

# Red Deer County Open Space Master Plan

Beverly A. Sandalack PhD FCSLA MCIP  
Professor and Research Leader, The EVDS Urban Lab  
University of Calgary

Presentation to  
International Federation of Landscape Architects Congress  
Suzhou, China  
2010



## **Four-phase, multi-year project**

### **The EVDS Urban Lab**

Dr. Bev Sandalack, Francisco Alaniz Uribe  
Matthew Knapik, Fraser Blyth, Braden Abrams Reid, Chris Selvig,  
Kristina Meehan Prins, Nathalie Woodhouse, Blair Marsden

### **Dillon Consulting Ltd.**

Alex Taylor, Jamal Ramjohn  
Adrian Buckley, Natalie Seniuk

### **Client Contact:**

Jo-Ann Symington, Community Services Manager, Red Deer County

Final Reading by Red Deer County Council - 2008

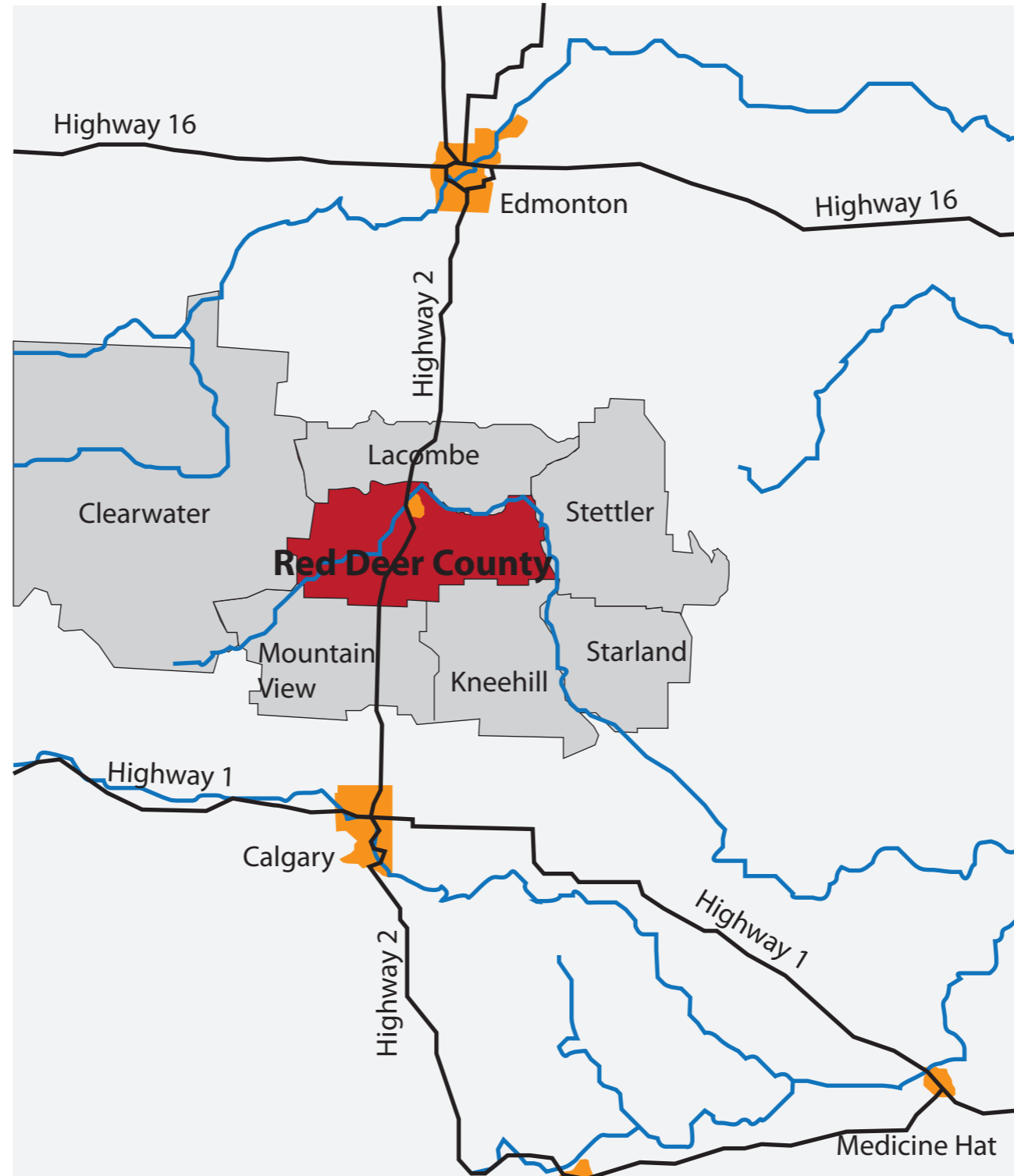
**Regional Award** from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects 2009

**Award of Excellence - Parks and Open Space Design** from the Alberta Recreation Industry Awards of Excellence 2010

**Merit Award** from the Alberta Professional Planners' Institute 2010

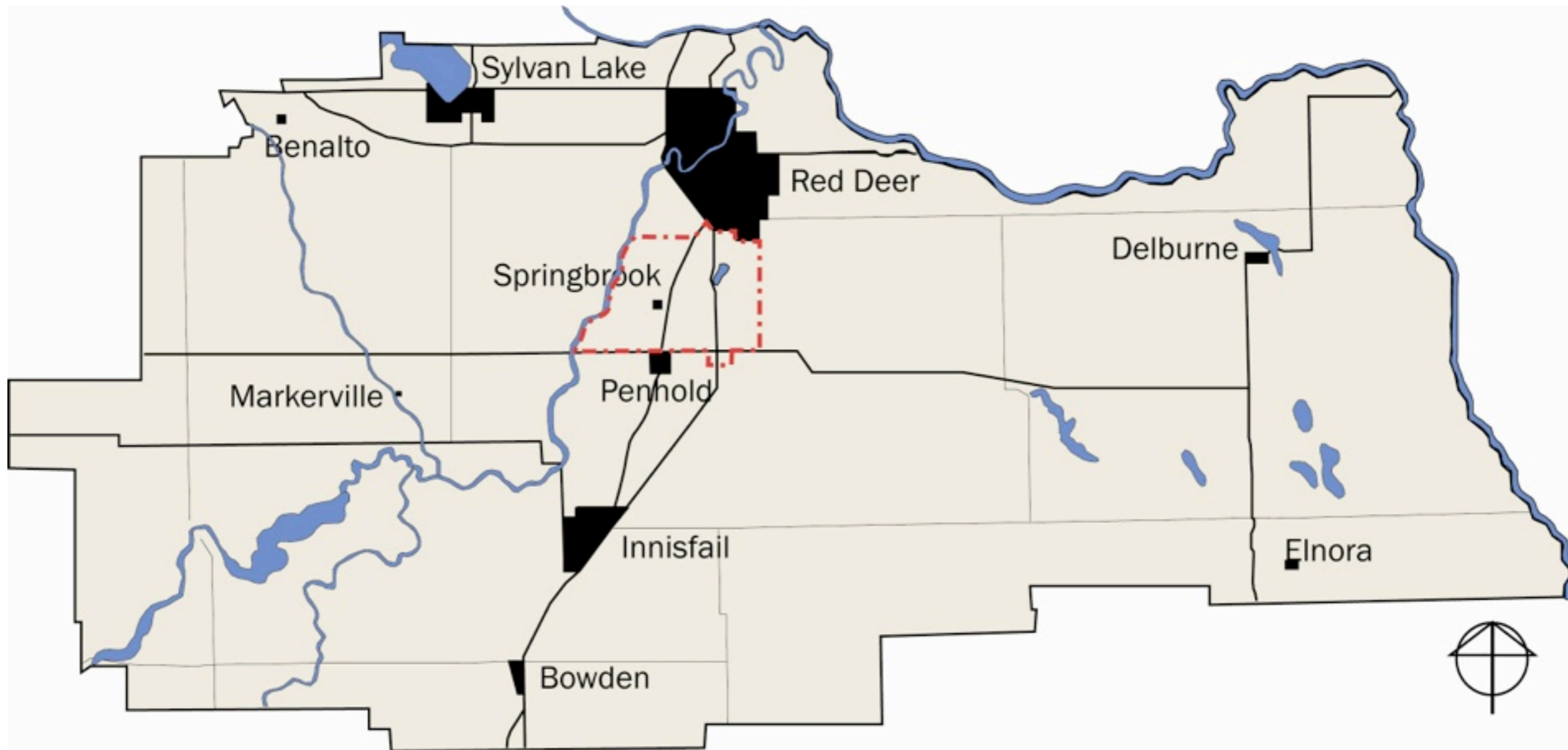


# red deer county





# red deer county



# innovative approach

Philosophy based - Landscape and public realm  
as the underlying framework of  
the built environment

