

Regional Water Trail Master Plan

Welcome to the Regional Water Trail Master Plan information site.

Imagine canoeing or kayaking from the Portage Lakes to downtown Akron for a baseball game, to watch the fireworks or to visit your favorite festival or restaurant. Or paddle to downtown Barberton for an afternoon at Lake Anna for the Mum Festival. Water trails create opportunities for tourism and economic development, nurture advocates for water quality improvements, and attract young professionals to the region.

According to the ODNR Division of Watercraft the sales of human powered boats (kayaks and canoes) have increased by 50% over the last five years while motorized boat sales have remained relatively level.

The outcome of the study will be a comprehensive reference for potential public and private investments that can be made to complete the proposed water trail system in southern Summit County. The plan will be used as a tool to secure funding for these improvements and a guide to future development. This plan can also be used to apply for State designation through the ODNR as an “Ohio Water Trail” and qualify for ODNR funds to develop a water trail map for use as a long term marketing and development tool.

Regional Water Trail Master Plan

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

All meetings will take place at:

COVENTRY OAKS PAVILION, 40 Axline Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44319
(Firestone Metro Park, off of South Main Street)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE meetings are scheduled for the following dates & times:

Meeting #1	Tuesday September 6, 2011	2:00- 4:00 pm
Meeting #2	Tuesday December 6, 2011	2:00- 4:00 pm
Meeting #3	Tuesday February 7, 2012	2:00- 4:00 pm

PUBLIC meetings are scheduled for the following dates and times

Meeting #1	Monday, September 19, 2011	7:00- 9:00 pm
Meeting #2	Wednesday December 21, 2011	7:00 -9:00 pm
Meeting #3	Monday, February 20, 2012	7:00 -9:00 pm

Regional Water Trail Master Plan

Please submit suggestions & comments to:

metroparksssc@gmail.com

or

Regional Water Trail Master Plan

975 Treaty Line Road

Akron, Ohio 44313

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Below is a summary of the comments/questions that brought up during the first advisory meeting:

- 1) Water Trail wayfinding via buoy system or similar. Consider potential speed zone conflicts for Water Trail. The City of Akron wants to revitalize the cut off neighborhood east of Summit Lake and south of I-76/77
- 2) East Reservoir is being looked at by a consulting firm to come up with a viable option to have the structure comply with current dam safety regulations.
- 3) Motorboats are allowed on O&E Canal (6MPH or less/no wake) currently. Should there be a horsepower and boat size limit except for permitted excursion service?
- 4) Reconstructing the guard lock on the north end of Long Lake would have no implications across watersheds. It could have automatic gates with warning system to detect gate jams. Or a mechanical device could be used to make the connection.
- 5) Using the Tuscarawas River Raceway is better than Nimisila Reservoir because the River's watershed is larger and could recharge the portage lakes' system very quickly (days) as compared to the Reservoir which could take years.
- 6) The County removed a number of bridges over the Raceway and other water channels and replaced them with culverts. Should some or all of these crossing be converted back to bridges?

Summit County

Confluence Park

Advisory Meeting #1

September 6, 2011

Regional Water Trail Master Plan



Public Information

- Excursion service
- Public information
- Community Center
- Play fields
- Boat launch
- Additional trailhead parking 50 cars

C Industrial Zone

- Improved environmental controls
- Sustainable practices
- Synergies among businesses
- Interpret industrial heritage
- Ohio & Erie Canal Operations
- Map room
- Canal maintenance

E Wilbeth Road Trailhead-Sheet D-1

- Restrooms
- Public information
- 100 Car parking lot
- Picnic sites

F Wetlands Restoration & Active Recreation Area-Sheet D-2 D-2a

- Nature trails
- City outdoor soccer complex in concert with existing private indoor complex
- Ecological restoration
 - Old field & scrub-shrub
 - Emergent wetland
 - Open water
 - Wetland forest
 - Upland forest
- Potential park maintenance site
- Eliminate incompatible uses
- Harvesting area for wetland plants used elsewhere
- Interpret history and nature

G Nesmith Lake Park-Sheet D-3

- Public sunning area
- Tot play
- Playfield
- Model boating
- Promenade
- Restroom/Concession
- 100 Car parking lot
- Boat rental concession
- Excursion service

H Wolter Park

- Potential youth day camp

I Troupship trail

- Pedestrian trail/bikeway
- Interpret Ohio & Erie Canal history
- Neighborhood connections
- Small craft boating on canal

J Tuscarawas River Preserve-Sheet D-6

- Ecological restoration of river
- Habitat improvements
- Reconnection to floodplain and old channel through spoil bank modifications
- Buffering of soil walls
- Eliminate ATV usage
- Primitive camp sites
- Nature Trails/Connection to neighborhoods

K Manchester Road Commercial District-Sheet D-4

- Enhanced food and service businesses
- Improved pedestrian environment
- Improved relationship to Young's Restaurant
- Better traffic controls
- Connection to Troupship
- ISO Space Gateway Interpretive Center parking

L Manchester Road Trailhead-Sheet D-4

- 50 Car Parking Lot
- Restroom/Public information
- Scenic bayside rest area
- Picnic sites
- Excursion service
- Boat rental concession

