

Planned unit Development

Application for Amendment to PUD

March 26, 2020

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Executive Summary

The Docks, a development by Damfino Development, LLC ("Damfino") is situated between 1000' feet of existing Muskegon Lake shoreline on the East and a short walk to Lake Michigan on the West. The Docks emphasizes engagement of the water and open space throughout the pedestrian oriented development. Greenspace, dune ridges and landscaping form the perimeter and buffer the development from neighboring residents.

The Docks' new 12-acre boat basin takes center stage, providing immediate access to Muskegon Lake and just minutes away from Lake Michigan via the Muskegon channel. This feature provides one mile of new waterfront, varying in width from 100' to 400' and contains a variety of shoreline conditions from gradual sloping sand shore to hard seawall, enabling for a variety of uses. Common amenities include boardwalks, parks and trails. Residents may enjoy over-water decks, docks, boathouses. Anchoring the boat basin is a condominium building with a pool and fitness center, pickleball courts, and kayak launch for residents and a neighborhood restaurant for public enjoyment. Waterfront homes make up one area while cottages fronting on pocket parks and boardwalks find their place in another.

Following a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the City Commission approved the Planned Unit Development (PUD) for The Docks on June 25, 2019. The underlying zoning for the property is R-1. As a PUD The Docks is an innovative design incorporating mixed and varied uses, clustering homes in some areas while providing significant open space in the form of parks, wetlands, walkways and water. The density under the approved PUD is approximately 240 units. In connection with the PUD approval both the Planning Commission and City Commission approved an amendment to the Edgewater Plat, vacating Manhattan Avenue and a portion of Edgewater Street north of the existing cul-de-sac.

Challenges to the Edgewater Plat Amendment by certain Edgewater residents have caused Damfino to look at alternatives to the approved PUD which will not be dependent on the ultimate outcome of the Plat Vacation process.

The proposed amendment involves the relocation of the marina basin connection to Muskegon Lake, includes 245 residential units and connects The Docks development to the existing Edgewater Street via Manhattan Ave as platted.

It should be noted that a preliminary design of The Docks included a connection to Edgewater Street which Damfino eliminated to appease residents of Edgewater. It is some of these same residents who are now challenging the Edgewater Plat Amendment, requesting that Manhattan Ave and portions of Edgewater Street not be vacated.

Edgewater Plat Revision

Under the Michigan Land Division Act, to vacate, correct, or revise a recorded plat or any part of a recorded plat, a complaint shall be filed in the circuit court by the owner of a lot in the subdivision, a person of record claiming under the owner, or the governing body of the municipality in which the subdivision covered by the plat is located. Damfino filed its complaint in Muskegon County Court in June of 2019. In September of 2019 all Muskegon County judges recused themselves from the case and it was reassigned to Kent County. There are 95 platted lots in the Edgewater Subdivision. There are six lot owners who are challenging the vacation of Manhattan Ave and portions of Edgewater Street.

In late November 2019 the Kent County court scheduled the Case for a hearing on April 20, 2020. While we cannot predict how long it will take the judge to rule after the hearing, a 2 to 4-month time period would be normal. If Damfino/plaintiff obtains a favorable ruling, the defendants may appeal the decision, causing further delays.

A portion of Edgewater the defendants are trying to retain as a platted road has in fact been underwater for 60 years.

EXHIBITC depicts the Edgewater Plat with the darkened portion representing the vacation request.

EXHIBIT D shows that a section of Edgewater north of the cul-de-sac is underwater. This is not just a condition caused by the current high-water levels - through a surveyor overlaying historical aerial images it has been shown that this section of road has been underwater as far back as 1962.

Amendment to PUD

Damfino Development, LLC is requesting this amendment to the PUD to allow the project to move forward without uncertainty and further delays. Consideration was given to various options including redesigning the development under the R-1 zoning guidelines without a marina basin. This option results in significantly more residential units and a development of lower quality in our opinion. The amendment proposed involves minimal change from what was previously proposed and approved. Damfino is planning to begin construction on the entrance road to the development in May of 2020.

The changes to the PUD plan include the connection of the boat basin to Muskegon Lake, an increase of 6 units to 245 residential units and a connection to Edgewater Street via Manhattan Ave as platted.