Interdisciplinary approach

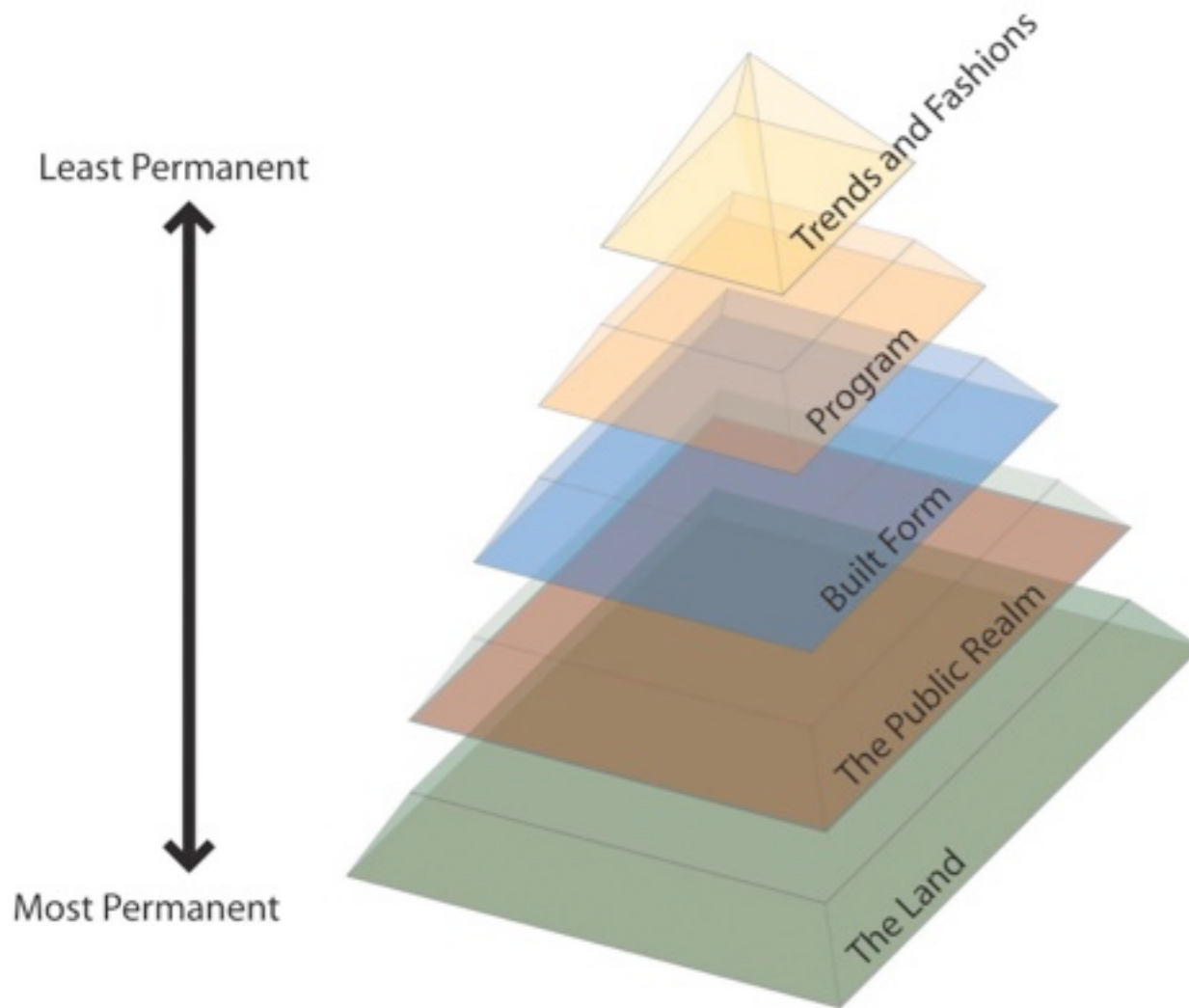
Comprehensive methodology  
environmental planning, landscape  
architecture, urban design, policy planning

Recognition of the values of open space

- protection of natural resources
- encouragement of biodiversity
- provision of places for recreation
- provision of neighbourhood gathering places
- promotion of public health benefits through walking
- enhancement of sense of place and identity
- helping to shape patterns of development.



# framework



The built environment is composed of several inter-related 'layers.' Each layer represents a degree of permanence.

