

Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste Items



News Release
February 16, 2001



Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we've been ignorant of their value.

- Buckminster Fuller



About the Proposed Facility

The Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Waste will serve the citizens of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, and only accept items from homes. This facility will provide a convenient drop-off point where the public can dispose of accumulated hazardous items in a safe and environmentally friendly way. Items will be collected, sorted and shipped off-site for ultimate disposal at a suitable facility.

Why the Facility is Needed

Approximately 1,200 tons of household hazardous waste are estimated to be generated in Douglas and Sarpy Counties each year. If not properly disposed, these wastes can present hazards to children and pets, pollute rivers, streams, and lakes, and contaminate drinking water sources. A centralized facility that allows quick, easy drop-off service will give citizens the opportunity for proper disposal of their waste items and help promote environmental stewardship.

Types of Materials Accepted

Many products found in your home are potential hazardous wastes. They contain chemical compounds that can poison, corrode, explode, or ignite when handled improperly. When discarded, they may pose a threat to health, safety and the environment.

These products include leftover adhesives, paint thinners and strippers, wood and metal cleaners, pool chemicals, oven cleaners, drain openers, lighter fluids, fungicides and wood preservatives, insecticides, herbicides, and rat poisons, used oil and oil filters, other automotive products, antifreeze, auto batteries, aerosol sprays, and the mercury contained in thermometers. Although most of these products do not usually have the word “hazardous” written on them, they are often toxic, flammable, corrosive or reactive.

No On-site Treatment

Waste items and materials will not be treated, processed or incinerated at this facility. Accumulated material is collected, sorted and stored on-site until the next scheduled pick-up by a suitable material handling contractor. For example, used motor oil will be collected and stored in a larger tank designed and built in accordance with applicable regulations. The contractor will periodically remove the waste oil for recycling.

Noise, Traffic and Visual Impact

Because the facility will not process or treat wastes, no large noise generating equipment will be needed. With an annual estimated participation rate of 180 persons per week, traffic to the facility will be far below that of a typical commercial or retail store. The facility will be designed by an architect and will be visually appealing and compatible with its surroundings.

Cost and Funding

The current construction cost estimate for the facility is \$1.1 million. Annual operating costs are estimated

\$420,000. Current funding commitments include a \$150,000 grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for siting and design and \$110,000 annually in tipping fee set asides from the Douglas and Sarpy County landfills. Financing for construction and operation will be sought from various agencies in the form of long term grants.

Safety and Security

The facility will be staffed by personnel trained in the recognition and handling of household hazardous waste items. A security fence with camera surveillance will be installed.

What About Usable Items

The "Swap Shop", to be built into the facility, will offer products that have been dropped off but are still usable and in good condition. These will include a variety of household cleaners, garden products, automotive products, paints, stains varnishes, and hobby supplies. Types and quantities of products will vary.

Summary of Potentially Viable Sites

(Excerpted from Technical Memorandum 1.0

Identification and Evaluation of the Expanded List of Potentially Viable Sites (Task 204 A), January 2001

The following provides a brief description of each potentially viable site. The sites are listed in order of estimated driving distance from the 1990 census population centroid (75th and Shirley).

Site 1

Approximate Address: I-80 and 60th Street

Description: This site is a 12.0-acre property running along I-80 between the Papio Creek and 60th Street and is currently being used to stockpile aggregate materials. Currently, there is no paved access road serving the site.

Current Site Owner: Douglas County

Approximate Site Size: 12 acres

Site Zoning: General Industrial

Site 2

Approximate Address: 60th and Harrison

Description: This site is a 17.2-acre property located near 60th and Harrison Streets next to Seymour Smith Park. The Omaha Recycling Center currently operates a material recovery facility on a portion of the Property.

Current Site Owner: City of Omaha

Approximate Site Size: 17.2 acres

Site Zoning: General Industrial

Site 3

Approximate Address: 120th and I Streets

Description: This 5.3-acre site is located near 120th and I Streets and is currently used by the City of Omaha Street Maintenance Department. Sand, salt and other treatment materials are stockpiled here.

Current Site Owner: City of Omaha

Approximate Site Size: 5.3 acres

Site Zoning: General Industrial

Site 4

Approximate Address: Hwy 75 and L Street

Description: This site is a 56.3-acre area located near Hwy 75 and L Street and is the former "Omaha Stockyards" area. Significant demolition activities are currently taking place as part of a rehabilitation effort.

