

BYLAW 1679/25
VICTORIA TRAIL MUNICIPAL HISTORIC AREA DESIGNATION BYLAW
STURGEON COUNTY, ALBERTA

A BYLAW OF STURGEON COUNTY, ALBERTA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGNATING THE VICTORIA TRAIL AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC AREA.

WHEREAS the Alberta *Historical Resources Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter H-9, (the "Act") as amended, empowers the Council of a municipality to designate, by bylaw, any historic resource or historic area, the commemoration and or preservation of which it considers to be in the public interest;

AND WHEREAS designation as a Municipal Historic Resource under Section 26 of the Act would regulate and control the use and development of the said resource, including its demolition, removal, construction or addition, renovation or reconstruction in accordance with its Heritage Values and Statement of Significance;

AND WHEREAS designation as a Municipal Historic Area under Section 27 of the Act may be commemorative or non-regulatory;

AND WHEREAS Section 18 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26, (the "MGA") states that subject to this or any other Act, a municipality has the direction, control and management of all roads within the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Council of Sturgeon County is of the opinion that certain municipally owned or controlled portions of and around the Victoria Trail, as more particularly specified in **Section 3** and shown in **Schedule A** of this bylaw, possess historical character and the commemoration of which is in the public interest;

AND WHEREAS the Victoria Trail forms a segment of the former Fort Garry - Fort Edmonton Trail (aka the Saskatchewan or Carlton Trail);

AND WHEREAS the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) has, in 1972, declared use of the Victoria Trail (also known as the Carlton Trail or Fort Garry - Fort Edmonton Trail) to be a National Historic Event;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of Sturgeon County, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1. Title

- 1.1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the "Victoria Trail Municipal Historic Area Designation Bylaw".

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this Bylaw is to designate portions of Victoria Trail in Sturgeon County as a Municipal Historic Area (MHA) under Section 27 of the Alberta *Historical Resources Act*.

3. Lands designated as Municipal Historic Area

- 3.1. The lands described herein are hereby designated as a Municipal Historic Area:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Road Plan 6404 KS | 3. Road Plan 2669 NY |
| 2. Road Plan 796 S | 4. Road Plan 752 1053 |

excepting thereout All Mines and Minerals (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Municipal Historic Area").

4. Regulated and Non-Regulated Portions

- 4.1. This Bylaw is commemorative and does not regulate the management or maintenance of the Victoria Trail.
- 4.2. No areas beyond the identified portions of road right of way is encompassed within the scope of this designation bylaw.

5. Recitals and Schedules

- 5.1. The following are hereby attached to this Bylaw form a part of it:

Schedule "A" – Approximate Outline of the Historic Area

Schedule "B" – Statement of Significance

Schedule "C" – Various Surveys of Township, Road Plans Showing the Trail

6. Interpretation and Severability

- 6.1. If any portion of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed, and the remainder of the Bylaw is deemed valid.
- 6.2. Administration of this bylaw shall be under the management and control of the Development Authority of Sturgeon County.

7. Effective Date

7.1. This Bylaw shall come into force upon being passed.

Read a first time this 26th day of August 2025.

Read a second time this 9th day of September, 2025.

Read a third time this 9th day of September, 2025.

“Original Signed”

MAYOR

“Original Signed”

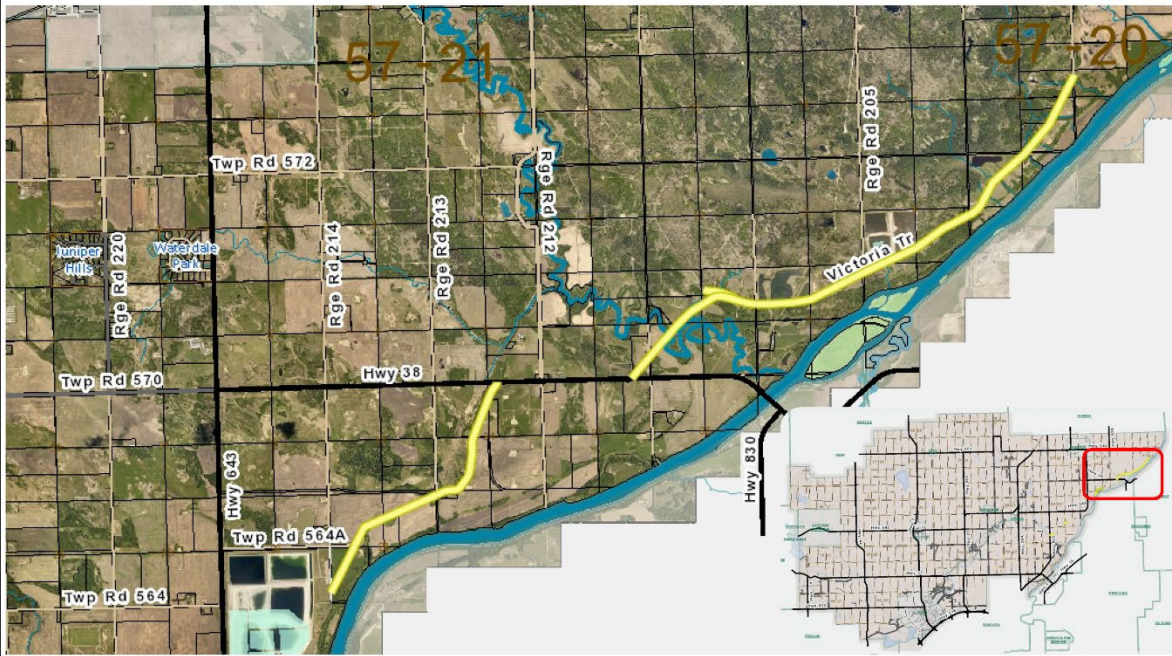
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

September 9, 2025

DATE SIGNED

**Schedule A: Map Showing the Approximate Outline of the Victoria Trail Municipal Historic Area
(highlighted in yellow)**

Bylaw 1679-25



Information on this map is provided solely for the user's information and, while thought to be accurate, is provided strictly "as is" and without warranty of any kind.

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© Sturgeon County



Bylaw 1679/25

Schedule B

Statement of Significance - Victoria Trail

1. Description of Heritage Area

This portion of the original Victoria Trail is in the northeast part of Sturgeon County and crosses the Redwater River. Its meandering path runs through agricultural areas, sometimes framed by trees and wetlands, and is adjacent between the Redwater Provincial Recreation Area and the North Saskatchewan River (which itself has been designated under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, CHRS). The historic place is inclusive of the existing approximately 13-kilometer portion of the trail located in Sturgeon County.