**Layer 5 - Trends and Fashions**

**Layer 4 – Program**

**Layer 3 - Built Form**

**Layer 2 - The Public Realm**

**Layer 1 - The Land**



# methodology

## Background

- Review of documents and best practices
- Vision and principles

## Townscape Analysis

- Environmental and historical analysis
- Inventory
- Typology

## Issues, Opportunities and Constraints

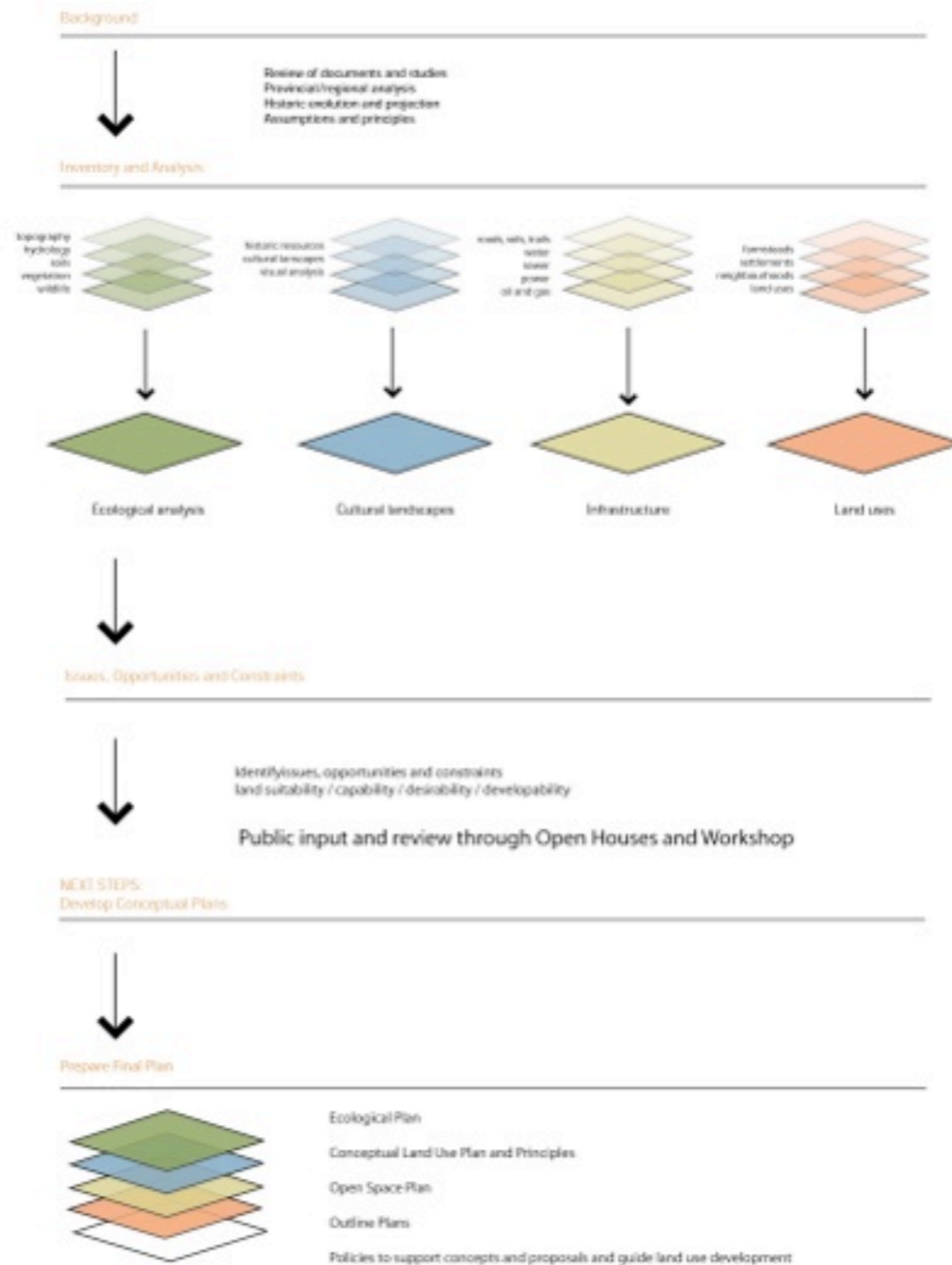
- Public input
- Review

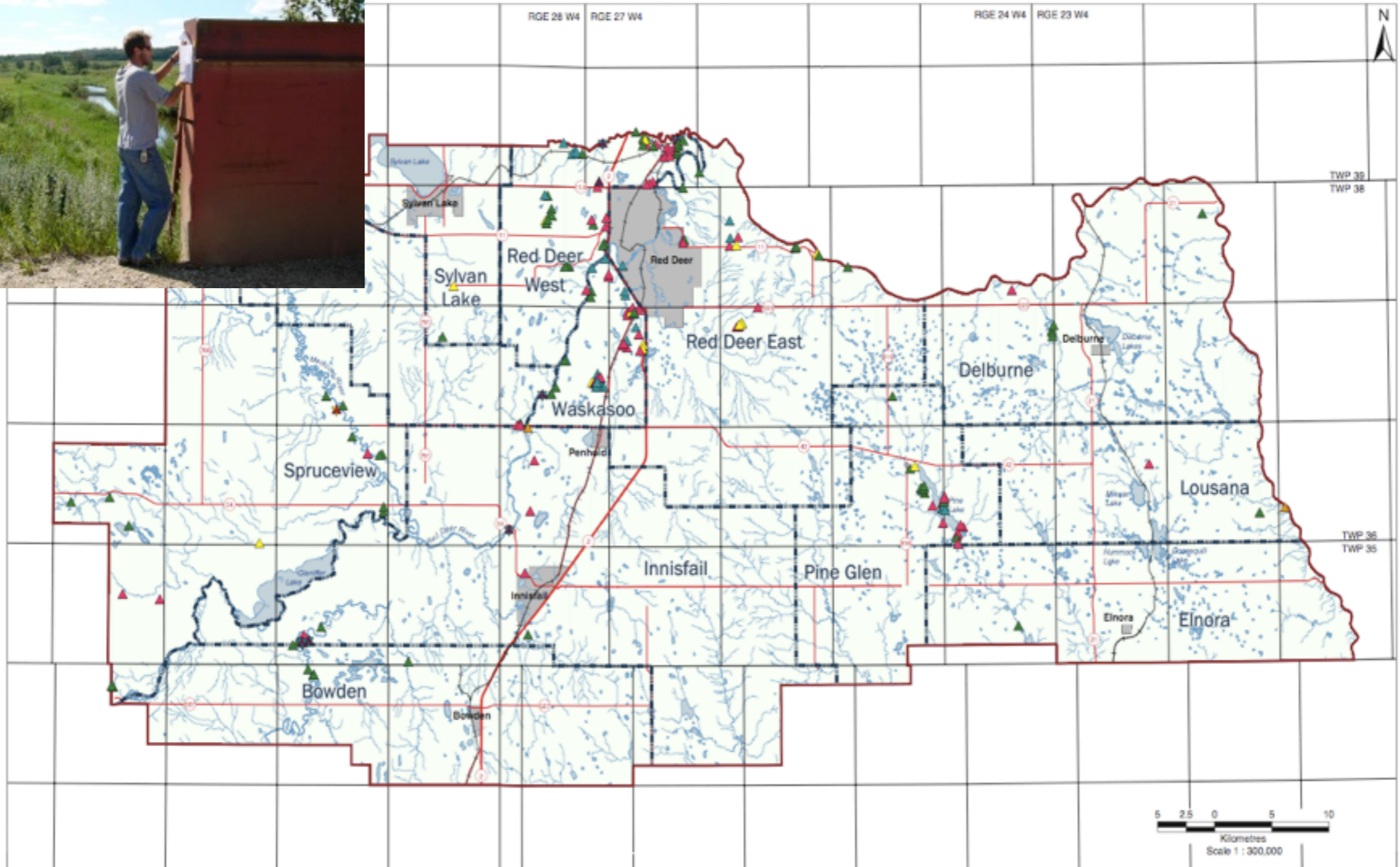
## Parks and Open Space Master Plan

- Public input and review

## Parks and Open Space Master Plan and Documents

### Townscape Analysis



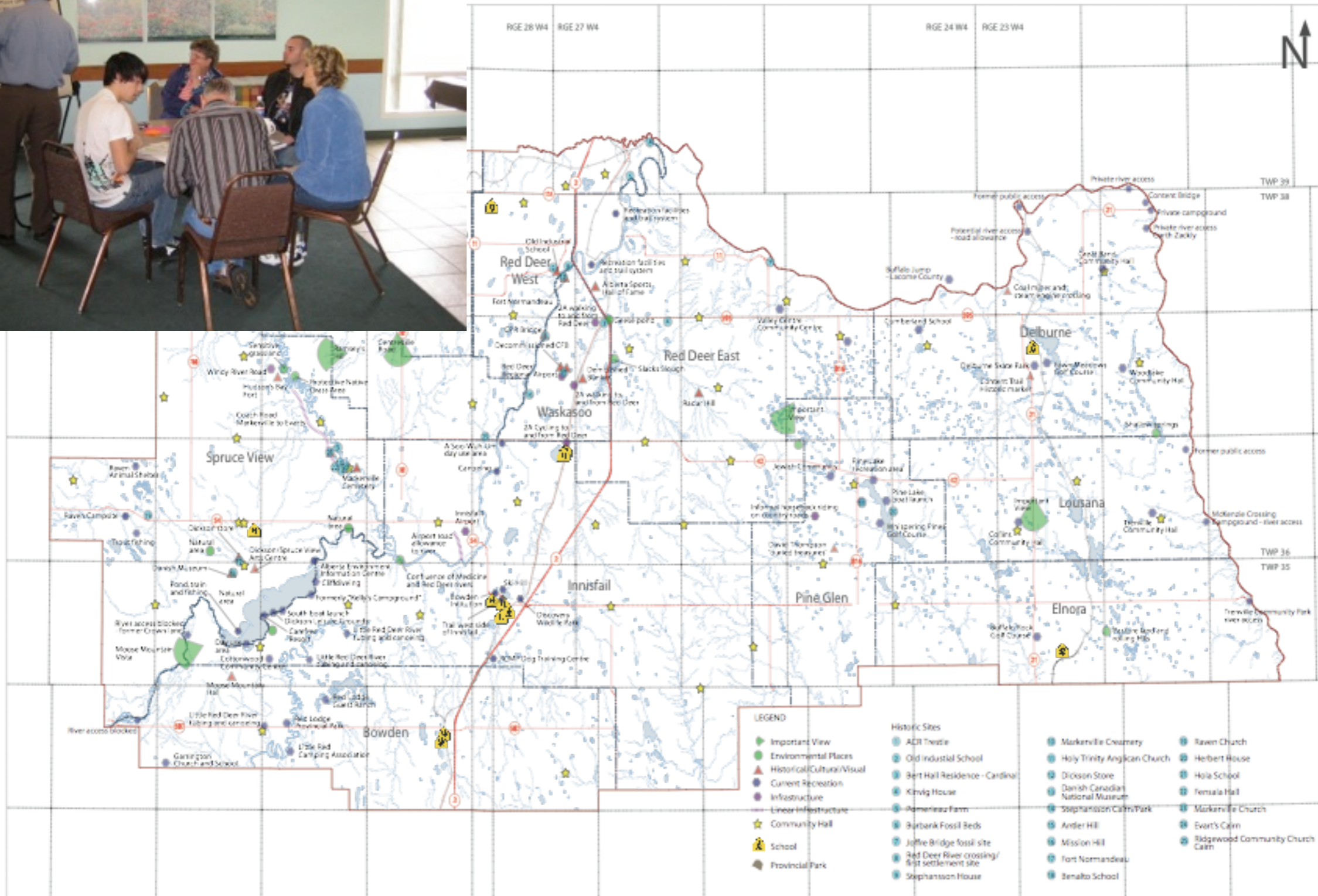


	<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p><b>RDC Property Open Space Types*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ A. Parks and Gardens, Amenity Greenspace, Cemeteries and Churchyards, Civic Spaces</li> <li>▲ B. Historic Resource or Landmark</li> <li>▲ C. Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space or Water Course (Woodlands, Urban Forestry, Grasslands, Wetlands, Open and Running Water, Ecological Reserves)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ D. Outdoor Sports Facilities (Sports Fields, Tennis Courts, Golf Courses, School and Institutional Playing Fields)</li> <li>▲ E. Campgrounds and Picnic Areas</li> <li>▲ F. Green Corridors and Other Linkages (River and Stream Banks, Bike Ways, Walking and Horse Trails, Rights of Way)</li> <li>▲ G. Unusable Spaces (Transformer Pads, Utility Strips, Areas Too Small, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Recreation Board Boundary</li> <li>— Red Deer County Boundary</li> </ul>	<p><b>DRAFT</b></p>	<p><b>Figure 3.0</b> Date: Oct. 2005</p>	<p><b>Red Deer County</b> <b>Open Space Master Plan Phase 1</b></p> <p><b>Open Space Types</b></p>
--	--	---	---	---------------------	--	--

\*Note: Does not include inaccessible or sites not inventoried



- community consultation / local knowledge





## – typology of open space

- provides the vocabulary for conceptualizing, designing and realizing a coherent and high quality infrastructure
- provides design vocabulary, vegetation, and maintenance regime for each type, and therefore the uses that are appropriate and desirable
- open space types are either resource-based, or population-based
- each of the open space types can be understood as a ‘system,’ within the larger framework of the region, town or neighbourhood



## type a: natural green space or watercourse

- Woodland
- Grasslands
- Wetlands
- Canals
- Open and running water
- Ecological reserve
- Urban forestry





## type b: historic resource, cultural landscape

- Cemeteries
- Churchyards
- Museums
- Historic sites
- Cultural landscapes
- Abandoned railway lines
- Archaeological sites



## type c: parks, gardens, civic spaces

- Civic spaces
- Gardens
- Amenity green space





## type d:outdoor sport and recreation facilities

- Tot lots
- Playgrounds
- Sports fields
- School and institutional playing fields
- Tennis courts
- Golf courses
- Skateboard parks / BMX parks and tracks





## type e: green corridors, paths, streets

- Paths
- Bikeways
- Trails
- Horse Trails
- Streets
- Linear parks
- Rights-of-way





