



BLOOMINGTON & NORMAL
WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT

Special Session

Board Meeting

August 27, 2026

Vision

Maintain public trust, steward public resources, clean water, and do our part to support resilient communities and a healthy watershed.

Mission

Protect the environment and public health by applying best practices to resource recovery and maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements.

This Page is Intentionally Left Blank



**BLOOMINGTON & NORMAL
WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT**

**SPECIAL SESSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA
TRUSTEE BOARDROOM**

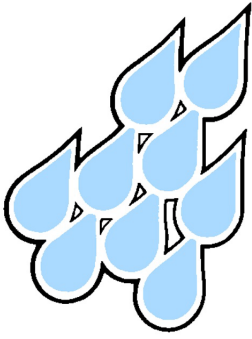
2015 W. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701

Thursday, August 27, 2026, 3:30 P.M.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. New Business**
 - A. Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-19 Approving the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant to Certify that the Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District has Sufficient Funds to Complete the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kenneth L. Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary Outdoor Recreation Enhancements Project within a Three (3) Year Period if Notified of the OSLAD Grant Award:
Recommend Approval of Resolution 2026-19.**
- 4. Adjournment**



This Page is Intentionally Left Blank



Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District

NEW BUSINESS A

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration and Approval of Resolution 2026-19 Approving the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant to Certify that the Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District has Sufficient Funds to Complete the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kenneth L. Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary Outdoor Recreation Enhancements Project within a Three (3) Year Period if Notified of the OSLAD Grant Award

PREPARED BY: Timothy L. Ervin, Executive Director

REVIEWED BY: Josh Stevens, Director of Operations and Maintenance; Emily Poynter Jenkins, PhD, PE, CFM / Sr. Engineering Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Resolution 2026-19.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution 2026-19; Conceptual Map

BACKGROUND: The **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)** program, administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, provides competitive cost-sharing grants to local governments for public parks, recreation, conservation, and open-space projects. Funded through a portion of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax, OSLAD supports projects that expand green space, improve recreational amenities, and preserve natural resources.

Eligible applicants include local units of government authorized to fund park, recreation, or conservation purposes, excluding school districts. Grants typically cover up to **50% of eligible project costs**, or up to 90% for distressed communities, with funding caps based on jurisdiction size.

This grant opportunity aligns with McLean County's broader need for accessible outdoor recreation and long-term ecosystem protection. Since 1986, OSLAD has helped communities invest in parks, trails, open space, public health, and environmental stewardship, particularly improved access to safe, natural spaces can provide lasting community benefit.

Building on that impact, the **Kenneth L. Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary** offers a unique opportunity to strengthen both recreation and conservation in McLean County. Its wetlands, woodlands, open meadows, and nearby water sources support diverse wildlife habitats, including migration,

winter refuge, and breeding areas for numerous bird species. At the same time, the sanctuary provides residents and visitors with peaceful trails, seasonal wildlife viewing, and nature-based learning opportunities that connect the community to local conservation and the region's natural systems.

With the support of an OSLAD grant, the Kenneth Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary can continue to display a vibrant example of how recreation and conservation can thrive together. Accessible trails shaded rest areas, and educational kiosks would welcome visitors of all ages and abilities, fostering a deeper connection between the community and the natural world. At the same time, targeted ecological projects—such as prairie and wetland restoration, invasive species removal, and riparian buffer expansion—would protect wildlife habitats, improve water quality, and boost biodiversity. By pairing meaningful public engagement with science-based habitat management, the sanctuary would serve as both a cherished community gathering place and a resilient ecosystem for generations to come.

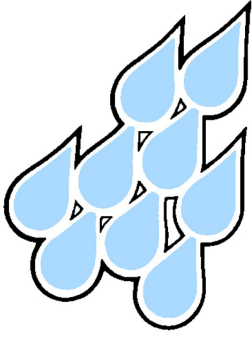
To support the sanctuary's long-term resiliency, staff worked with Farnsworth Group's ecological team to develop a **Habitat Enhancement Five-Year Phasing Plan**. The plan identifies approximately \$6.4 million in potential environmental and recreational improvements. The initial OSLAD application focuses on enhancing recreational amenities and targeted improvements to improve the visitor experience. The grant application includes \$570,000 in project costs, with OSLAD funding covering \$285,000 and the District providing the required \$285,000 match.

The **Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)** grant application to be submitted by August 31, 2026, requires that the District submit an official resolution from its governing board in support of the proposed project. This resolution confirms the board's authorization to apply for the grant, its commitment to provide any required matching funds, and its agreement to comply with all program requirements if awarded. Including this resolution demonstrates that the project has formal approval, financial backing, and organizational commitment, which are essential for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to consider the application complete and eligible for review.