2. Heritage Values

This trail is significant for its association with the themes of transportation, the fur trade, mission, Indigenous life, and law enforcement in Sturgeon County. It was the principal overland trade route in the North-West for much of the 19th century.

The Victoria Trail is one of Alberta and indeed Canada's most historic trails. Initially a path created by Indigenous peoples, the trail was also used by early European explorers, fur traders and pioneer settlers. Along this route, brigades of Red River carts carved their way across the frontier, etching an imprint of their wheels into the earth and carrying supplies and people to the region.

The trail served as a primary overland path from Fort Edmonton and Edmonton Settlement to Fort Victoria (later known as Paken), before continuing across the prairie to Fort Carlton and eventually to Fort Garry or what is today Winnipeg, 900-miles in sum.

In the 1870s after Canada acquired the Northwest Territories from the Hudson's Bay Company and opened the area for settlement, traffic on Victoria Trail increased. In subsequent years, the North-West Mounted Police, the Canadian Militia and the Alberta Field Force also used the trail extensively, particularly during the 1885 Northwest Rebellion. The trail also facilitated the first regular mail route and the first telegraph line to Edmonton Settlement.

In early days, there were certain locations, including here, known as a "stopping place" where travelers could find a hospitable welcome. Furthermore, prior to the construction of the Highway 38 Vinca Bridge, ferry services on the North Saskatchewan River operated nearby between 1913 – 1966, and at Eldorena between 1908 – 1967. The nearby Eldorena Church was designated a Municipal Historic Resource in 2008.

After 1891, when the railway between Calgary and Edmonton was completed, settlers increasingly began to arrive in the area from the south. The CNR and Grand Trunk Pacific Railways were established between 1909 and 1919, which greatly facilitated the shipping of goods and travel to Edmonton. The trail system was still used for local travel but became increasingly difficult to navigate and when farmers started to erect fences causing travelers to use gates, if provided, or cut the fences.

More recently, there has been significant aggregate resource extraction along the trail north of Highway 38 which has resulted in several ponds. Much of the original Victoria Trail in Sturgeon County has been closed or abandoned. This trail is shown on various Plans of Township dating from 1888 – 1919 and a segment was surveyed and originally taken as a public roadway in 1906 being registered as Road Plan 2202AG.

3. Character Defining Elements

The character defining elements as expressed in the form, massing, and materials of this cultural landscape includes:

- Meandering path
- Graveled road surface
- Primarily agricultural setting, with otherwise generally forested, and/or wetland surroundings
- Sandy soil north of Highway 38

Sources:

- Carlton Trail, R.C. Russell (1955)
- Agenda Paper 1972-3: The Fort Garry - Fort Edmonton Trail, National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (NHSMBC)
- Report 2011-CED-SDC-028: Alberta Field Force National Historic Event, National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (NHSMBC)
- Ferries and Ferryman in Alberta, E. Haestie, 1986.
- Historical Walking and Driving Tours (Kalyna Country): Victoria and the Victoria Trail, Alberta Recreation and Parks, 2003



Above: Helicopter view of the Victoria Trail within Sturgeon County along the North Saskatchewan River looking southeast, Highway 38 Vinca Bridge in foreground, 2022.

Below: 1931 (placed sometime between 1952-72) steel truss bridge crossing the Redwater River.





Above Left: Detail of steel truss bridge design, Above Right: Looking upriver on the Redwater.
Below: Beaver dams and wetlands as seen from the Trail, north of Highway 38.





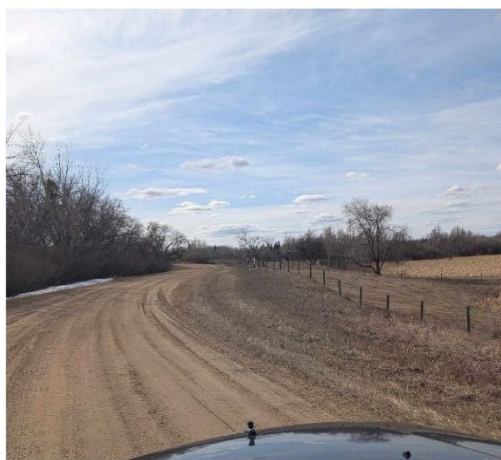
Above: Pastoral top-of-valley along the North Saskatchewan River.
Below: View of an aggregate extraction stockpile across the North Saskatchewan River in Lamont County, north of Highway 38.





Above Left: Forested vegetation, Above Right: sandy soil along the trial.

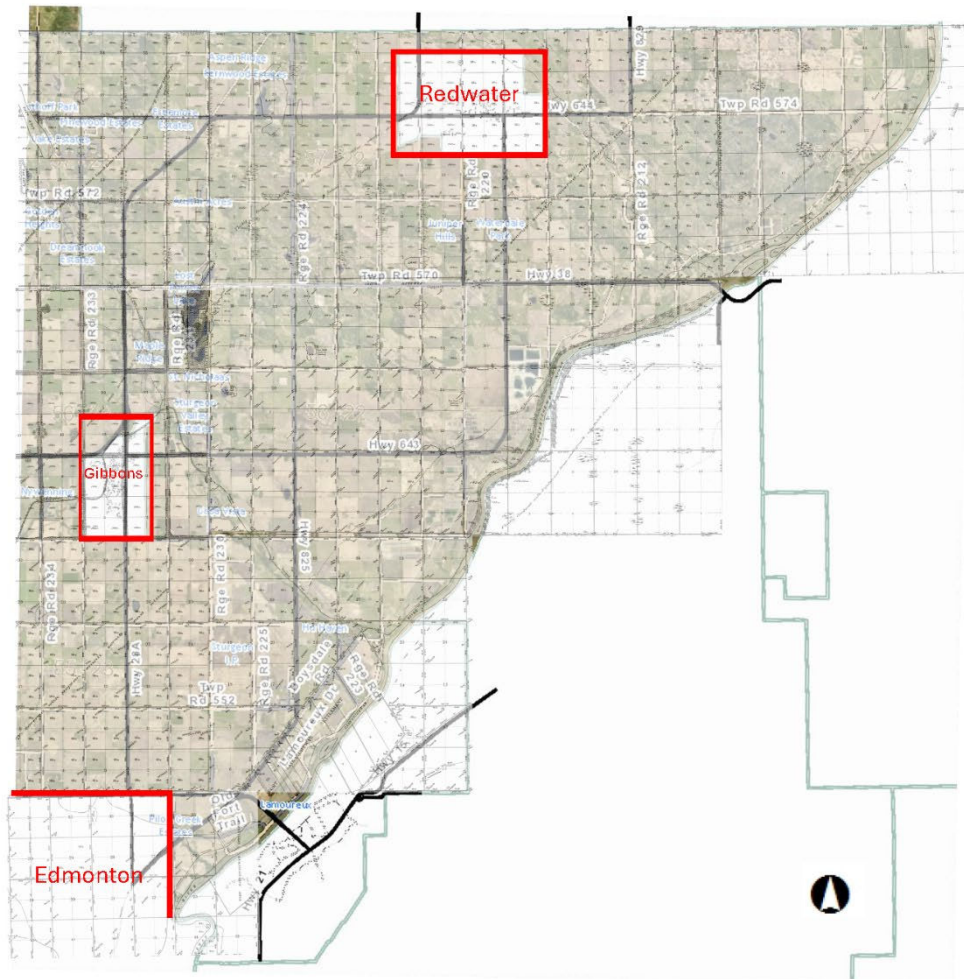
Below Left: Meandering path, Below Right: South of Highway 38