## type f: campgrounds, day use, picnic areas

- Recreational vehicle areas
- Camping areas
- Picnic and day-use areas



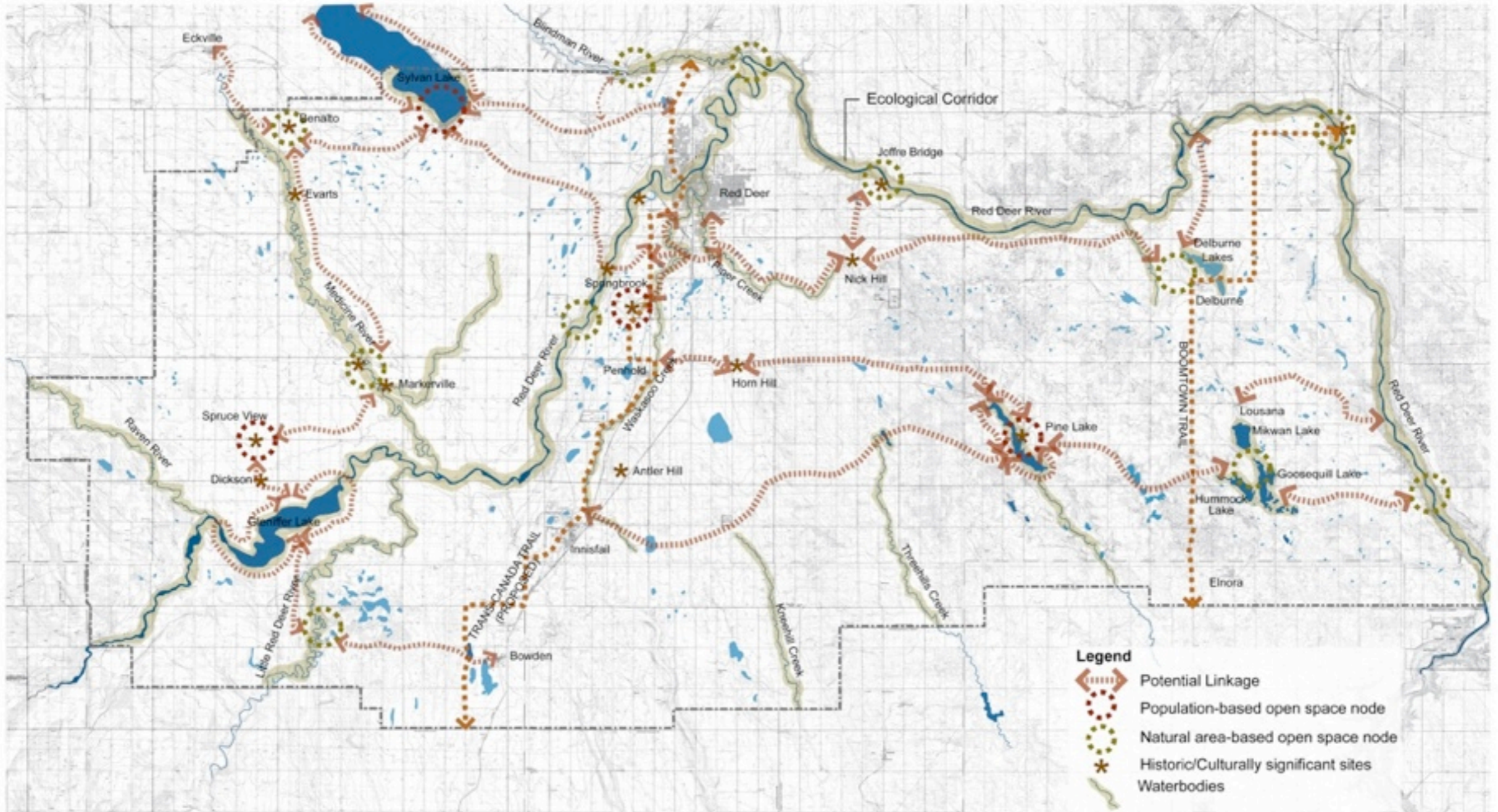
## type g: non-contributing green space

- Utility strips and transformer pads
- Grassed intersections
- Left-over green space/open space
- Awkward locations/sizes/shapes
- Rights of Way (ROW)



