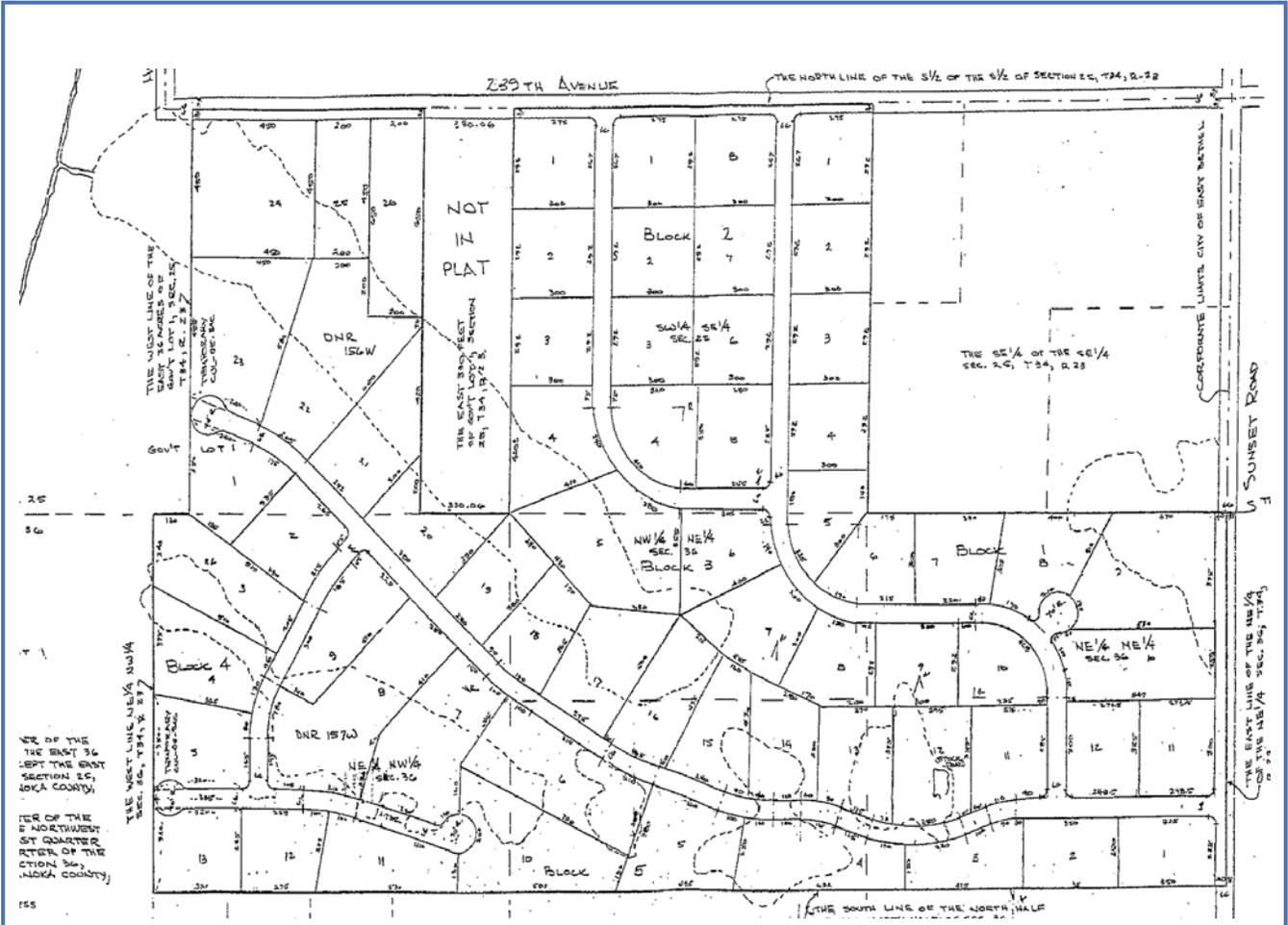


# MEADOWS OF FISH LAKE

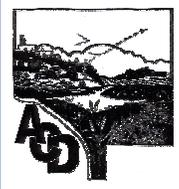


## A Changing Landscape

Continued development throughout Anoka County will continue as long as there is a demand for housing and land available to meet that demand. Many new developments occur in areas with high quality natural resources that are otherwise destroyed by ongoing development. That is why the Anoka Conservation District works with some communities and developers to review development proposals and find alternatives that produce a profitable project for the landowner and developer, but also protects the maximum amount of natural resources possible if the development is to be done.