Below: Near the south terminus of the Victoria Trail Municipal Historic Area.

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Schedule C - Various Surveys of Township, Road Plans, showing the Victoria Trail

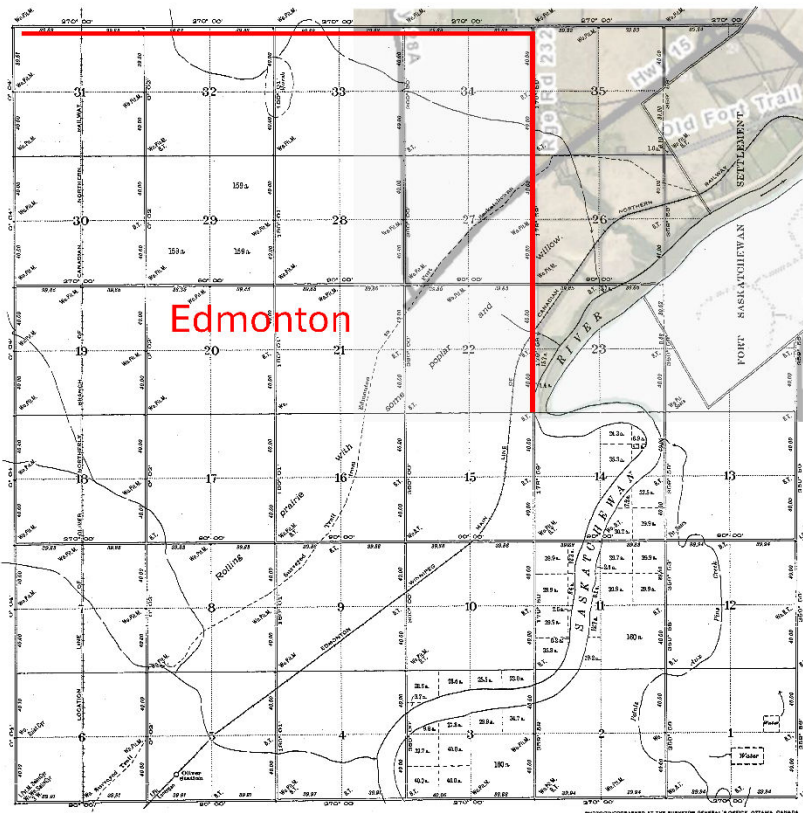
Township Surveys / Ortho Overlay Showing Victoria Trail

Figure 1

ALBERTA

Plan of Township 54, Range 23, West of the Fourth Meridian

FOURTH EDITION. SCALE 40 CHAINS TO AN INCH



Compiled from official surveys by

G. A. Simpson, D.L.S., 20th September, 1888
 M. Deane, D.L.S., 12th November, 1888
 J. R. Dennis, D.L.S., 1892
 J. Saint Cyr, D.L.S., 20th October, 1898
 G. J. Lowry, D.L.S., 6th May, 1910
 H. M. R. Sorens, D.L.S., 12th November, 1915

NOTE: The subdivisions of quarter-sections shown upon this plan are legal subdivisions and quarters of legal subdivisions. Distances are in chains. Surveys are reckoned from the astronomical meridian through the centre of the township. Areas in acres are marked on all lands surveyed, except lands that were before patented. Areas are taken to the head of Saskatchewan river. The name of a monument is that of the surveyor who erected the monument. All monuments not so designated were erected by G. A. Simpson.

Department of the Interior, Ottawa, 24th January, 1917

Approved and Confirmed

Edwile
 Surveyor General.