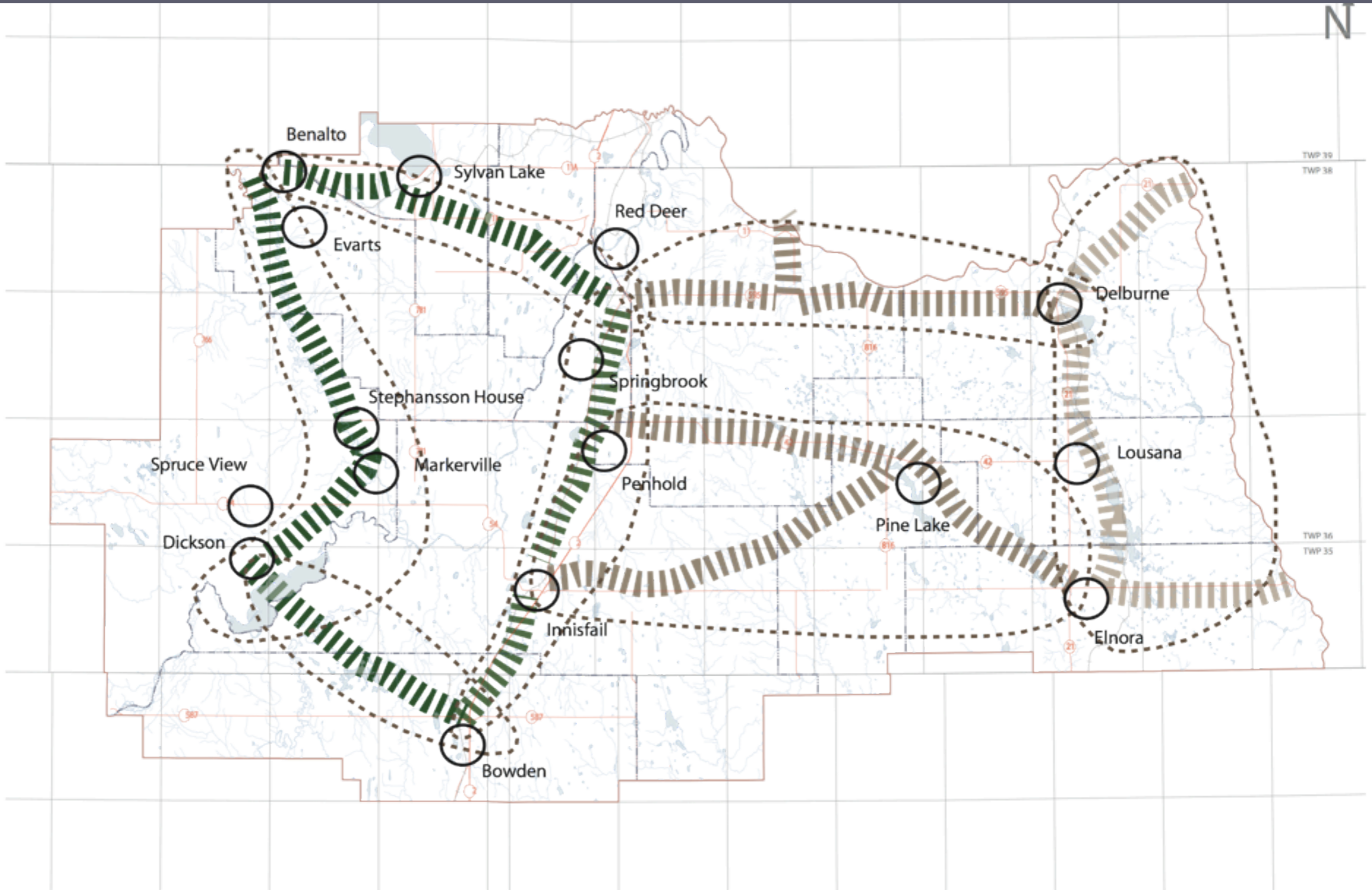


- open space concept





- project zones for further development



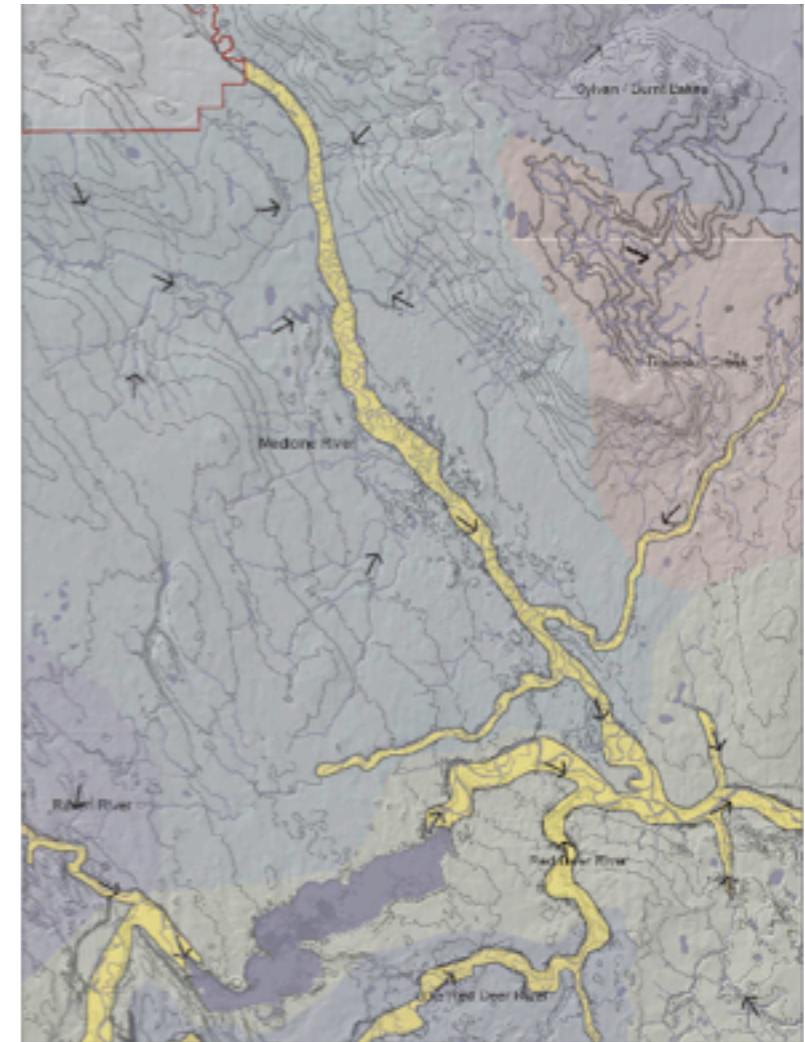


– medicine river project zone



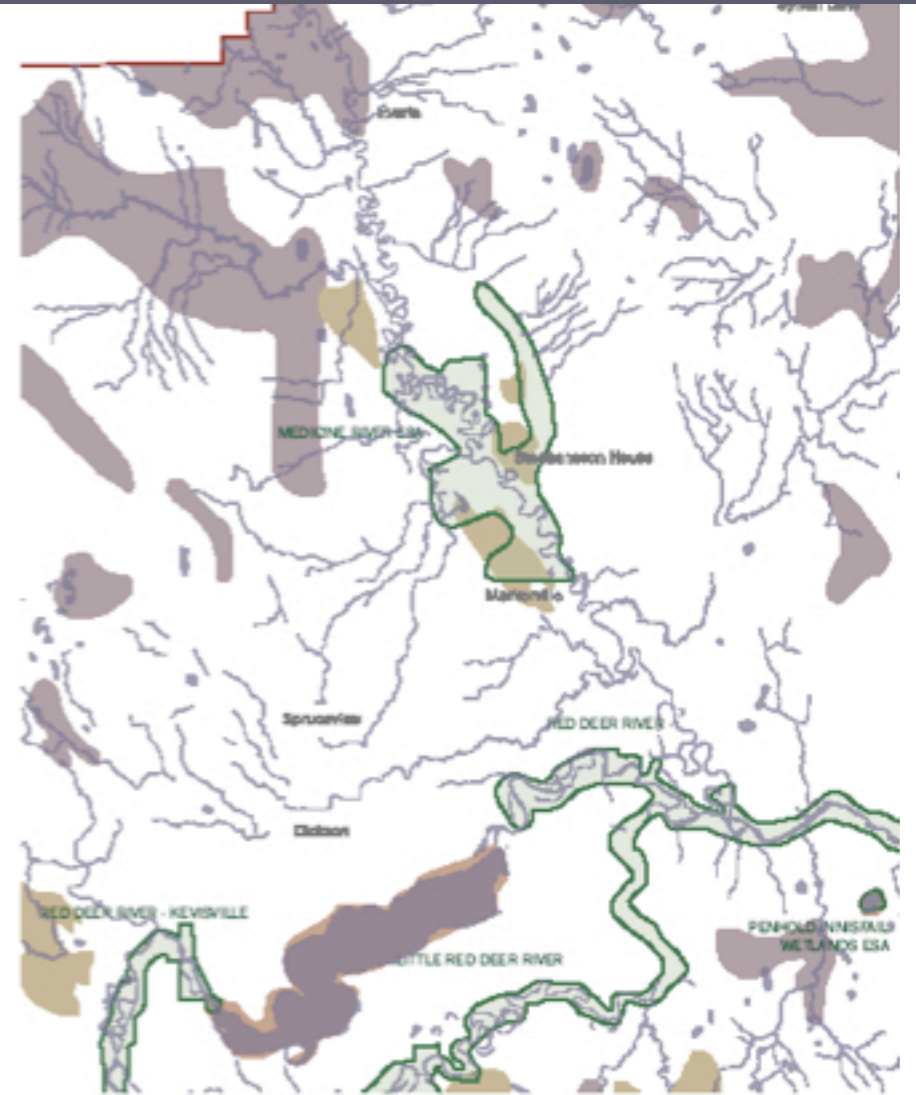


medicine river project zone – townscape analysis / topography and hydrology





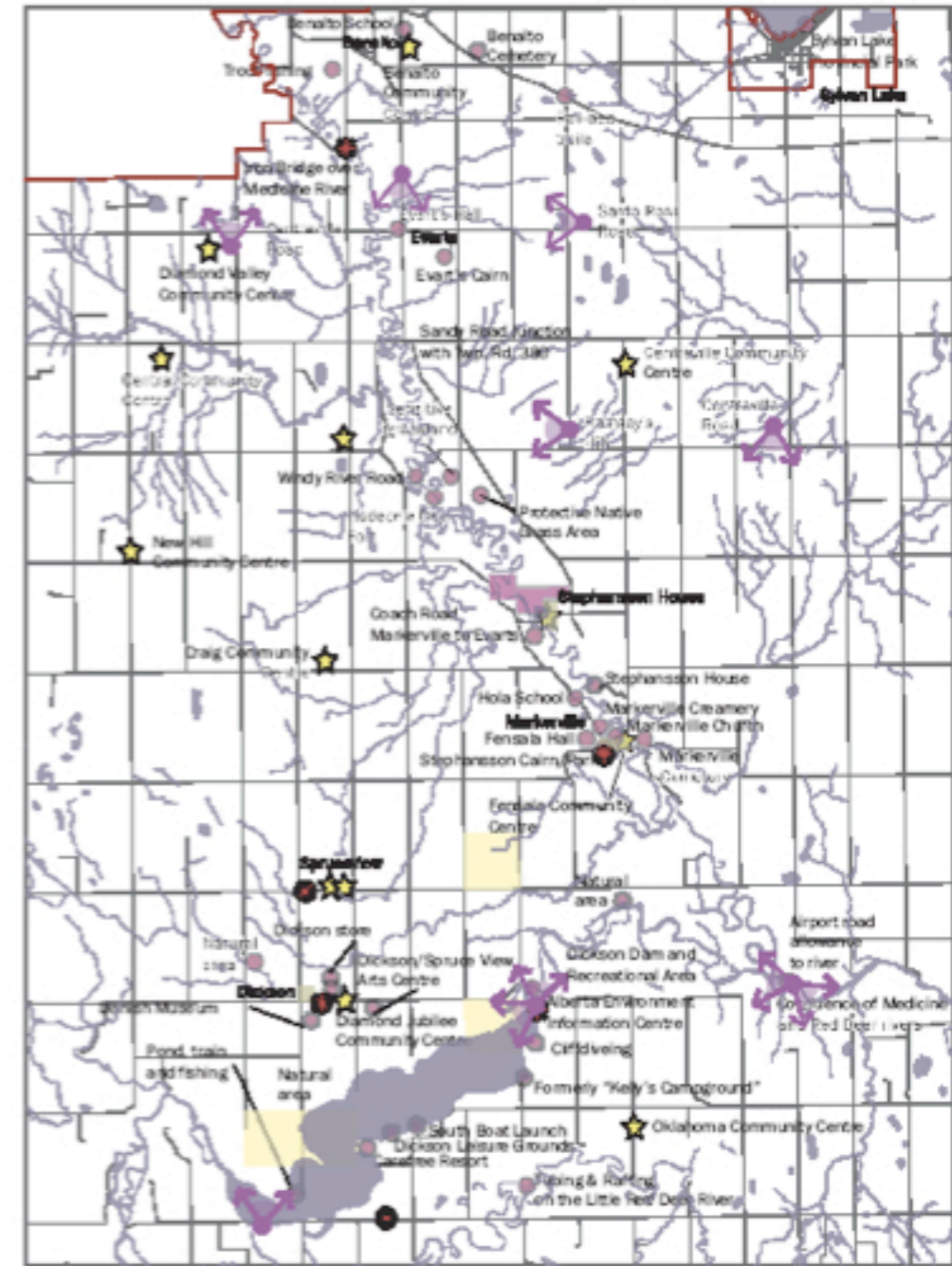
# medicine river project zone – environmentally significant areas





