LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

3125 Portia Street | P.O. Box 83581 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3581 | P: 402.476.2729 • F: 402.476.6454 | www.lpsnrd.org

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 12, 2026

To: Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors

From: Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator WI

Subject: Minutes for Recreation, Forestry & Wildlife Subcommittee Meeting

On Monday, November 9th, 2026, at 5:33 p.m., the Recreation, Forestry, and Wildlife Subcommittee met in the NRD Large Conference Room. Subcommittee members present: Anthony Schutz – Chair, Don Jacobson, John Yoakum, David Hibler, Suzanne Mealer (phone), and Stephanie Matejka (phone). Directors Eagan and Spangler were not present. District staff were David Potter, Jeremy Gehle, Eric Zach, and Will Inselman. There were two action items for consideration.

The first item on the agenda was the consideration of bids for tree debris removal on Homestead Trail bridges. Staff reported that bids were solicited to remove large tree debris accumulations from five Homestead Trail bridges near Roca following the September 30-October 1 rain event. Removal of the debris is necessary to protect the structural integrity of the bridges. Three bids were received, with Nebraska Digging Services, LLC submitting the lowest bid at $40,150.00. Staff recommended awarding the contract to Nebraska Digging Services, LLC.

It was moved by Yoakum, seconded by Hibler, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the low bid of $40,150.00 submitted by Nebraska Digging Services, LLC and authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement for tree debris removal on Homestead Trail bridges.

Motion Passed: 6-0

The second item on the agenda was the consideration of a Good Neighbor Wildlife Habitat Program cost-share agreement with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Staff presented a cost-share agreement with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (SCPAC) to assist with completion of a large-scale grassland restoration project on the newly acquired Kolbrook Property. The multi-year restoration effort is nearing completion, but additional funding is needed to restore the remaining areas. The District holds a conservation easement on a portion of the property. Supporting materials included the draft agreement, project maps, and a letter from SCPAC.

It was moved by Hibler, seconded by Mealer, and unanimously approved to recommend that the Lower Platte South NRD Board of Directors approve the Good Neighbor Wildlife Habitat Program cost-share agreement with Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement to provide up to $10,000 for habitat work.

Motion Passed: 6-0

Lastly, staff provided updates on trail closures, MoPac trail developments, and Little Salt Creek WFPO engineering and design.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

PC: RF&W subcommittee file

Tyler Rosenow 402-432-5519
Cody Price 402-658-2084
310 Harrison St
Alvo, NE 68304

Proposal

Date: November 5, 2026
Customer: Lower Platte South NRD
Project: Homestead Trail Driftwood Removal
Scope: Site Demolition & Earthwork

Location #1-Far South Location-Pile on site- South of Martell Rd

Bid Item	Item		
1	Mobilization		
2	Debris Removal - equipment, labor, and dump fees to retrieve and remove driftwood from bridge		
3	Traffic Control - close trail while removing debris		
		Location #1 Total:	**$3,550.00**

Location #2- South Location-Hauling away-South of Martell Rd

Bid Item	Item		
1	Mobilization		
2	Debris Removal - equipment, labor, and dump fees to retrieve and remove driftwood from bridge		
3	Traffic Control - close trail while removing debris		
		Location #2 Total:	**$14,450.00**

Location #3-Middle Location-Hauling away- South of Roca Rd

Bid Item	Item		
1	Mobilization		
2	Debris Removal - equipment, labor, and dump fees to retrieve and remove driftwood from bridge		
3	Traffic Control - close trail while removing debris		
		Location #3 Total:	**$5,950.00**

Location #4-North Location-Pile on site- North of Roca Rd

Bid Item	Item		
1	Mobilization		
2	Debris Removal - equipment, labor, and dump fees to retrieve and remove driftwood from bridge		
3	Traffic Control - close trail while removing debris		
		Location #4 Total:	**$3,550.00**