M Interpretive Center-Sheet D-4

- Boat tie-up
- Nature discovery
- Water history and mechanics

- B** Public information
- B** Extension service
- B** Existing Summit Lake Park-Sheet D-1
 - Community Center
 - Play fields
 - Boat launch
 - Additional trailhead parking-50 cars
- C** Industrial Zone
 - Improved environmental controls
 - Sustainable practices
 - Synergies among businesses
 - Interpret industrial heritage
- D** Ohio & Erie Canal Operations
 - Map room
 - Canal maintenance
- E** Wilbeth Road Trailhead-Sheet D-2
 - Restrooms
 - Public information
 - 100 Car parking lot
 - Picnic sites
- F** Wetlands Restoration & Parkway Recreation Area-Sheet D-3, D-4, D-5, D-6, D-2b
 - Nature trails
 - Glacial till-scorer complex in concert with existing private indoor complex
 - Ecological restoration
 - * Old field & scrub-shrub
 - * Emergent wetland
 - * Open water
 - * Wetland forest
 - * Upland forest
 - * Hydrology improvements
 - Potential park maintenance site
 - Eliminate incompatible uses
 - Hardwood area for wetland plants used elsewhere
 - Interpret history and nature
- G** Nesmith Lake Park-Sheet D-3
 - Public parking area
 - Tot play
 - Playfield
 - Model boating
 - Promenade
 - Restroom/Concession
 - 100 Car parking lot
 - Boat rental concession
 - Recreation service
- H** Wolter Park
 - Potential youth day camp

Ohio Department of Natural Resources: Portage Lakes State Park

Portage Lakes State Park

5031 Manchester Road

Akron, Ohio 44319-3999

(330) 644-2220 - Park Office

Camp Office: 5550 Christman Road

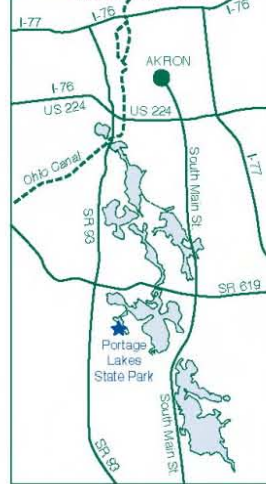
TRAILS

- 1 Planet Walk Trail (1 mi)
- 2 Shoreline Trail (5 mi)
- 3 Rabbit Hill Loop (1 mi)
(self-guided nature trail)
- 4 Pheasant Run Loop (2 mi)

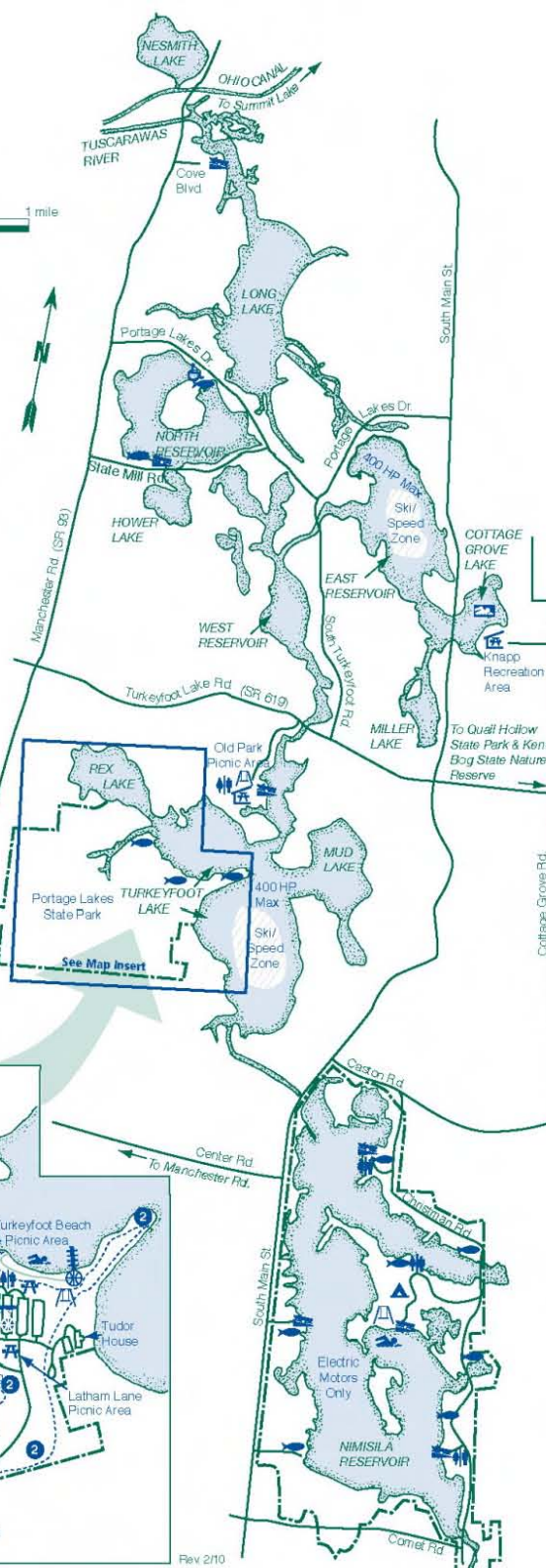
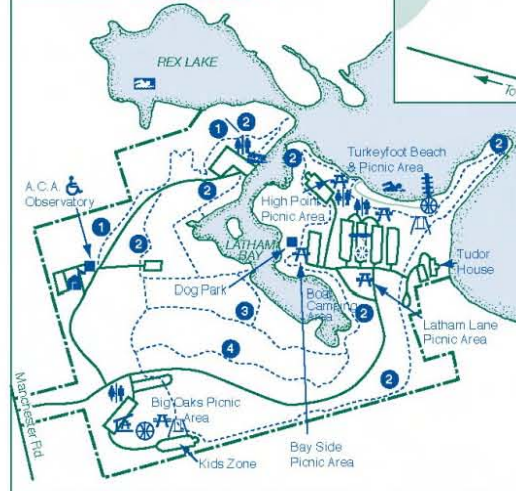
LEGEND

