

Casey Road Land Use
Public Open House
June 19, 2014

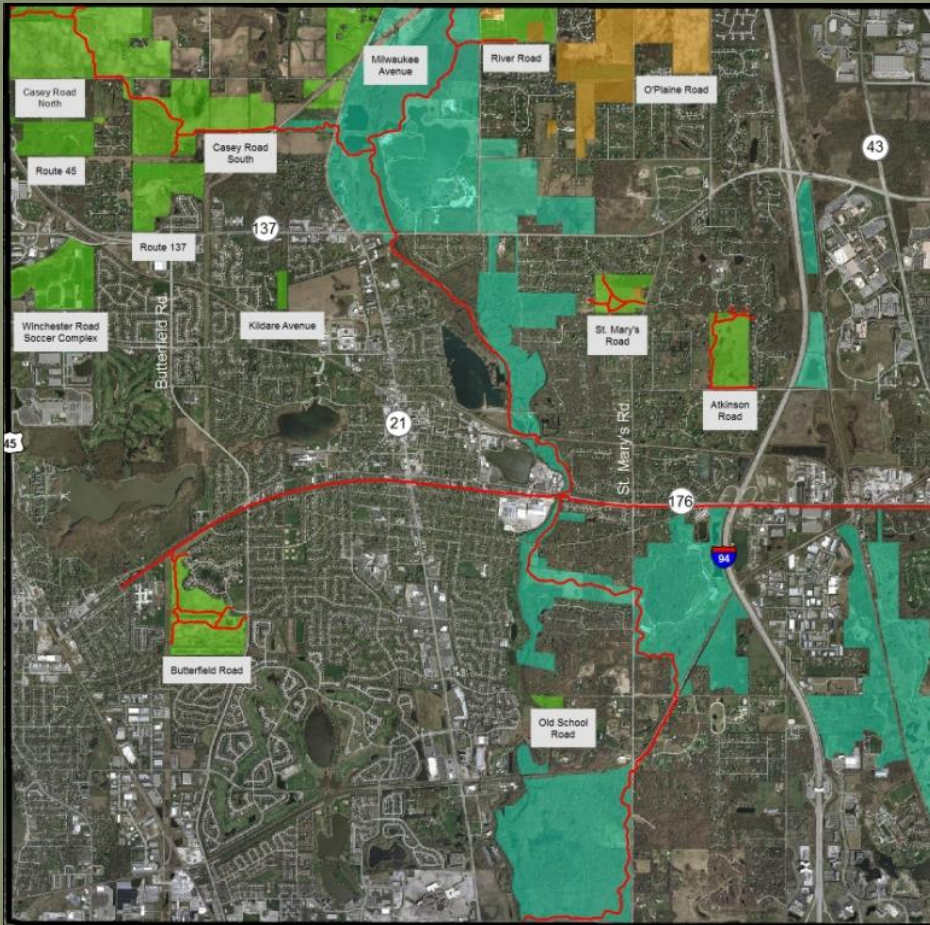
Libertyville Township

Welcome

In 1985, residents of Libertyville Township approved a referendum that created and funded an Open Space District – the first in the state.

Since then, over 1,500 acres have been protected, shown here in bright green and brown.

This complements lands protected as Forest Preserves, shown in teal.