Location #5-Far North Location-Hauling away-North of Roca Rd

Bid Item	Item		
1	Mobilization		
2	Debris Removal - equipment, labor, and dump fees to retrieve and remove driftwood from bridge		
3	Traffic Control - close trail while removing debris		
		Location #5 Total:	**$12,650.00**

		Possible Grand Total	**$40,150.00**

Notes:

* clear work area will be provided at all times for equipment

Exclusions:

* seeding/sodding/erosion control
* locating of private utilities
* tree protection
* removal/disposal of contaminated/unsuitable/frozen soils
* utility demolition
* topsoil import

Homestead Trail Proposal

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO	PHONE	DATE
Eric Zach		11/06/2026
STREET	FAX	MOBILE PHONE
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE	JOB	
	Homestead Trail Cleanup	
ATTN:	JOB LOCATION	
	Roca Nebraska	

We hereby submit this proposal for the following scope:

Removal of tree debris from 5 pedestrian bridges on the Homestead Trail. The two smaller bridges north of Roca will have the debris removed and piled onto the existing timber piles. The furthest north bridge and southern two will be mulched on site. We will mulch all debris less than 19" in diameter and place it on the bank for additional bank stabilization. Any timbers that do not get mulched will be hauled off site.

NOTES:

1. **Initial Mobilization/Demobilization to remove all tree debris.**
2. **Quantities and locations are based off the site walked with Taran Theel, Ryan Gibbs, and Eric Zach on 10/27/2026**
3. **Our proposal anticipates mulching most of the debris and using it as bank stabilization. If we are required to haul off all debris, pricing is not valid.**
4. **Work to be completed before spring 2027. We would like the weather to be around freezing to perform this work to minimize damage to surrounding areas caused by equipment.**

Exclusions:
Sales Tax
Traffic control
Bonding, if needed add 1%.

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We Propose hereby to furnish material and labor-complete in accordance with above specifications, for the sum of:

$370,533

Terms and Conditions: NET 30 days

Signature 

Taran Theel

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a work manlike manner according to standard practices. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

Note: This proposal may be withdrawn by us if not accepted within 30 days.

Acceptance of Proposal-The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Gana TRUCKING & Excavating, Inc.

2200 West Panama Rd. Martell, NE 68404 Phone (402) 794-5000 Fax (402) 794-5002

Date: 11/6/2026
Bid to: Lower Platte South NRD
Attn: Eric Zach
Email: ezach@lpsnrd.org
Project: **NRD Homestead Trail - Bridge Debris Removal**
Bid No: 1
Addenda Acknowledged:

Gana Trucking and Excavating, Inc. proposes to provide the following for the project stated above.

1st Bridge South of Martell Road

Item No.	Desc.	QTY	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	$ 250.00	$ 250.00
2	Track Hoe	40	HR	$ 260.00	$ 10,400.00
3	Dump Truck - Haul off Debris	40	Loads	$ 146.00	$ 5,840.00
4	Dump Fees	160	TON	$ 25.00	$ 4,000.00
5	Performance & Payment Bond	1	LS	$ 300.00	$ 300.00
				Total:	**$ 20,790.00**

1st Bridge South of Roca Road

Item No.	Desc.	QTY	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
2	Track Hoe	8	HR	$ 260.00	$ 2,080.00
4	Dump Truck - Haul off Debris	10	Loads	$ 146.00	$ 1,460.00
5	Dump Fees	40	TON	$ 25.00	$ 1,000.00
				Total:	**$ 5,040.00**

1st Bridge North of Hickman Road

Item No.	Desc.	QTY	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Price
1	Track Hoe	6	HR	$ 260.00	$ 1,560.00
				Total:	**$ 1,560.00**

**** Pile Debris on East Side of Bridge***

2nd Bridge North of Roca Road

Item No.	Desc.	QTY	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	$ 250.00	$ 250.00
2	Track Hoe	6	HR	$ 260.00	$ 1,560.00
4	Labor with Cable	4	HR	$ 100.00	$ 400.00
				Total:	**$ 2,210.00**