13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32

Legal Subdivisions
 in 4 Sections

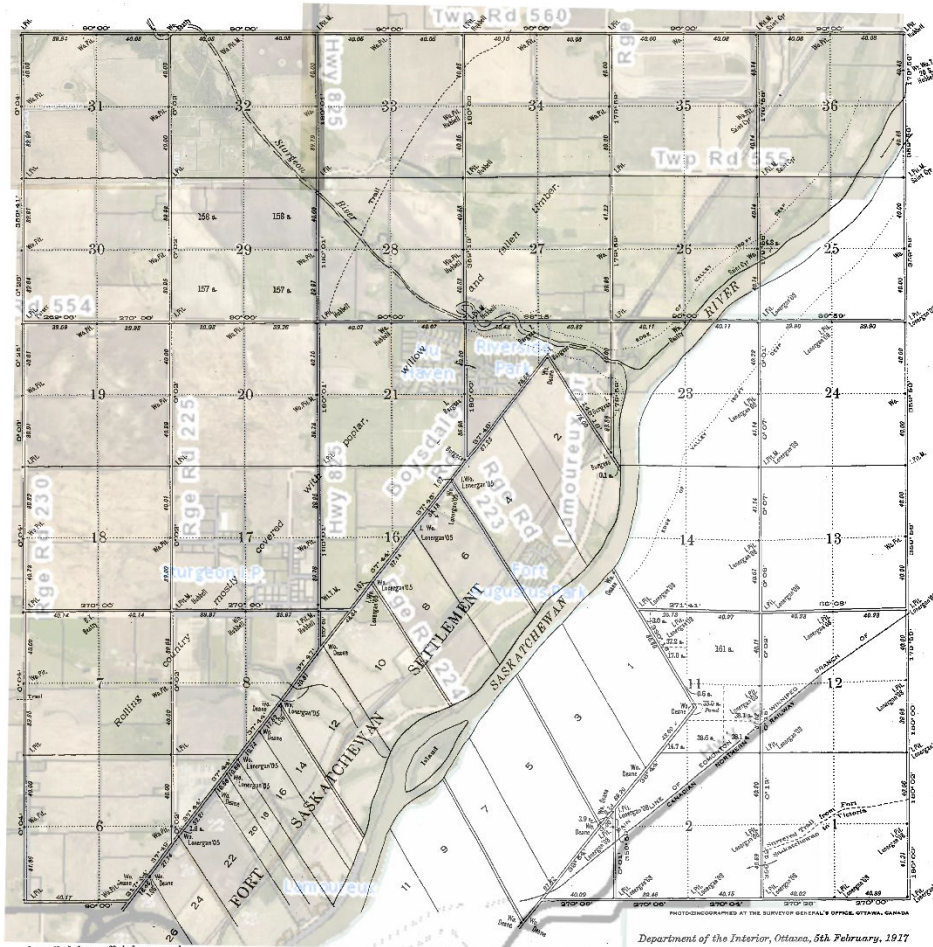
Figure 2

ALBERTA

Plan of Township 55 Range 22, West of the Fourth Meridian

FOURTH EDITION.

SCALE 40 CHAINS TO AN INCH



Compiled from official surveys by

D. Beatty.....D.L.S. 27th November.....1882
 M. Dennis.....D.L.S. 15th November.....1885
 J.S. Dennis.....D.L.S. 1892
 A. Saint Cyr.....D.L.S. 30th July.....1898
 E.W. Trubshaw.....D.L.S. 2nd August.....1909
 G.J. Loneragan.....D.L.S. 15th December.....1905
 G.J. Loneragan.....D.L.S. 16th November.....1908
 E.L. Burgeon.....D.L.S. 28th January.....1917
 R.C. Turner.....D.L.S. 18th October.....1915

NOTE: The subdivisions of quarter-sections shown upon this plan are legal subdivisions. Distances are in chains. Bearings are reckoned from the astronomical meridian through the centre of the township. Areas in acres are marked on all lands surveyed except lands that have been patented. Areas are taken to the bank of Saskatchewan river. Lot numbers are shown thus: A. The name of a monument is that of the surveyor who created or restored the monument. All monuments not so designated were erected or restored by J.S. Dennis.

Legal Subdivisions
in a Section.

Approved and Confirmed

E. Beatty
 Surveyor General.

Department of the Interior, Ottawa, 5th February, 1917

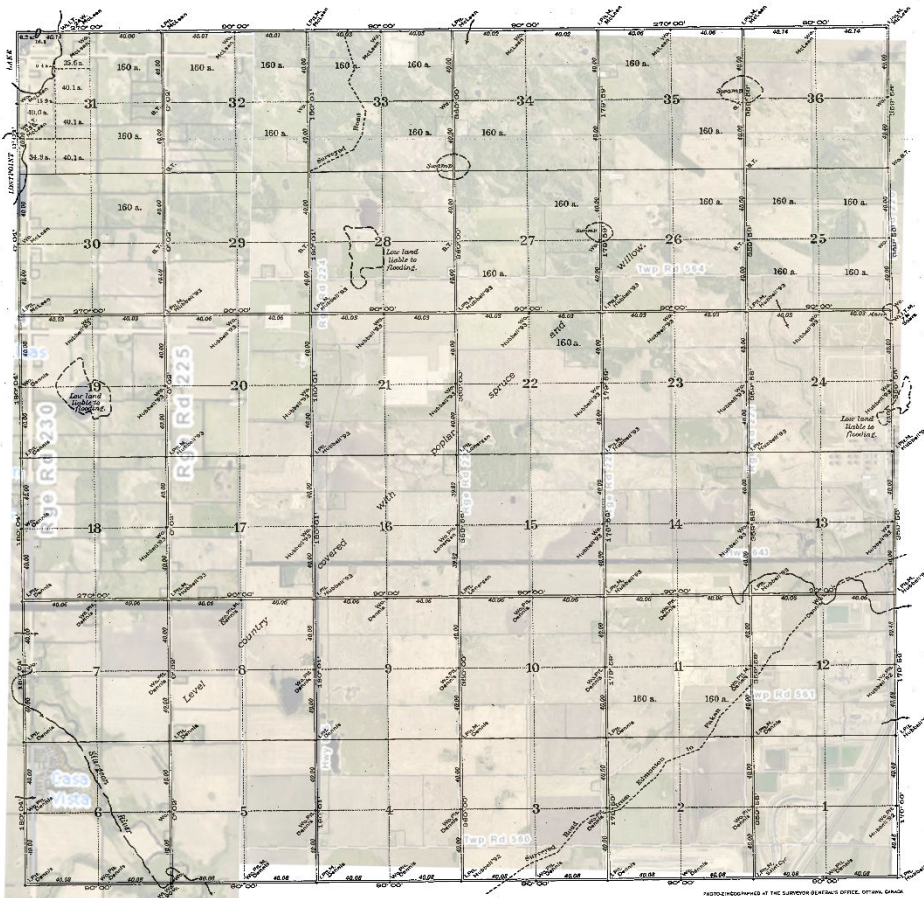
Figure 3

ALBERTA

Plan of Township 56, Range 22, West of the Fourth Meridian

FOURTH EDITION

SCALE 40 CHAINS TO AN INCH



Compiled from official surveys by

D. Beatty D.L.S. 1882
 J. Saint Cyr D.L.S. 50th July 1892
 E. W. Hubbell D.L.S. 2nd August 1892
 J. S. Dennis D.L.S. 1892
 E. W. Hubbell D.L.S. 1892
 J. E. McLean D.L.S. 18th September 1900
 G. J. Lowrey D.L.S. 16th October 1906
 H. M. R. Soars D.L.S. 30th June 1917

NOTE: The subdivisions of quarter-sections shown upon this plan are legal subdivisions. Distances are in chains. Bearings are reckoned from the astronomical meridian through the centre of the township. Areas in acres are marked on all lands surveyed, except lands that have been patented. The name of a monument is that of the surveyor who erected, restored or reported the monument. All monuments not so designated were erected by D. Beatty. L stands for old post; W for wooden post; P for four piles; M for mound; W for witness; T for trench; B. T. for bearing tree.

