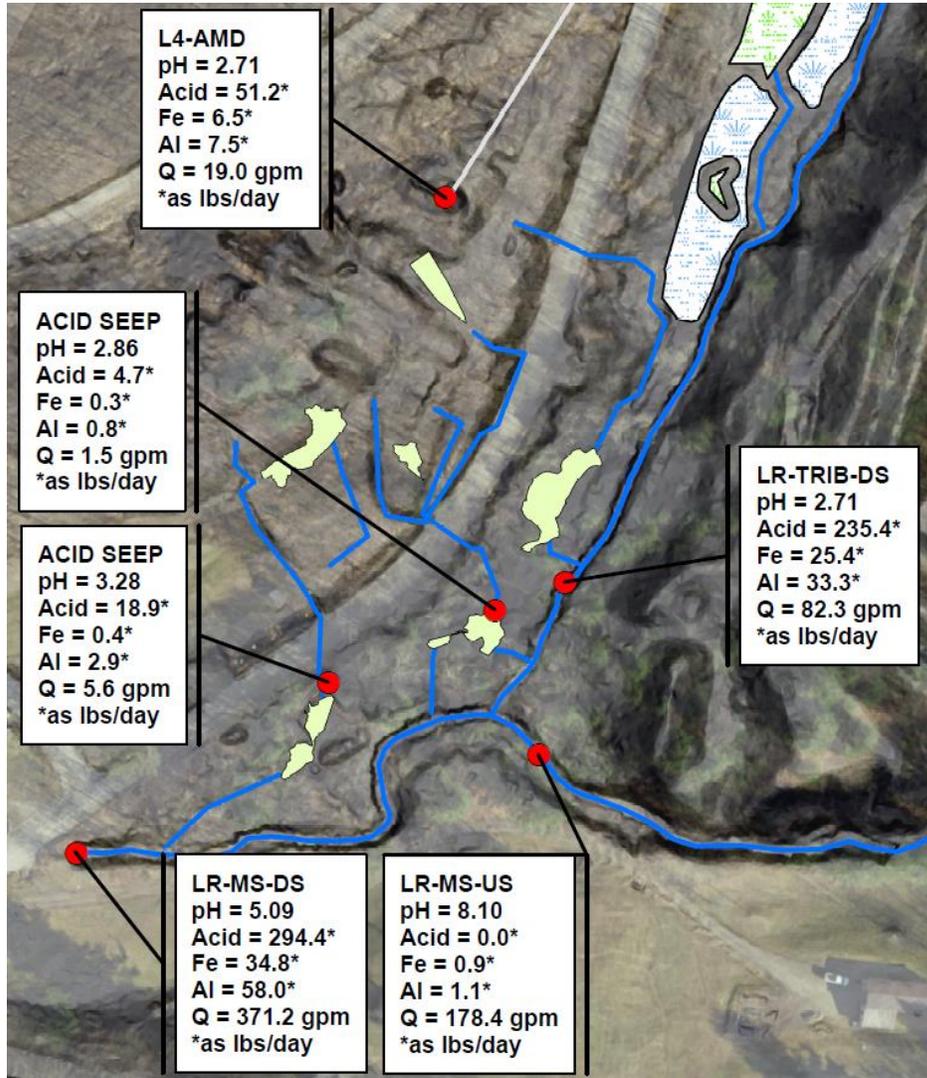
# Seasonal Variation and Aquifer Depletion



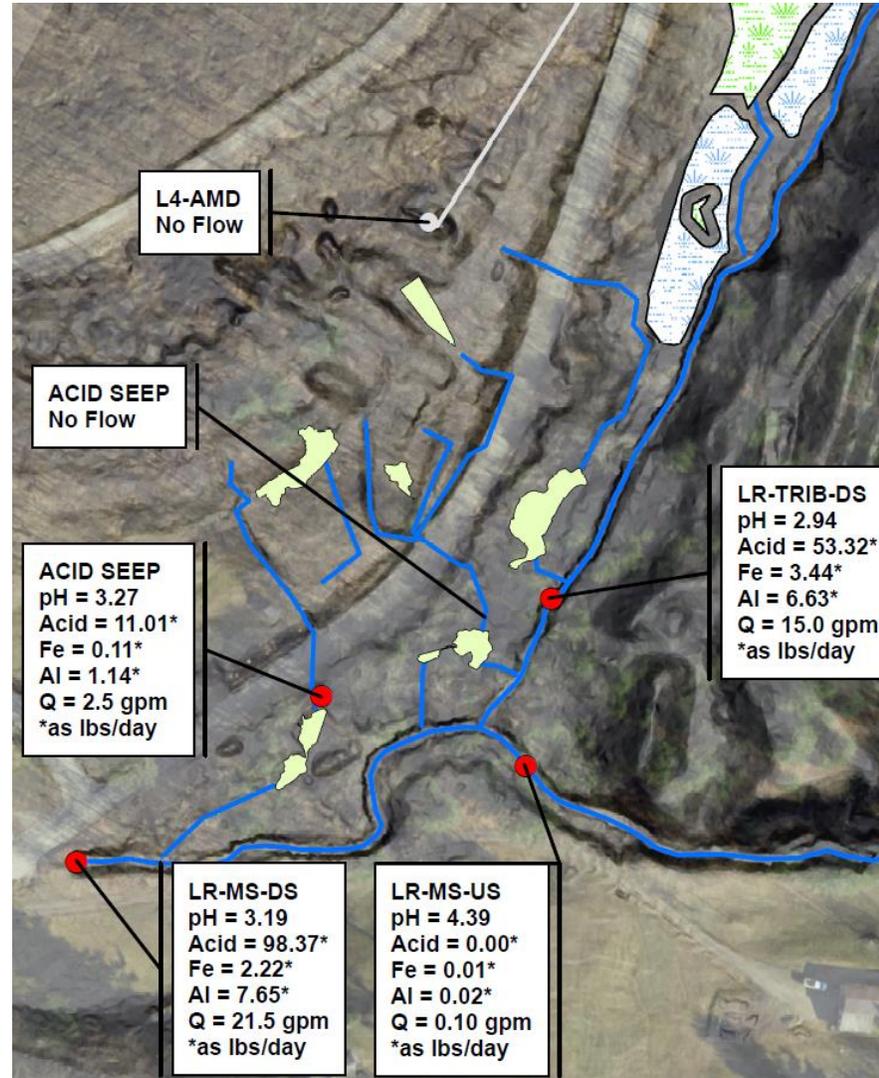
- Dry Season
- Dry AMD sources
- Dry upper watershed
- Saturated lower watershed
  - pH = 3.2
  - Acidity = 300 mg/L
  - Fe = 10 mg/L
  - Al = 40 mg/L