Staff requests the Board of Trustees approve the proposed resolution.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- ☒ Goal I – Compliance & Reliability
- ☐ Goal II – Workforce Excellence
- ☐ Goal III – Public Trust
- ☒ Goal IV – Financial Stability
- ☒ Goal V – Capital Stewardship



Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District

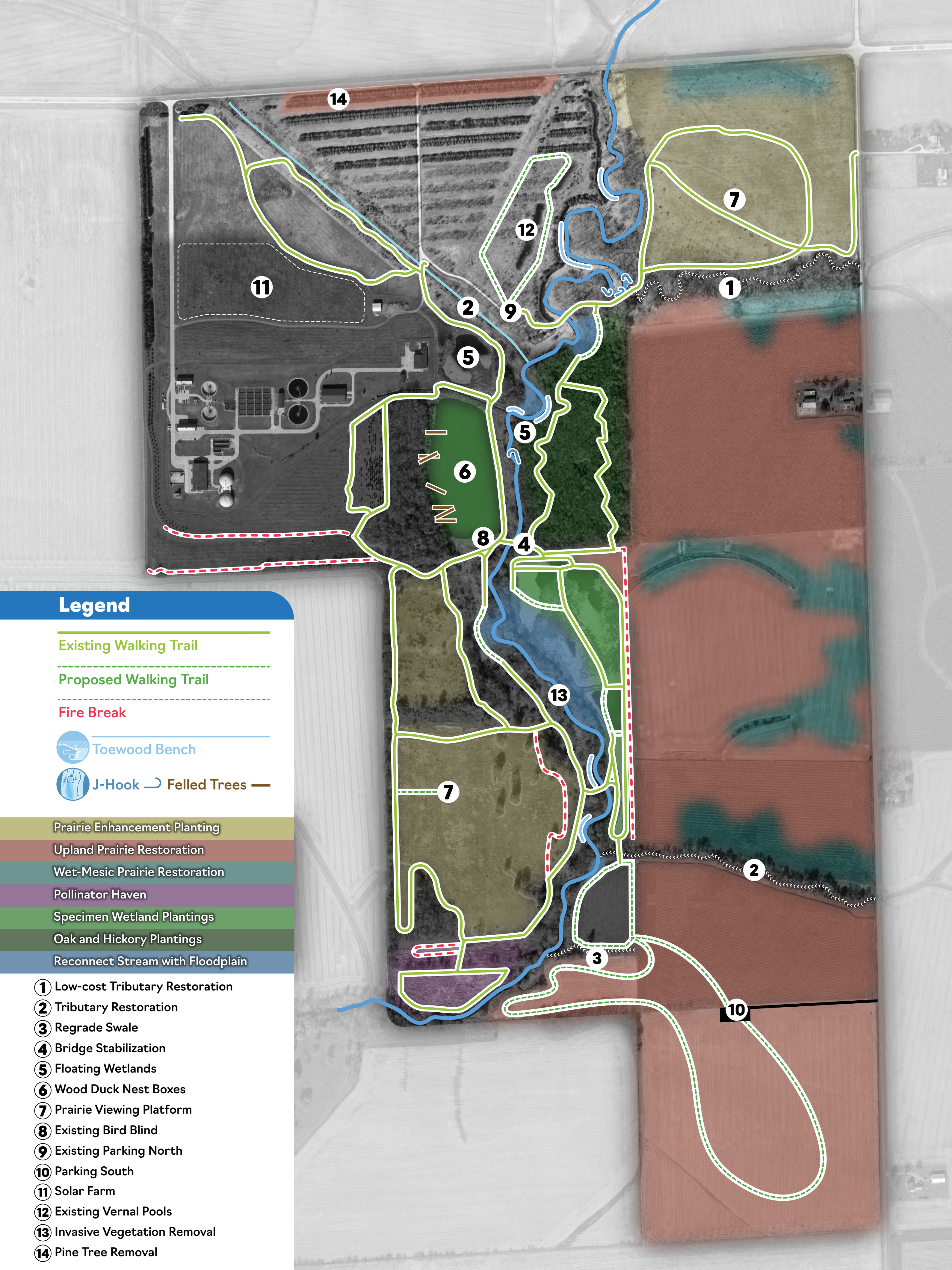
Alignment Narrative:

The project will focus on asset rehabilitation and targeted enhancements to improve the overall visitor experience and ecosystem of this wildlife sanctuary.