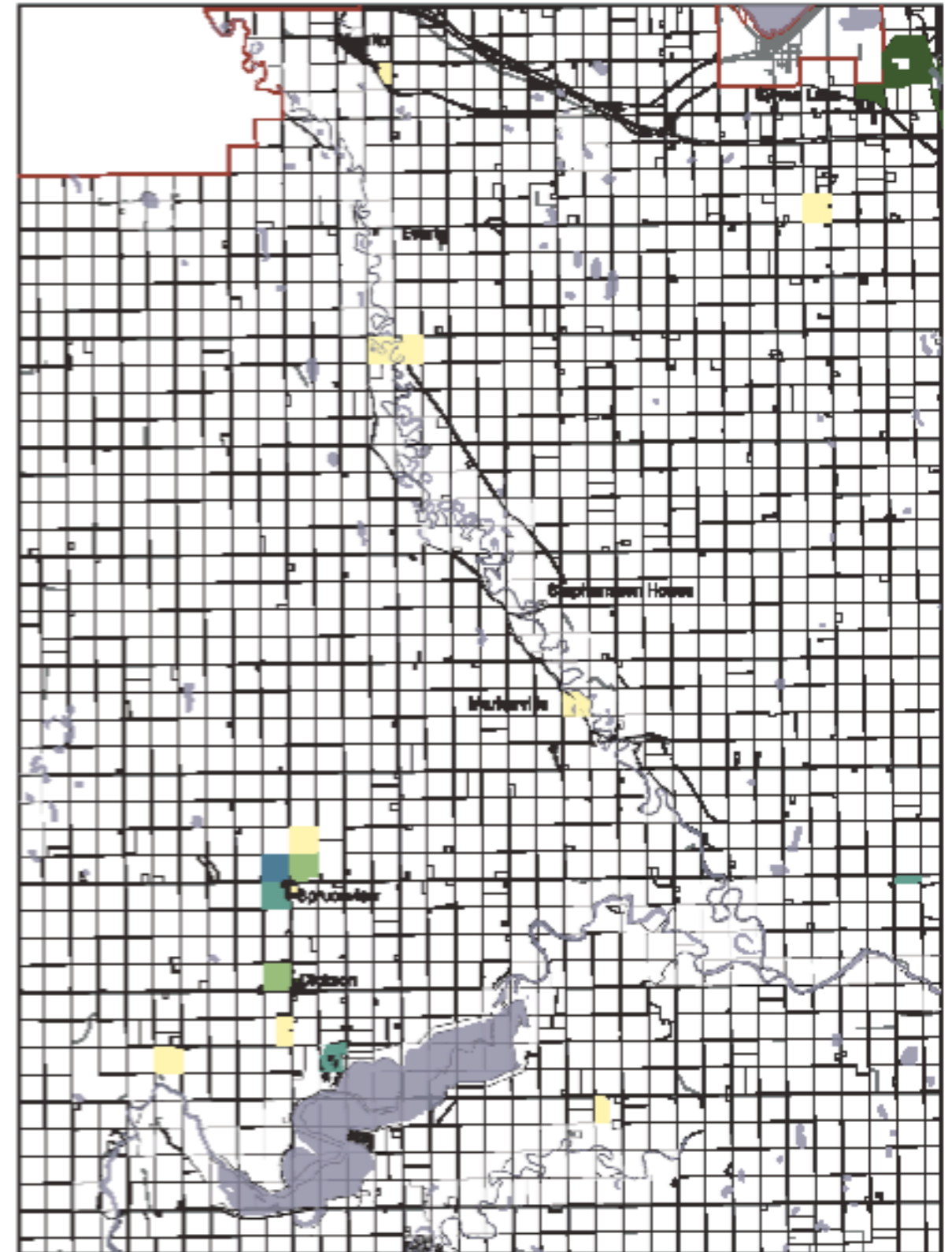
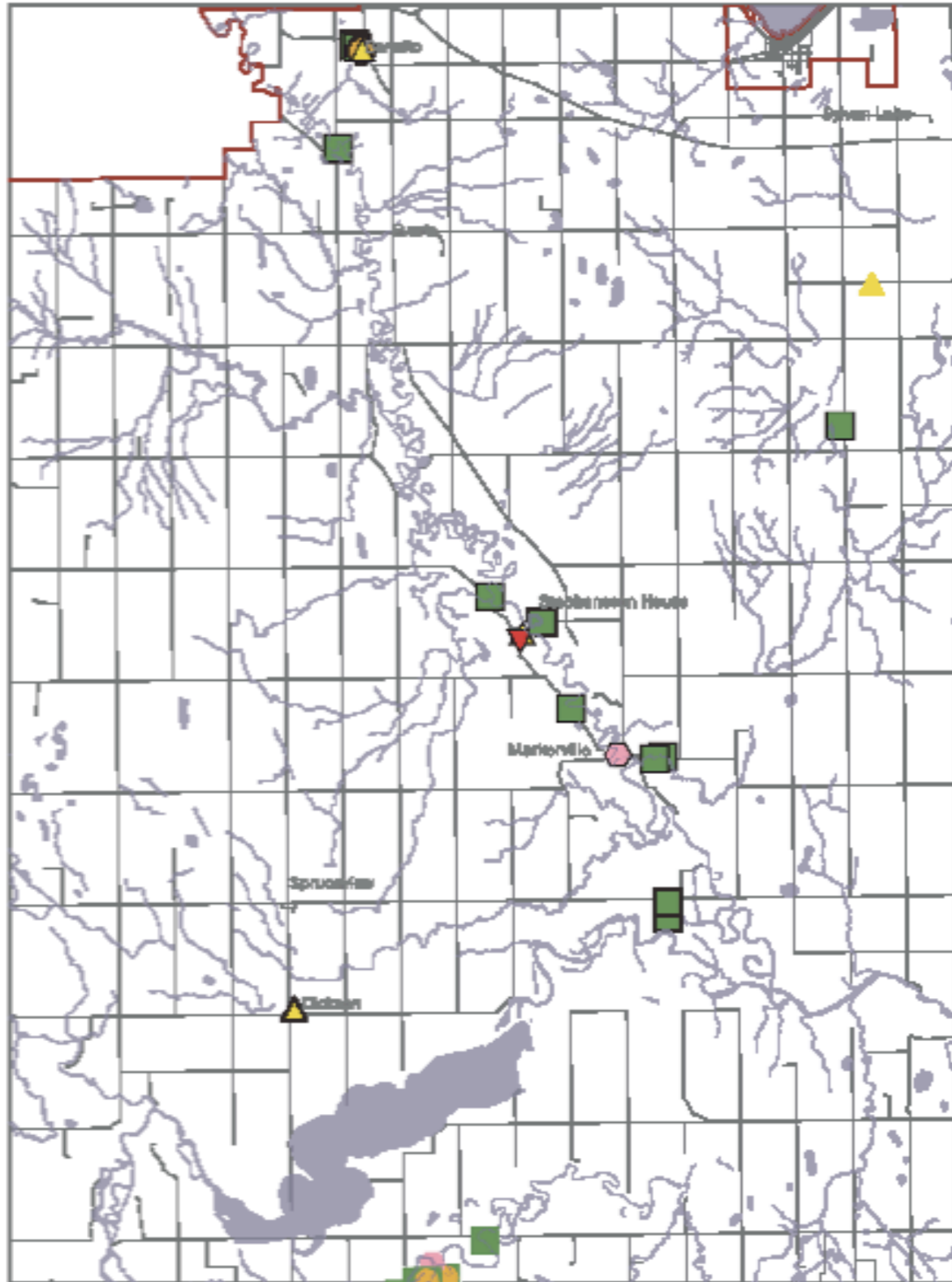
# medicine river project zone – cultural landscapes

Red Deer County Open Space Master Plan  
Beverly A. Sandalack



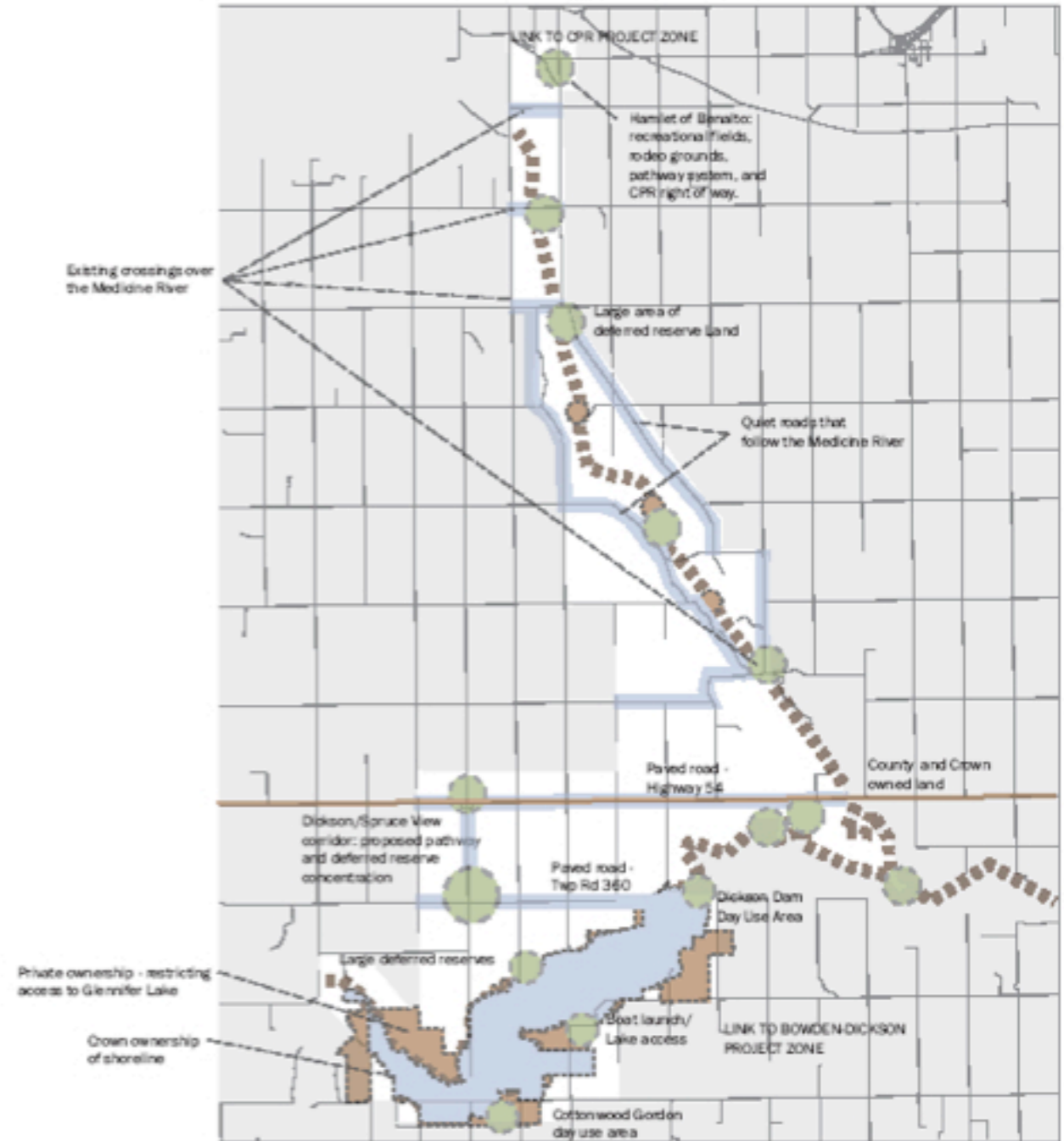
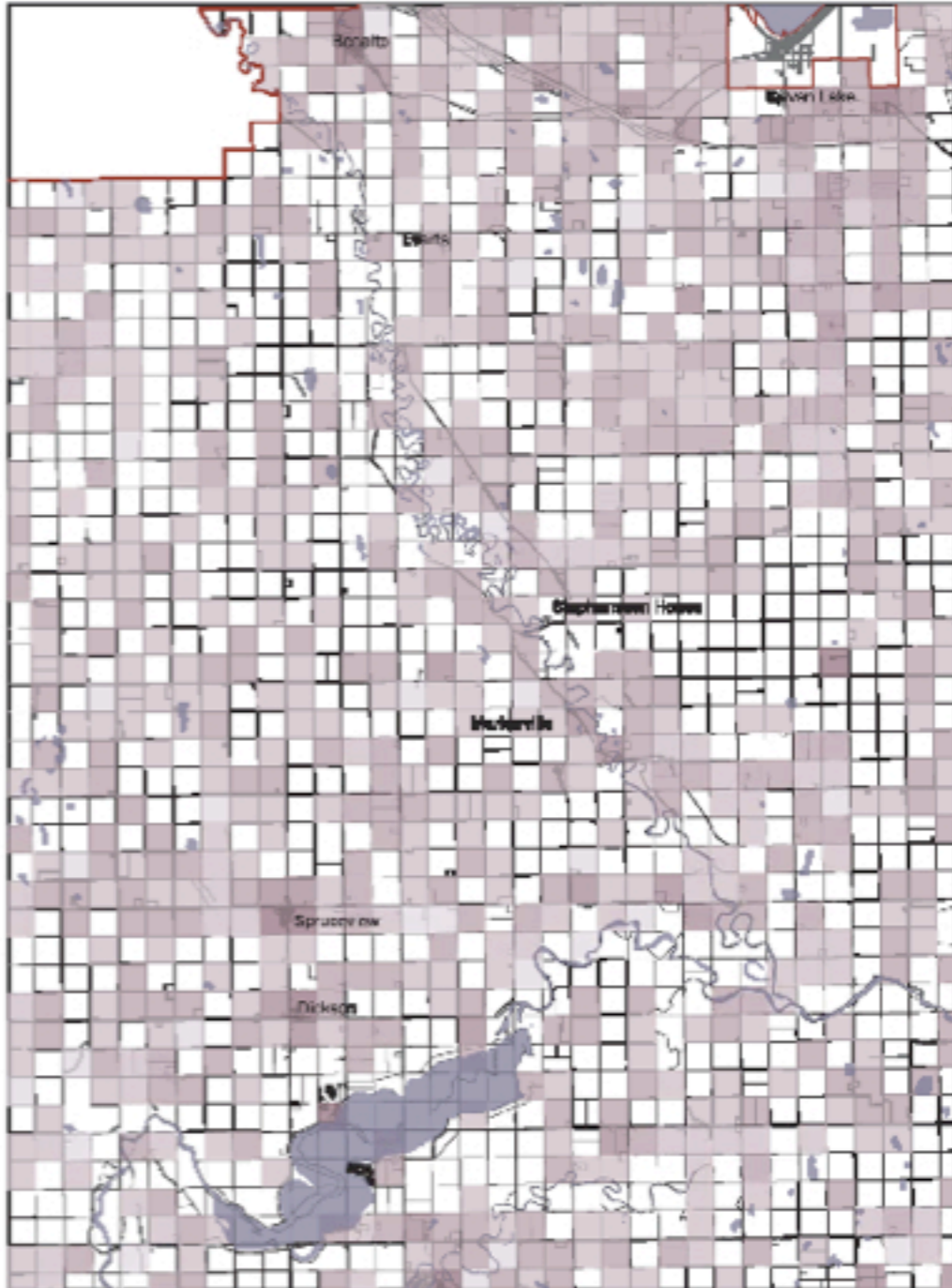