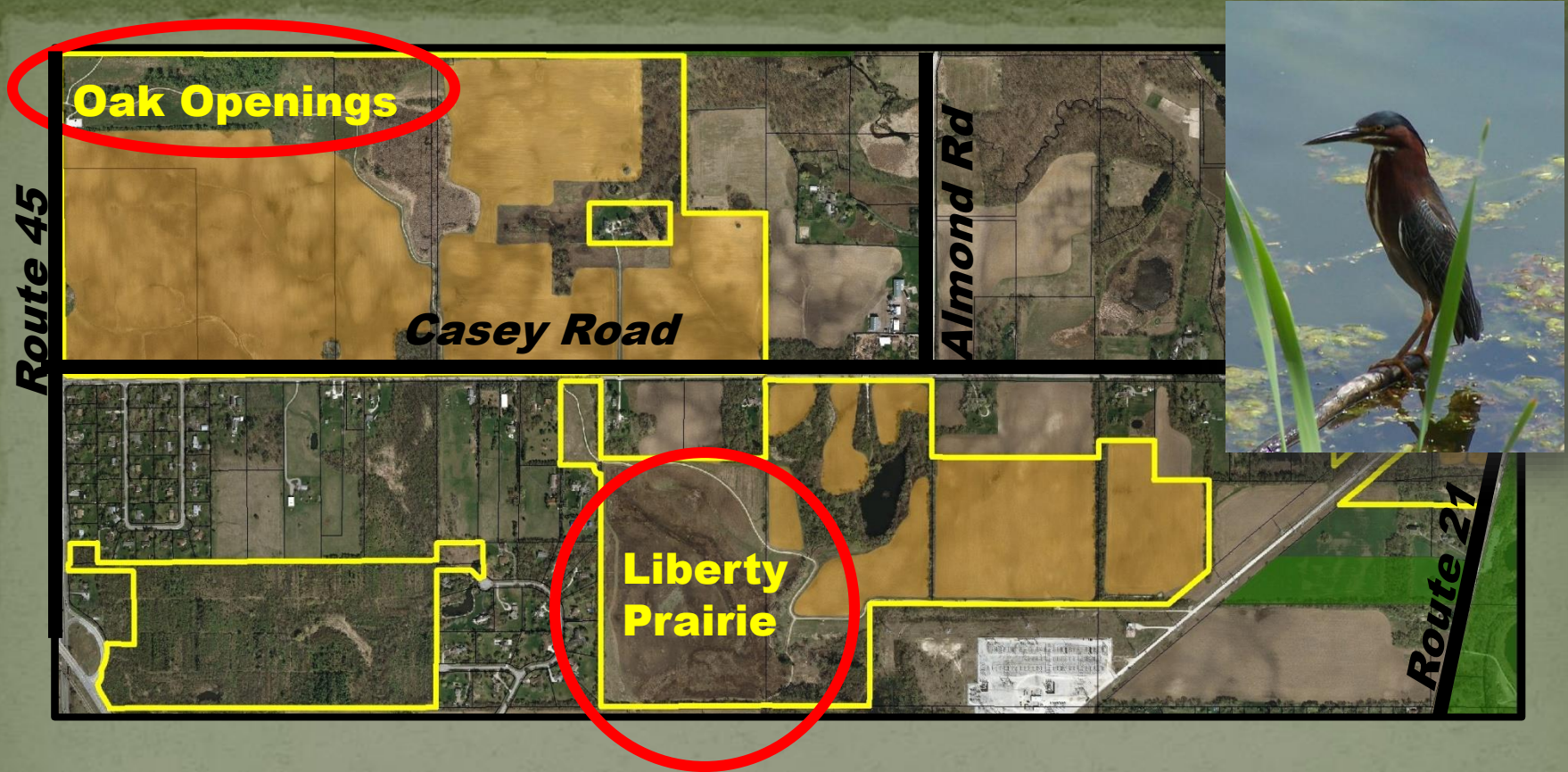




In the northwest corner of the Township are several parcels acquired by the Open Space District in the 1980s and '90s.