BUDGET IMPACT: The \$6.4 million Kenneth Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary **Habitat Enhancement Five-Year Phasing Plan** establishes a long-term framework for improving visitor access, enhancing recreational amenities, and protecting habitat health. This initial project can proceed using available District funds combined with OSLAD grant support, limiting the immediate local cost. Future phases will move forward as private contributions or additional grant funds become available.



This Page is Intentionally Left Blank



Phase 1

OSLAD \$132,000
Estimated Cost: \$1.5 million

- Low-cost tributary restoration
- Prairie enhancement plantings \$25,000
- Pollinator haven herbicide application \$1,200
- Oak and Hickory Plantings \$2,500
- Wetland Plantings \$3,400
- Prairie viewing platforms \$100,000
- Wood duck nest boxes
- Felled trees in pond
- Tributary restoration (west)
- Pine tree row removal & restoration

Phase 2

OSLAD \$710,000
Estimated Cost: \$1.8 million

- Upland prairie restoration 1, seeding & mowing
- Stream enhancements north (toe wood, floodplain re-grading, J-hooks) \$676,000
- Pollinator haven herbicide application and seeding \$12,000
- Vernal pool trail development \$22,000
- Solar farm (cost excluded)
- Tributary restoration (east)
- Pine tree removal restoration mowing and invasive control

Phase 3

OSLAD \$228,000
Estimated Cost: \$2.2 million

- Upland prairie restoration 2, seeding and mowing
- Stream enhancements south (toe wood, floodplain re-grading, J-hooks) with trail adjustments
- Regrade swale
- Floating wetlands \$28,000
- South trail loop
- Bridge stabilization
- Invasive vegetation removal
- Pollinator haven mowing
- Upland prairie restoration 1, mowing, invasive control, firebreak mowing
- Pine tree removal restoration mowing and invasive control
- Erosion near bridge \$280,000

Prairie Enhancement	\$25,000
Pollinator haven prep	\$1,200
Oak, hickory Plantings	\$2,500
Wetland Plantings	\$3,400
Prairie Platforms	\$100,000
L. Kickapoo North Stabil	\$676,000
Pollinator Haven Seeding	\$12,000
Vernal pool trail	\$22,000
1 Floating wetland	\$28,000
Erosion near bridge	\$280,000
Signage	\$40,000
Mobilization	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$1,200,000

Phase 4

OSLAD \$40,000
Estimated Cost: \$250,000

- Upland Prairie/Mesic Restoration 3 seeding and mowing
- Signage \$40,000
- Pollinator haven mowing, invasive control, firebreak mowing
- Upland Prairie restoration 1
- prescribed burn, invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 2 mowing, invasive control, firebreak mowing
- Pine tree restoration invasive control

Phase 5

Estimated Cost: \$600,000

- Upland Prairie/Mesic Restoration 4 seeding and mowing
- South parking lot and driveway
- Pollinator haven prescribed burn, invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 1 invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 2 prescribed burn, invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 3 mowing, invasive control, firebreak mowing
- Upland Prairie/Mesic restoration 4 seeding and mowing
- Pine tree restoration invasive control

Phase 6

Estimated Cost: \$23,000

- Pollinator haven invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 1 invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 2 invasive control
- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 3 prescribed burn, invasive control
- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 4 mowing, invasive control, firebreak mowing

Phase 7

Estimated Cost: \$13,000

- Pollinator haven invasive control
- Upland Prairie restoration 2 invasive control
- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 3 invasive control
- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 4 prescribed burn, invasive control

Phase 8

Estimated Cost: \$7,000

- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 3 invasive control
- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 4 invasive control