Current Site Owner: City of Omaha

Approximate Site Size: 56.3 acres

Site Zoning: Heavy Industrial

Site 5

Approximate Address: Hwy 75 and Gilmore Avenue

Description: This site is the location of the former Omaha Pollution Control Corporation facility near Hwy 75 and

Gilmore Avenue. The majority of the land is vacant and presently being used for stockpiling materials.

Current Site Owner: City of Omaha

Approximate Site Size: 7 acres

Site Zoning: Heavy Industrial

Site 6

Approximate Address: 20th Street East and Avenue H

Description: This site is a fenced in 9.0-acre vacant property located near 20th Street East and Avenue H.

Current Site Owner: City of Omaha

Approximate Site Size: 9 acres

Site Zoning: Heavy Industrial

Site 7

Approximate Address: 137th Circle and Giles Road

Description: This site is a 7.5-acre parcel of the private development known as the I-80 Industrial Park near 137th Circle and Giles Road.

Current Site Owner: Private

Approximate Site Size: 7.5 acres

Site Zoning: Light Industrial

Site 8

Approximate Address: 120th and State Street

Description: This site is the 160.0-acre former Douglas County State Street Landfill located near 126th and State Streets.

Current Site Owner: Douglas County

Approximate Site Size: 160 acres

Site Zoning: Agricultural

Site 9

Approximate Address: 4th Street and Abbott Drive

Description: This site is a 10.0-acre privately owned property located near Abbott Drive.

Current Site Owner: Private

Approximate Site Size: 10 acres

Site Zoning: Heavy Industrial

Site 10

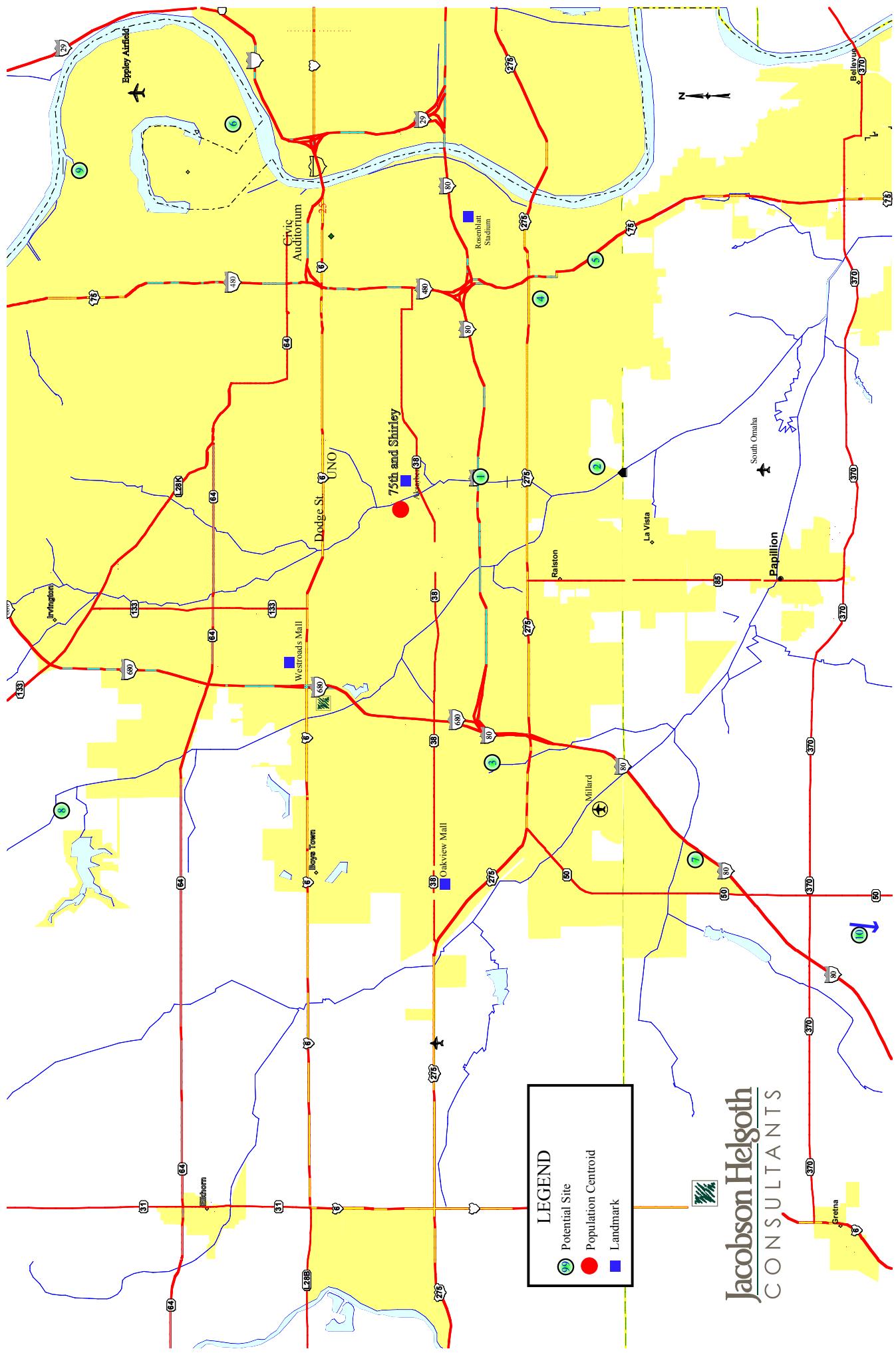
Approximate Address: 156th and Fairview Road