3rd Bridge North of Roca Road

Item No.	Desc.	QTY	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Price
1	Mobilization	1	LS	$ 250.00	$ 250.00
2	Track Hoe	50	HR	$ 260.00	$ 13,000.00
3	Dump Truck - Haul off Debris	50	Loads	$ 215.00	$ 10,750.00
4	Dump Fees	200	TON	$ 25.00	$ 5,000.00
5	Labor with Chain Saw	40	LS	$ 100.00	$ 4,000.00
6	Limestone Screenings - Trail Resurfacing	45	TON	$ 43.42	$ 1,953.90
7	Skid Loader - Clean Up install Screenings	4	HR	$ 170.00	$ 680.00
				Total:	**$ 35,633.90**

Respectfully,
Gana Trucking and Excavating, Inc.

Adam Root

Accepted By:

Name **Date**





November 5, 2026

TO: Will Inselman, Lower Platte South NRD

RE: Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center Tree Removal & Prairie Restoration Project

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (SCP) is implementing a large-scale tree removal and prairie restoration effort on a 310-acre parcel (formerly the Boman Property). Lower Platte South NRD holds a conservation easement across the western 155-acres which includes the alignment for the new Prairie Corridor trail segment. A map is included with this memo showing the location of the parcel and the trail alignment.

The parcel, which was acquired in 2023, had significant populations of eastern red cedars and multiple species of invasive or undesirable hardwoods. The attached map details the project elements and phases. The project will result in the removal of cedars across 242 acres of uplands, removal of predominantly hardwood species on 65 acres, including along the riparian corridor of Spring Creek, and the removal of the perimeter fence which was in significant disrepair as a result of tree encroachment and growth through the fenceline. A total of 6-acres of predominantly burr oak, walnut and native elm trees will remain along the riparian corridor to be restored as an oak savannah.

The total project cost is $203,650 and will be completed on or before May 1, 2027. A total of $189,900 is in hand through a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant ($150,000), funding from the USFWS ($30,000) and from the Monarch Joint Venture ($9,900), resulting in a shortage of $13,750 to complete the full project. Funding from the Lower Platte South NRD's Good Neighbor program would greatly assist SCP in closing the funding gap to complete this essential restoration effort.

We sincerely appreciate the LPSNRD's tremendous partnership in conservation work at SCP and through the Prairie Corridor project. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you,



Meghan Sittler
Center Director

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Good Neighbor Wildlife Habitat Improvement Agreement

This AGREEMENT is between the Lower Platte South NRD and the following wildlife cooperator.

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center			11700 SW 100 St. PO Box 117	
Cooperator			Mailing Address	
Denton	NE	68339	402-797-2301	meghan.sittler@audubon.org
Town	State	Zip Code	Phone	Email Address

The Cooperator agrees to improve wildlife habitat on 13 acres of land, at S34, T9, R5 (Legal Description) Lancaster (County) for the following Payment.

Budget Table.

Description	LPSNRD	Landowner	Total
Tree Removal (13 acres) High Density ($770/acre)	$10,000.00	$3,750.00	$13,750.00
Total	**$10,000.00**	**$3,750.00**	**$13,750.00**

Agreement Length: 3-years **Agreement Completion Date:** January 1, 2030

On the contracted areas, the cooperator agrees:

1. To protect all habitat from harmful unauthorized activities.
2. To not use pesticides, except authorized by a Lower Platte South NRD representative.
3. That renters or leasees of property may only enter into agreements if such rights are granted by the owner or with owner consent.
4. To permit access to authorized representatives for planning and inspection purposes.
5. Failure on the part of the Cooperator to comply with the terms of this contract will result in the Lower Platte South NRD being relieved of responsibility for compensation for any lands and practices which are not in compliance with this agreement. In addition, return of any unearned payments or portion thereof may be required by the Lower Platte South NRD.