# Contaminate Loads

## Wet Season



## Dry Season



## Wet Season

Additional:

- Q: 103 gpm
- Acid: 35 lbs/day
- Fe: 8 lbs/day
- Al: 20 lbs/day

## Dry Season

Additional:

- Q: 4 gpm
- Acid: 34 lbs/day
- Fe: -1.3 lbs/day
- Al: 0.14 lbs/day

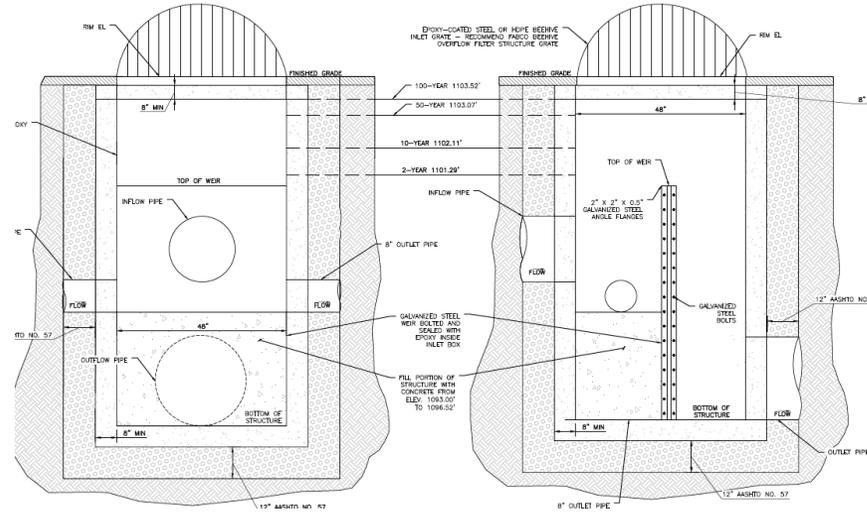
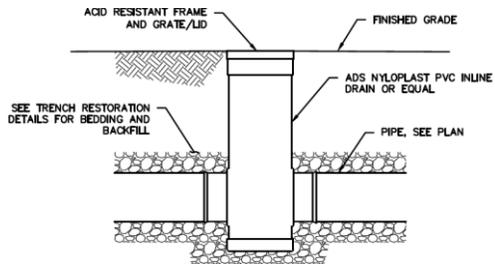
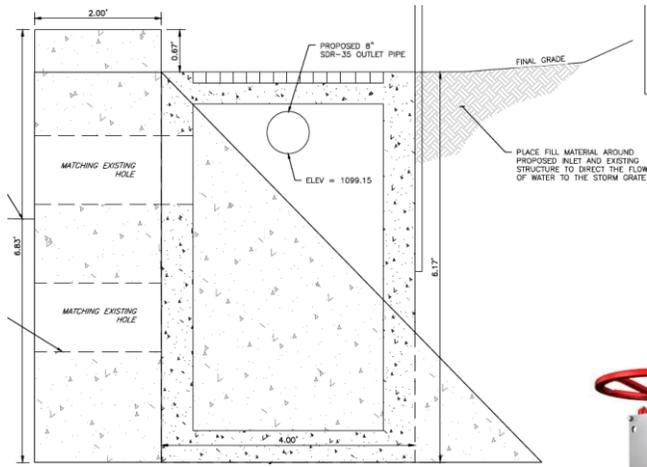


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# APPROACH

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# Design – Collection and Conveyance