medicine river project zone – county owned lands and deferred reserves



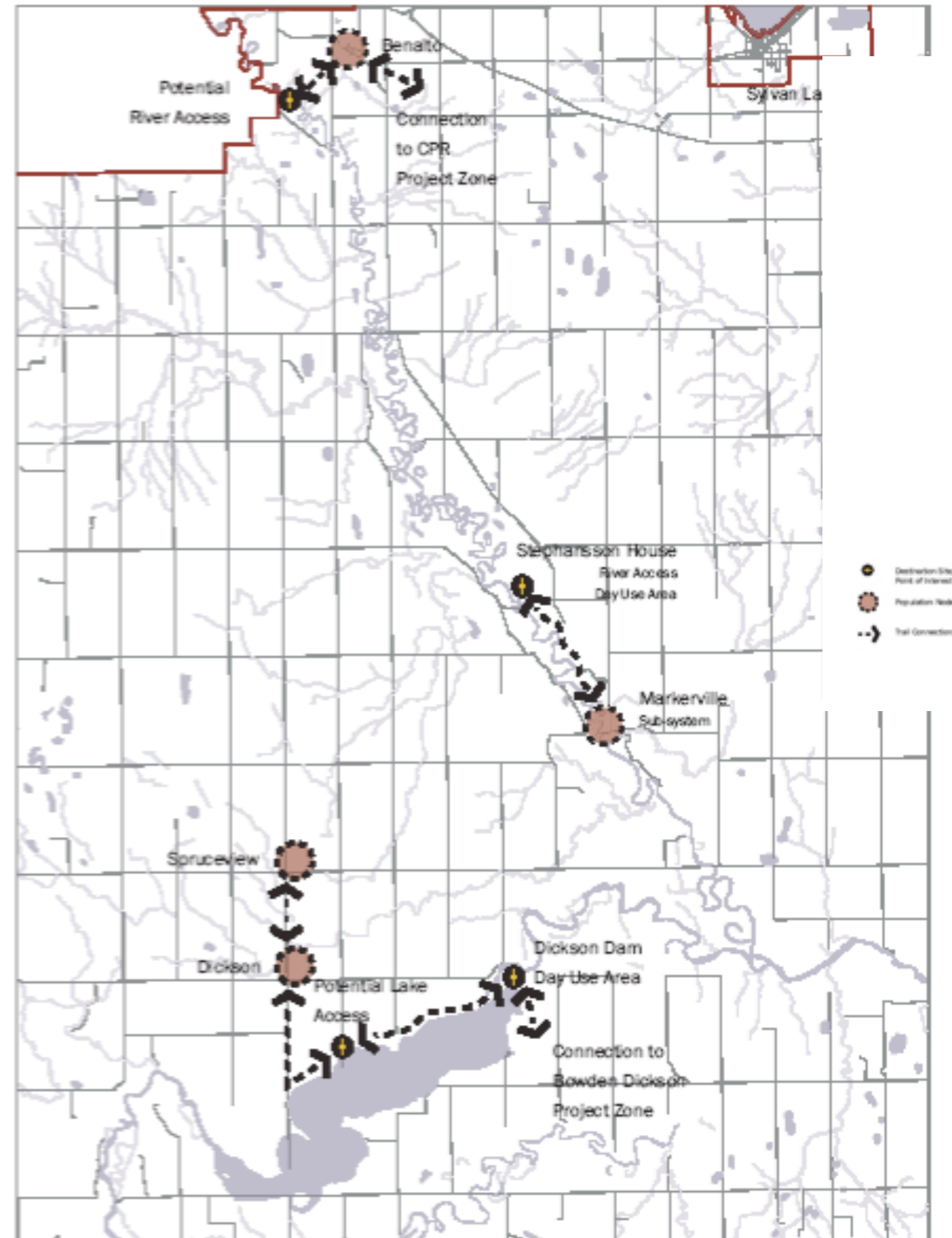
# medicine river project zone – assets, issues and opportunities