12	14	15	16
12	11	10	9
8	6	7	8
4	2	2	1

Legal Subdivisions in a Section

Department of the Interior, Ottawa, 12th April, 1919

Approved and Confirmed

E. Deville
 Surveyor General

Figure 4

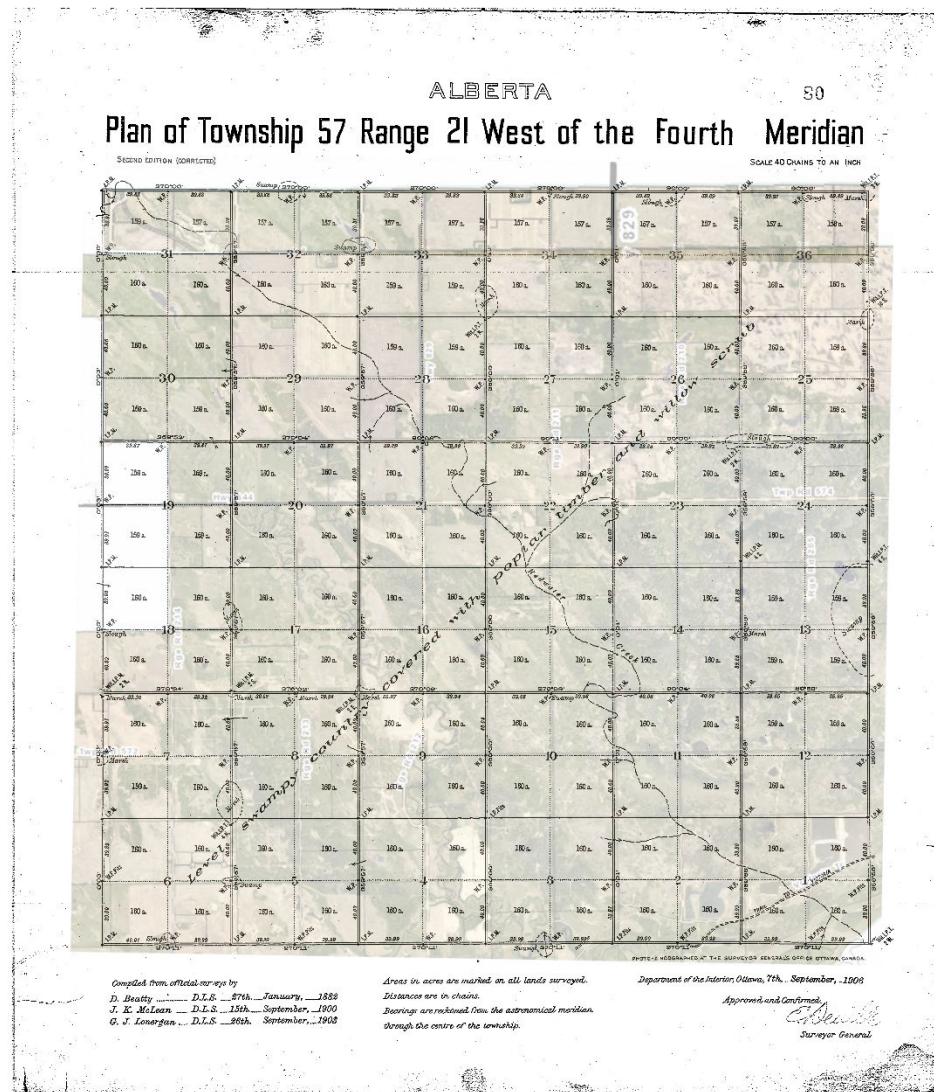


Figure 5

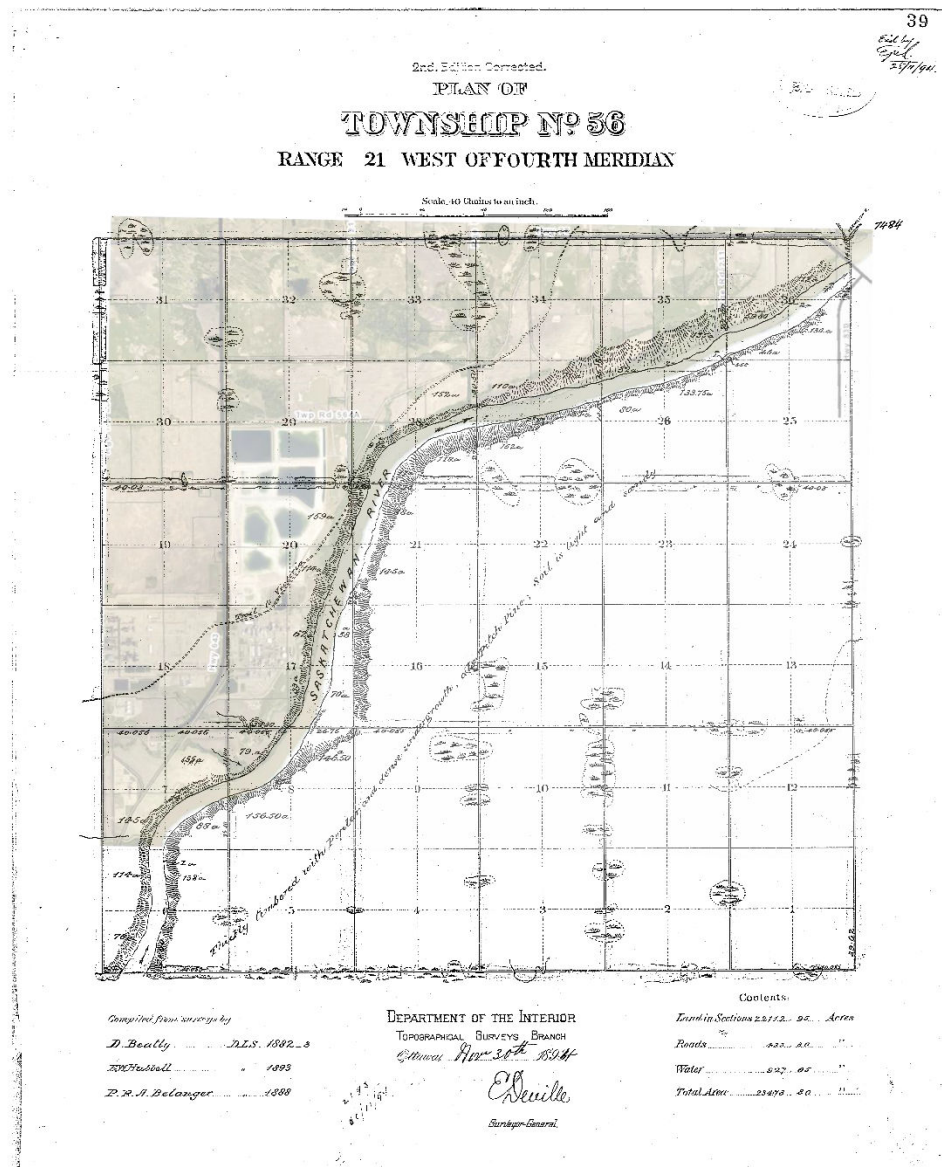


Figure 6

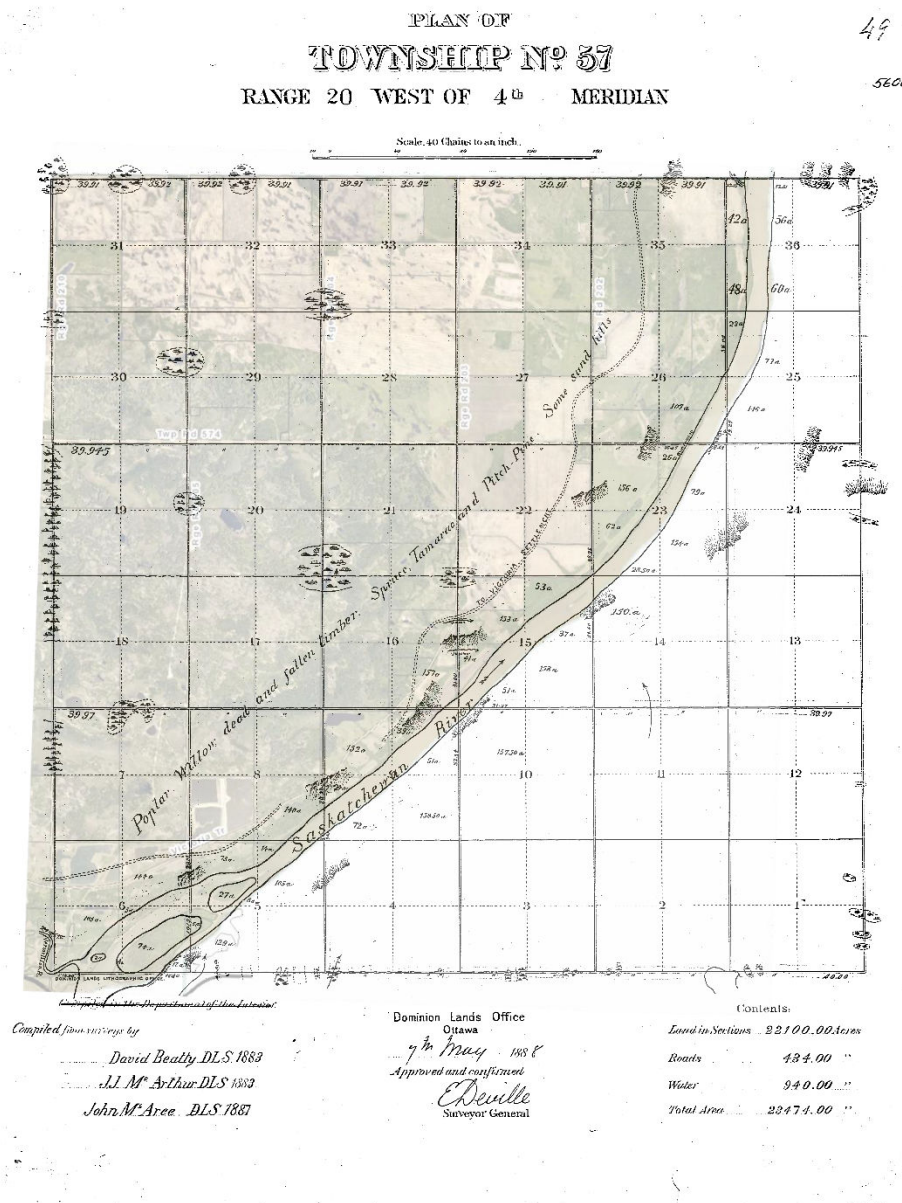


Figure 7

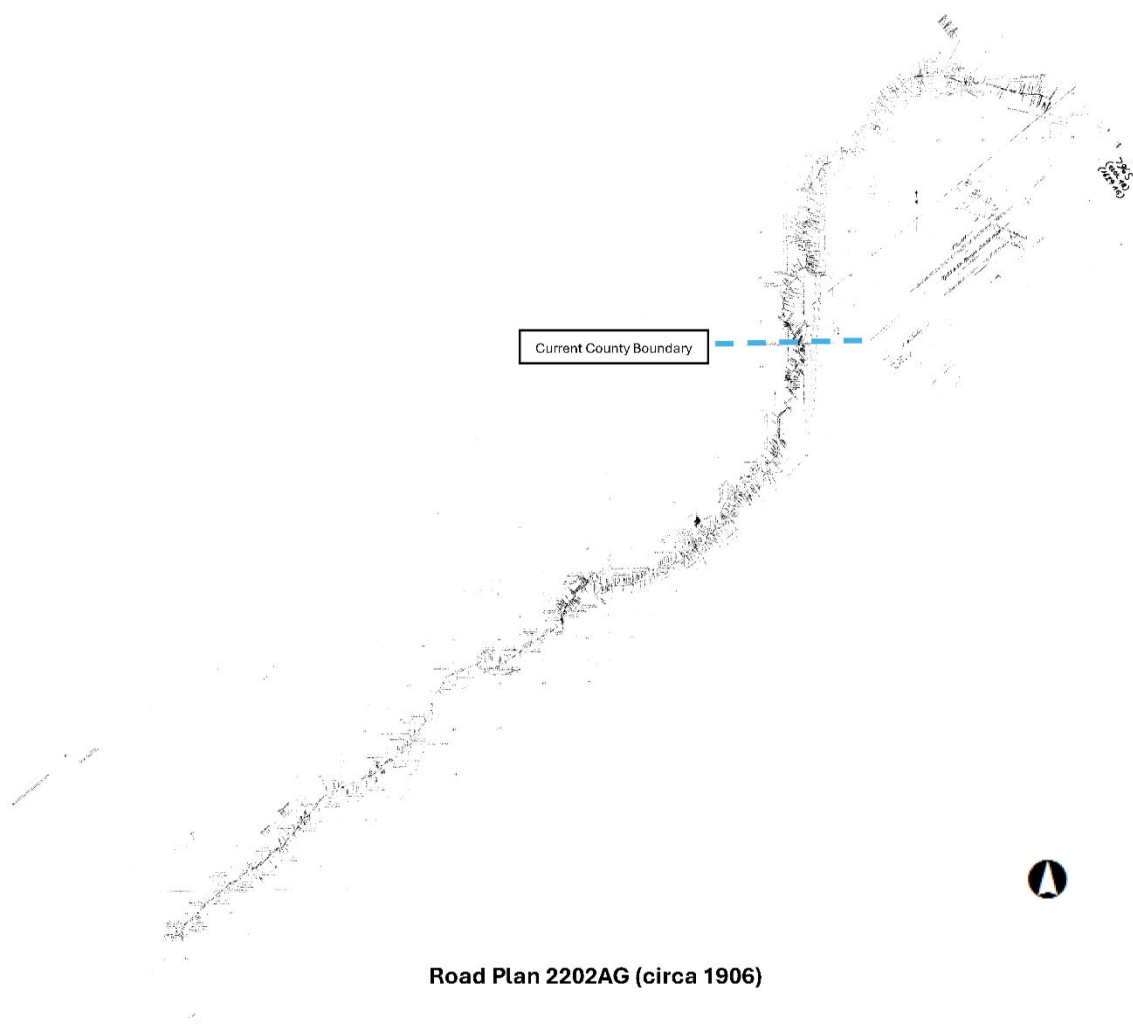
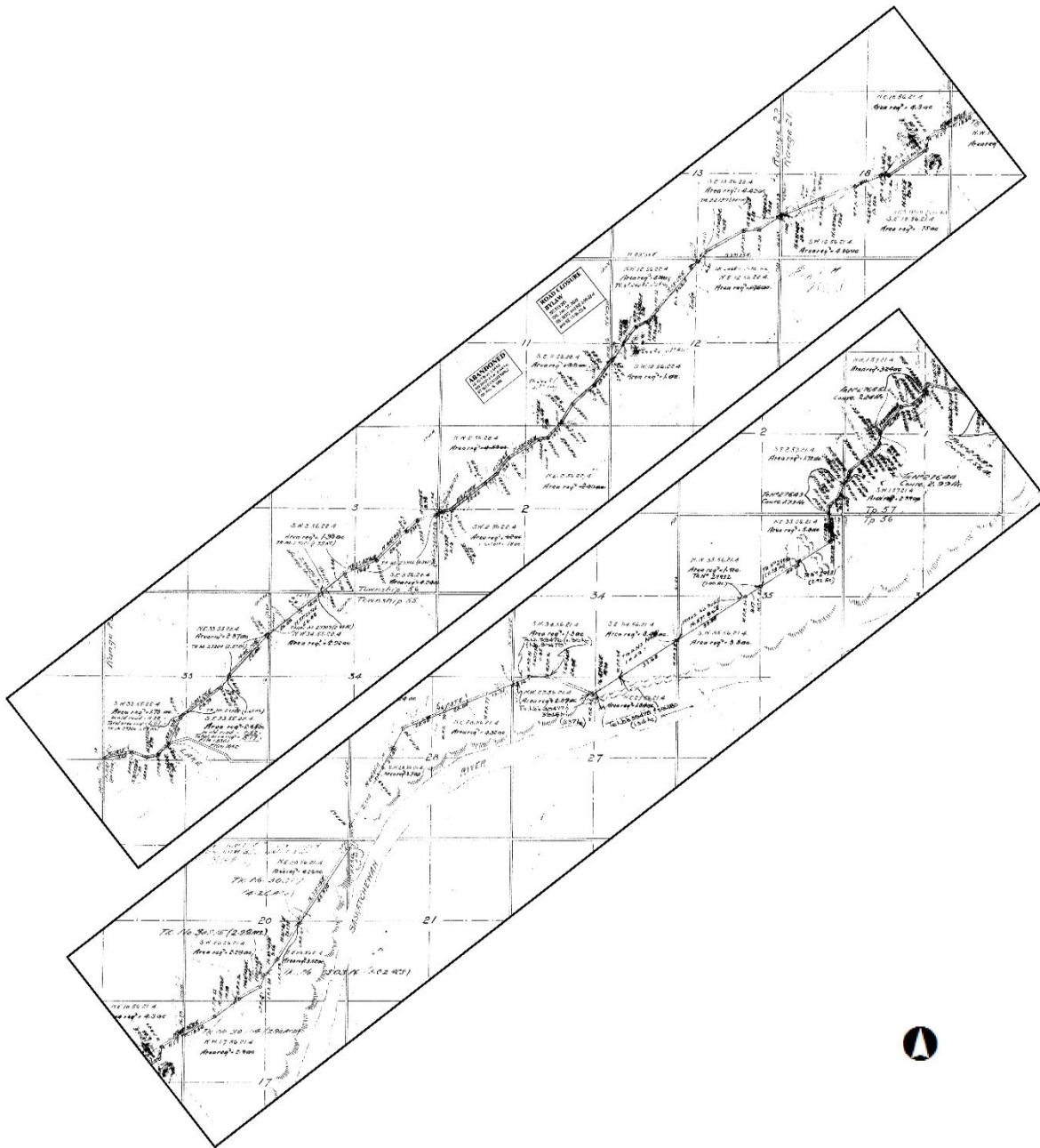
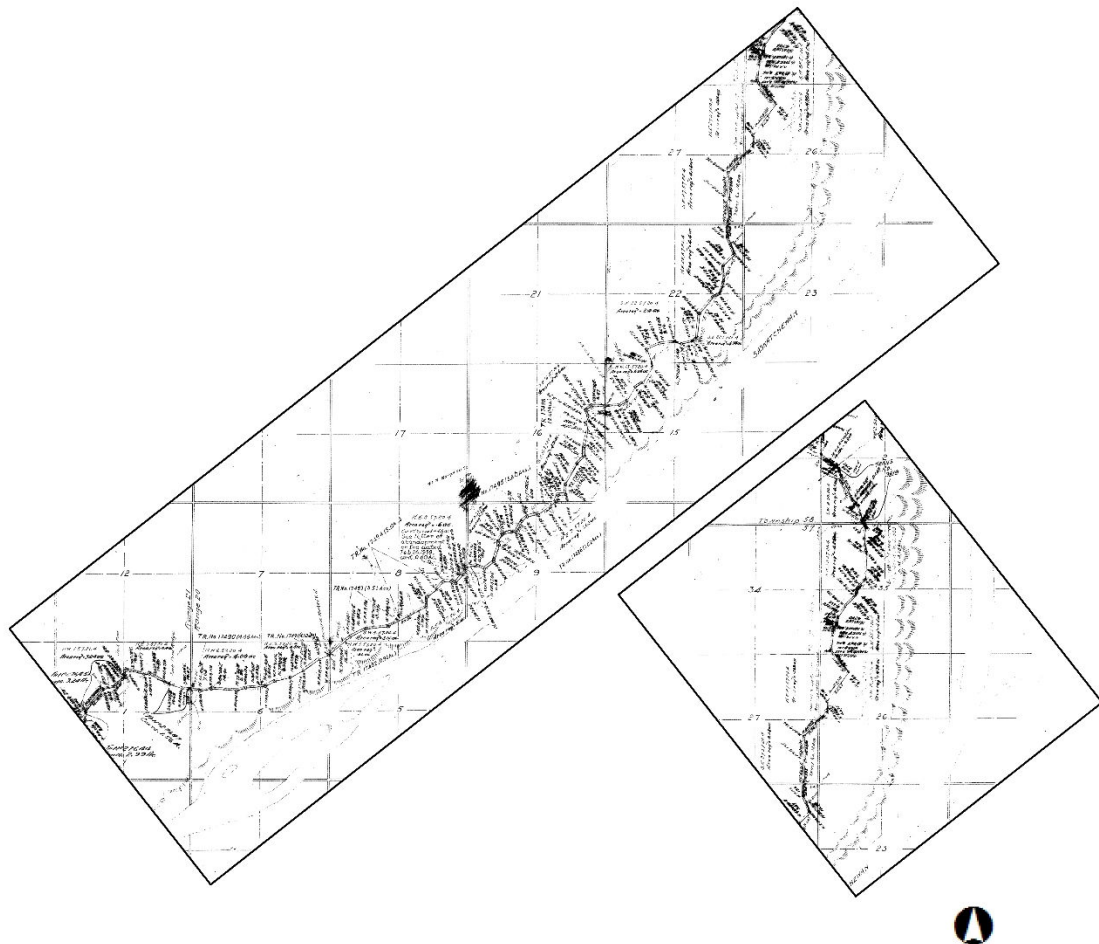