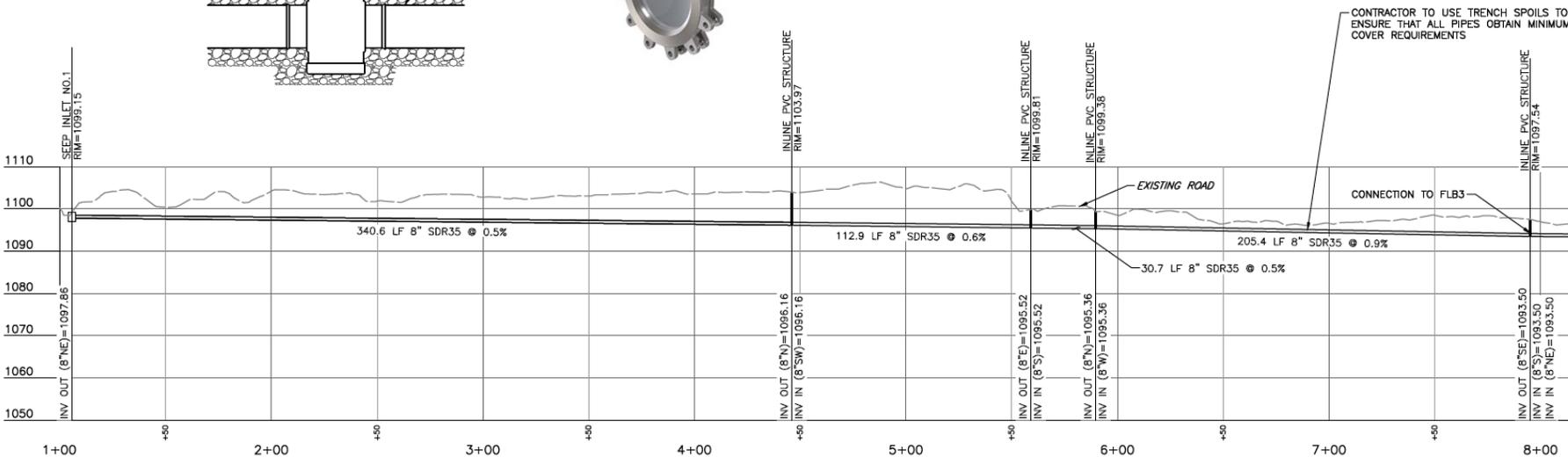


## Catch Basins

- L4 – prevents AMD bypass through subsurface
- L5 – bypasses >2-year storm event
- L-Upwell – identified subsurface terracotta pipe

## Piping

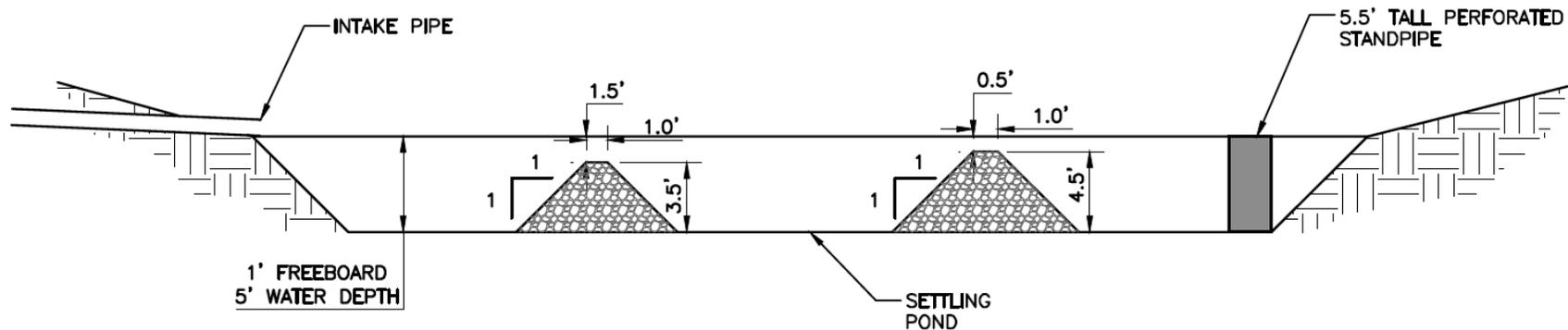
- Civil 3D Pipe Networks
- Maintain ground cover
- Assess conflicts
- Inline access structures
- 2205 stainless steel





# Design – Settling Ponds

- Settling pond sized for full flush volume of FLBs
- Gravel baffles
  - Velocity reduction
  - Zone of settling
  - Robust structure
- Perforated standpipe outlet



# Design – Polishing Wetlands

FACW WETLAND MEADOW MIX (ERNMX-122)*		
Plant Species		Seed Mix Composition
Scientific Name	Common Name	
<i>Carex vulpinoidea, PA Ecotype</i>	Fox Sedge	29.8%
<i>Elymus virginicus, Madison-NY Ecotype</i>	Virginia Wildrye	16.0%
<i>Carex lupulina, PA Ecotype</i>	Hop Sedge	11.0%
<i>Carex scoparia, PA Ecotype</i>	Blunt Broom Sedge	11.0%
<i>Carex lurida, PA Ecotype</i>	Lurid Sedge	8.5%
<i>Cinna arundinacea, PA Ecotype</i>	Wood Reedgrass	5.2%
<i>Verbena hastata, PA Ecotype</i>	Blue Vervain	4.0%
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	3.0%
<i>Asclepias incarnata, PA Ecotype</i>	Swamp Milkweed	2.0%
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides, PA Ecotype</i>	Oxeye Sunflower	2.0%
<i>Bidens cernua, PA Ecotype</i>	Nodding Bur Marigold	1.0%
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	1.0%
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum, PA Ecotype</i>	Boneset	0.8%
<i>Helenium autumnale, PA Ecotype</i>	Common Sneezeweed	0.8%
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blueflag	0.8%
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	0.7%
<i>Aster novae-angliae, PA Ecotype</i>	New England Aster	0.3%
<i>Aster prenanthoides, PA Ecotype</i>	Zigzag Aster	0.3%
<i>Eupatorium fistulosum, PA Ecotype</i>	Joe Pye Weed	0.3%
<i>Lobelia siphilitica, PA Ecotype</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	0.3%
<i>Scirpus cyperinus, PA Ecotype</i>	Woolgrass	0.3%
<i>Aster puniceus, PA Ecotype</i>	Purplestem Aster	0.2%
<i>Aster umbellatus, PA Ecotype</i>	Flat Topped White Aster	0.2%
<i>Penthorum sedoides, PA Ecotype</i>	Ditch Stonecrop	0.2%
<i>Solidago rugosa, PA Ecotype</i>	Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod	0.2%
<i>Mimulus ringens, PA Ecotype</i>	Square Stemmed Monkeyflower	0.1%

