



# **Horizon Farms Community Meeting**

Forest Preserves of Cook County

November 19, 2014

# Meeting Overview

- Asset Inventory
- Existing conditions
- Plans for 2015
- Q&A



# Assessments Completed

- Staff and Cook County Building & Zoning inspected site
- Interviewed 3 equestrian facility managers
- Hosted 3 stakeholder focus groups
- Interviewed other government equestrian program managers
- Hosted Landmark Illinois to determine historic status of buildings



# Suggested uses for the site

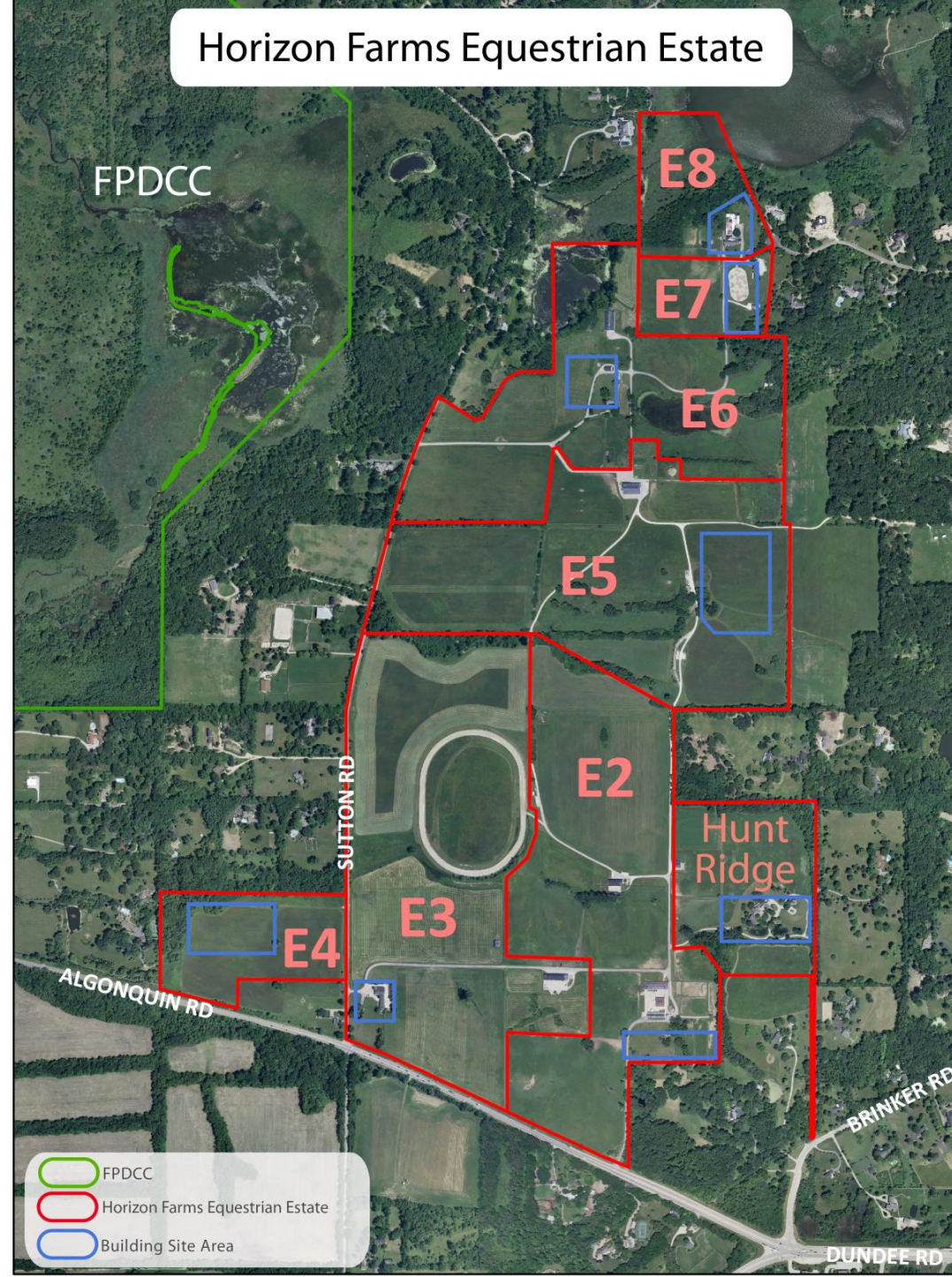
- Trails: equestrian, hiking, bike, x-ctry skiing
- Equestrian uses: boarding, lessons, polo
- Bird-watching
- Off-leash dog area
- Athletic Fields: Lacrosse
- Winter activities: ice-skating, x-ctry skiing