The connection of the boat basin to Muskegon Lake will be through a channel running parallel to the Harbour Towne Marina Channel. The channels will be well marked in accordance with United States Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Regulations. EXHIBIT E provides a visual image of what the approach to the Harbour Towne and Docks channels would look like.

The redesign of the channel and streets at the north end of the development results in a net increase of 6 residential units as summarized in the table below:

Location	Туре	Current PUD	Alternate	+/-
Muskegon Lake	Lot	11	13	2
Harbour Towne Channel	Lot	10	0	-10
Harbour Towne Channel	Townhome	0	6	6
Docks Marina Basin	Lot	60	65	5
Inland	Lot	61	48	-13
Condo	Condo	30	30	0
Townhomes	Townhome	67	83	16
		239	245	6

The relocation of the access to Muskegon Lake results in less density on the north and west side of the marina basin and more density in the northeast section of the development, now south of the proposed access to Muskegon Lake. This increased density mandates additional access to The Docks development for safety reasons. Representatives of Damfino met with the Director of Public Safety, Chief Lewis and Fire Marshall Rachel McMillan to review the proposed changes and access requirements.

The Planned Unit Development Requirements

Following are the calculation of the density, open space and waterfront access requirements of the zoning ordinance. There are no significant changes from the approved PUD.

POST DEVELOPMENT DENSITY CALCULATION

	TOTALS	NOTES
UNDEVELOPABLE AREAS		
Wetland Area	3.63 Acres	Provided Wetland Area
Surface Water/Floodplain	12.81 Acres	Boat Basin
Street R.O.W	12.14 Acres	
Area of Storm Ponds	1.50 Acres	
Area of Steep Slopes	9.38 Acres	Includes CDA and Banks above wetland
TOTAL UNDEVELOPABLE AREAS	39.47 Acres	
OVERALL AREA OF PROPERTY	76.68 Acres	
NET DEVELOPABLE AREA	37.21 Acres	
ALLOWED NO. OF DWELLING UNITS =	270	NET DEVELOPABLE AREA / MINIMUM LOT SIZE
NET DENSITY	7.3 units per acre	MINIMUM LOT SIZE = 6,000 SFT FOR R-1
PROPOSED NO. OF DWELLING UNITS =	245	
NET DENSITY	6.6 units per acre	

OPEN SPACE CALCULATION

Section 403.4 requires a minimum of 15% of the site to be dedicated common open space.

At least one third of the dedicated open space shall be usable open space.

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Percentage Usable Open Space	79.70%	
Parks)	14.29 Acres	
Usable Open Space (Green Belts and		
Percentage Open Space	23.38%	
Total Development Area	76.68 Acres	
Total Open Space	17.93 Acres	
Critical Dune	9.38 Acres	
Green Belts and Parks	4.91 Acres	Excludes Stormwater Basins
Wetland and Wetland Banks	3.63 Acres	

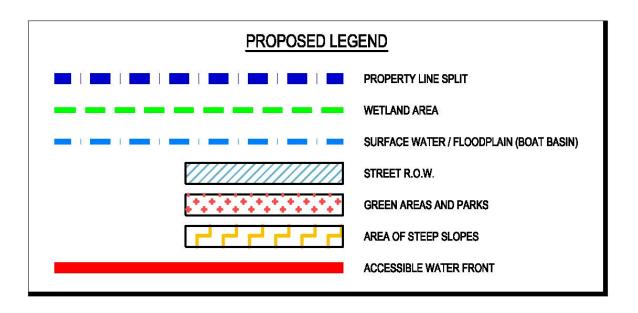
WATERFRONT CALCULATION

Section 403.6 requires a minimum of 50% of the shoreline be open space

Accessi	bl	e '	W	at	e	rf	r	0	n	ıt	i
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Boardwalk	2,022 feet
Green Belts	1,451 feet
Total Accessible Waterfront	3,473 feet
Total Waterfront	
Muskegon Lake	1,127 feet
Boat Basin	5,797 feet
Total Length of Waterfront	6,924 feet
Percentage Accessible Waterfront	50.16%

The drawing on the following page shows the areas used in the above calculations. Below is the legend for the drawing.