Description: This site is the active Sarpy County Landfill located just west of 156th and Fairview Road.

Current Site Owner: Sarpy County

Approximate Site Size: 160 acres

Site Zoning: Agricultural

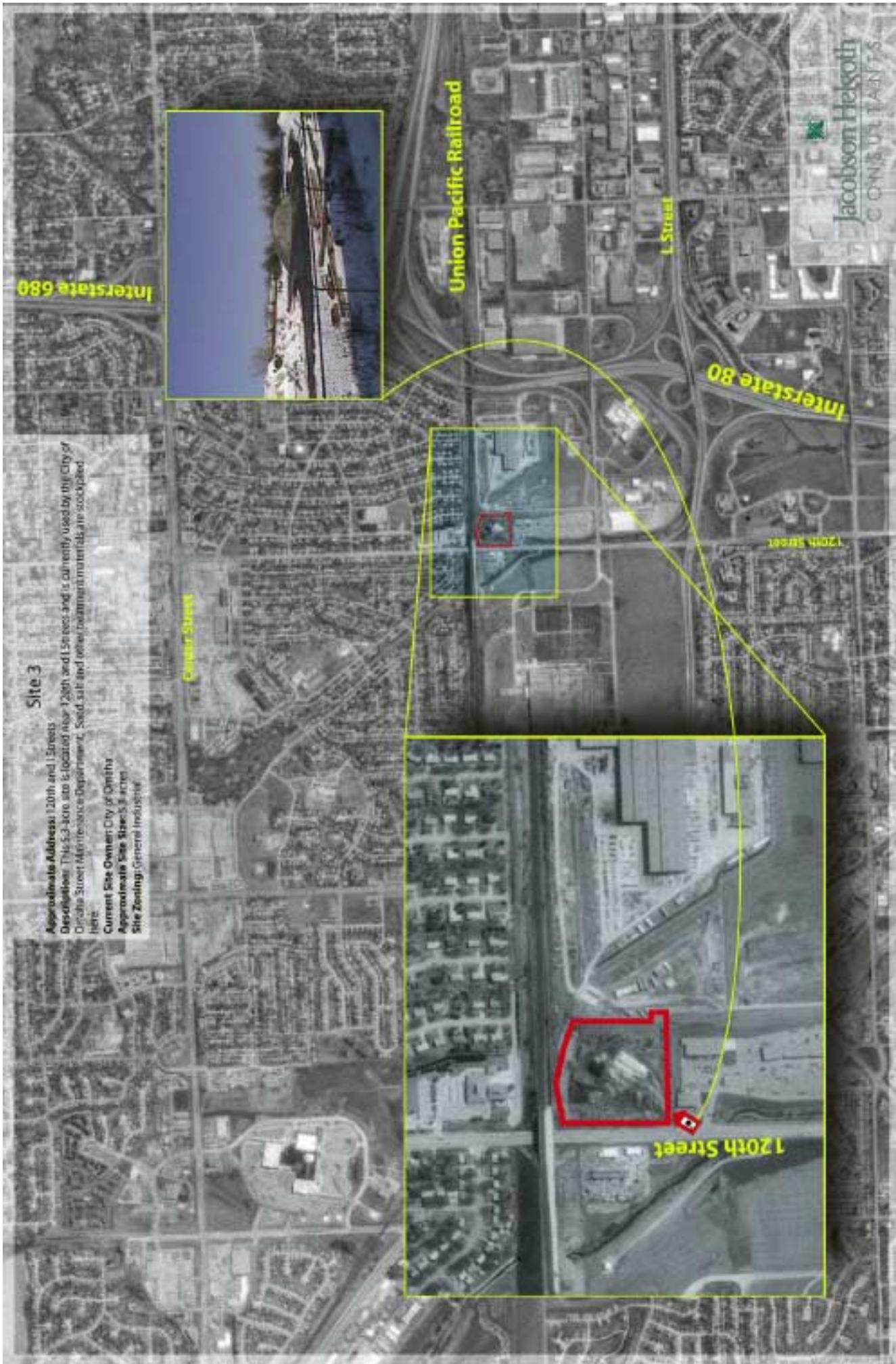


Site 1

Approximate Address: 1-30 and 6th Street
Description: This site is a 12.0-acre property running along I-80 between the Fatio Creek and 6th Street and is currently being used to store