# Existing conditions- Ownership

- 8 parcels purchased
  - Hunt Ridge
  - E2 – E8
- Equestrian auction



# Existing Conditions - Buildings

- 16 barns/hay storage
- 8 residences
- 6 other (shed, etc.)
- 30 buildings
- Safety is top concern





# Existing Site Conditions

- Fencing
- Manure
- Hay fields
- Conservation Easement
- Ecological Restoration



# Existing Conditions: Infrastructure

- Paved & gravel roads
- Existing mowed areas
- Parking areas (for cars and trailers)





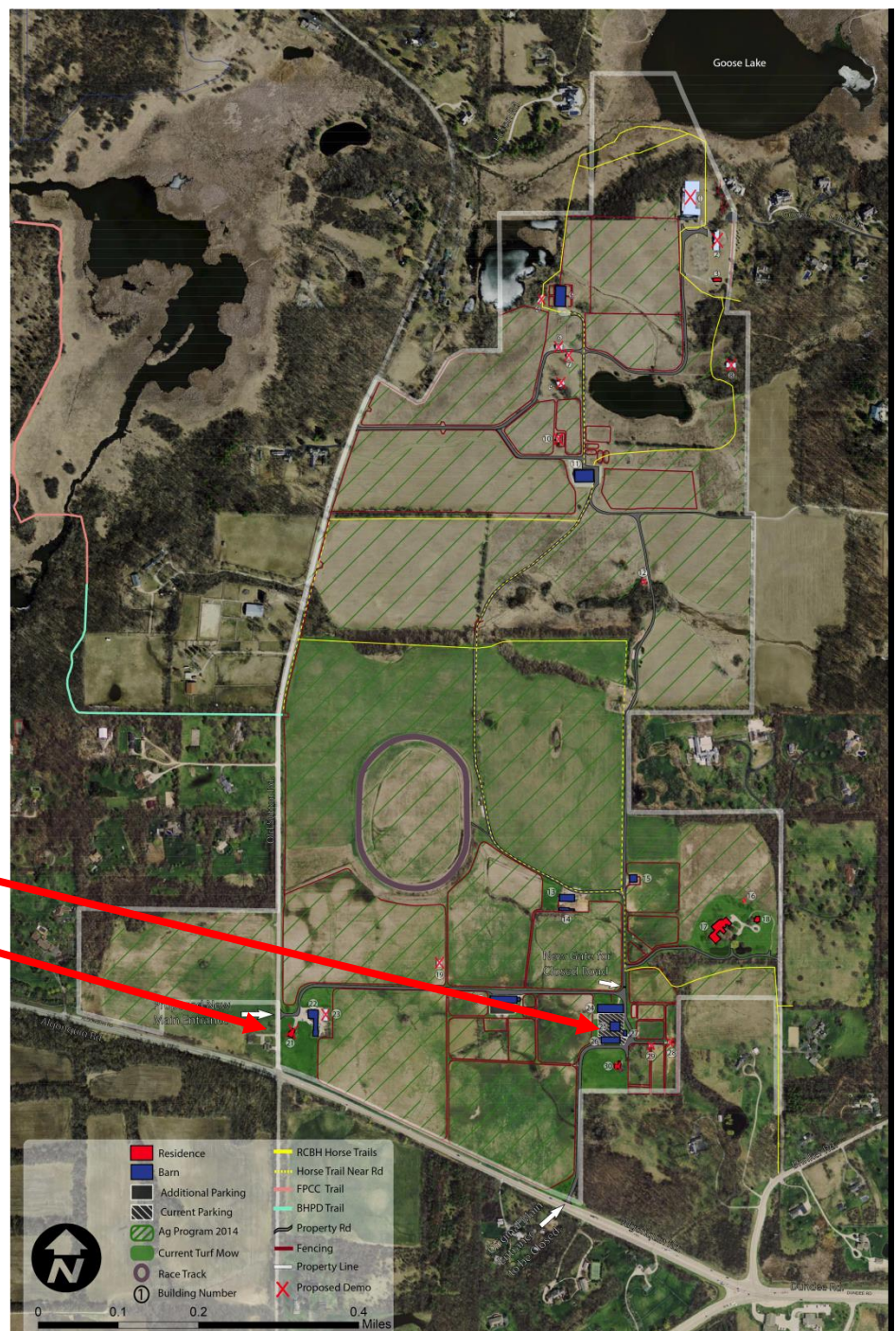
# Plan for 2015: Site Activities

- Open site for hiking, riding, biking on trails
- X-country skiing
- Permitted special events



# Plan for 2015

- Mowed Trails = yellow
- Paved Trails = internal roads
- Parking
- Main Entrance





# Plan for 2015: Site Clearing & Studies

- Begin demolition and fence removal