\*application rate 20 lb./acre

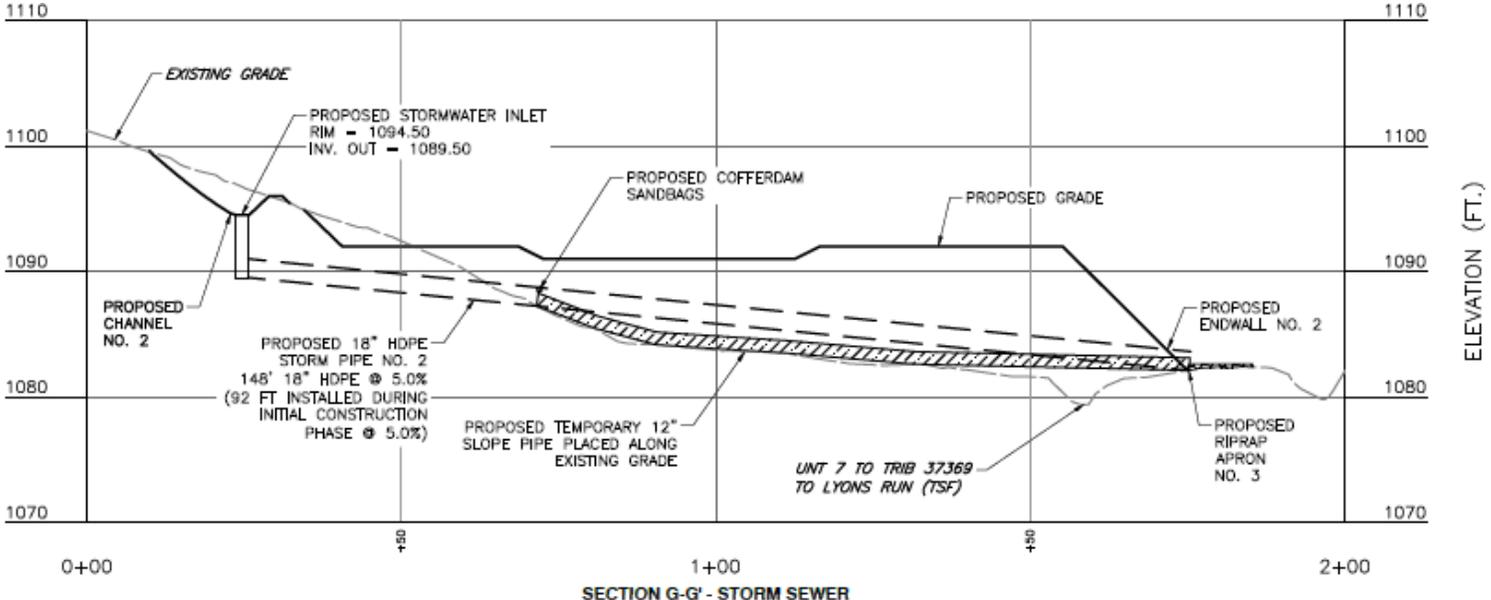


- Terraced wetlands
- Native revegetation
- Intercept groundwater

WETLAND PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS						
Plant Community	Plant Species		Type of Plant Material	Unit	Planting Density (units/acre)	Stem Spacing (feet)
	Scientific Name	Common Name				
Shrub and Sedge Wetland Establishment	<i>Salix interior</i>	Sandbar Willow	Live Stake	plant	545	4 X 4
	<i>Salix sericea</i>	Silky Willow	Live Stake	plant	545	
	<i>Comus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	Live Stake	plant	545	
	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Button Bush	Live Stake	plant	545	
	<i>Sambucus</i>	Elderberry	Live Stake	plant	545	
	FACW Wetland Meadow Mix (ERNMX-122)		seed	pound		