aggregate materials. Currently, there is no paved access road serving the site.
Current Site Owner: Douglas County
Approximate Site Size: 12 acres
Site Zoning: General Industrial







Site 4

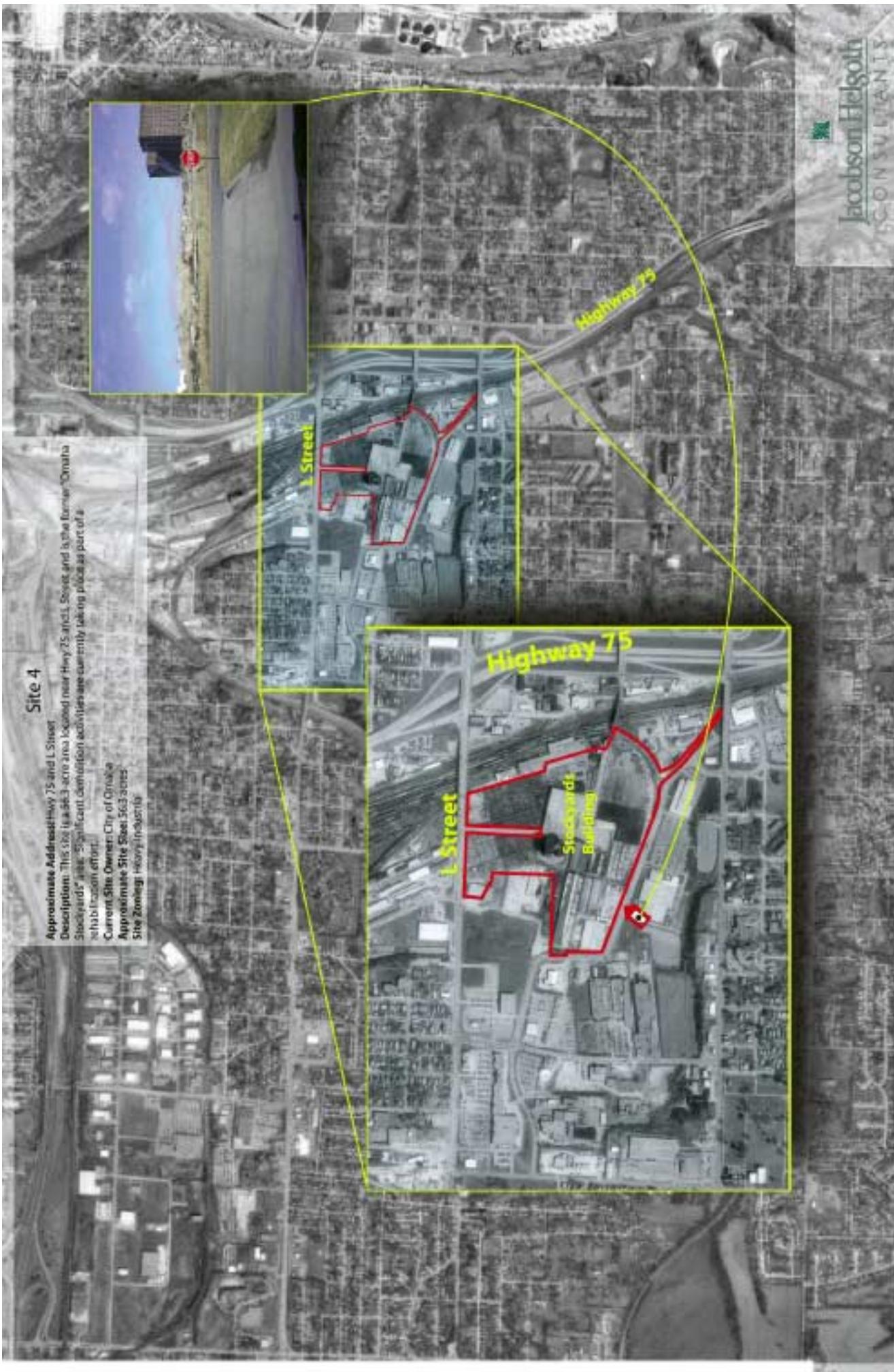
Approximate Address: Highway 75 and L Street

Description: This site has 563 acre "Stockyards" area. Significant demolition activities are currently taking place as part of a rehabilitation effort.