- More formal study:
  - Equestrian facility market study
  - Building rehab cost





# Call for Partners & Proposals

- Limited capital improvement funds
- Need for partners to help improve and maintain trails
- Concession partner critical to future boarding



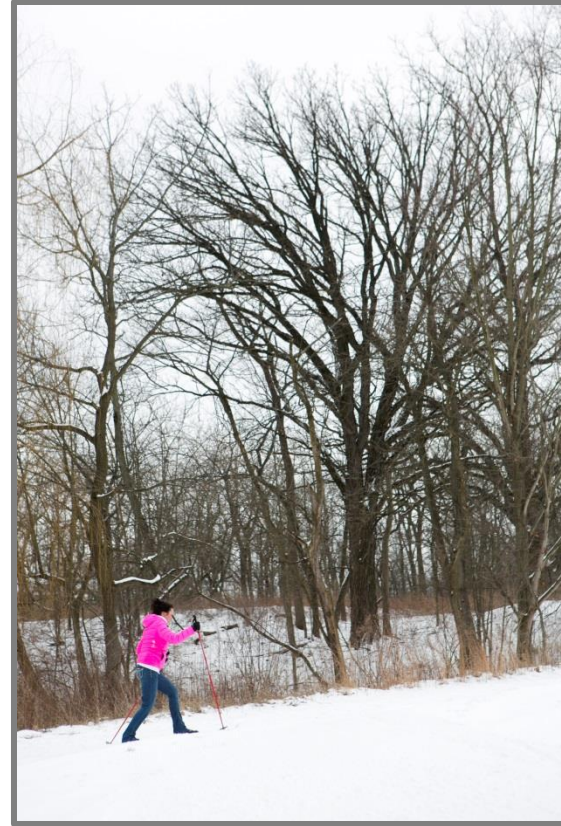
# Next Steps: 2015

- Secure all buildings.
- Finalize trail plan & maintenance partnership agreement.
- Install new gates and signs.
- Open site to the public.
- Begin site clearing & more formal assessments.



# Send Your Ideas & Proposals

- Program & event ideas
- Facility improvement ideas
- Equestrian stable managers (prefer concessionaire, not fee for service)





# Contact Information

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# Q&A and next steps

- Q&A today
- Comment later – take a comment slip.

***THANK YOU!***