Population Distribution

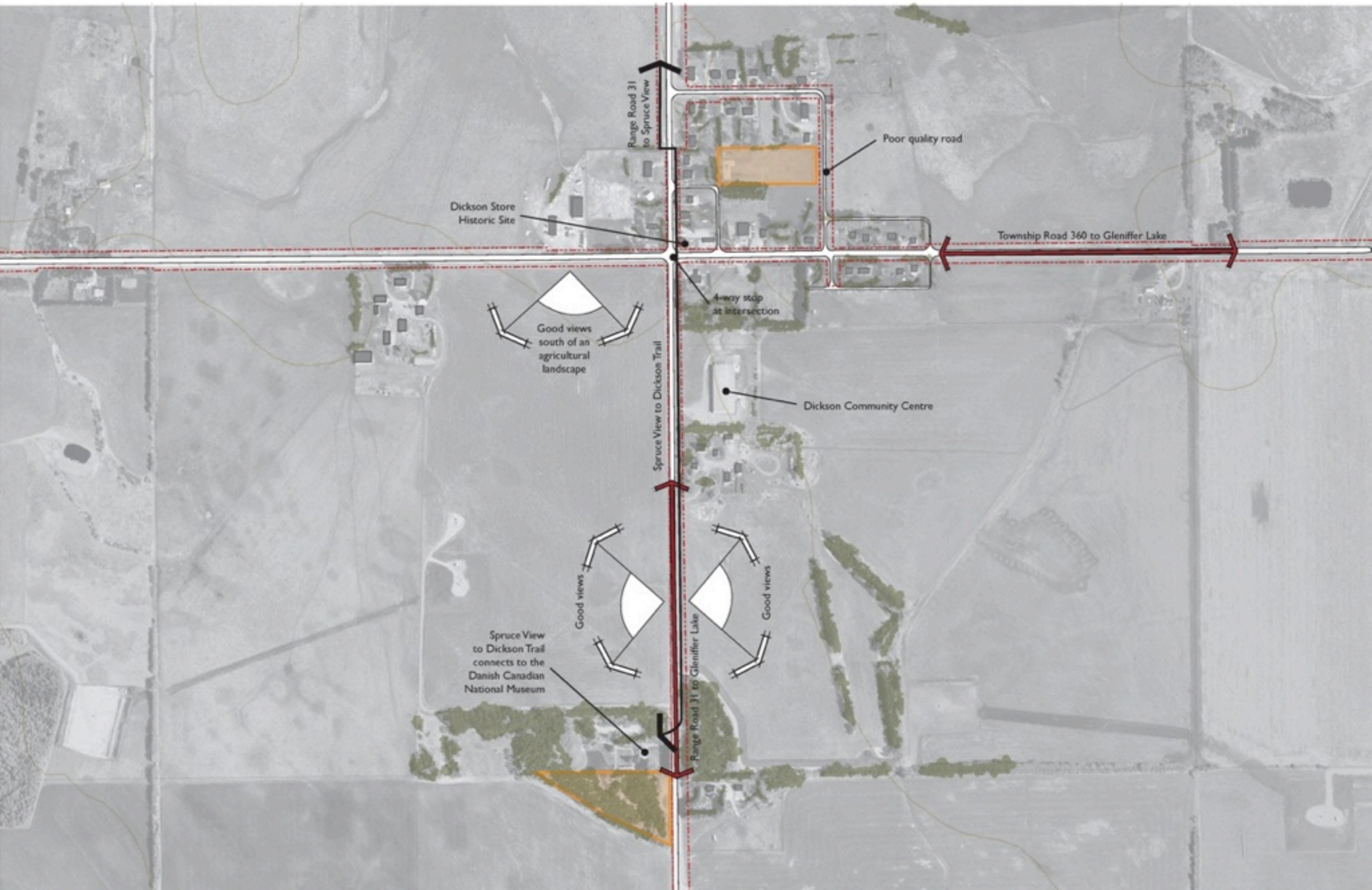




# medicine river project zone – concept (sites, nodes and linkages)







Dickson Store  
Historic Site

Range Road 31  
to Spruce View

Poor quality road

Township Road 360 to Gleniffer Lake

Good views  
south of an  
agricultural  
landscape

4-way stop  
at intersection

Dickson Community Centre

Spruce View to Dickson Trail

Good views

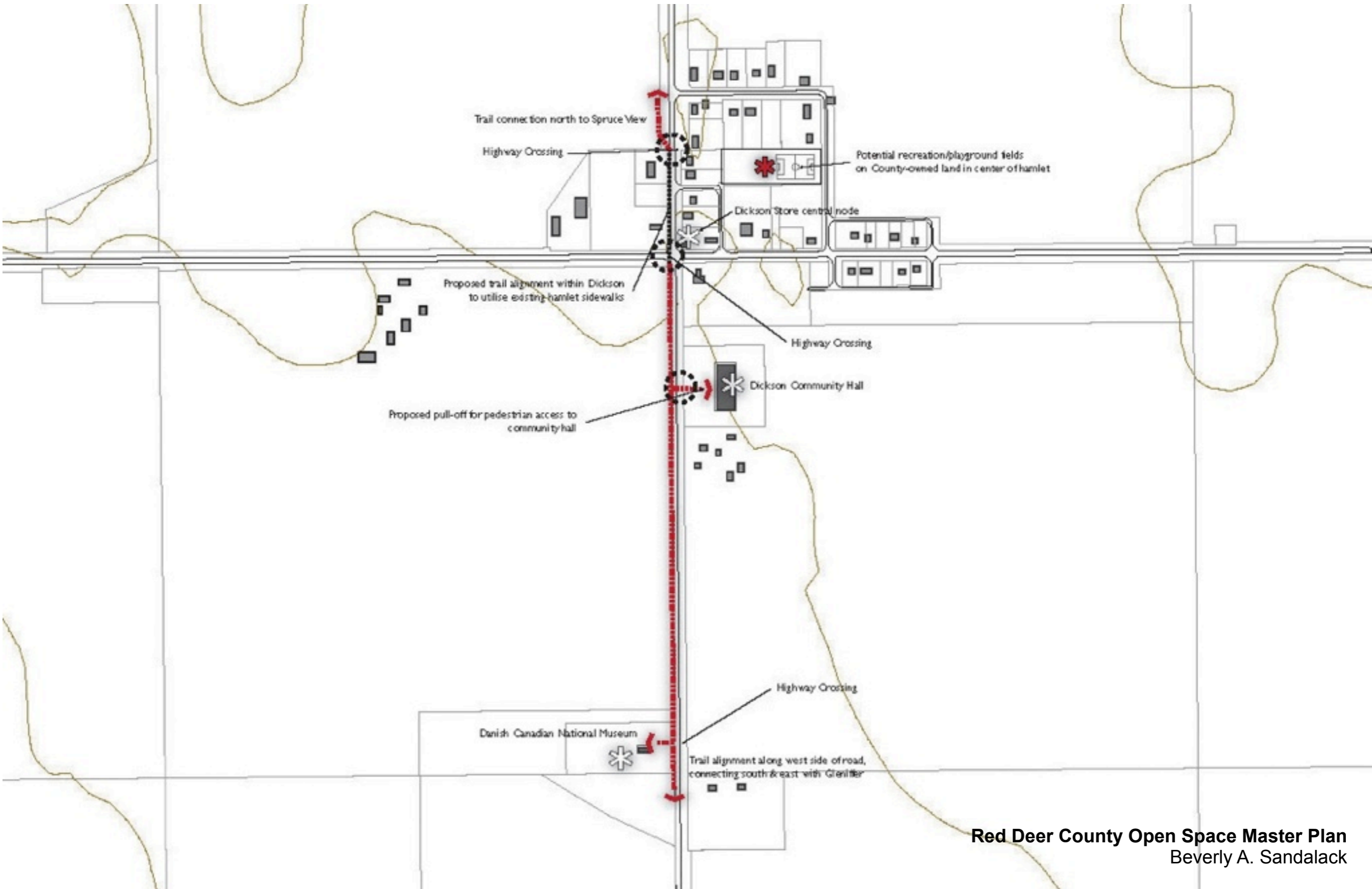
Spruce View  
to Dickson Trail  
connects to the  
Danish Canadian  
National Museum

Good views

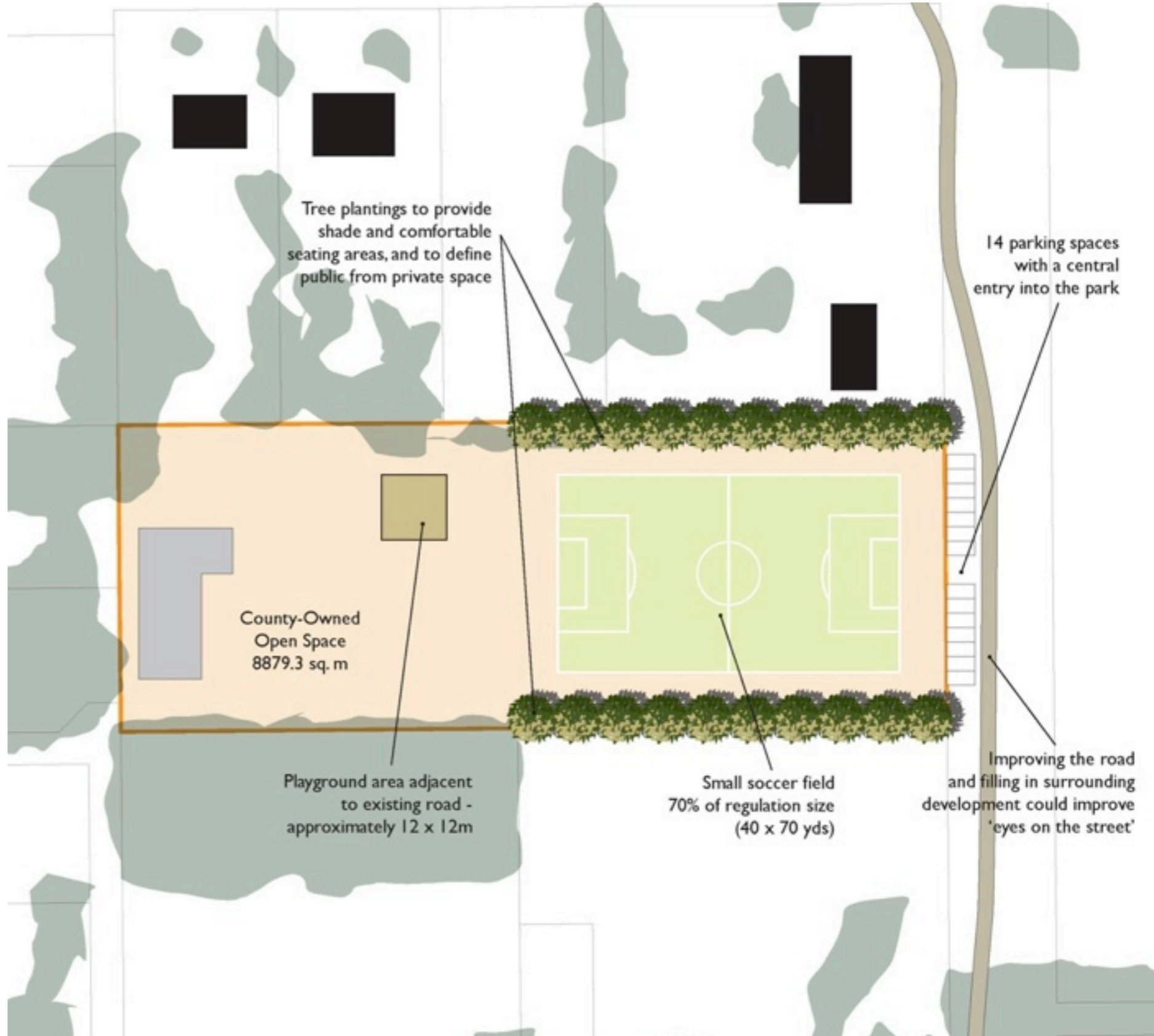
Range Road 31 to Gleniffer Lake



# medicine river project zone – Dickson open space concept



# medicine river project zone – Dickson detailed park concept





# summary

- Framework - landscape and the public realm
- Principles - build on what's there, keep it rural and practical, typologically-appropriate
- Process - multi-phase, leave a legacy to build on, use local knowledge