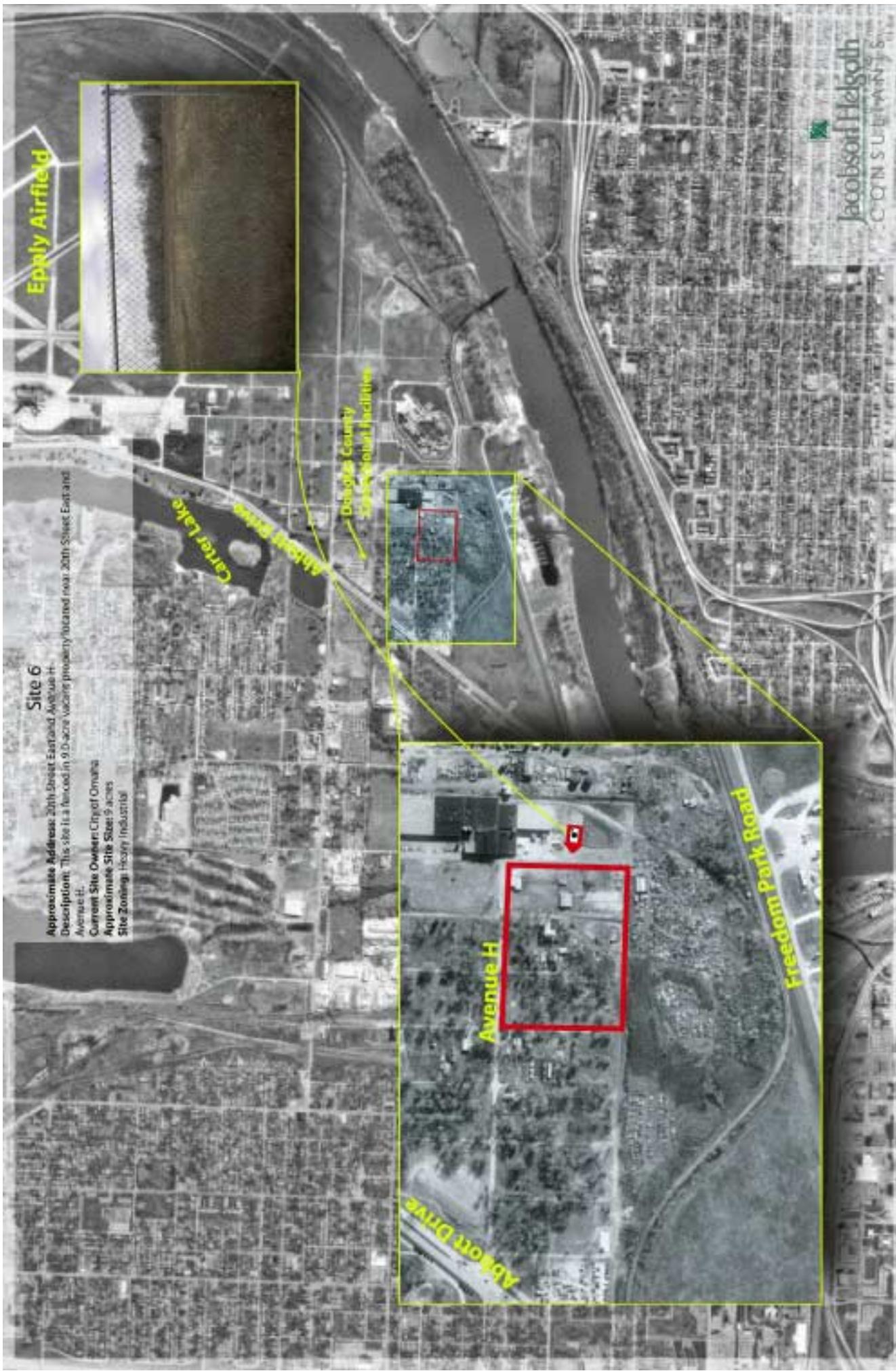
Current Site Owner: City of Omaha

Approximate Site Size: 563 acres

Site Zoning: Heavy Industrial

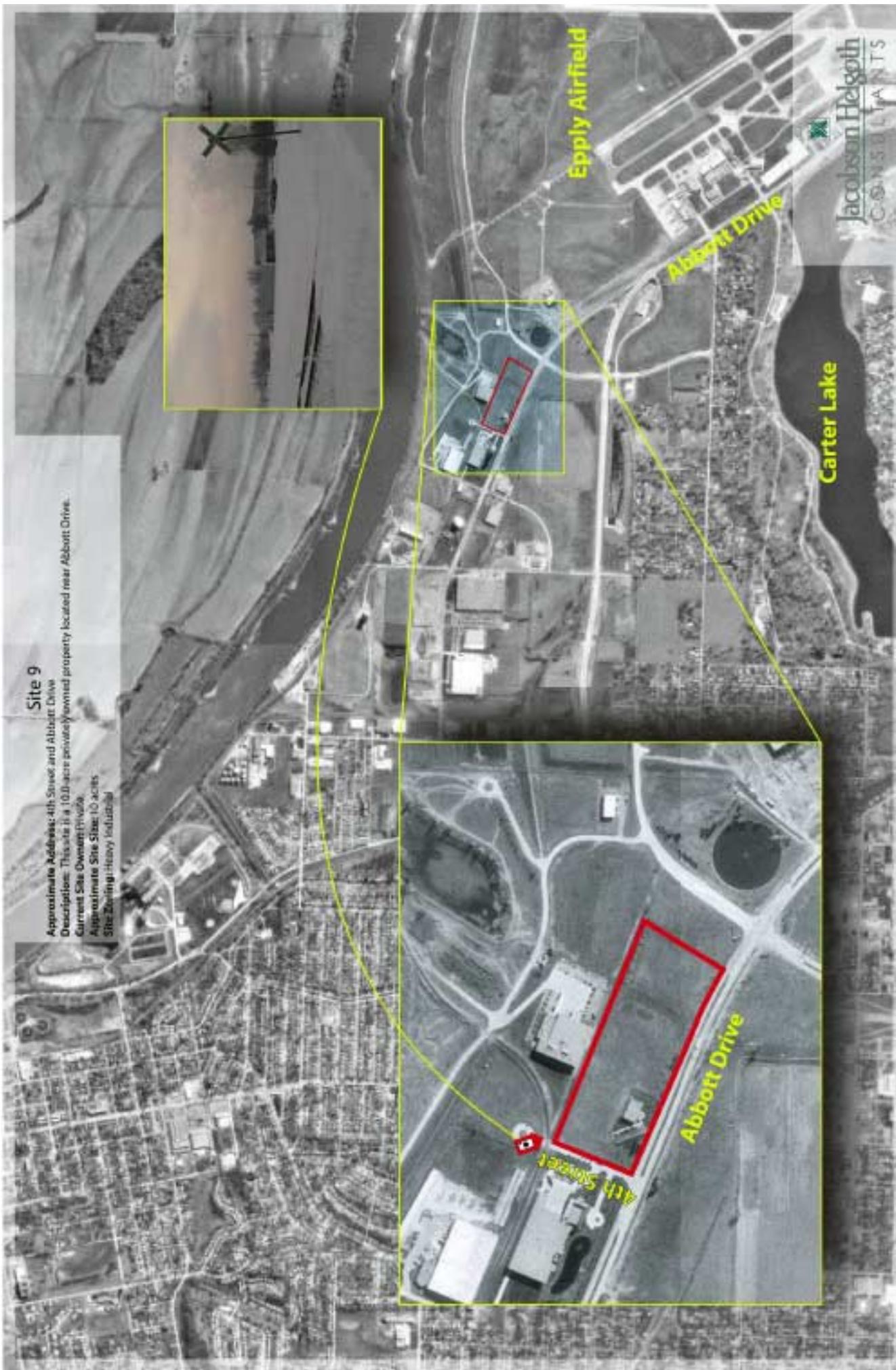






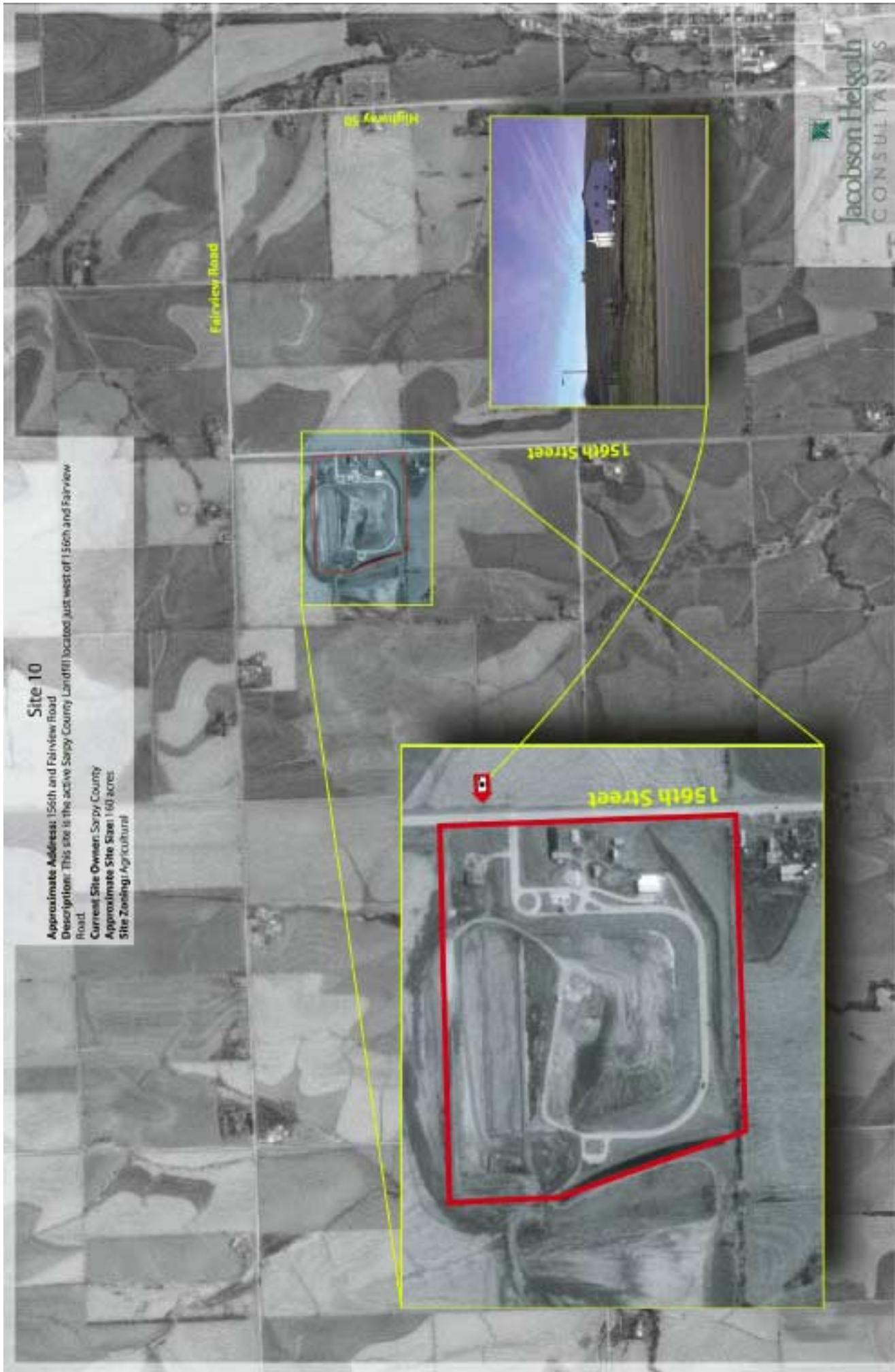






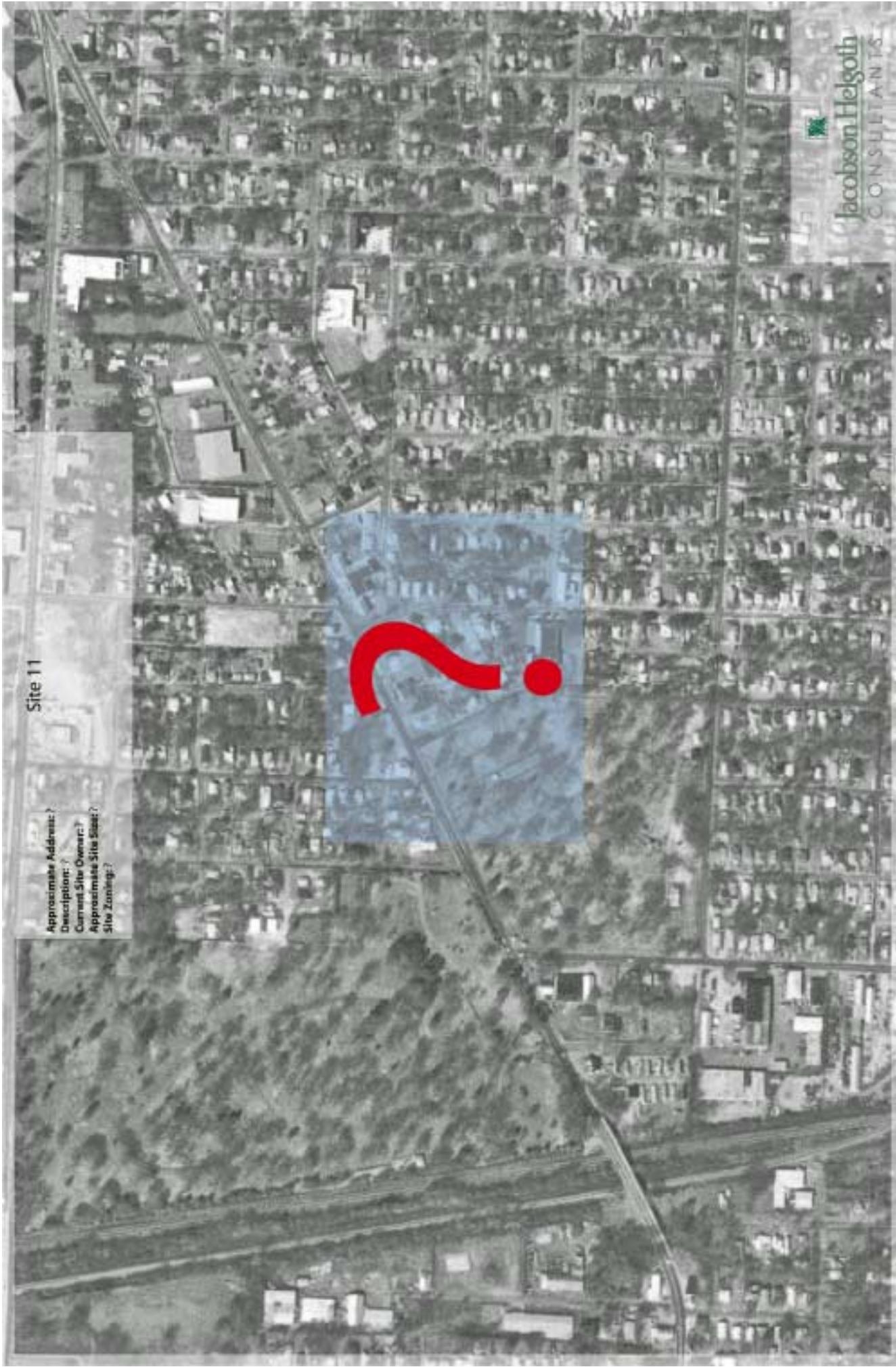
Site 10

Approximate Address: 156th and Fairview Road
Description: This site is the active Sarpy County Landfill located just west of 156th and Fairview Road.