Figure 8



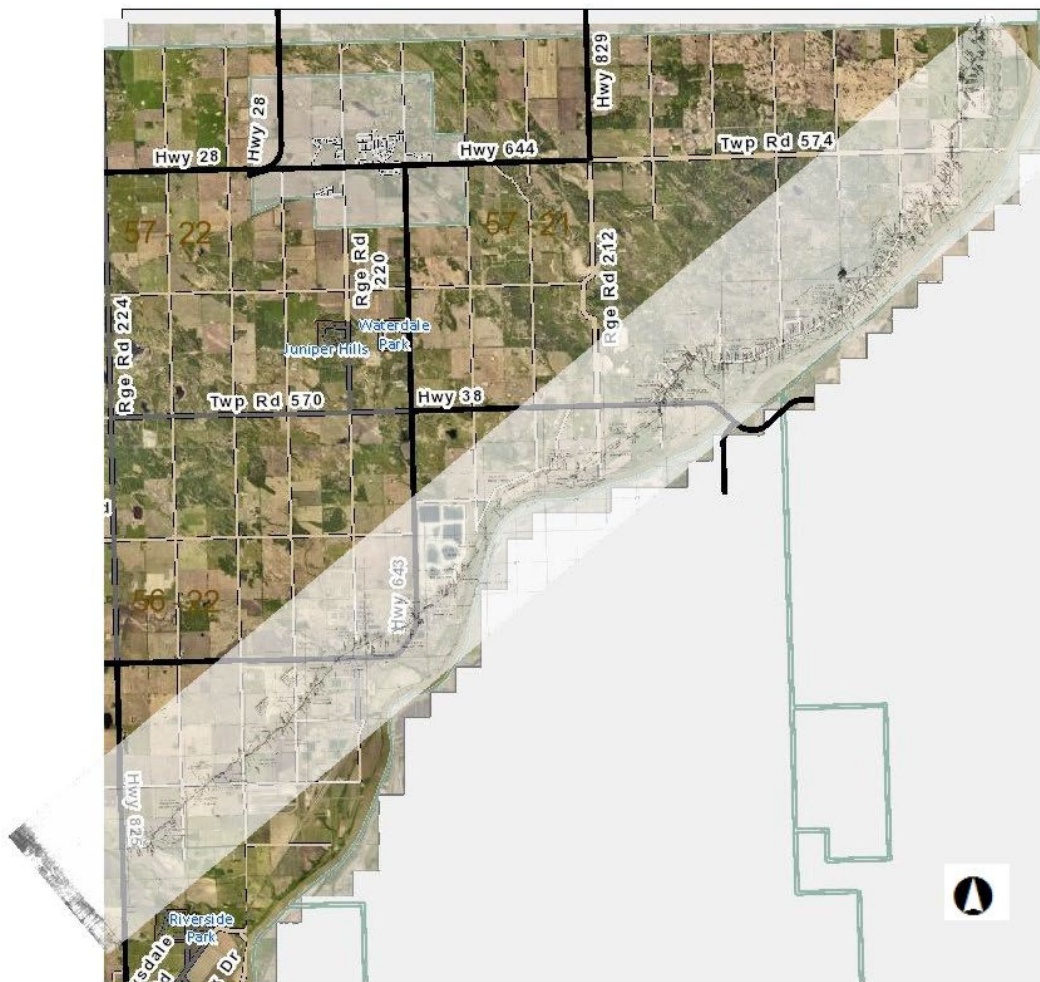
Plan 2202AG – Southwest (between SW-33-55-22-4 to NW-1-57-21-4)

Figure 9



Plan 2202AG – Northeast (between NW-1-57-21-4 to NW-35-57-20-4)

Figure 10



Plan 2202AG Overlay – Northeast (between Highway 825 and the Sturgeon County boundary)

Figure 11



Plan 2202AG Overlay – between SW-28-56-21-4 and the Sturgeon County boundary.

Figure 12



Plan 2202AG Overlay – Southwest (between Highway 825 and the SW-28-56-21-4)

Figure 13