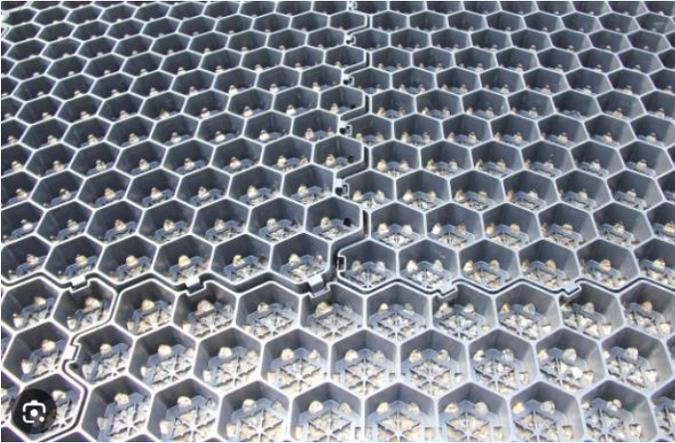
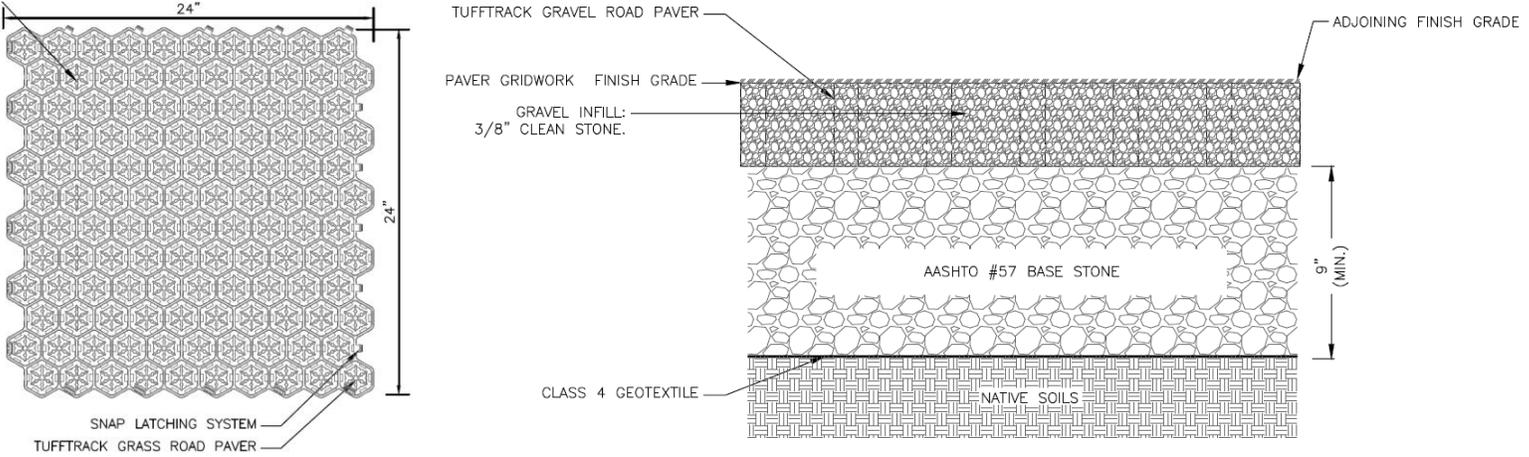
# Design – Stormwater



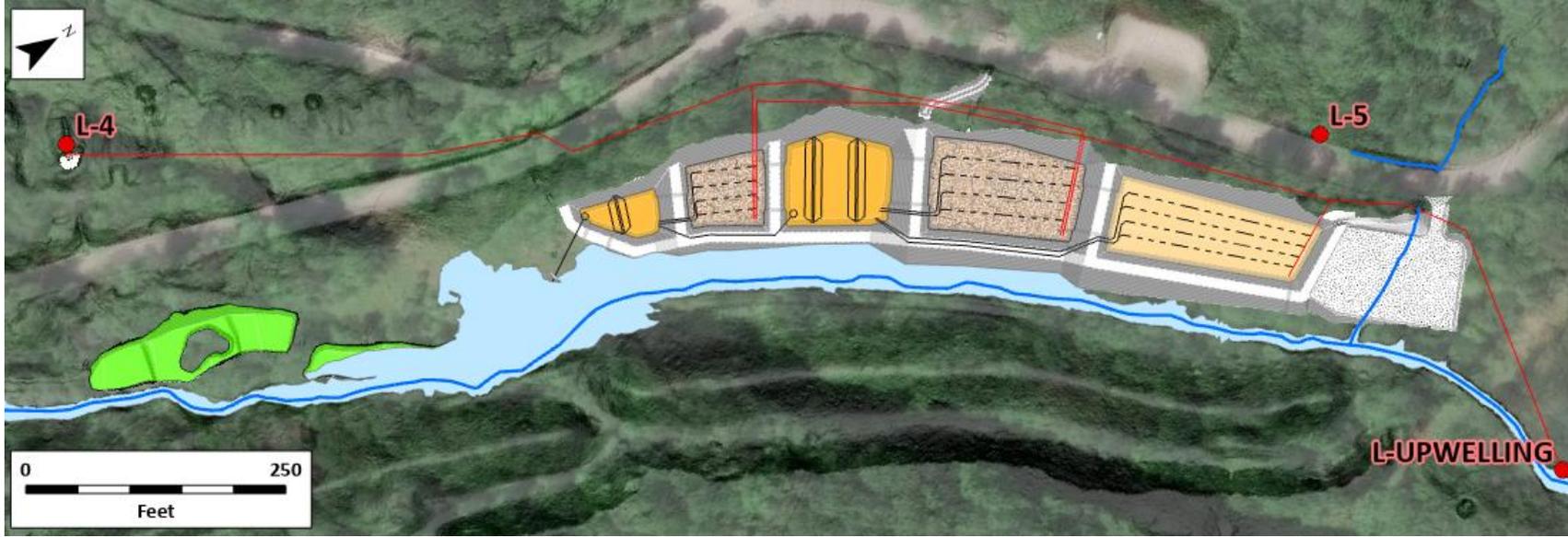
Stormwater collection and diversion through earthwork