Current Site Owner: Sarpy County
Approximate Site Size: 160 acres
Site Zoning: Agricultural



Site 11

Approximate Address: ?
Description: ?
Current Site Owner: ?
Approximate Site Size: ?
Site Zoning: ?





Currently, various members of our team and our project partners are meeting with neighborhood and civic organizations to present the project's goal and its mission statement, and to discuss how a facility can best serve the community. A current listing of upcoming meetings is presented below:

Date	Time	Location	Association or Organization
There are no scheduled events at this time.			

This is a listing of the meetings that have passed.

Date	Association or Organization
Aug. 8	Joint meeting with Metropolitan Utilities District and Omaha Public Power District
Aug. 15	Douglas County Commissioners
Aug. 15	Omaha fire Department, Hazardous Materials Response Team
Aug. 21	Southeast Precinct, Police advisory Committee
Aug. 29	Sarpy County Commissioners
Aug. 31	Inner-City Coalition for the Environment
Sept. 5	Douglas and Sarpy County Extension Agency
Sept. 16	The Neighborhood Network
Sept. 20	Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha
Oct. 5	South Omaha Neighborhood Association (SONA)
Oct. 21	The District Two Neighborhood Coalition

For more information please contact [comments for underthesink.org](mailto:comments@underthesink.org).