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Park Office | Volleyball |
| Picnic Area | Basketball |
| Picnic Shelter | Playground |
| Latrine | Skateboard Area |
| Launch Ramp | Beach |
| Fishing Access | Boat Swim Area |
| Park Boundary | Courtesy Docks |
| Hiking Trail | Wheelchair Accessible |
| Camping | |

LOCATION MAP



MAP INSERT



Rev 2/10

1. Excursion service potential
2. Canoe & kayak trail potential (non-motorized)
3. Put-in/take-out locations (**see map**)
4. Portages (**see map**)
5. Research on mechanical lift
6. Public landings for excursion service and individuals
7. Commercial landings for excursion service
8. Trailhead/parking potential noted
9. Commercial district opportunities
 - a) *Manchester Road/Young's Hotel*
 - b) *Clock tower*
 - c) *Barberton Downtown*
 - d) *Portage Lakes Drive at Long Lake Raceway*
 - e) *Summit Lake (North end)*
 - f) *North Turkeyfoot Road and SR619 at golf course*
 - g) *South Main at East Reservoir District*
 - h) *Lock #1 North*

Public Landings: Put-in/Take-out Opportunities

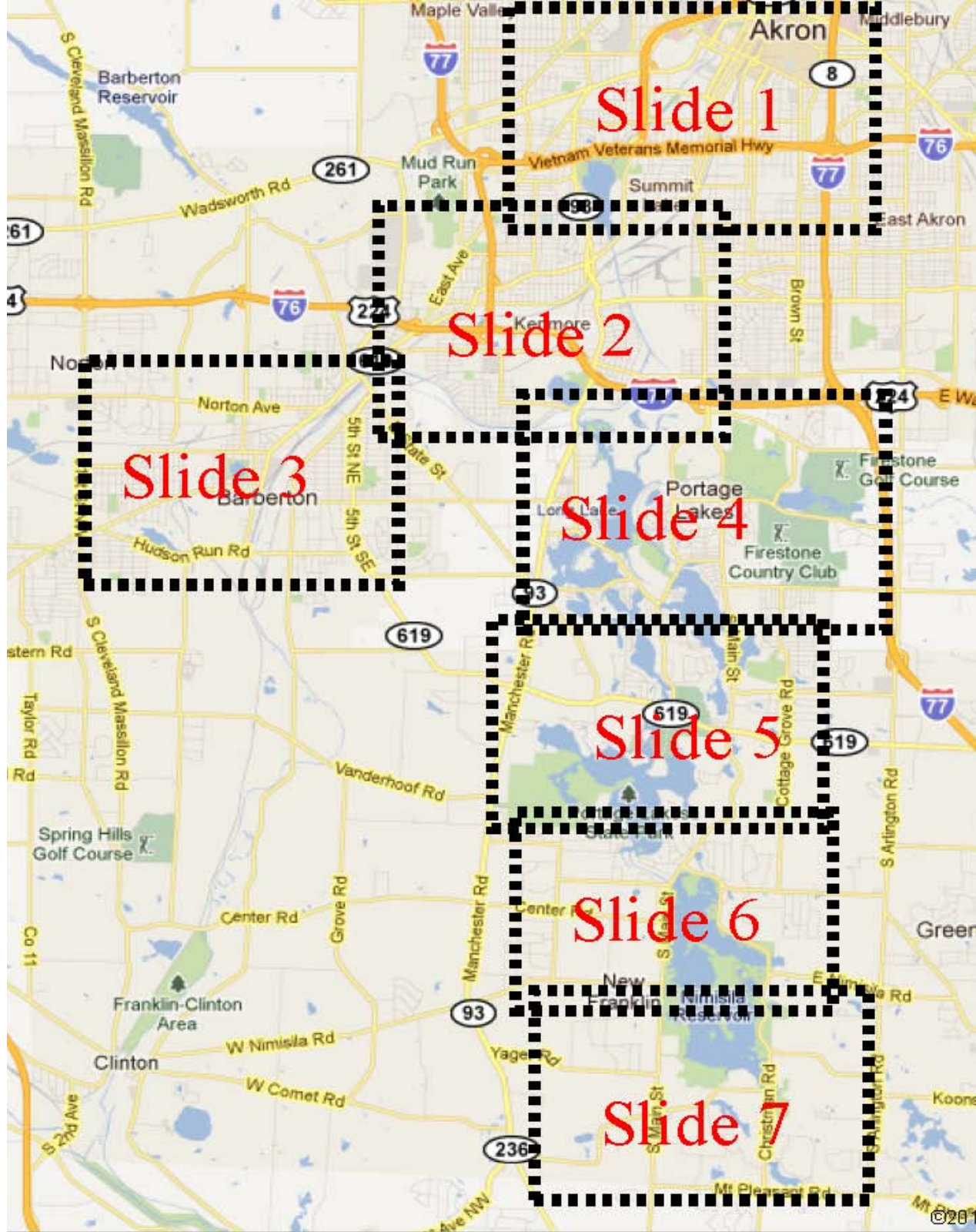
1. *Nimisilla Reservoir – Parking lot launch areas*
2. *Portage Lakes State Park launch area*
3. *Long Lake (Red Barn Site)*
4. *Manchester Road visitor center*
5. *Nesmith Lake parking lot*
6. *North Reservoir parking lot*
7. *East Reservoir clock tower area*
8. *Summit Lake (North end)*
9. *Lock #1 north in downtown Akron near AES building*
10. *Wolf Creek trailhead*
11. *Fairview Avenue trailhead*
12. *Barberton downtown trailhead at Robinson Avenue bridge*
13. *Firestone Metro Park parking lot*
14. *Old State Park off SR619*
15. *Erwine Middle School*
16. *Coventry Jr. High School*