Tuff-Track infiltration pavers

- Reduce stormwater runoff to maintain permit compliance

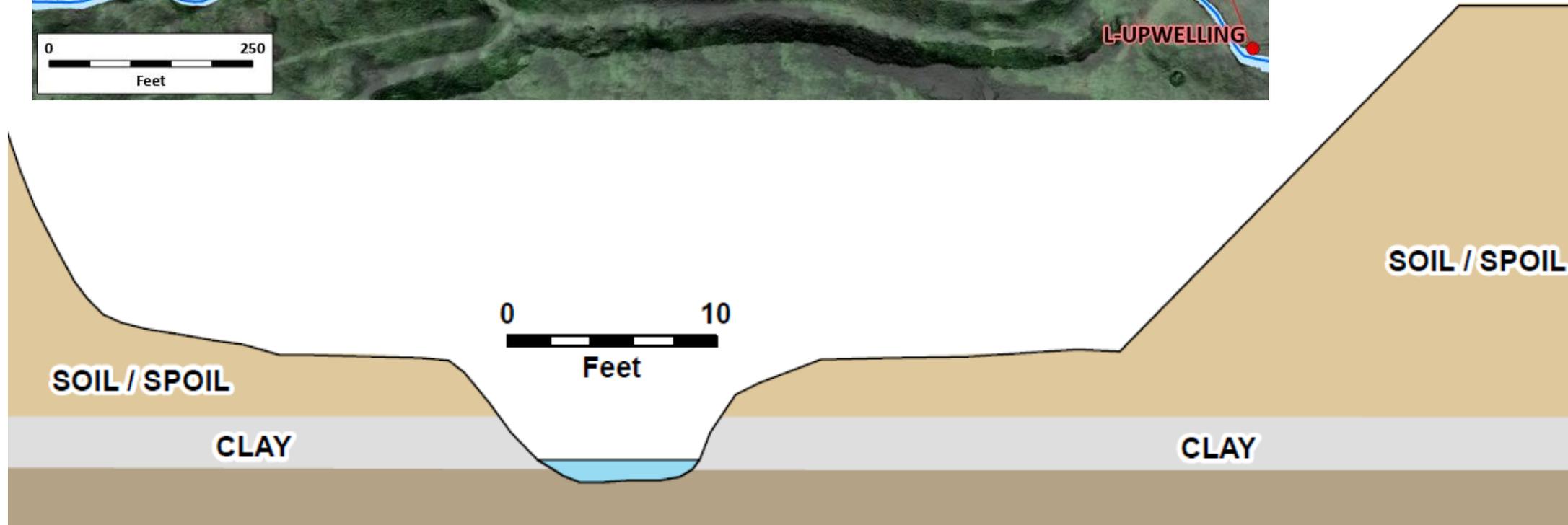


# H&H Modeling of Proposed 100-yr Floodway



Entrenchment ratio  $>2.2$

- Access to floodway
- Rise  $< 1$  ft.



# Stream Shear Stresses / Site Stabilization

## Turf reinforcement matting

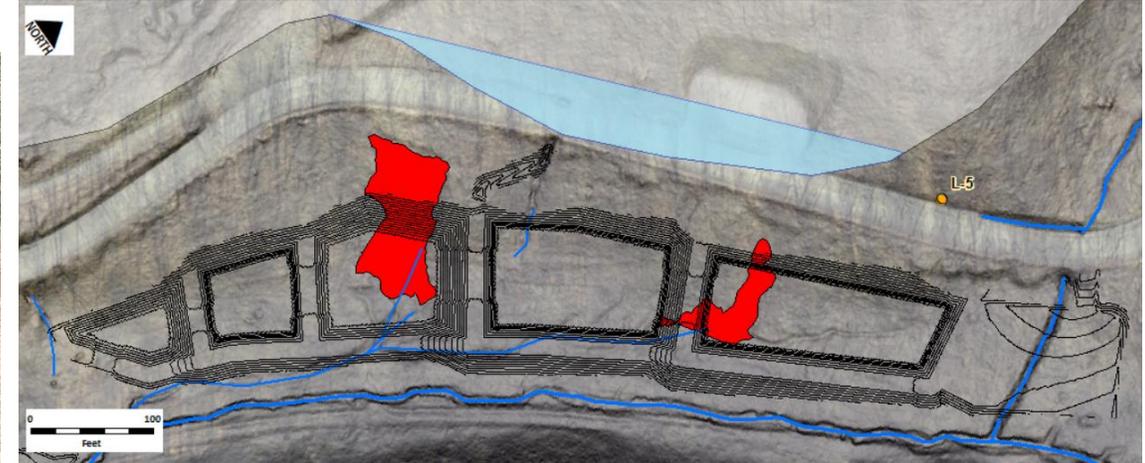
- Resist high shear stresses
- Floodways and spillways

## Coir fiber matting

- Slope stabilization



# Hydrogeology

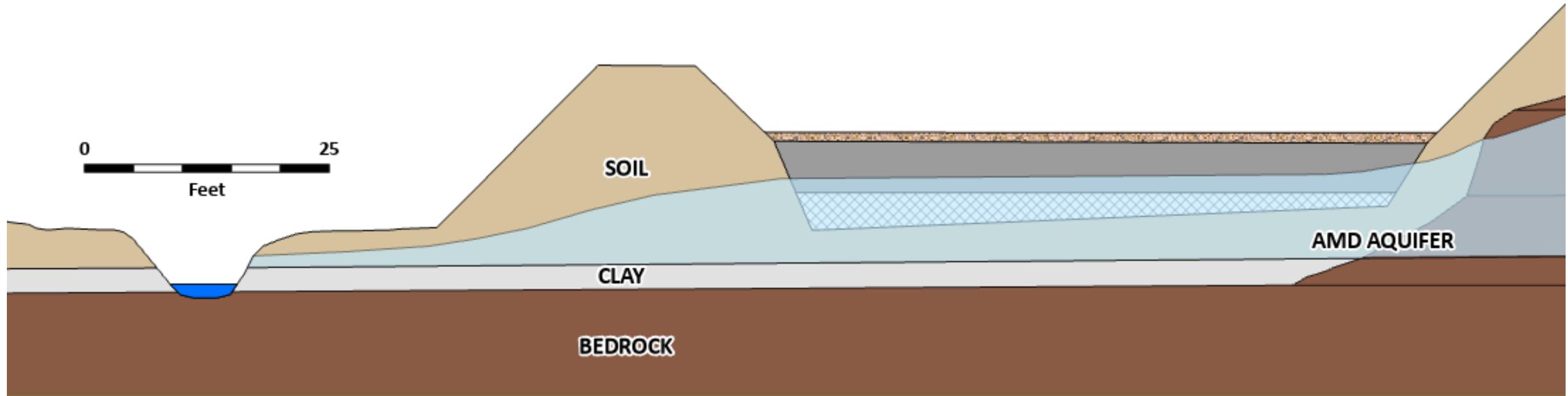


- BMPs excavated into shallow aquifer
- Intercept AMD contaminated groundwater
  - Photo - contaminated groundwater in settling pond
- Conveys through alkaline BMPs as part of treatment process

# Hydrogeology

Unlined flushable limestone bed, vertical flow wetlands, settling ponds, and wetlands

- Intercepts AMD contaminated groundwater flow
- Neutralizes then leaches alkaline water into shallow aquifer and through treatment process
- Ultimately conveys to Tributary 37369 (UNT Lyons Run)



# Seasonal Operation

Seasonally controlled releases from treatment ponds

- High flow season flush FLB and VFWs on a two-week cycle
- Moderate flow season flush FLB and VFWs on monthly cycle
- Dry season drain BMPs at 10 gallons per minute (GPM)
  - Full capacity ~1.5 million gallons
  - 10.5 GPM treated water discharge for minimum three months

Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

*Prepared For:*



*Lyons Run Watershed Association  
2500 Eldo Road, Suite 1  
Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146*

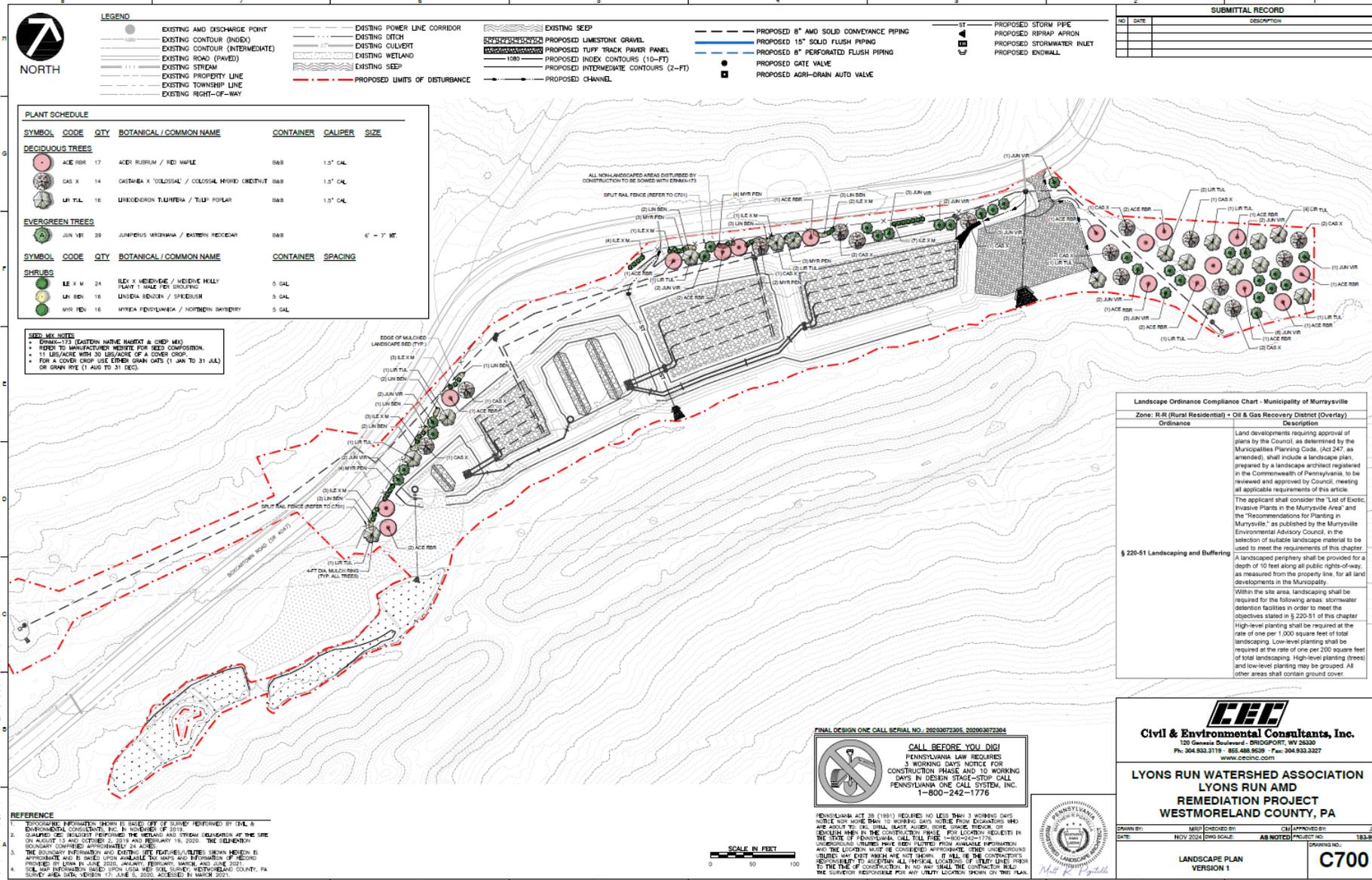
*Prepared By:*



*Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
120 Genesis Blvd.  
Bridgeport, WV 26330*