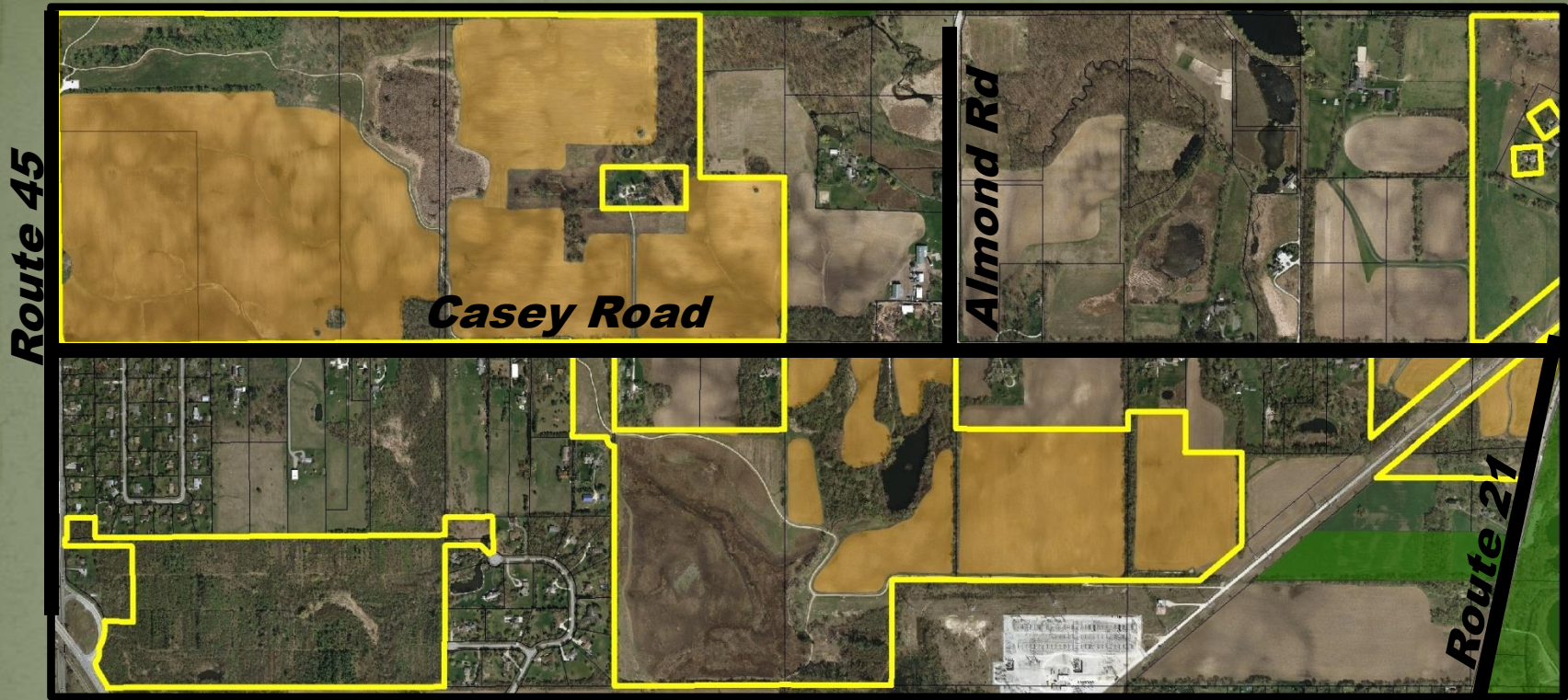
These parcels include the popular Casey Trail which is now connected to Independence Grove Forest Preserve.