Commercial landings: Put-in/Take-out Opportunities

1. *Spaghetti Warehouse in Akron*
Manchester Road at Long Lake (Young's Hotel development)
Clock Tower District at Long Lake channel
West Turkeyfoot Lake Road/SR619 district
Portage Lakes Drive at Long Lake Raceway/East Reservoir
South Main Street District at East Reservoir
Places like Dano's

Portages

1. Ohio & Erie Canal - None on the Canal but the need for a mechanical lift
2. Tuscarawas River Diversion Raceway
 - a) Assume South Main Street bridge is replaced
 - b) North Turkeyfoot Road and Vaughn Road
 - c) Vaughn Trail Crossing
 - d) Portage to Long Lake overland
3. Tuscarawas River
 - a) None
4. Lakes System
 - a) Long Lake at Portage Lakes Drive clock tower
 - b) Portage to North Reservoir at Portage Lakes Drive and neighborhood street
 - c) Portage at Manchester Road Indian
 - d) Portage at South Main Street and West Caston Road from Turkeyfoot Lake channel to Nimisilla Reservoir



Slide 1

Slide 2

Slide 3

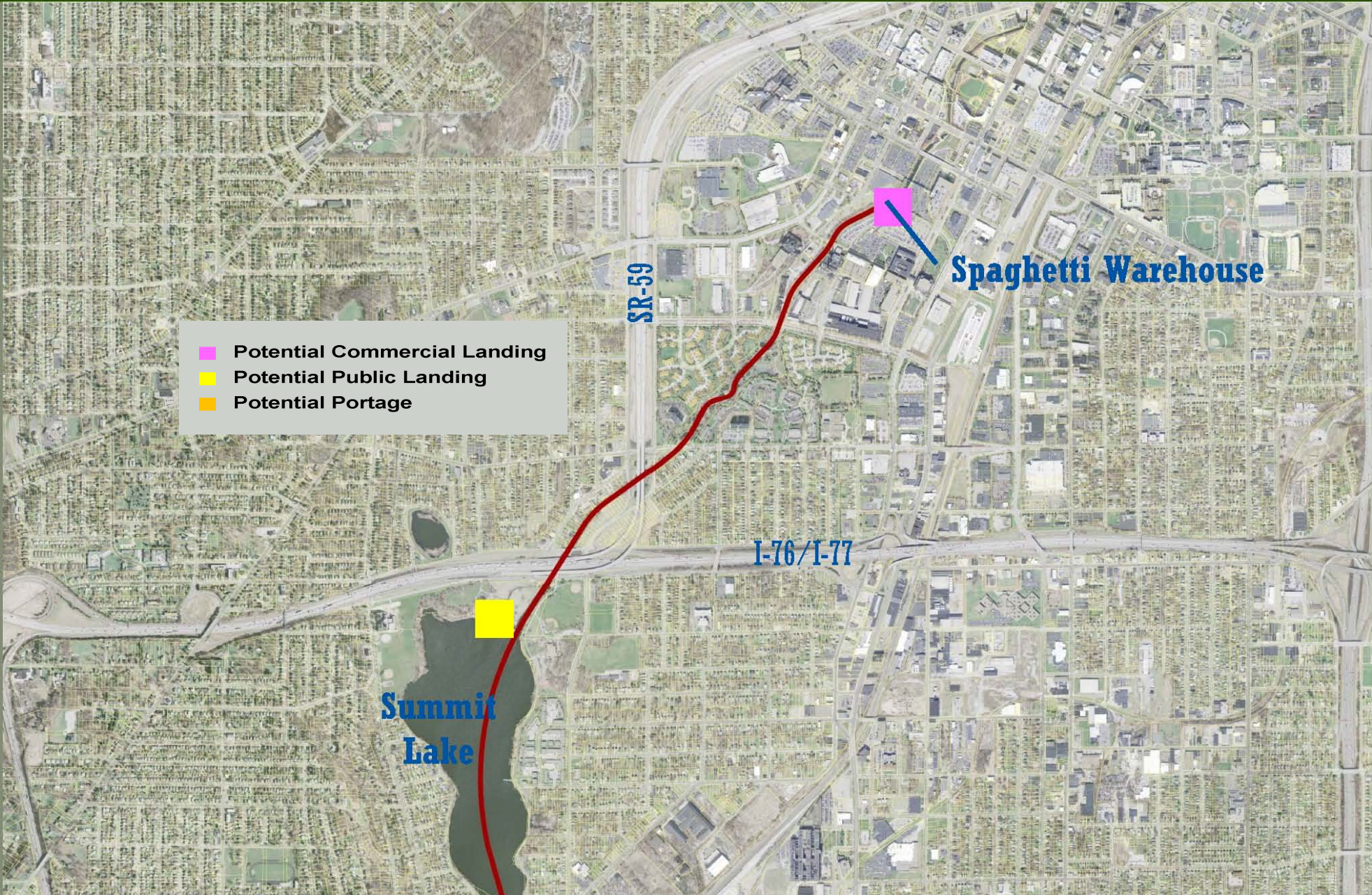
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Slide 5