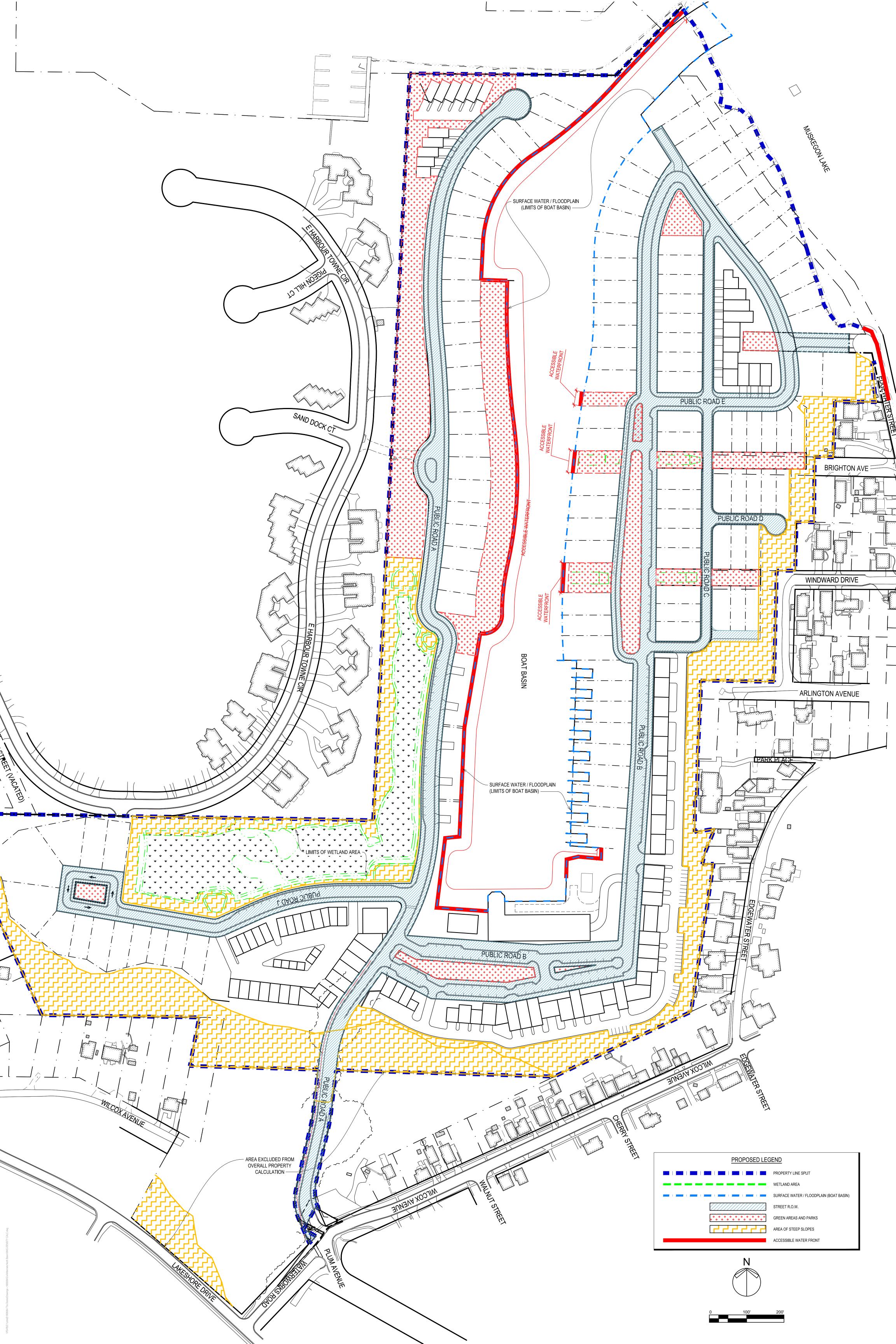


EXHIBIT A

Current PUD Plan as approved in 2019



EXHIBIT B Proposed Amended PUD

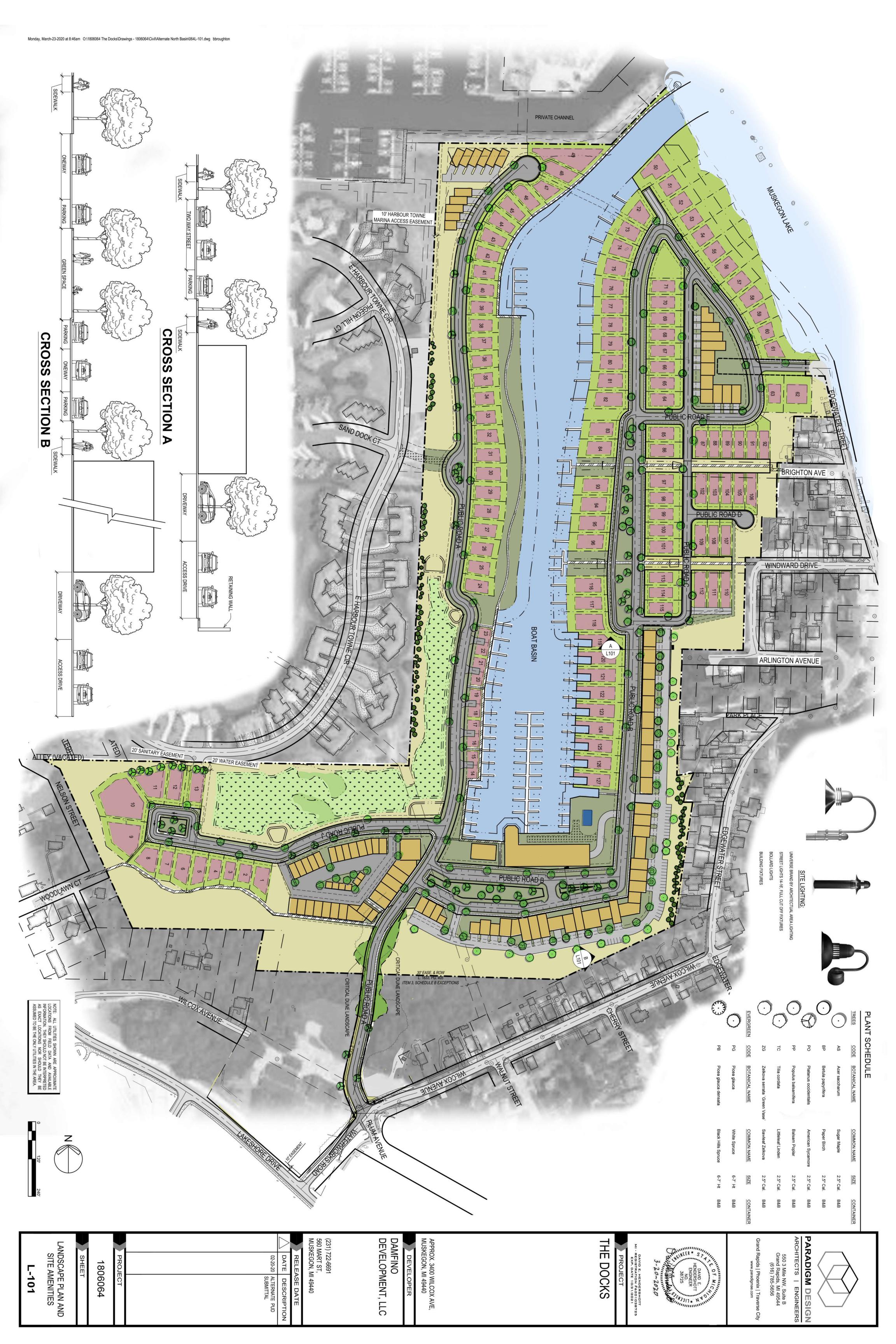


EXHIBIT C Edgewater Plat Amendment

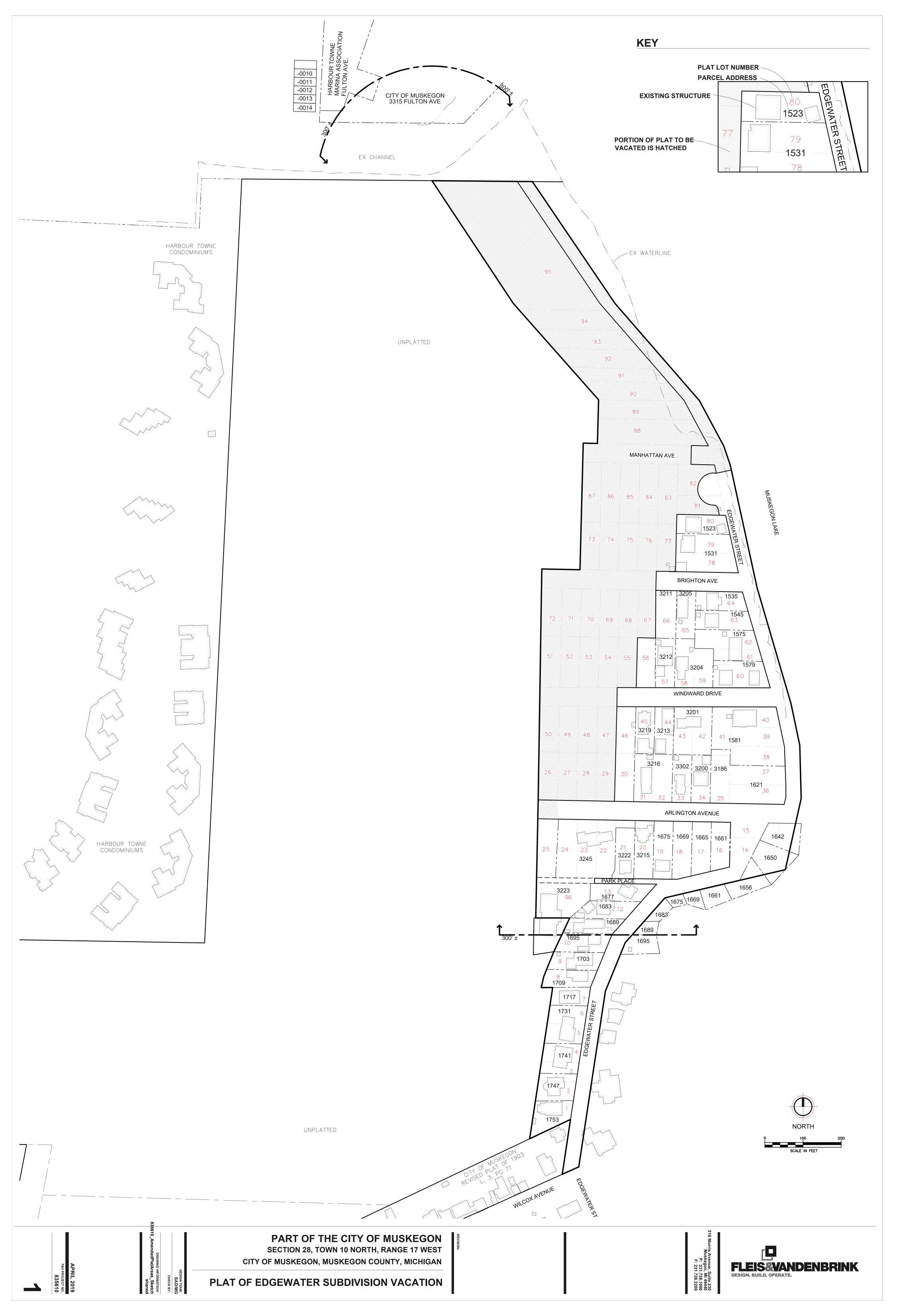
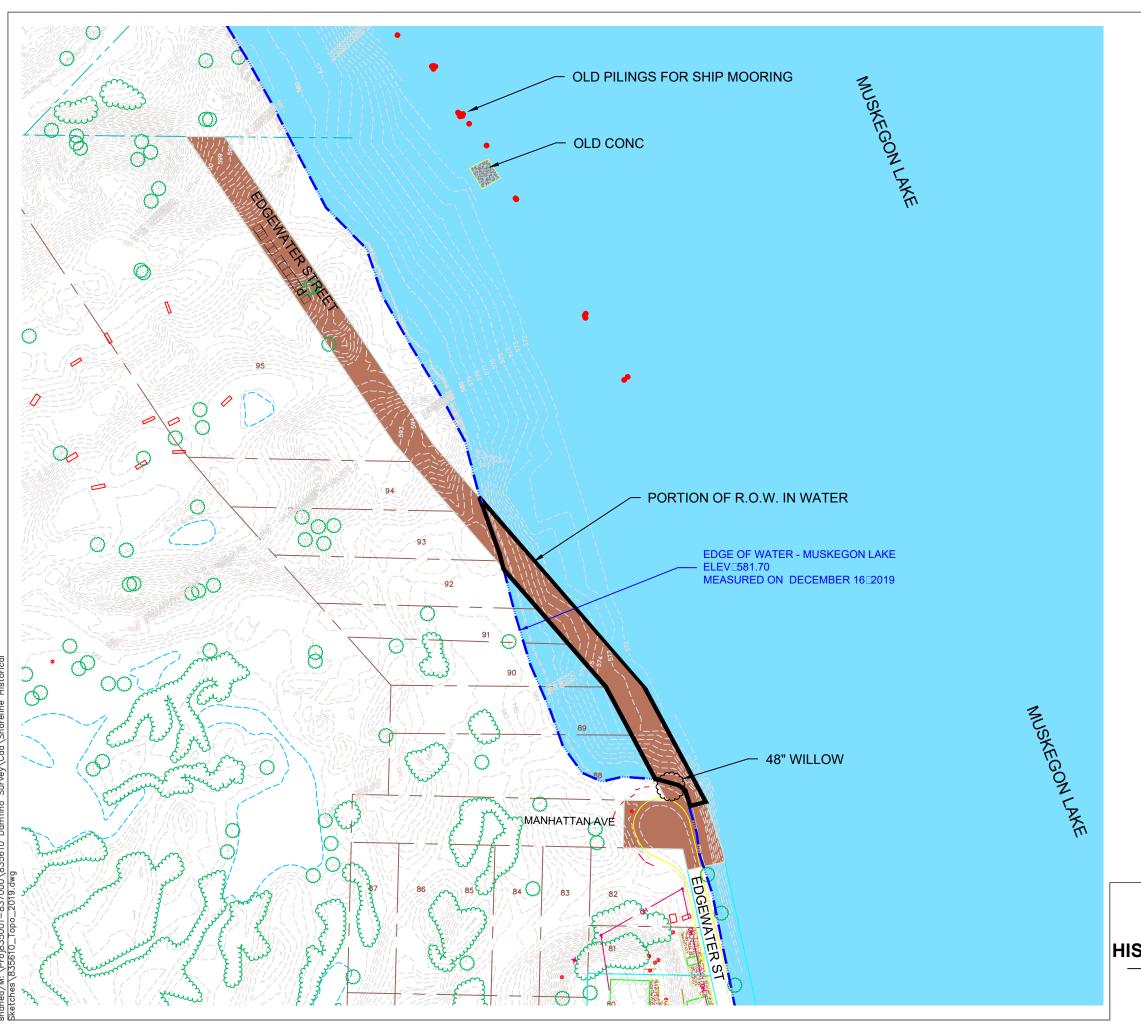
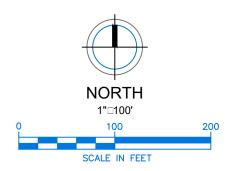


EXHIBIT D Submerged Edgewater Street





AVERAGE WATER ELEVATIONS

2019 - 581.70 ☐ AS-MEASURED DEC 16 ☐

2018 - 581.00 ☐ AS-MEASURED ☐ UNE 13 ☐

2014 - 578.79

2005 - 578.09

1997 - 580.99

1986 - 582.09

1977 - 579.49

1962 - 578.49

2019 LINEAR FEET SUBMERGED ☐ 335

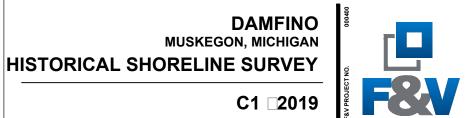


EXHIBIT E

Visual - Approaching the Harbour Towne and The Docks Channels