**October 2024**

# Landscape Plan



## Deciduous Trees

- Red Maple
- Tulip Poplar
- Hybrid Chestnut

## Evergreen Trees

- Eastern Red Cedar

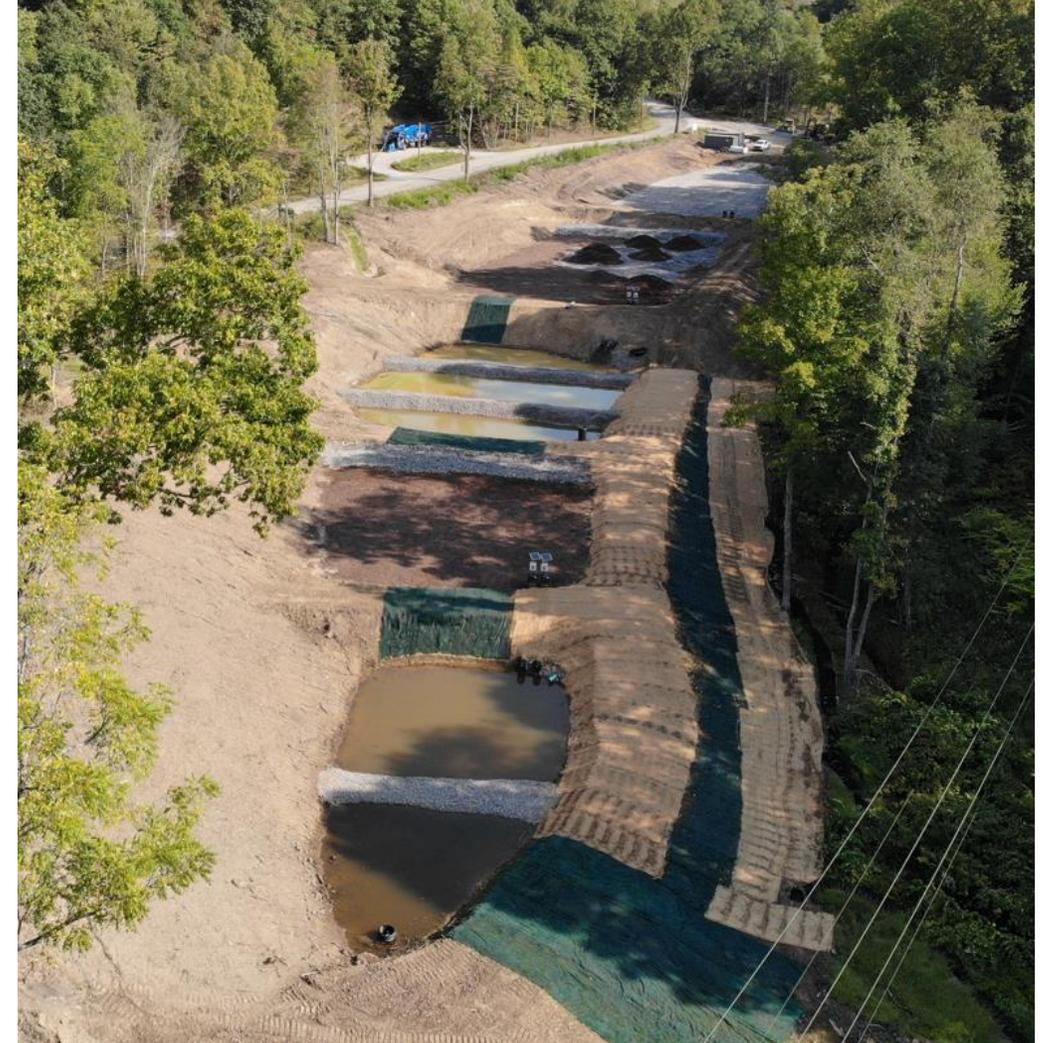
## Shrubs

- Holly
- Spicebush
- Northern Bayberry



# Public Private Partnership

- Lyons Run Watershed Association (LRWA)
- Municipality of Murrysville
- Pennsylvania Dept. of Env. Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR)
- Private Professional Services
  - Legal – Land Purchases
  - Survey – Boundary Retracement
  - Engineering
    - Existing conditions
    - Design
    - Regulatory
    - Construction Quality Assurance



# Lyons Run Watershed Association

501(c)(3) non-profit watershed association

- AMD remediation
- Greenway development
- Conservation
- Watershed monitoring / stewardship
- Water quality apps and databases
- Watershed ArcGIS mapping
- Collaborates with public entities and non-profits
- Community events



# LRWA / Murrysville

- Lyons Run Watershed Association
  - Privately funded 15 years of background data collection and conceptual planning
  - Executed land purchase of 8-acres required for treatment
  - Negotiated rights-of-entry with adjacent landowners
  - Privately funded engineering and regulatory process (\$450,000)
  - Acted as sponsor for AML/AMD grant program construction funding
    - \$1.5 million
- Municipality of Murrysville
  - Supportive of project and ecological benefits
  - Conforms to Murrysville Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan
  - Provided construction funding through grant award
    - \$500,000



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- Reauthorized Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA, 1977)
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)
- Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (PADEP-BAMR)
  - AML/AMD Grant Program
- Success derived from multi-partner collaboration





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# Thank You

**Lyons Run Watershed Association  
Municipality of Murrysville  
Westmoreland Conservation District  
Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

March 2025