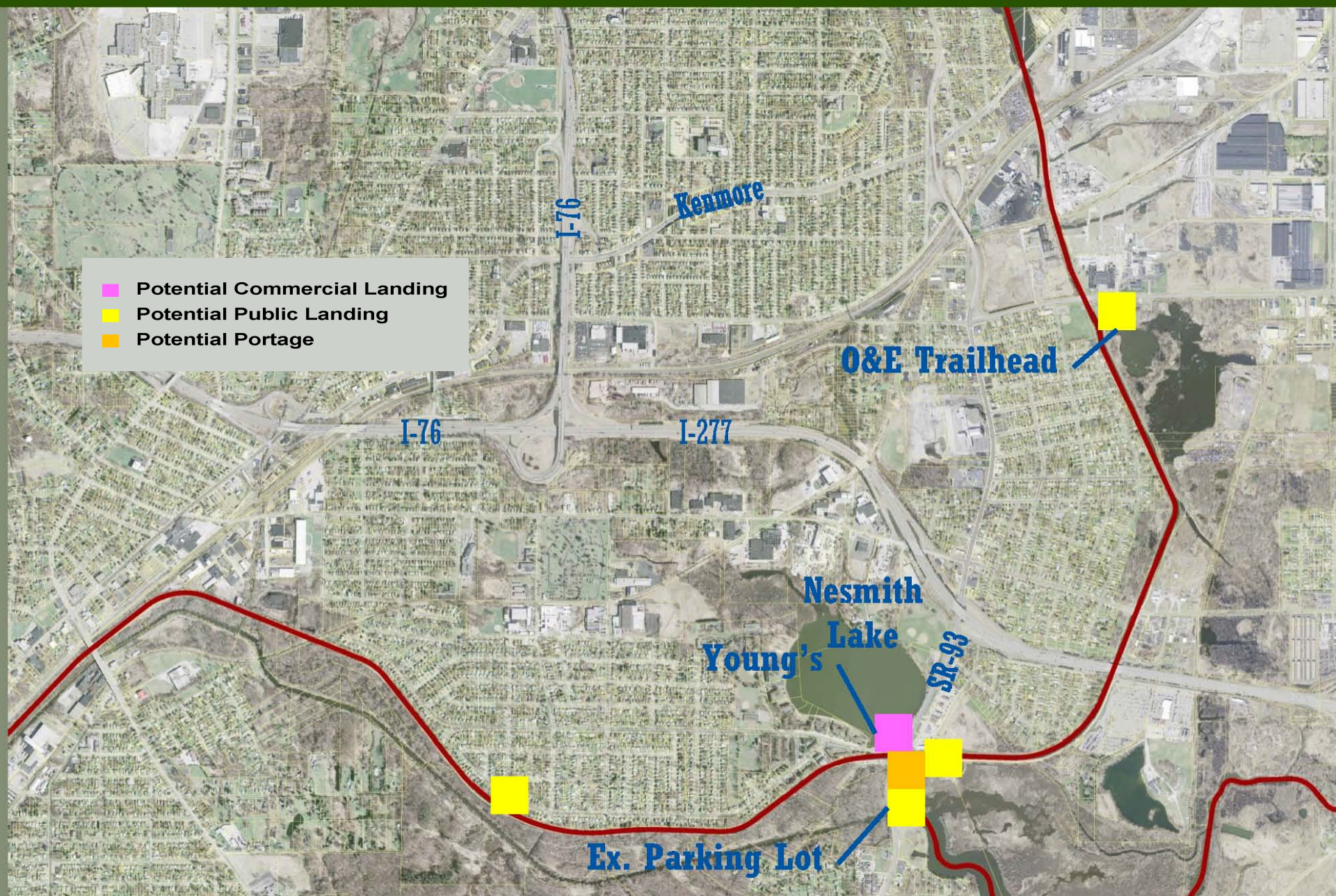
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Slide 7