The wildlife cooperator in signing this agreement agrees to join as a participant in a wildlife management program and grants the Lower Platte South NRD the authority to complete the wildlife habitat developments, or to personally carry out the wildlife management activities with financial or material support, as described in the attached special provisions. Any donation of supplies, equipment, or direct payment from the Lower Platte South NRD to the wildlife cooperator for carrying out the wildlife habitat developments are also included in the attached special provisions. The wildlife cooperator agrees to perform the management work described and Lower Platte South NRD agrees to reimburse the wildlife cooperators up to the amount shown on this contract.

Meghan Sittler	402-797-2301	meghan.sittler@audubon.org
Contact Person	Phone	Email

Cooperator's Signature National Audubon Society Date

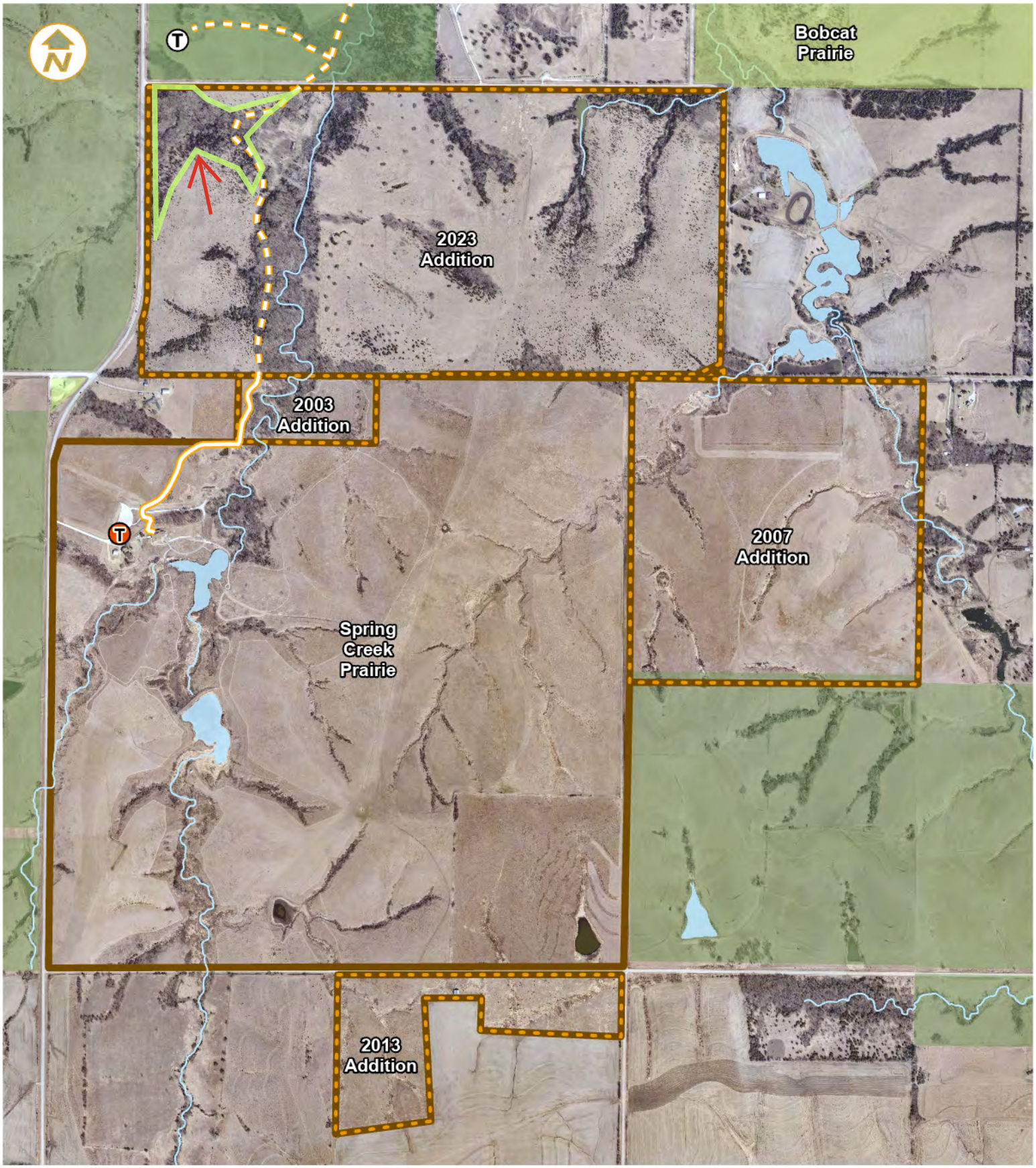
Lower Platte South NRD Representative Signature Date