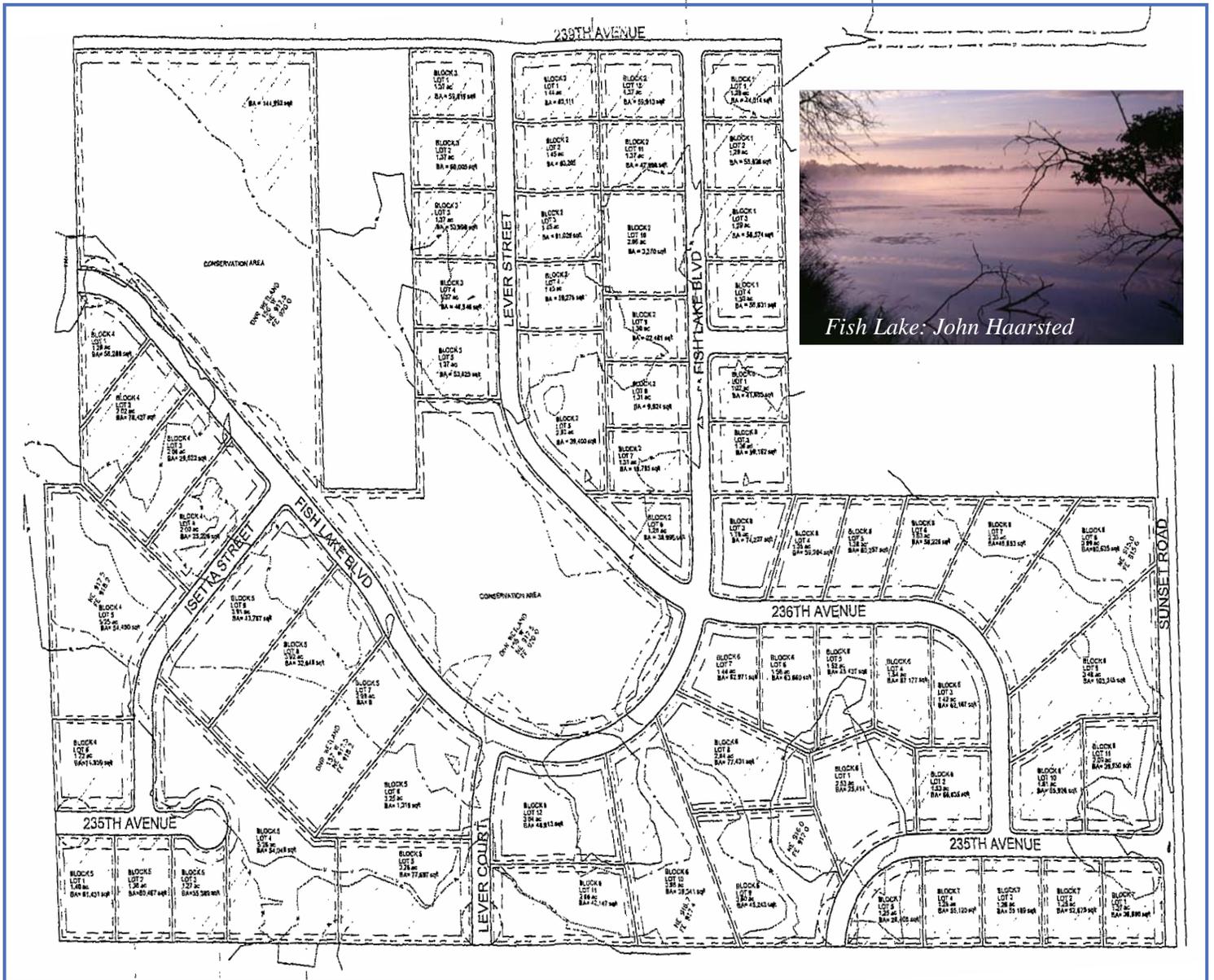
*This is a preliminary plat of a development proposed in the City of East Bethel that includes a large wetland that is the last unprotected portion of the Fish Lake watershed. The remainder of the watershed is protected by the adjacent Cedar Creek Natural History Area (CCNHA). As you can see in this sketch, the initial proposal would divide the wetland into parts of individual residential lots, this could have continued long term impacts on the wetland threatening the high water quality of Fish Lake.*



**ANOKA  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

## Working Together for the Resource

The ACD worked with the developer, the City of East Bethel, Cedar Creek Natural History Area and the MN DNR to come up with the following development proposal. Under this agreement the wetland and a native vegetative buffer around the wetland was protected with a conservation easement. In order to protect the wetland and the buffer some lots were made smaller to allow for the same amount of homes that would be allowed using a conventional development.



## Committed to Open Space

The ACD is committed to working with local communities and developers on projects like this one that allow for development, but also protect the important natural resources threatened by this development. The end result is increased housing in local communities, permanently protected open spaces, the protection of ecological diversity, improved water quality, and the same if not more profit for landowners and developers. Using the greenway hubs and corridors identified by ACD high quality natural areas can be protected during the development process to establish a permanently protected open space network.