Potential Routes



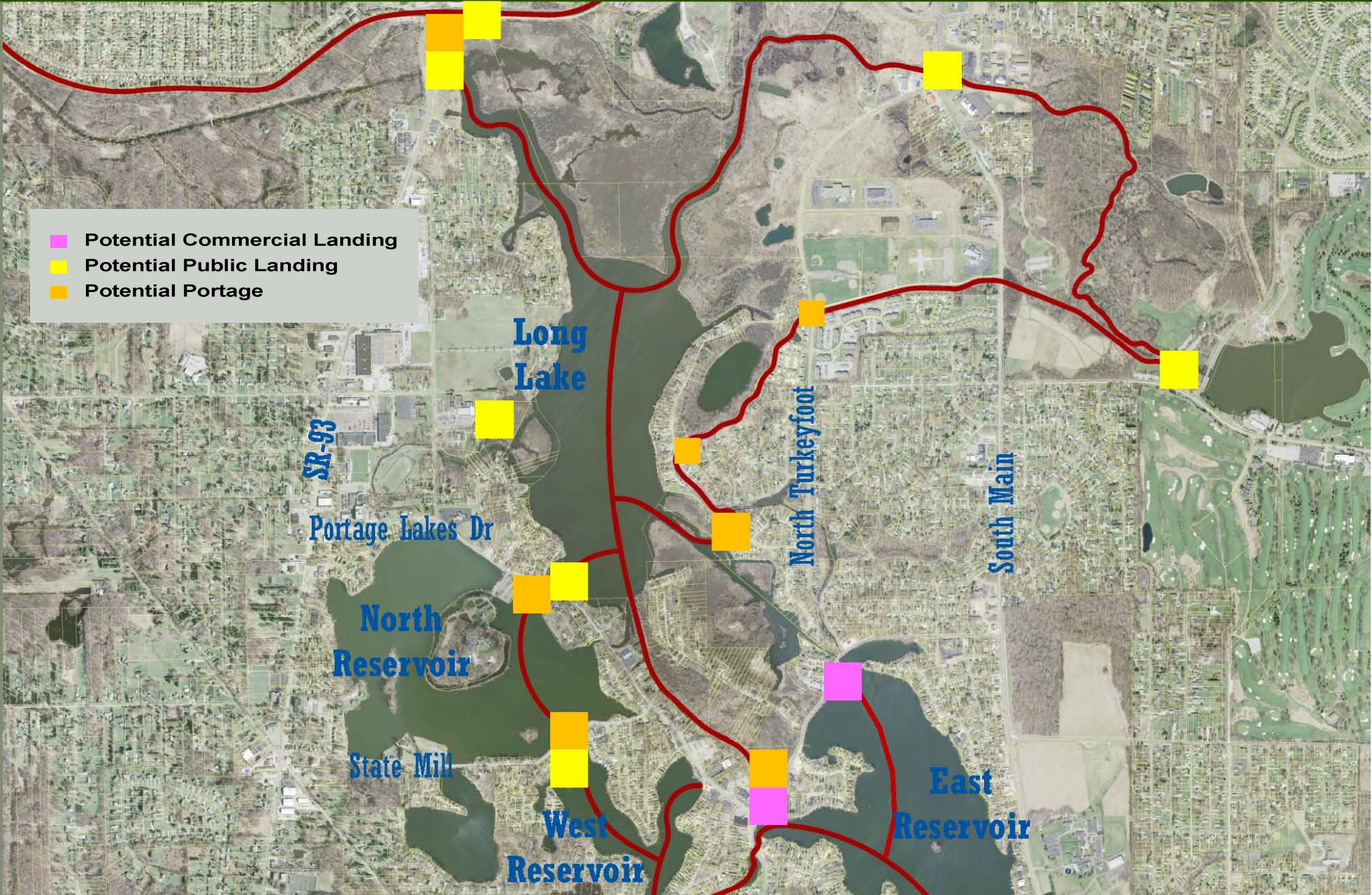
Potential Routes



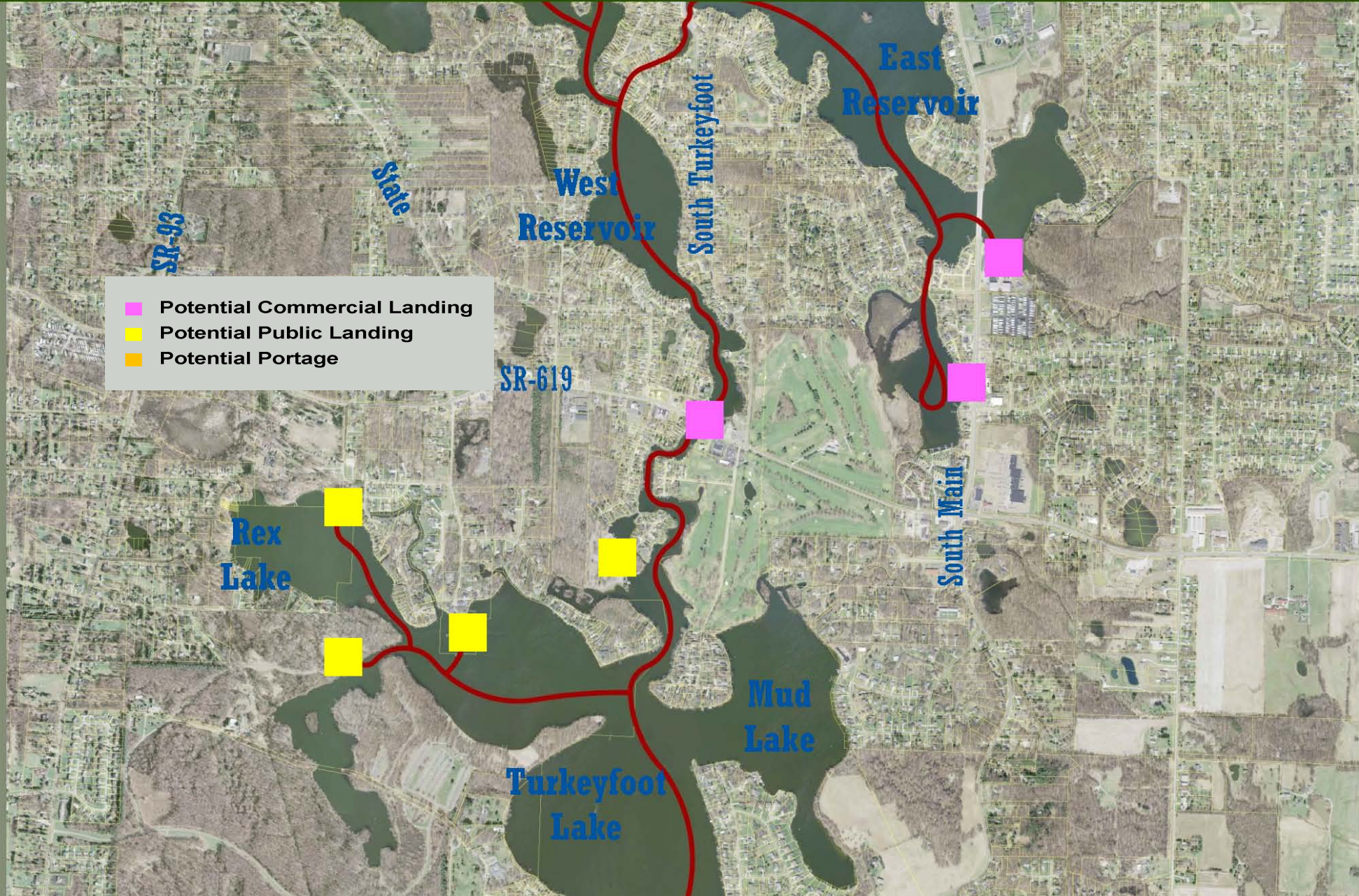
Potential Routes



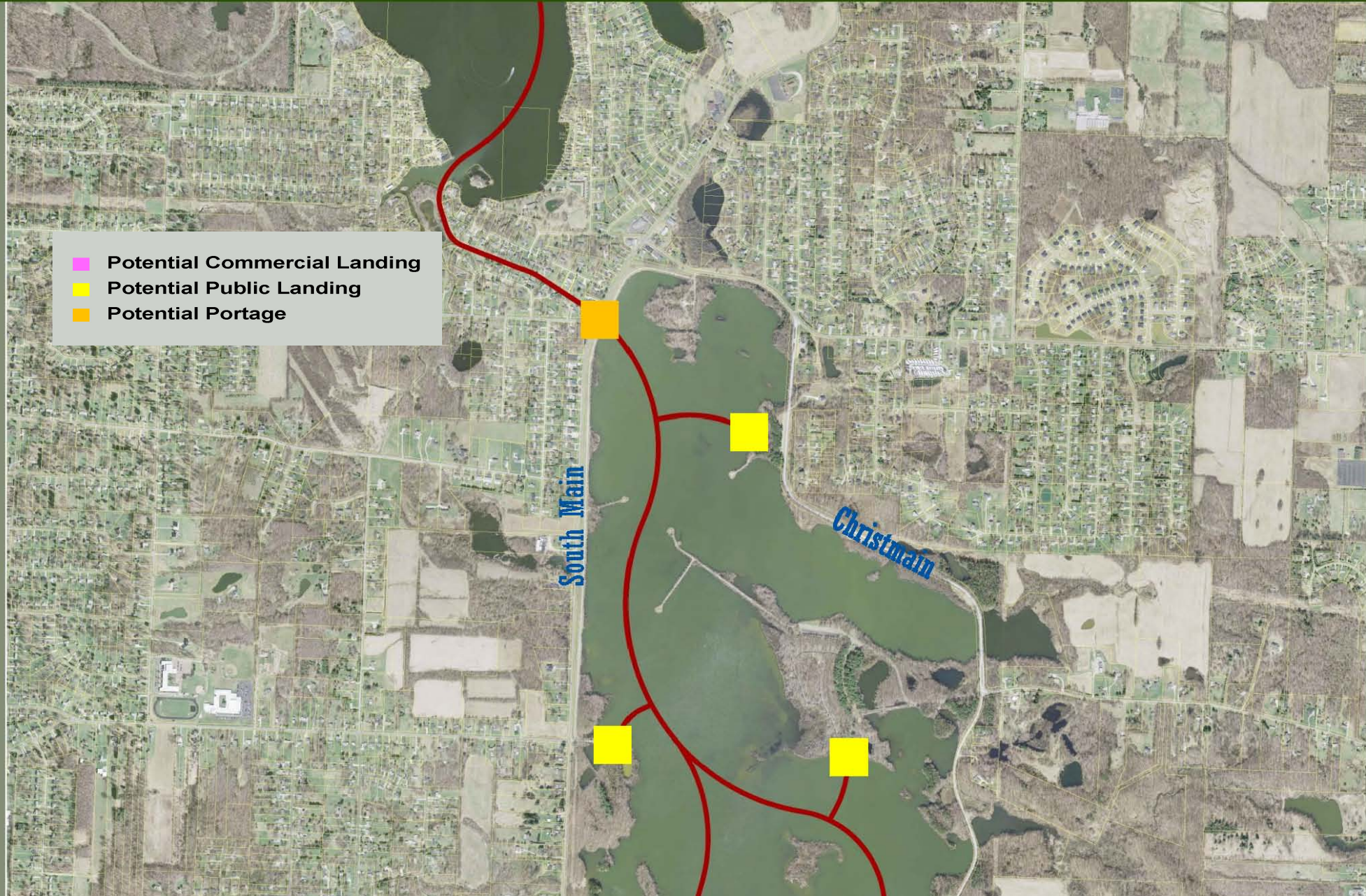
Potential Routes



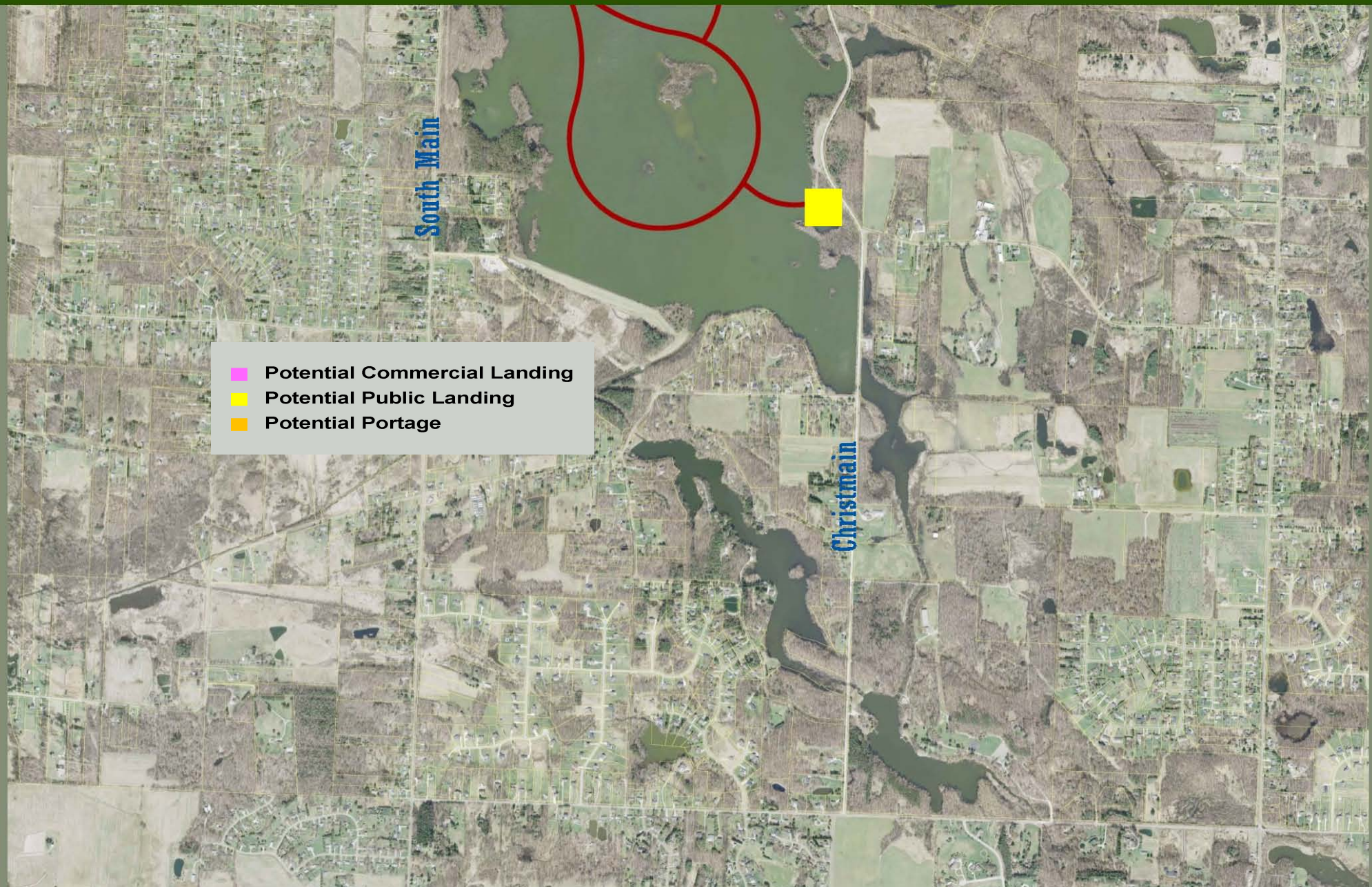
Potential Routes



Potential Routes



Potential Routes



Regional Water Trail Master Plan

CONSULTANT:

Floyd Browne Group, 450 Grant Street, Akron Ohio 44311
Dennis Mersky, ASLA, Senior Principal

PROJECT COORDINATION:

Dan Rice, President & CEO, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
Dave Whited, Chief of Planning, Metro Parks, Serving Summit County

FUNDED PROVIDED BY:

Summit County Community Grant, Russ Pry, County Executive
Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation
Metro Parks, Serving Summit County