The Cooperator agrees to the following management activities:

1. This is a grassland enhancement project involving the wildlife cooperator and LPSNRD. The overall goal of this project is to restore and enhance approximately 13 acres of grassland for the benefit of the flora and fauna native to the area.
2. The Cooperator has agreed to clear 13 acres of trees, including eastern red cedar, honey locust, and other undesirable deciduous trees. The Cooperator will control all trees for the agreement duration. All deciduous trees 2 inches tree trunk diameter or larger need to be cut and treated with an appropriate stump treatment chemical immediately after cutting (unless trees are completely removed from the soil). Tree piles created through this work will need to be disposed of by the landowner by removing them off-site or stacked in piles and burned. Tree clearing and stacking will be completed by April 15th, 2027.
3. Tree piles are to be burned within 2 years after cutting (if not removed off-site).
4. The Cooperator will be responsible for 2 herbicide treatments per year for two consecutive years. Herbicide application for woody vegetation will occur in June and September of the year it is applied. The Cooperator must use Garlon 4A or an equivalent herbicide for foliar application.
5. The Cooperator is not allowed to do other 'weed' mowing or spraying unless approved by the LPSNRD. This early-successional habitat and native vegetation diversity are valuable to many wildlife species, which is part of the focus for LPSNRD funding. Herbicide application for woody vegetation will occur in June and September of the year it is applied. The Cooperator must use Garlon 4A or an equivalent herbicide for foliar application.
6. The wildlife cooperator agrees to allow the LPSNRD access (with prior notice) to conduct and inspect the work in the areas during the term of the agreement.
7. The Cooperator will only be paid for the work that is completed as part of this agreement. Any additional costs are the responsibility of the Cooperator. The Cooperator may decide to only complete a portion of the identified project sites, at which time the LPSNRD will only pay for work completed at the discretion of the LPSNRD biologist.
8. All payment reimbursement requests must be submitted by the Cooperator by May 15th of each year (if there is a reimbursable practice) to receive payment.
9. The LPSNRD Biologist contact for this contract is Will Inselman (402) 476-2729.

Project Timeline

• Cut and pile trees and shrubs - treat stumps	Nov. 18, 2026 – April 15, 2027
• Spray woody regrowth	~June 1, 2027
• Assess and spray woody regrowth	By September 15, 2027
• Plan to spray woody regrowth 2x	June & September 2028
• Burn brush piles as conditions allow	June or Winter months 2027/28



PRAIRIE CORRIDOR on Haines Branch

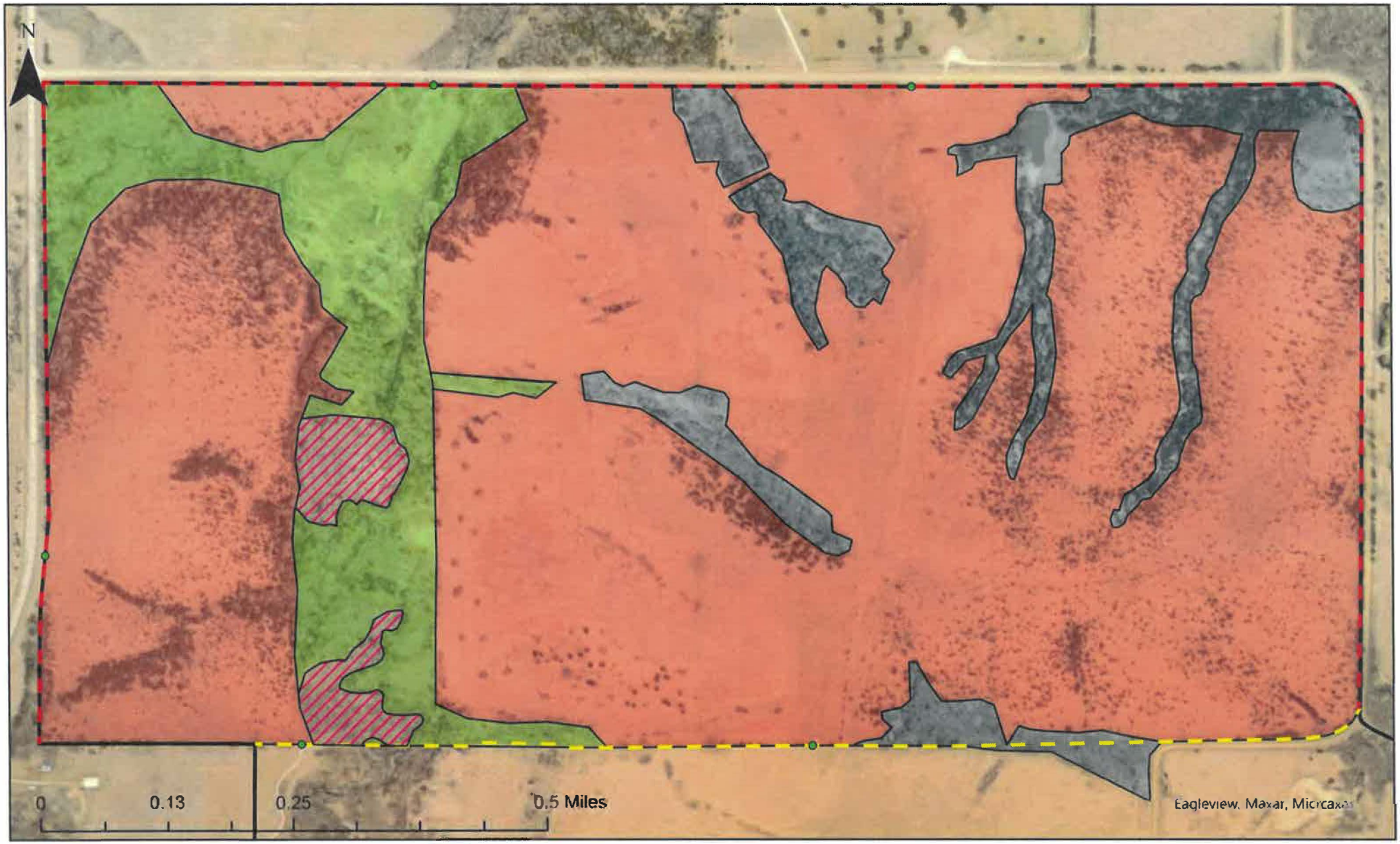
Spring Creek Prairie
Spring Creek Prairie (Additions)
Adjacent Public/Conservation Ownership
Adjacent Conservation Easement
Existing PC Trail
Conceptual PC Trail Route

Future Trailhead
Trailhead

0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Tree Removal Map, August 2025

Audubon | Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center



- Access Gates
- SCPAC Boundary
- Interior Fence Lines (Leave in Place)
- Phase 4 (Fence Removal) (10221 Feet)
- Phase 1 (No Herbicide) (242 Acres)
- Phase 2 (Herbicide) (28 Acres)
- Phase 3 (Herbicide) (37 Acres)
- Exclusion Area (6 Acres)