Phase 9

Estimated Cost: \$3,500

- Upland & Mesic Prairie restoration 4 invasive control

April 2026



Legend

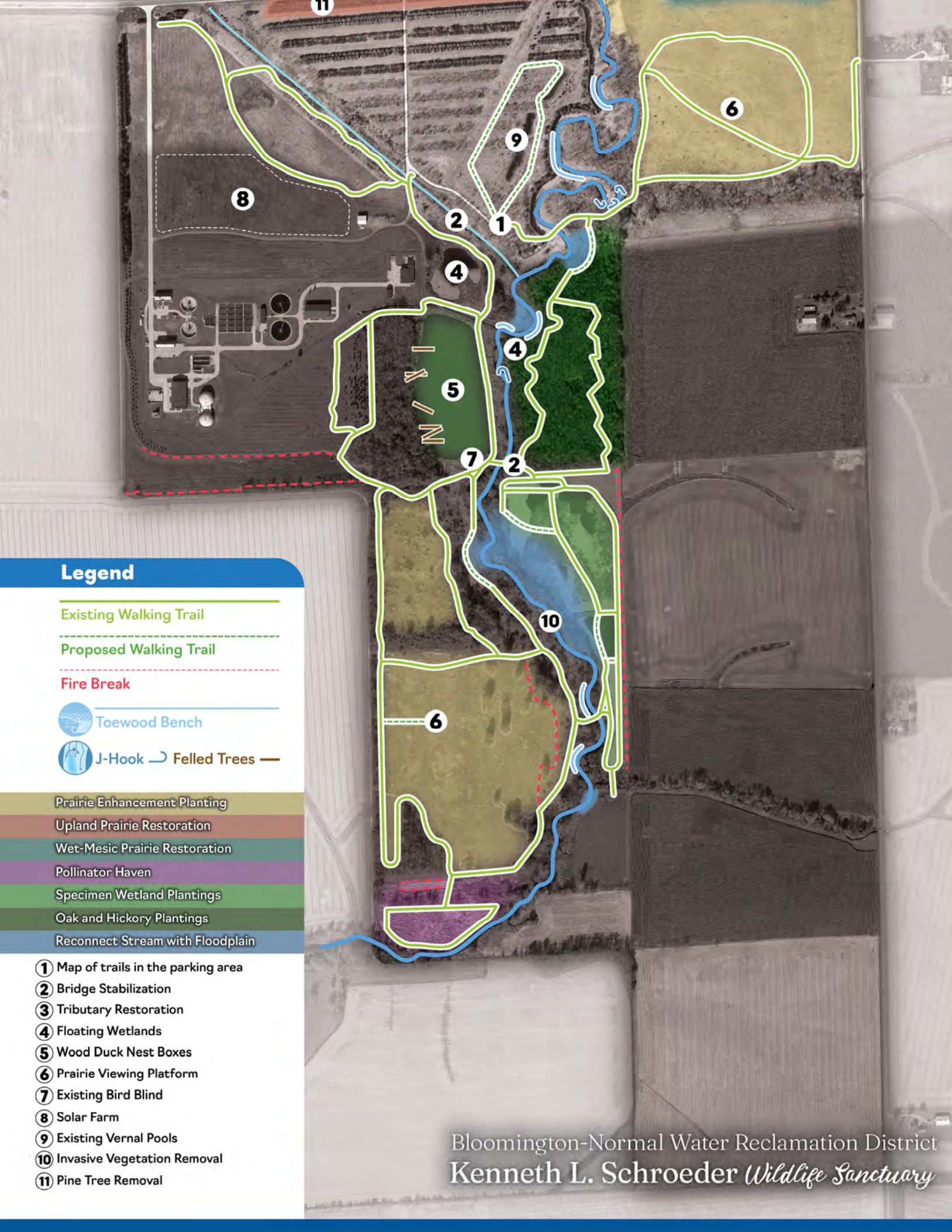
Existing Walking Trail with
proposed educational signage

Toewood Bench

J-Hook ↪

- 1 Map of trails in the parking area
- 2 Bridge Stabilization
- 3 Stabilization near plant effluent flow
- 4 Stabilization of bank near trail

Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District
Kenneth L. Schroeder *Wildlife Sanctuary*



Legend

Existing Walking Trail

Proposed Walking Trail

Fire Break

Toewood Bench

J-Hook J Felled Trees —

Prairie Enhancement Planting

Upland Prairie Restoration

Wet-Mesic Prairie Restoration

Pollinator Haven

Specimen Wetland Plantings

Oak and Hickory Plantings

Reconnect Stream with Floodplain

- 1 Map of trails in the parking area
- 2 Bridge Stabilization
- 3 Tributary Restoration
- 4 Floating Wetlands
- 5 Wood Duck Nest Boxes
- 6 Prairie Viewing Platform
- 7 Existing Bird Blind
- 8 Solar Farm
- 9 Existing Vernal Pools
- 10 Invasive Vegetation Removal
- 11 Pine Tree Removal

Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District
Kenneth L. Schroeder *Wildlife Sanctuary*



This Page is Intentionally Left Blank

RESOLUTION 2026-_____

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE OPEN SPACE LANDS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OSLAD) GRANT RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THAT THE BLOOMINGTON NORMAL WATER
RECLAMATION DISTRICT HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE SOUTHEAST
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT KENNETH L. SCHROEDER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY OUTDOOR
RECREATION ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT WITHIN A THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD IF NOTIFIED OF
THE OSLAD GRANT AWARD**

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD) is applying for an OSLAD Grant to assist in facilitating improvements to the Kenneth L. Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary, adjacent to the BNWRD's Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant (Project); and,