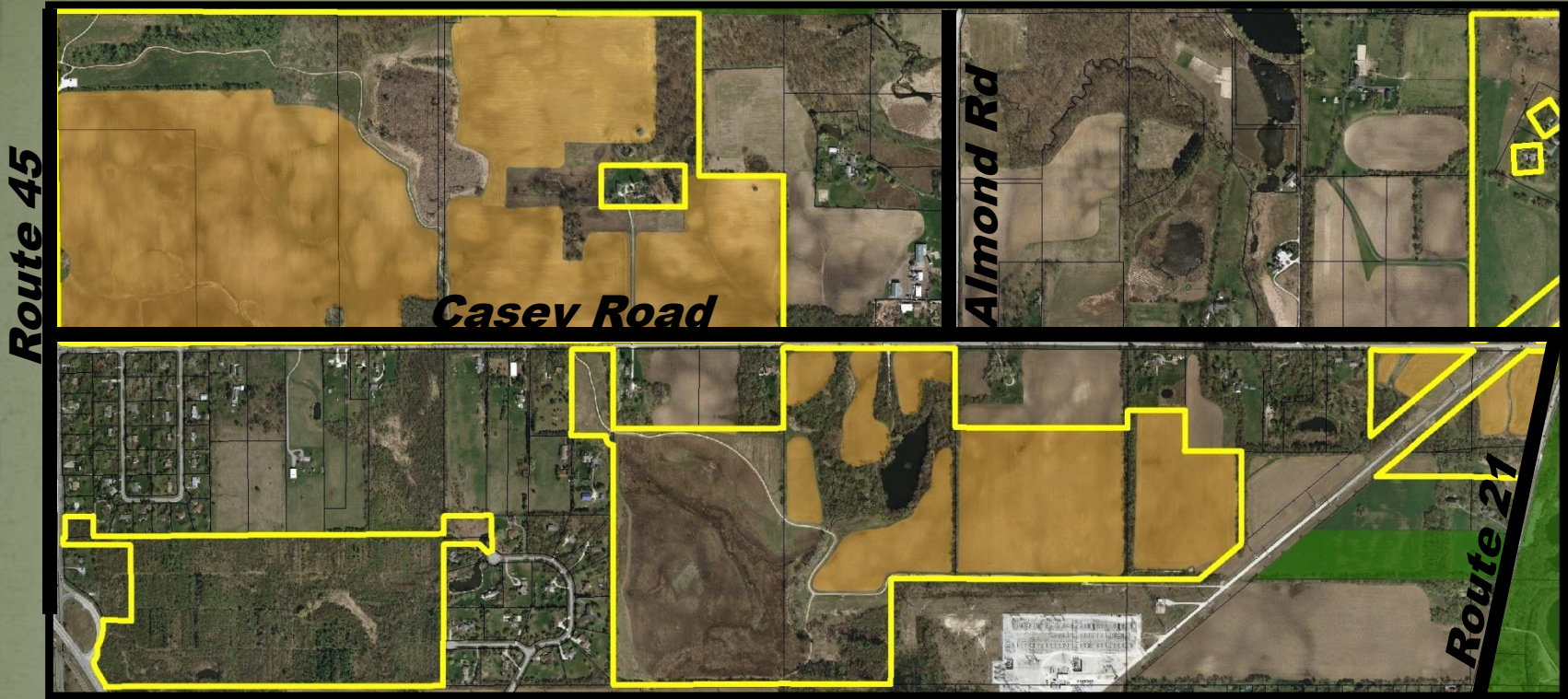
These parcels also include Oak Openings and Liberty Prairie – ecological treasures that receive additional protection from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Both are stewarded with help from volunteers.

(Land outlined in yellow is owned by Libertyville Township.)



These parcels also include 303 acres of farm fields – shown here in tan.

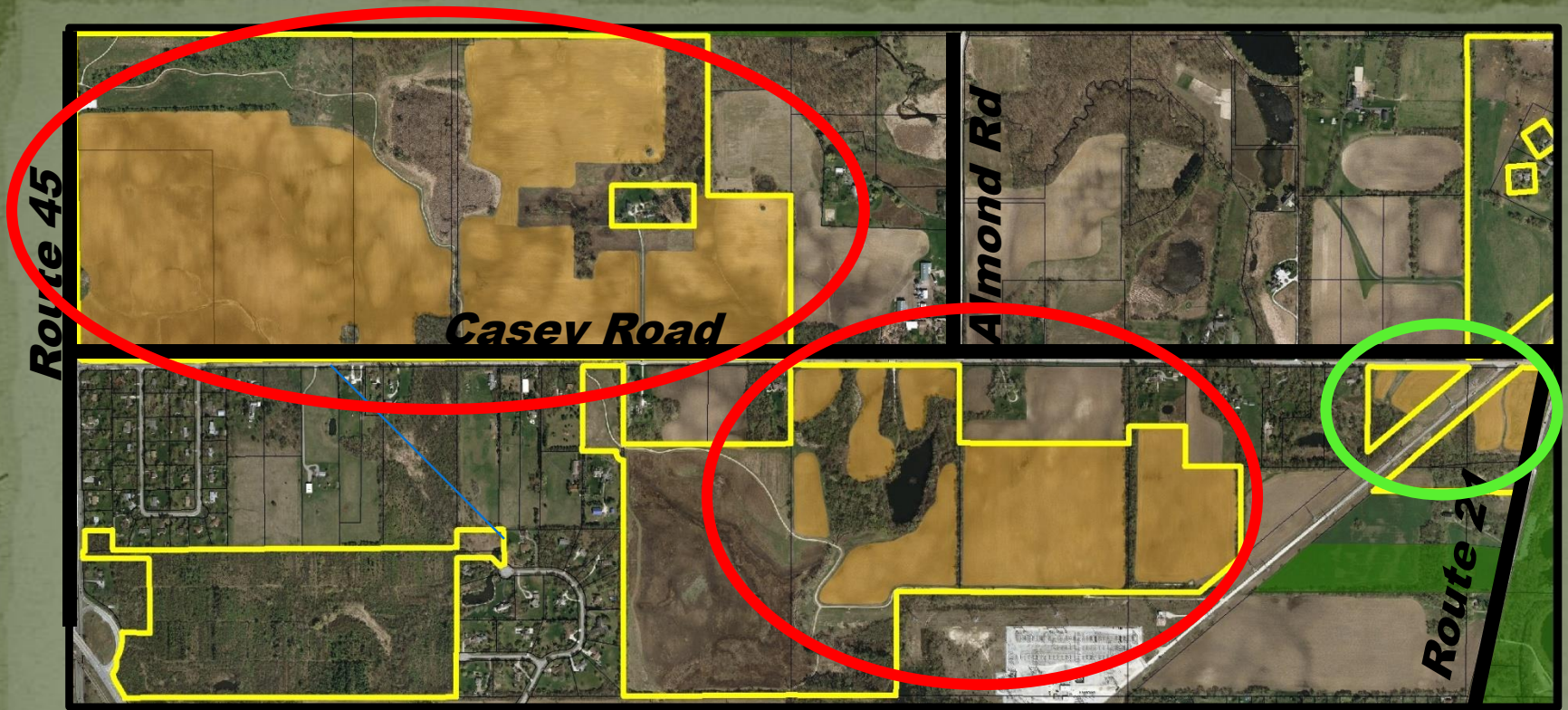
These farm fields are the subject of tonight's open house.



When the Township bought these parcels, it agreed to the seller's stipulation that the croplands remain in farm licenses for over 20 years.

In May of 2008, those farm licenses were consolidated and renewed.

The current farm license expires at the end of 2015.



Conservation easements protect most of these farm fields from development and intend for the protection of aesthetic and ecological values.

The fields circled in red are covered by conservation easements. The fields circled in green are not.

What would you like to see happen on these lands?



To assist with that question,
an advisory committee was created to:

- collect information – including public opinion
- evaluate issues and options
- prepare a draft conceptual plan



This is the process:

1. Gather information
2. Explore options
3. Seek public input
4. Create conceptual plan
5. Seek public input on plan
6. Modify based on above
7. Create budget
8. Seek funding support
9. Finalize plan
10. Prepare for implementation





The draft conceptual plan recommends the Township employ an environmentally sensitive combination of farming and restoration practices that transitions over time to a restored landscape of native prairies, wetlands and savannas.

The conceptual plan advises a phased approach that uses both corn-and-bean farming and hay farming in ways that reduce impact to soil and water quality while generating income to support restoration efforts.



The approach is intended to provide the Township the flexibility needed to take advantage of grants and other cost-saving measures without exceeding its staff's capacity and financial resources.



Please view the draft plan, ask questions and fill out a comment form.

THANK YOU!