WHEREAS, the OSLAD grant program is a state financed, matching grant program, that provides funding assistance to local government agencies, including sewer districts, for acquisition and/or development of land for public outdoor recreation areas; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) grant manual requires a "Resolution of Authorization" be adopted by the BNWRD. A true and correct copy of the Resolution of Authorization is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and,

WHEREAS, the Resolution of Authorization requires the BNWRD to make a series of certifications and acknowledgements regarding its commitment to the program, its willingness and ability to complete the proposed Project, including possessing the necessary funds to do so, and its agreement to comply with a variety of enumerated federal and state laws, and certain other rules and regulations; and,

WHEREAS, the BNWRD's Board of Trustees (Board of Trustees) has determined that improvement of the Kenneth L. Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary using matching funds provided by the OSLAD grant is in the best interests of the BNWRD, its taxpayers and the general public, and hereby authorizes and approves the execution of the Resolution of Authorization in connection therewith in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BLOOMINGTON AND NORMAL WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT:

Section 1: That the preambles set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2: The form, terms and provisions of the proposed Resolution of Authorization attached hereto as Exhibit A, including all acknowledgments and certifications set forth therein, are hereby in all respects authorized and approved, and is hereby directed to execute the Resolution of Authorization in the name of and on behalf of the BNWRD, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Section 3: The President and Clerk of the BNWRD Board of Trustees, and the BNWRD's Executive Director, are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take any and all actions and execute any and all documents necessary or appropriate in order to carry out the intent and effectuate the provisions and purposes of this Resolution and the Resolution of Authorization.

Section 4. All or any parts of any motions or resolutions conflicting with any of the provisions of this Resolution be and the same are hereby modified or repealed to the extent of such conflict. If any portion of this Resolution is, for any reason, held invalid, such invalidity shall be not impact the remainder of this Resolution, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption as provided by law.

Resolved this 27th day of August 2026.

Jeffrey K. Feid, President
Bloomington Normal Water
Reclamation District, Board of
Trustees

ATTEST:

Joan Brehm
District Clerk

Exhibit A

[See Attached]

Resolution of Authorization

Resolution of Authorization• Applicant (Sponsor):

Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District

Resolution of Authorization• Project Title:

Kenneth L. Schroeder Wildlife Sanctuary Outdoor Recreation Enhancements

Resolution

The abovenamed Sponsor hereby certifies and acknowledges that it has the sufficient funds necessary (Includes cash and value of donated land) to complete the pending OSLAD project within the timeframes specified herein for project execution, and that failure to adhere to the specified project timeframe or failure to proceed with the project because of insufficient funds or change in local recreation priorities is sufficient cause for project grant termination which will also result in the ineligibility of the local project sponsor for subsequent Illinois IDNR outdoor recreation grant assistance consideration in the next two (2) consecutive grant cycles following project termination.

Acquisition and Development Projects

It Is understood that the project must be completed within the timeframe established. The OSLAD timeframe is two years as is specified in the project agreement The Billing Certification Statement must be submitted within 45 days of the grant expiration date, and the last reimbursement request must be submitted within one year of the grant expiration date. Failure to do so will result in the Project Sponsor forfeiting all project reimbursements and relieves IDNR from further payment obligations on the grant.

The Sponsor further acknowledges and certifies that it will comply with all terms, conditions and regulations of 1) the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) program (17 IL Adm. Code 3025); 2) the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act (30 ILCS 705); 3) the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) and/or the Illinois Displaced Persons Relocation Act (310 ILCS 40 et seq.), as applicable; 4) the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq.); 5) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (P.L. 83-352); 6) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (P.L. 94-135); 7) the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988, (P.L. 100-259); and 8) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (PL 101-336); and will maintain the project area in an attractive and safe condition, keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility, cease any farming operations and obtain from the Illinois DNR written approval for any change or conversion of approved outdoor recreation use of the project site prior to initiating such change or conversion; and for property acquired with OSLAD assistance, agree to place a covenant restriction on the project property deed at the time of recording that stipulates the property must be used, In perpetuity, for public outdoor recreation purposes in accordance with the OSLAD programs and cannot be sold or exchanged, In whole or part, to another party without approval from the Illinois DNR, and that development at the site will commence within 3 years.

BE IT FURTHER PROVIDED that the Sponsor certifies to the best of its knowledge that the information provided within the attached application is true and correct

Resolution of Authorization- Adoption Date: **August 27, 2026**

Resolution of Authorization• Attested by Name: **Jeffrey K. Feid**

Resolution of Authorization- Attested by Tille: **President of the Board of Trustees**

Resolution of Authorization- Attestation Date: **this 27th day of August 2026.**

Signature:
