

2023

# City of Schuyler East Blight Study Area

Resolution #2023-0919D

September 19, 2023



JEO Consulting Group, Inc.



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## **Introduction**

### ***Purpose of the Study***

This Schuyler East Area Blight and Substandard Study is a designated study area intended to give the Community Development Agency and City Council the basis for considering the existence of blight and substandard conditions within the delineated study area. Through this process, the City of Schuyler's Community Development Agency may employ and exercise the power authorized in Nebraska Community Development Law to eliminate and prevent blighted and substandard conditions that are detrimental to the future public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the entire community as well as the surrounding region. If the City of Schuyler finds and determines, based on substantial evidence in the record before it, that the recommended Blight and Substandard Area (detailed below and referred to herein as "Schuyler East Blight Study Area") meets the statutory conditions for an area that is blighted, substandard, and in need of redevelopment, the designated study area will become a Redevelopment Area under the Community Development Law (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 18-2101 to 18-2155).

This blight and substandard study examines the existing conditions of land use, buildings, and structures within the designated study area in the City of Schuyler's authority to determine its eligibility for redevelopment activities. Potential opportunities for redevelopment exist throughout the designated study area, which would allow the City of Schuyler to overcome blighted and substandard conditions and avoid issues that could lead to blight and substandard conditions. When evaluating blight and substandard conditions, the City of Schuyler must adhere to Nebraska Community Development Law.

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**Nebraska Revised State Statutes**

The Community Development Law provides guidelines under which municipalities may address concerns and develop strategies for the rehabilitation and redevelopment of deteriorating area, as well as the prevention and elimination of substandard and blighted area. The Legislature has declared, in pertinent part:

*It is hereby found and declared that there exist in cities of all classes and villages of this state area which have deteriorated and become substandard and blighted because of the unsafe, insanitary, inadequate, or overcrowded condition of the dwellings therein, or because of inadequate planning of the area, or excessive land coverage by the buildings thereon, or the lack of proper light and air and open space, or because of the defective design and arrangement of the buildings thereon, or faulty street or lot layout, or congested traffic conditions, or economically or socially undesirable land uses...These conditions are beyond remedy and control solely by regulatory process in the exercise of the police power and cannot be dealt with effectively by the ordinary operations of private enterprise without the aids herein provided...It is further found and declared that the prevention and elimination of blight is a matter of state policy, public interest, and statewide concern and within the powers and authority inhering in and reserved to the state, in order that the state and its municipalities shall not continue to be endangered by area which are focal centers of disease, promote juvenile delinquency, and consume an excessive proportion of their revenue. §18-2102*

Consistent with these findings, municipalities have been granted the power to address deterioration, substandard conditions, and blight through any number of means, including “the formulation of a workable program, the approval of community redevelopment plans consistent with the general plan for the development of the city, the exercise of its zoning powers, the enforcement of other laws, codes, and regulations, relating to the use of land and the use and occupancy of buildings and improvements, the disposition of any property acquired, and the providing of necessary public improvements.” Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-2104.

Nebraska Revised Statute §18-2104 enables a municipality to declare that blight and substandard conditions exist. The statute reads,

*The governing body of a city, to the greatest extent it deems to be feasible in carrying out the provisions of the Community Development Law, shall afford maximum opportunity, consistent with sound needs of the city as a whole, to the rehabilitation or redevelopment of the community redevelopment area by private enterprises. The governing body of a city shall give consideration to this objective in exercising its powers under the Community Development Law, including the formulation of a workable program, the approval of community redevelopment plans consistent with the general plan for the development of the city, the exercise of its zoning powers, the enforcement of other laws, codes, and regulations relating to the use of land and the occupancy of buildings and improvements, the disposition of any property acquired, and providing of necessary public improvements.*

The process of improving an area begins with the creation of a municipality-wide workable program for utilizing appropriate private and public resources to address the specific conditions to be improved. Such workable programs may include “provision for the prevention of the spread of blight into area of the municipality which are free from blight through diligent enforcement of housing, zoning, and occupancy controls and standards; the rehabilitation or conservation of substandard and blighted area or portions thereof by re-planning, removing congestion, providing parks, playgrounds, and other public improvements by encouraging voluntary rehabilitation and by compelling the repair and rehabilitation of deteriorated or deteriorating structures; and the clearance and redevelopment of substandard and blighted area or portions thereof.” Neb. Rev. Stat. §18-2105.



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The statutes provide a means for the governing body of a municipality to address and develop strategies for rehabilitation and redevelopment of the community. Nebraska Revised Statute §18-2105 also grants authority to the governing body to formulate a redevelopment program. The statute reads,

*The governing body of a city or an authority at its direction for the purposes of the Community Development Law may formulate for the entire municipality a workable program for utilizing appropriate private and public resources to eliminate or prevent the development or spread of urban blight, to encourage needed urban rehabilitation, to provide for the redevelopment of substandard and blighted area, or to undertake such of the aforesaid activities or other feasible municipal activities as may be suitably employed to achieve the objectives of such workable program. Such workable program may include, without limitation, provision for the prevention of the spread of blight into area of the municipality which are free from blight through diligent enforcement of housing, zoning and occupancy controls and standards; the rehabilitation or conservation of substandard or blighted area or portions thereof by replanning, removing congestion, providing parks, playgrounds, and other public improvements by encouraging voluntary rehabilitation and by compelling the repair and rehabilitation of deteriorated or deteriorating structures; and the clearance and redevelopment of substandard and blighted area or portions thereof. §18-2105*

Prior to the adoption of a redevelopment plan, a municipality must have an adopted comprehensive plan (§18-2110) and shall have declared the redevelopment area to be a substandard and blighted area in need of redevelopment (§18-2109).

The important community development terms are defined in Nebraska Revised Statute §18-2103, several of which are shown below (organization and emphasis added):

**Substandard area** means an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether nonresidential or residential in character, which, by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence, inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces, high density of population and overcrowding, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, and crime, (which cannot be remedied through construction of prisons), and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare;

**Blighted area** means an area, which.

(a) by reason of the presence of a substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures, existence of defective or inadequate street layout, faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness, insanitary or unsafe conditions, deterioration of site or other improvements, diversity of ownership, tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land, defective or unusual conditions of title, improper subdivision or obsolete platting, or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the community, retards the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability and is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use; and,

(b) in which there is at least one of the following conditions:

- (i) Unemployment in the designated area is at least one hundred twenty percent of the state or national average;
- (ii) the average age of the residential or commercial units in the area is at least forty years;

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- (iii) more than half of the plotted and subdivided property in an area is unimproved land that has been within the city for forty years and has remained unimproved during that time;*
  - (iv) the per capita income of the area is lower than the average per capita income of the city or village in which the area is designated; or*
  - (v) the area has had either stable or decreasing population based on the last two decennial censuses.*

*In no event shall a city of the metropolitan, primary, or first class designate more than thirty-five percent of the city as blighted, a city of the second class shall not designate an area larger than fifty percent of the city as blighted, and a village shall not designate an area larger than one hundred percent of the village as blighted;*



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## ***Substandard and Blight Eligibility Analysis***

### ***Designated Study Area***

The designated study area is within the corporate limits of the City of Schuyler. The designated study area was selected for a number of reasons, including:

1. The presence of blighted and substandard characteristics within the study area.
2. The potential for private development and redevelopment activities within the study area.
3. The need for improvements in infrastructure due to specific existing conditions.
4. The economical and functional obsolescence of certain properties within the study area.
5. The need for public intervention to stimulate the development and redevelopment of vital infrastructure systems and housing to support these private redevelopment efforts.

Once declared substandard and blighted, the City of Schuyler can stimulate and manage future development in this area by creation and use of the redevelopment plan and its statutory authority to provide financial incentives for private development.

Through the redevelopment process, the City of Schuyler can guide future development in the community and provide financial incentives for development. The use of the Nebraska Community Redevelopment Law by the City of Schuyler is intended to improve the community and enhance the quality of life for all residents by eliminating conditions that contribute to the spread of blight and hinder private reinvestment in the area due to these factors. Using the Nebraska Community Development Law, Schuyler can eliminate negative factors and implement programs and/or projects identified to improve conditions, thereby removing, or preventing blight and substandard conditions.

### ***Substandard and Blight Conditions***

As set forth in section 18-2103(31), **substandard area** shall mean an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether nonresidential or residential in character, which by reason of the following:

**1. Dilapidation/deterioration\***

Exterior inspection of buildings to note deficiencies (sound, minor, major, dilapidated)

- Examples include structural (walls, foundation, roof), building systems (gutters, roof surface, chimney), and architectural systems (fire escapes, weatherization, steps, exterior paint, site conditions).

**2. Age or obsolescence**

Estimate age of structures (40+ years criteria)

**3. Inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces**

Overall sight conditions

- Examples include junked cars or debris, cluttered alleyways, antiquated infrastructure systems (overhead power lines), outdoor storage/sanitation facilities, unpaved parking/outdoor storage.

**4. Other substandard conditions**

- (a) High density of population and overcrowding (census); or
- (b) The existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes as unsanitary and unsafe conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other natural causes floodplain; or
- (c) Any combination of such factors is conducive to ill health, transmission of disease, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency, and crime; is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare (includes sanitation concerns,

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inadequate infrastructure systems (sewer, water service mains, storm sewers), poor lighting, crime statistics, floodplain area, outdoor storage, site clutter).

As set forth in the Community Development Law, a **blighted area** shall mean an area, which by reason of the presence of:

1. **A substantial number of deteriorated or deteriorating structures\***  
Exterior inspection of buildings to note deficiencies (sound, minor, major, dilapidated)
  - Examples include structural (walls, foundation, roof), building systems (gutters, roof surface, chimney), and architectural systems (fire escapes, weatherization, steps, exterior paint, site conditions).
2. **Existence of defective or inadequate street layout**  
Condition of streets/inadequate access including sidewalks
  - Examples include street conditions, dead ends, railroad crossings, linear downtown, narrow alleyways, blind crossings, and sidewalk conditions.
3. **Faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness**  
Conditions associated with accessibility/usefulness of the lots.
  - Examples include land locked parcels, odd shaped lots, undersized lots, lots with accessibility concerns.
4. **Unsanitary or unsafe conditions**  
Conditions which pose a threat to public health and safety
  - Examples include age and physical condition of structures, floodplain, lack of public infrastructure systems, unsanitary conditions, ventilation concerns.
5. **Deterioration of site or other improvements**  
Field observation of age and condition of public utilities, debris, and inadequate public improvements
  - Examples include lack of off-street parking, storm drainage, junk cars, dilapidated structures, debris, on-site storage, congested overhead power lines.
6. **Diversity of ownership**  
The total number of unduplicated owners
  - Examples include the necessity of to acquire numerous lots is a hindrance to redevelopment. However, land assemblage of larger proportions necessary for major developments, is more economically feasible and will attract financial support, as well as public patronage required to repay such financial support. Such assemblage is difficult without public intervention.
7. **Tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land**  
Examination of public records to determine the status of taxation of properties.
  - Examples include delinquent taxes, real estate taxes or special assessments exceeding the fair market value.
8. **Defective or unusual conditions of title**  
Examine public records to determine any defective or unusual title defects.
  - Examples include improper filings, lines, defective titles, etc.
9. **Improper subdivision or obsolete platting**  
Examine public records to determine improper subdivision and obsolete platting

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- Examples include undersized lots, improper zoning, lot configuration, easement concerns, never recorded vacated streets, accessibility concerns.

**10. The existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire or other causes**

Examine conditions which endanger life or property.

- Examples include inadequate, undersized, or inoperative public infrastructure systems, floodplain, building materials, site access, on-site storage (cars), secluded area for pests and vermin to thrive, inadequate surface drainage, street/sidewalk conditions, etc.

**11. Any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the community, hinders the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability**

Economic and/or socially undesirable land uses

- Examples include incompatible land uses, economic obsolescence, functional obsolescence which relates to the property's ability to compete in the marketplace.

**12. Is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use; and in which there is at least one of the following conditions:**

- (a) Unemployment in the designated blighted area is at least one hundred twenty percent of the state or national average (Census statistics);
- (b) The average age of the residential or commercial units in the area is at least 40 years (Public Records);
- (c) More than half of the plotted and subdivided property in the area is unimproved land that has been within the city for 40 years and has remained unimproved during that time (Public records);
- (d) The per capita income of the designated blighted area is lower than the average per capita income of the city or village in which the area is designated (Census); or
- (e) The area has had either stable or decreasing population based on the last two decennial censuses (Census).

\*Where structural conditions are evaluated, individual structures are rated in accordance with the following rating schedule as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: no problem, adequate condition, deteriorating condition, or dilapidated condition. The following descriptions define the rating schedule used to assess and evaluate building and structure conditions:

**No Problem**

No structural or aesthetic problems are visible.

**Adequate Condition**

- Slight damage to porches, steps, roofs, etc. is present on the structure,
- Slight wearing away of mortar between bricks, stones, or concrete blocks,
- Small cracks in walls or chimneys,
- Cracked windows,
- Lack of paint, and
- Slight wear on steps, doors, and door and window frames.

**Deteriorating Condition**

- Holes, open cracks, rotted, loose, or missing materials in parts of the foundation, walls, (up to one-quarter of the wall), or roof (up to one-quarter of roof),
- Shaky, broken, or missing steps or railings,
- Numerous missing and cracked windowpanes,

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- Some rotted or loose windows or doors (no longer wind- or waterproof),
  - Missing bricks or other masonry of chimney, and
  - Makeshift (un-insulated) chimney.

**Dilapidated Condition**

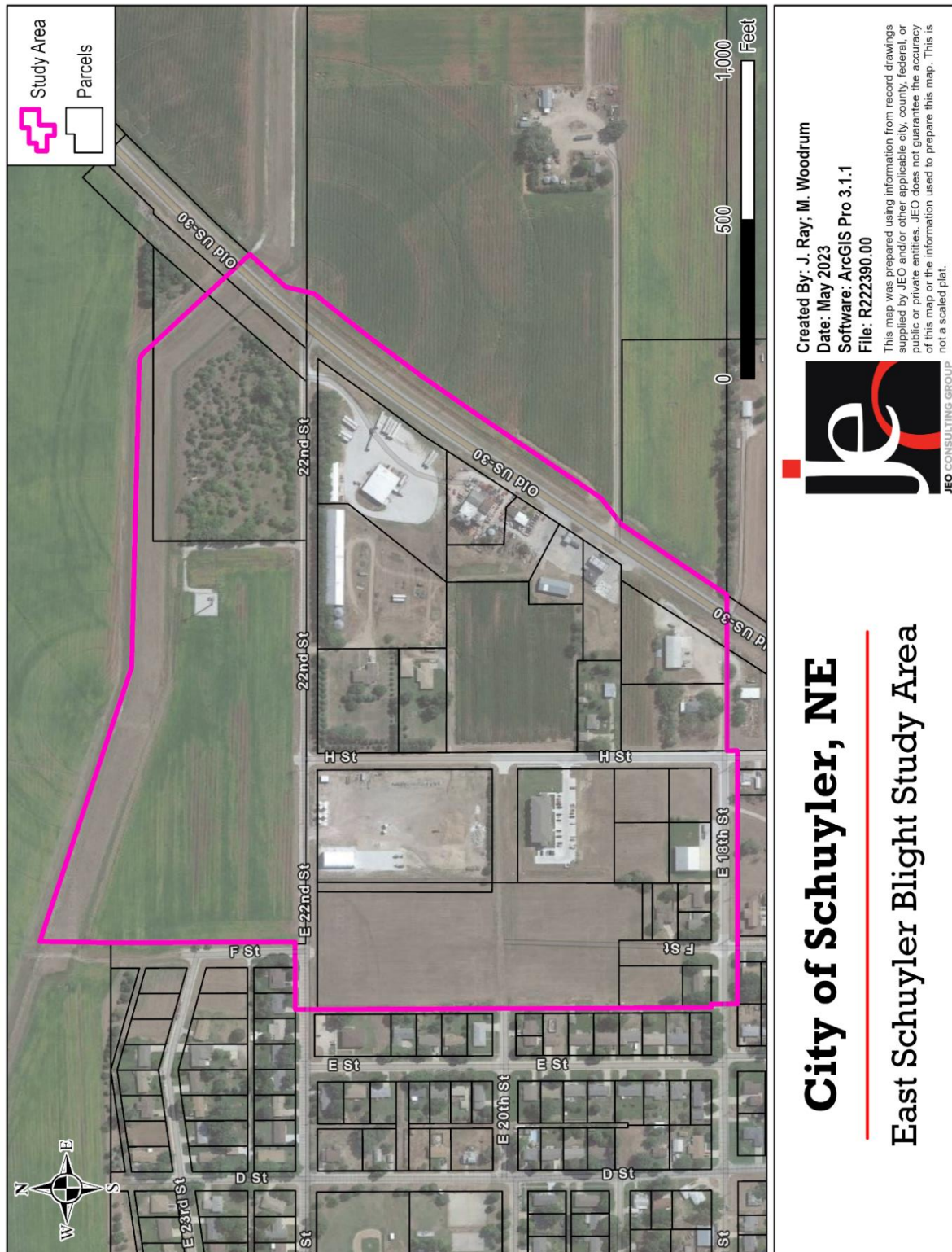
- Holes, open cracks, or rotted, loose or missing material (siding, shingles, brick, concrete, tiles, plaster, floorboards) over large area of foundation, on walls or on roof,
- Substantial sagging of roof, floors, or walls,
- Extensive damage by fire, flood, or storm, and
- Inadequate original construction such as makeshift walls, roofs made of scrap materials, foundations or floors lacking, or converted barns, sheds, and other structures not adequate for housing.



## **Designated Study Area**

The study area as identified can be found in Figure 1. For this study, the study area will be known as the “East Schuyler Study Area” which was reviewed for substandard and blight characteristics.

Figure 1: Designated Study Area



## **Recommended Blight and Substandard Area**

Based upon the review of the designated study area, and its context with the community, JEO Consulting Group recommends the designated study area be recommended as a Blight and Substandard Area. This area consists of approximately 82.95 acres. The following legal description delineates the Recommended Area

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK "A", EASTRIDGE ADDITION; THENCE EAST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF EAST 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET, A DISTANCE OF 820 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EAST LINE OF "H" STREET; THENCE NORTH ON THE EAST LINE OF "H" STREET, A DISTANCE OF 40 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTH LINE OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 3 EAST OF THE SIXTH P.M.; THENCE EAST ON SAID SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 500 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF OLD HIGHWAY 30; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ON SAID EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 1850 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE CENTERLINE OF THE SCHUYLER LEVEE; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ON SAID LEVEE CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 2200 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE EAST LINE OF "F" STREET; THENCE SOUTH ON THE EAST LINE OF "F" STREET AND IT'S NORTHERLY EXTENSION, A DISTANCE OF 800 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE NORTH LINE OF EAST 22<sup>ND</sup> STREET; THENCE WEST ON SAID NORTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 228 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 14, BLOCK "A", NORTH PARK 1<sup>ST</sup> ADDITION; THENCE SOUTH, A DISTANCE OF 66 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK "A", MARES 1<sup>ST</sup> ADDITION; THENCE SOUTH ON THE EAST LINE OF LOTS 1 THROUGH 5 INCLUSIVE, OF SAID BLOCK "A", A DISTANCE OF 560 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 5; THENCE SOUTH, A DISTANCE OF 80 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK "B", MARES 1<sup>ST</sup> ADDITION; THENCE SOUTH ON THE EAST LINE OF LOTS 1 THROUGH 8 INCLUSIVE OF SAID BLOCK "B", A DISTANCE OF 610 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 8; THENCE SOUTH, A DISTANCE OF 80 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.



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## **Findings and Contributing Factors**

The intent of this study is to determine whether the Schuyler East Blight Study Area within the community has experienced structural and site deterioration or if there are other negative factors which are decreasing the development potential for the area. The field survey conducted on May 17, 2023, indicated the study area has such deterioration or lack of municipal infrastructure, thus the study area warrants further examination regarding blighted and substandard conditions. The following factors were evaluated to determine if there is a reasonable presence of blight and substandard conditions within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area.

This section reviews the building and structure conditions, infrastructure, site conditions and land use found within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area based upon the statutory definitions, the planning team's observations during the field survey, and explains the identified contributing factors. See *Appendix A* for a visual description of the site conditions, debris, condition of public infrastructure, deteriorating structures and other observed conditions within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area.

### **BLIGHTED CRITERIA CONDITIONS**

As set forth in the Nebraska legislation, a **blighted area** shall mean an area, which by reason of the presence of:

#### **Substantial Number of Deteriorated or Deteriorating Structures**

Each parcel within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area was examined for the structural conditions. A total of 20 structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated. The structure condition ratings are illustrated in Figure 2. With almost half of the structures receiving a deteriorating or dilapidated rating, this is considered a contributing factor.

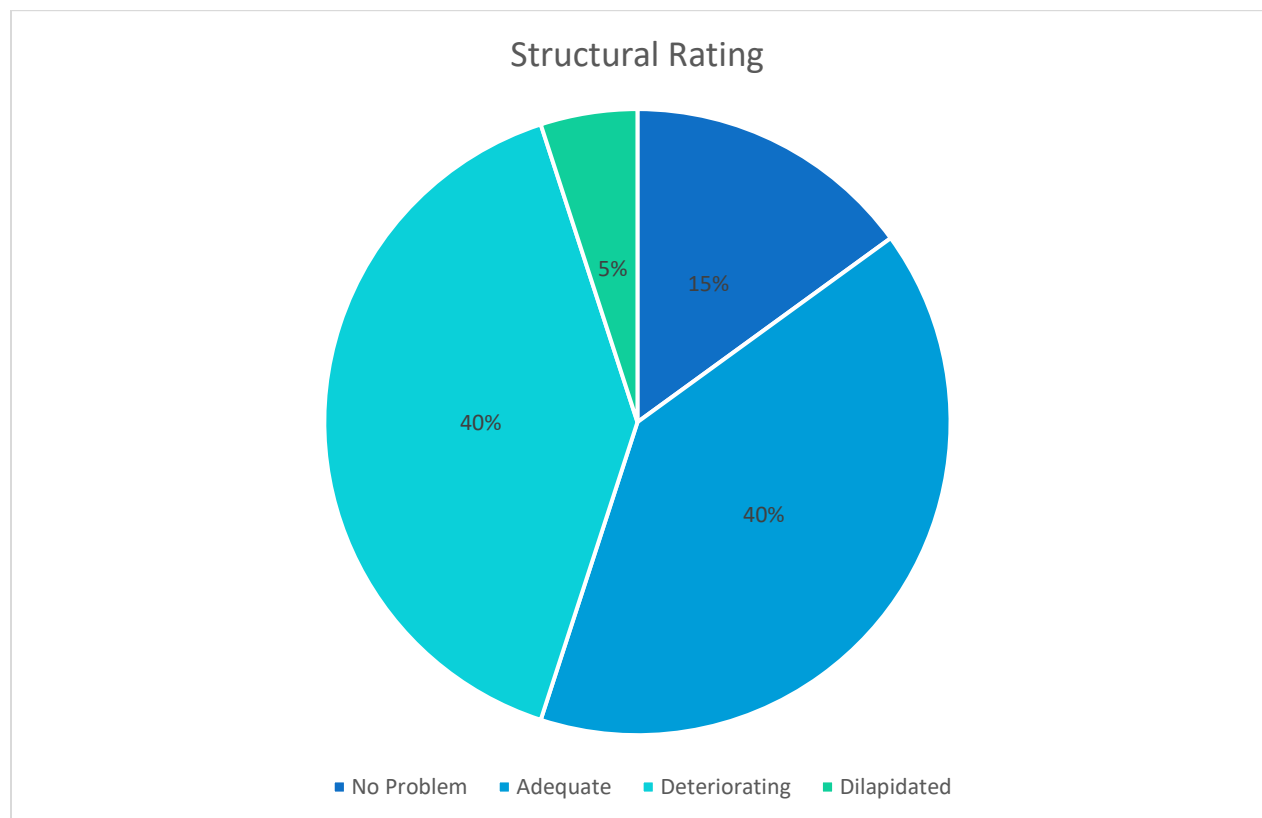
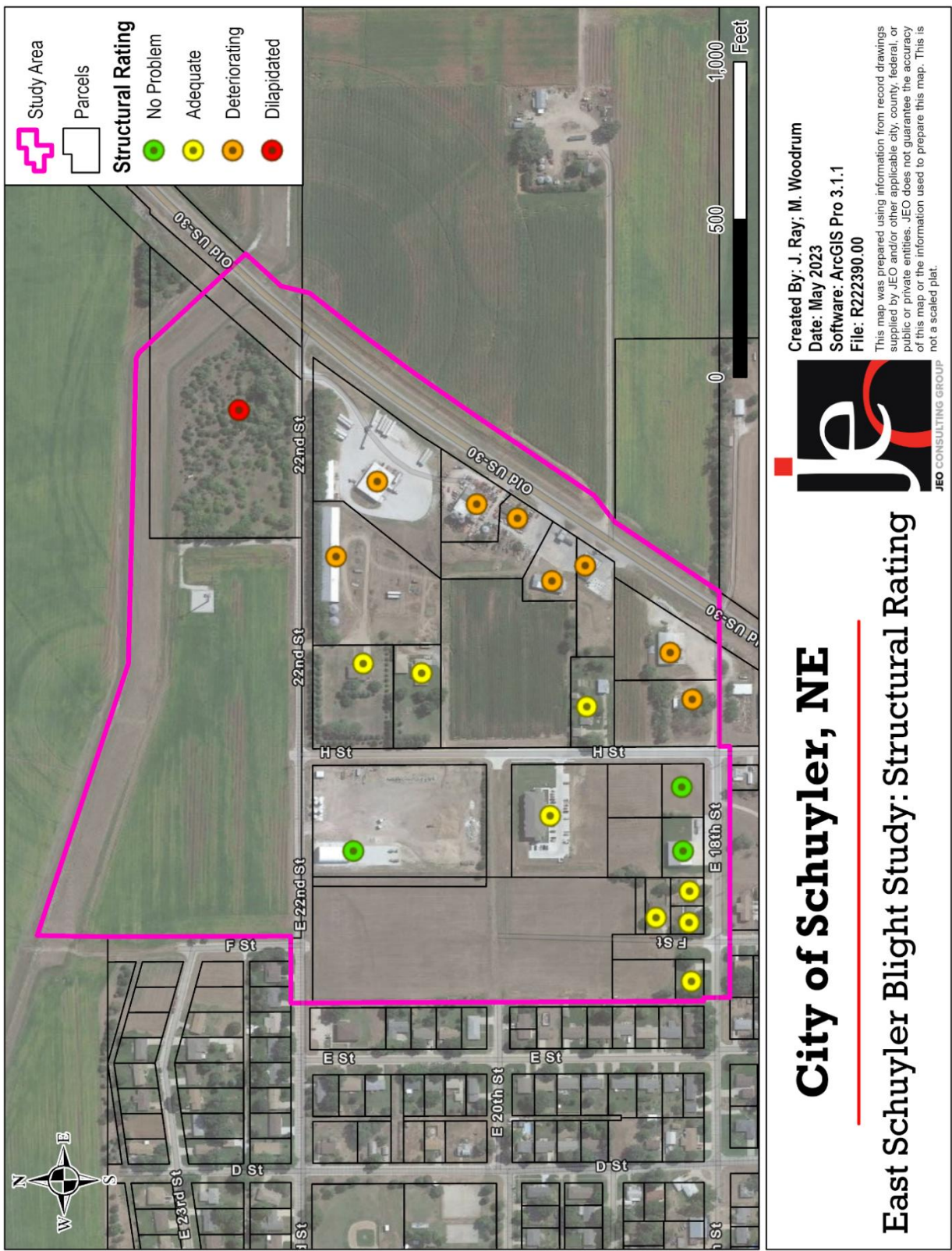


Figure 2: Structural Conditions



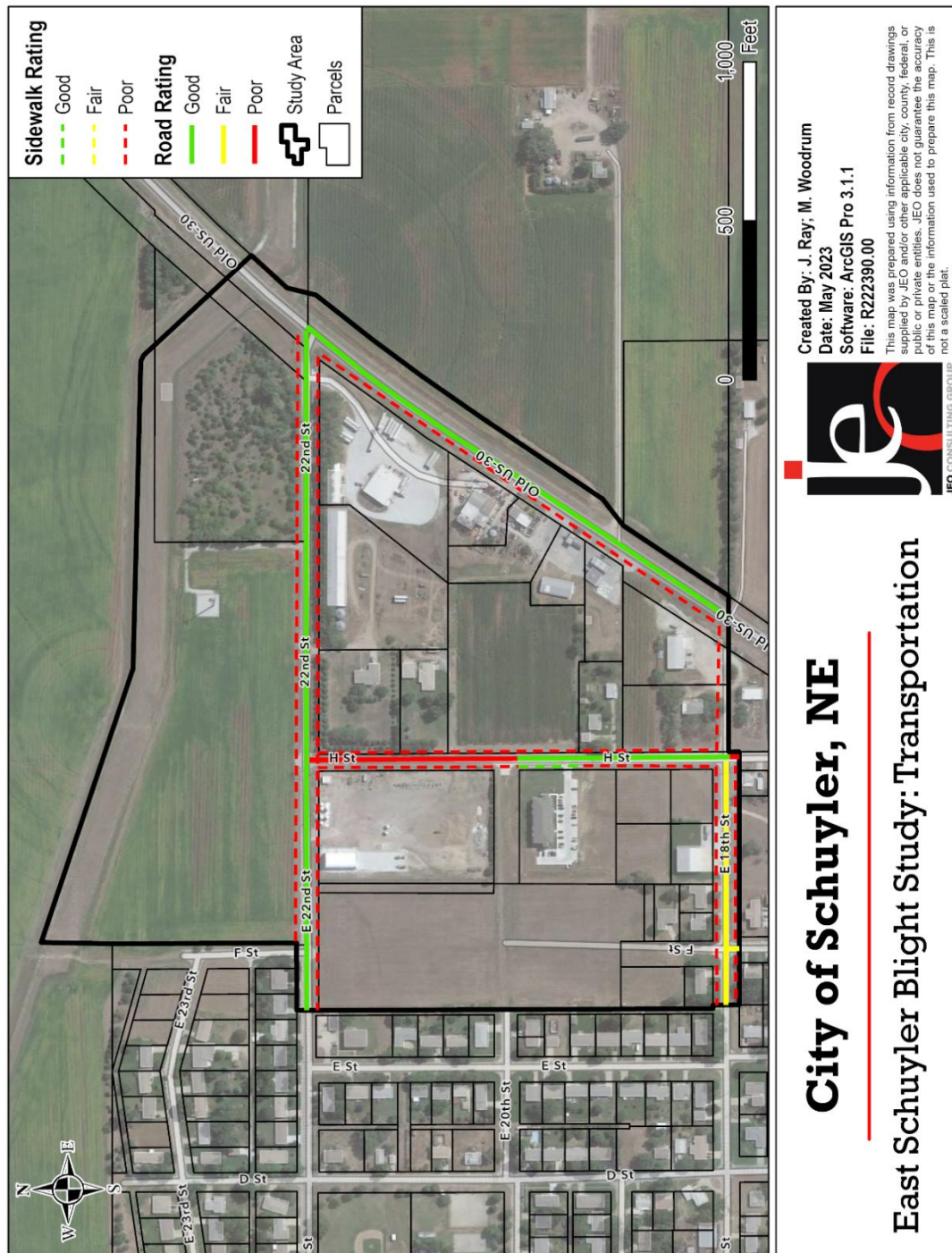


## Defective or Inadequate Street Layout

### **Street Conditions and Accessibility**

Street conditions and accessibility within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area were evaluated in relation to the provision of safe and efficient public circulation and access, and with regard to ease of travel and appearance. The noted deficiencies are missing portions or incomplete streets; limited urban grid pattern or connectivity, unpaved and undeveloped roads, portions of streets without curb and gutter or a road shoulder and the lack of sidewalks in the area. The transportation infrastructure conditions are illustrated in Figure 3. The street conditions are considered a contributing factor.

**Figure 3: Transportation Conditions**



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**Faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness**

Throughout the Schuyler East Blight Study Area, the lot sizes and shapes vary. Parcels are irregularly shaped with acute angles, too large and need additional subdivisions, a disconnected area of a large parcel due to the flood control structure, land locked lots which lack developed street access. Overall, this factor is considered to be contributing to the recommended blight designation.

**Unsanitary or unsafe conditions**

*Conditions which pose a threat to public health and safety*

**Debris**

Debris piles were noted in the field analysis in 5 locations. This along with heavily wooded areas can contribute to fire hazards or harboring rodents and vermin as well as pose a potential mosquito breeding area to spread disease.

**Sidewalks**

The study area lacks sidewalks that safely allow for pedestrian movement through the site or connecting to adjacent uses.

**Land Use**

Within the study area Industrial and residential land uses are mixed and lack separation. The character of the industrial uses can expose residents to noise, air, dust, and light pollution as well as truck traffic.

**Age of Structures**

Structures constructed prior to 1978 may contain lead-based paint which can pose health and human development risks to children with chipping or peeling. This includes the drive-in movie theater parcel which contains several derelict accessory structures.

**Structural Condition**

A total of 20 structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated.

As a result, this factor is considered to be contributing to the recommended blight designation.

**Deterioration of site or other improvements**

**Sidewalks**

The lack of sidewalks, including accessible crosswalks, inhibits pedestrian movement through the study area.

**Drainage**

The condition of public streets without curb and gutter as well as erosion were noted in numerous locations during the field analysis. Culverts were noted with diminished capacity due to silting or structure damage from vehicles.

**Driveways or Parking Areas**

The majority of the private driveways or parking areas were noted as unimproved or not improved for all-weather access.

**Structural Condition**

A total of 20 structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated.

As a result, this factor is considered to be contributing to the recommended blight designation.

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### **Diversity of ownership**

The diversity of ownership was not evident in the Schuyler East Blight Study Area. There are 16 unique private property owners in the Schuyler East Blight Study Area. Thus, this is considered a contributing factor.

### **Improper subdivision or obsolete platting**

#### **Obsolete platting**

Throughout the Schuyler East Blight Study Area, the lot sizes and shapes vary. Blocks are large and exceed 1,200 feet in length without a cross street constructed. Parcels have disconnected areas due to the flood control structure. There are land locked lots which lack developed street access.

As a result, this factor is considered to be contributing to the recommended blight designation.

### **The existence of conditions which endanger life or property.**

*Conditions which pose a threat to public health and safety*

#### **Debris**

Debris piles were noted in the field analysis in 5 locations. This along with heavily wooded areas can contribute to fire hazards or harboring rodents and vermin as well as pose a potential mosquito breeding area to spread disease.

#### **Sidewalks**

The study area lacks sidewalks that safely allow for pedestrian movement through the site or connecting to adjacent uses.

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Within the study area Industrial and residential land uses are mixed and lack separation. The character of the industrial uses can expose residents to noise, air, dust, and light pollution as well as truck traffic.

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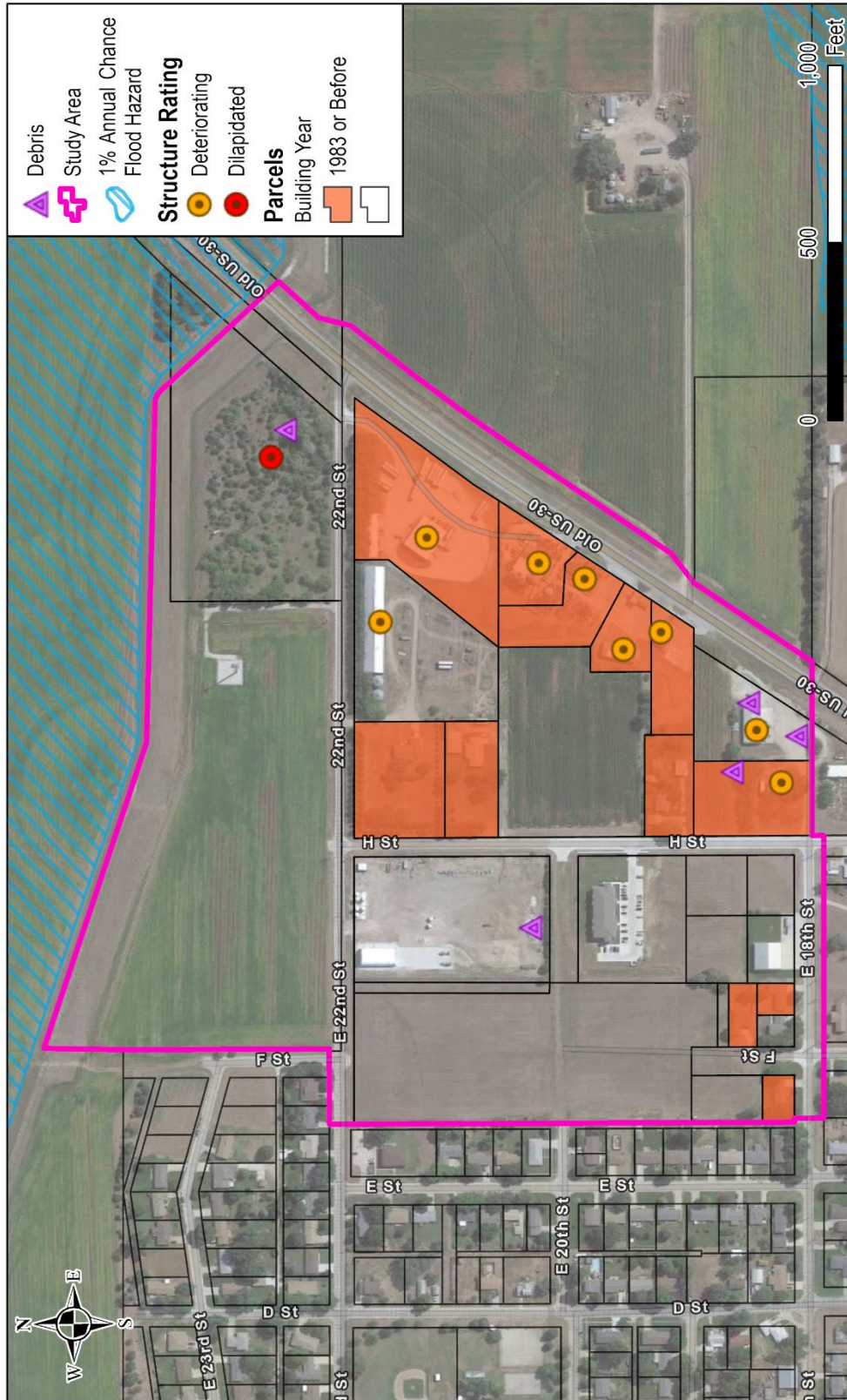
#### **Structural Condition**

A total of 20 structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated.

As a result, this factor is considered to be contributing to the recommended blight designation.



Figure 4: Potential Hazards of Site



Created By: J. Ray; M. Woodrum

Date: May 2023

Software: ArcGIS Pro 3.1.1

File: R222390.00

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# City of Schuyler, NE

## East Schuyler Blight Study:

### Potential Hazards

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**Any combination of such factors that substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the community, retards the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability.**

Many conditions or factors were observed in the field analysis that could impair sound growth of the community.

**Debris**

Debris piles were noted in the field analysis in five locations. This along with heavily wooded areas can contribute to fire hazards or harboring rodents and vermin as well as pose a potential mosquito breeding area to spread disease.

**Sidewalks**

The study area lacks sidewalks that safely allow for pedestrian movement through the site or connecting to adjacent uses.

**Land Use**

Within the study area Industrial and residential land uses are mixed and lack separation. The character of the industrial uses can expose residents to noise, air, dust, and light pollution as well as truck traffic.

**Age of Structures**

Structures constructed prior to 1978 may contain lead-based paint which can pose health and human development risks to children with chipping or peeling. This includes the drive-in movie theater parcel which contains several derelict accessory structures.

**Structural Condition**

A total of twenty structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated.

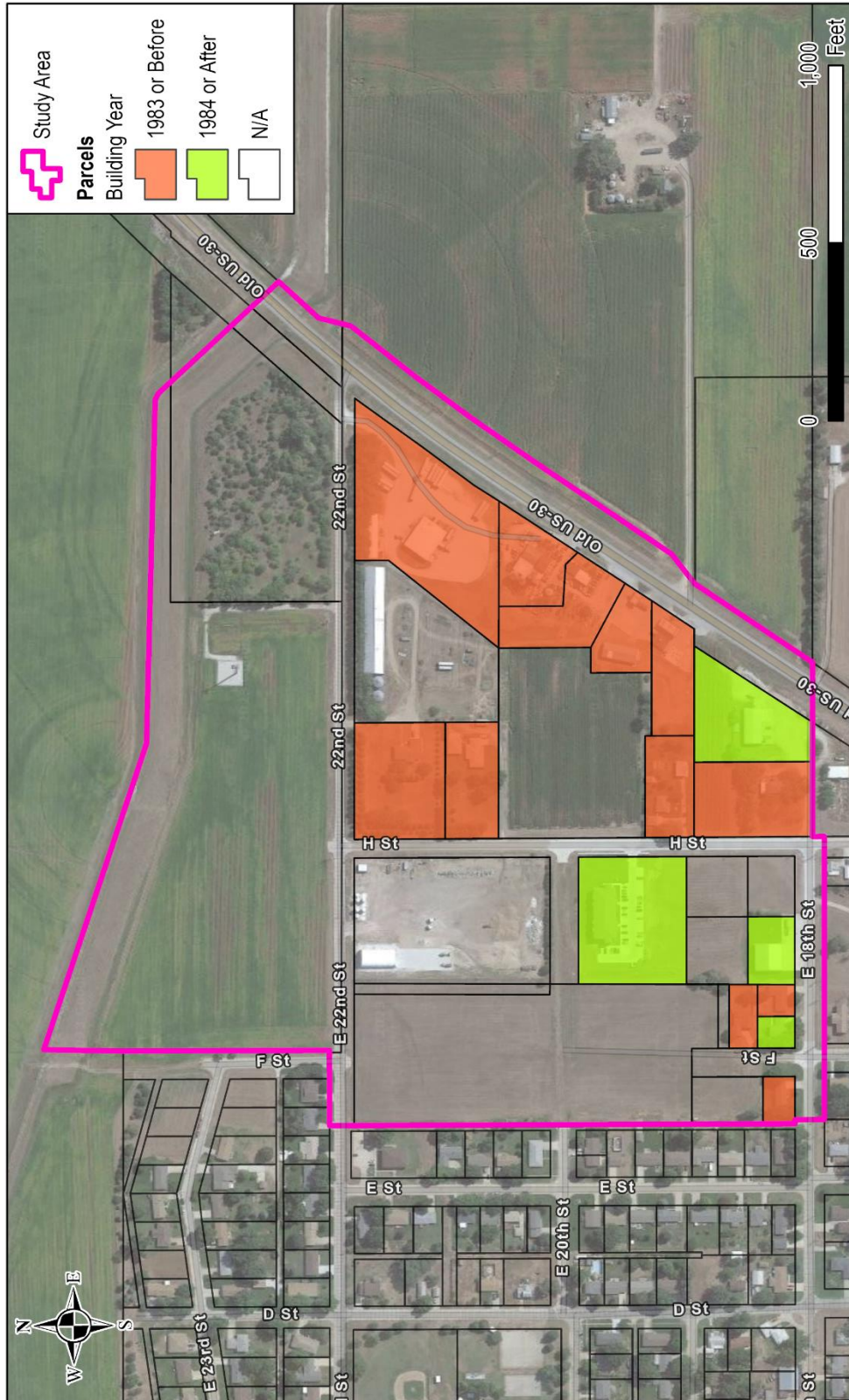
As a result, it is considered a substantial contributor to the Schuyler East Blight Study Area to be considered blighted.

**Is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or welfare in its present condition and use; and in which there is at least one of the following conditions:**

The average age of the residential structures in the area is at least 40 years. The average age of the documented structures is 46 years (1977). Thus, this is considered a contributing factor.



Figure 5: Age of Structure



Created By: J. Ray; M. Woodrum

Date: May 2023

Software: ArcGIS Pro 3.1.1

File: R222390.00

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# City of Schuyler, NE

## East Schuyler Blight Study: Age of Structures



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## **SUBSTANDARD CRITERIA**

A **substandard area** shall mean an area in which there is a predominance of buildings or improvements, whether nonresidential or residential in character, which by reason of the following:

### **Dilapidation/deterioration**

As part of the Blight and Substandard Study, a Structural Conditions Survey was completed along with an analysis of the land-use patterns in the Schuyler East Blight Study Area.

A total of twenty structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated. This is considered a contributing factor.

### **Age or obsolescence**

Information regarding the age of the permanent structures within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area was provided by the Colfax County Assessor's Office. The average age of the documented structures is **46** years (1977)..In addition, the study area contains obsolete structures and land uses. This is considered a contributing factor.

### **Inadequate provision for ventilation, light, air, sanitation, or open spaces**

#### **Poor Drainage and Sanitation**

The Schuyler East Blight Study Area contains limited areas of street connectivity with storm drainage. However, this is not considered significant to be considered a predominate factor.

### **Other Substandard Conditions**

#### ***The existence of conditions which endanger life or property.***

##### **Age of Structures**

Structures constructed prior to 1978 may contain lead-based paint which can pose health and human development risks to children with chipping or peeling. A total of eight of the 16 structures were constructed prior to 1978.

##### **Debris**

Debris piles were noted in the field analysis in five locations. This along with heavily wooded areas can contribute to fire hazards or harboring rodents and vermin as well as pose a potential mosquito breeding area to spread disease.

##### **Sidewalks**

The study area lacks sidewalks that safely allow for pedestrian movement through the site or connecting to adjacent uses.

##### **Land Use**

Within the study area Industrial and residential land uses are mixed and lack separation. The character of the industrial uses can expose residents to noise, air, dust, and light pollution as well as truck traffic.

##### **Age of Structures**

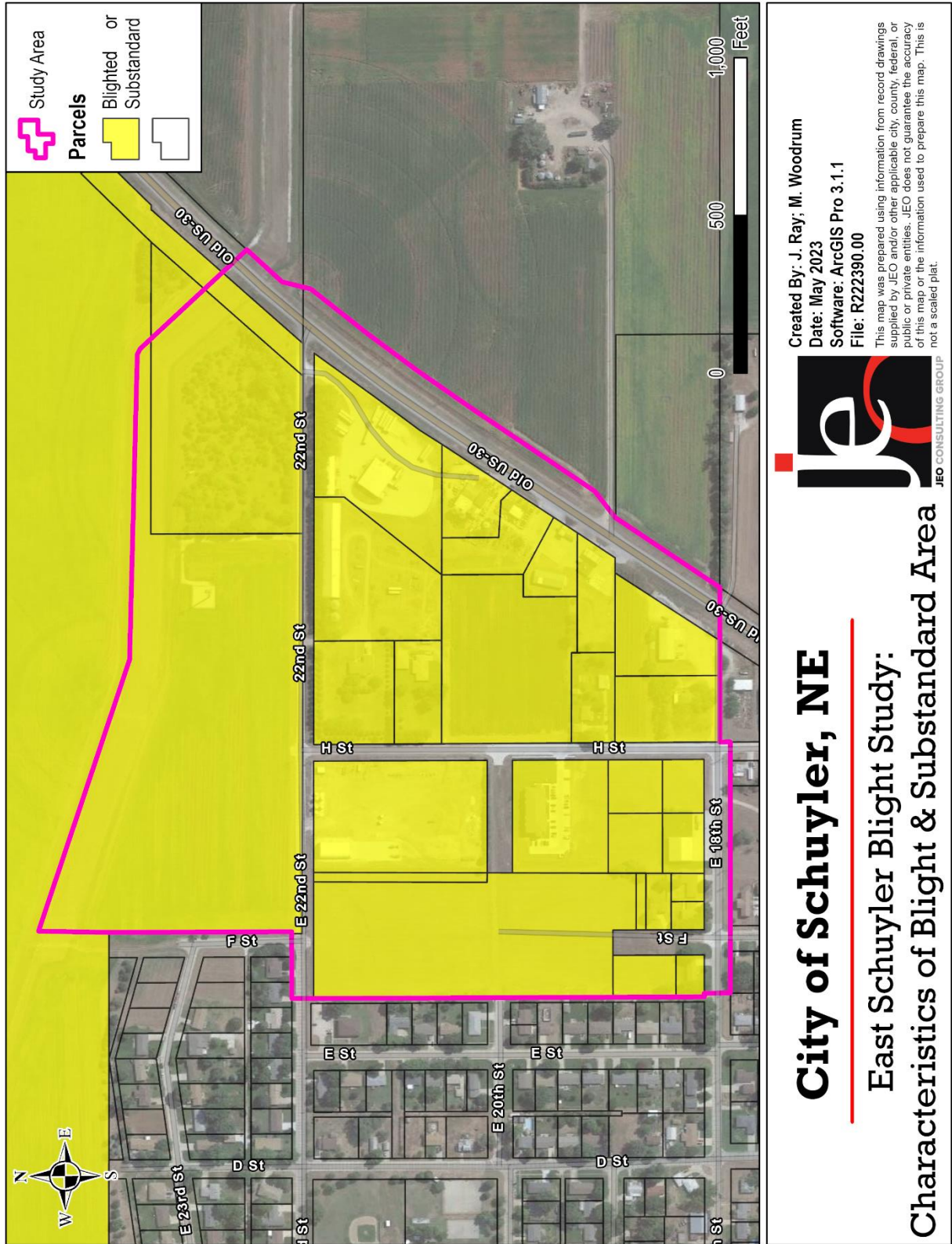
Structures constructed prior to 1978 may contain lead-based paint which can pose health and human development risks to children with chipping or peeling. This includes the drive-in movie theater parcel which contains several derelict accessory structures.

##### **Structural Condition**

A total of twenty structures were evaluated and 9 or 45% of the structures within the designated study area were graded as deteriorating or dilapidated.

As a result, this condition is considered to be contributing to the recommended blight designation.

Figure 6: Parcels Showing Blight and Substandard Criteria



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## **Blighted and Substandard Findings**

The Schuyler East Blight Study Area has many items contributing to the blight and substandard conditions. Based on the information collected and analyzed pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes, the area has assorted items that were considered beyond the remedy and control of the normal regulatory process of the City of Schuyler or impossible to reverse through the ordinary operations of private enterprise. These conditions include:

**Table 1: Summary Matrix**

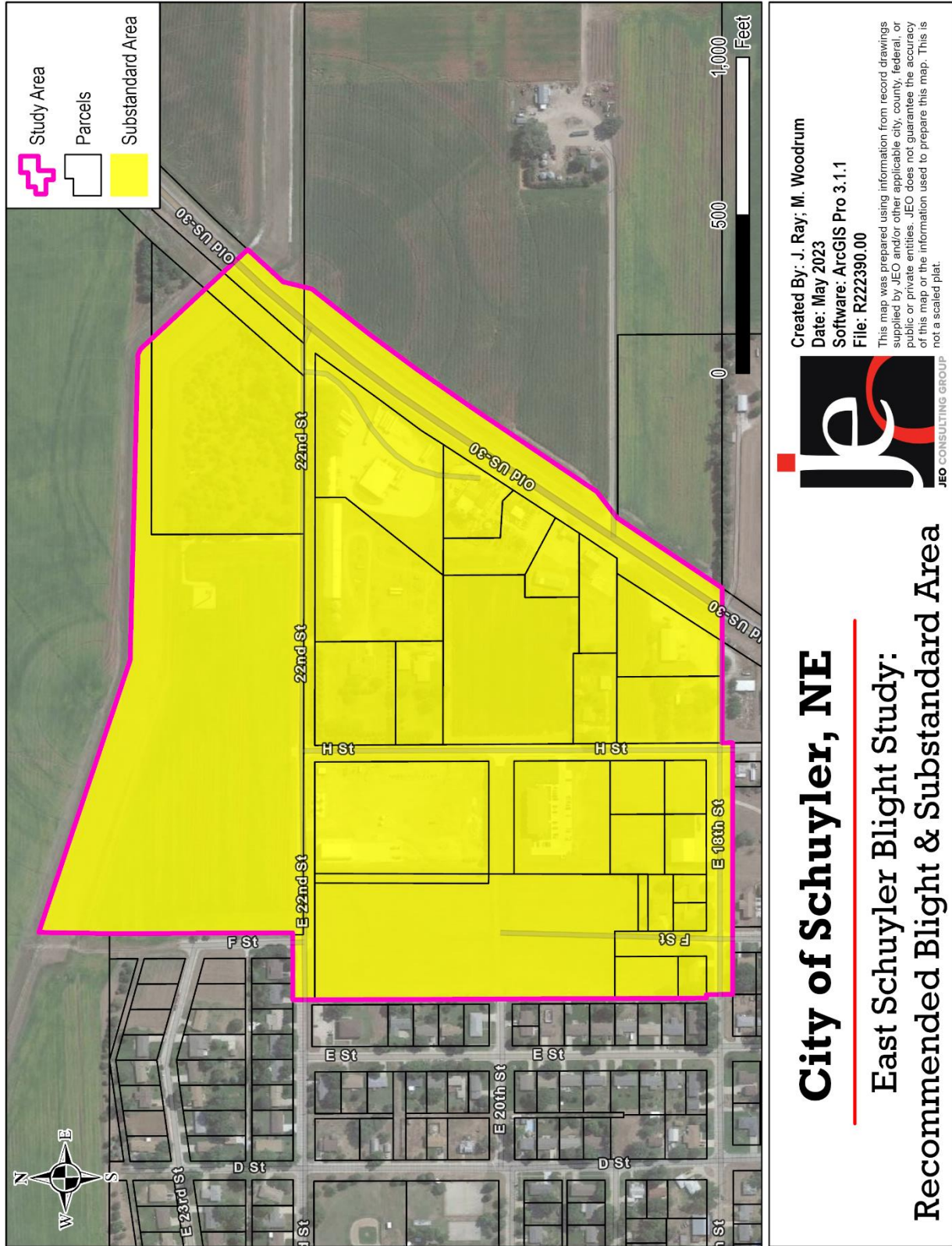
<b>Criteria</b>	
Structure condition	Yes
Street layout	Yes
Faulty lot layout	Yes
Unsanitary or unsafe conditions	Yes
Deterioration of site	Yes
Diversity of owners	Yes
Tax special assessment	No
Title conditions	No
Obsolete platting	Yes
Endanger life/property	Yes
Any combination	Yes
Age of Structure	Yes
<b>BLIGHT TOTALS</b>	<b>10/12</b>
Exterior inspection of structures	Yes
Age of structures	Yes
Inadequate provision for ventilation, sanitation	No
Other Substandard – (conducive to ill health, floodplain, endanger life)	Yes
<b>SUBSTANDARD TOTALS</b>	<b>3/4</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13/16</b>

## **Conclusion**

Several conditions within the Schuyler East Blight Study Area were observed during the field survey which warrants a designation as blighted and substandard. The conditions showing evidence of blight are interspersed throughout the Schuyler East Blight Study Area, and as such, parcels within the boundaries of the Schuyler East Blight Study Area are recommended for further action.

It is the professional opinion of the consultant, based on the information collected and analyzed pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes, that the Schuyler East Blight Study Area contains the required conditions that would warrant a designation as blighted and substandard by the City of Schuyler and the Community Development Agency. The city should review this Blight and Substandard Study, and if satisfied with the findings contained in this study, may, by resolution, designate the Schuyler East Blight Study Area as “Blighted and Substandard” as provided for in the Community Development Law.

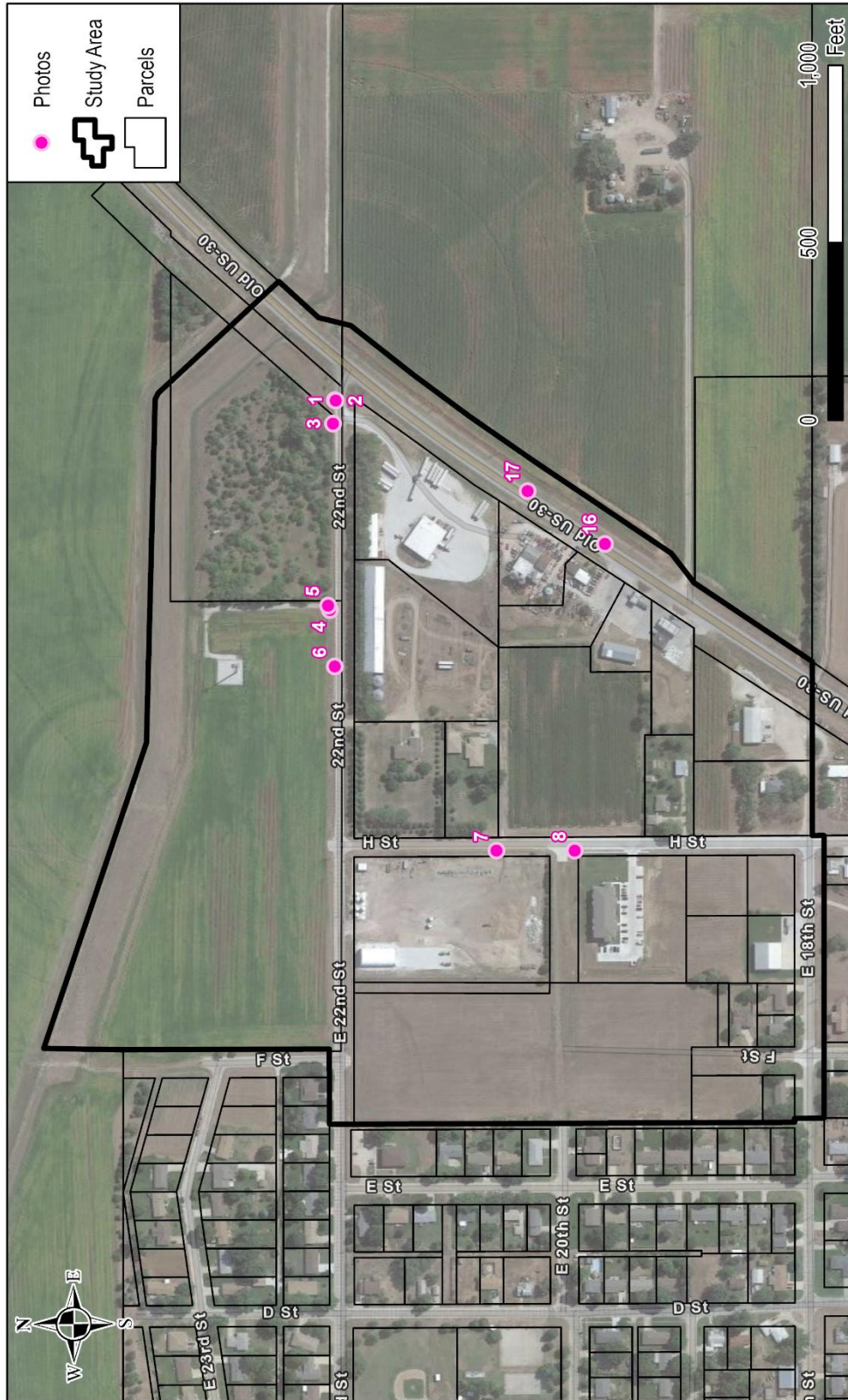
Figure 7 Recommended Blight and Substandard Designation



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## Appendix A Photo Exhibit





# City of Schuyler, NE

## East Schuyler Blight Study:

### Photo Guide



Created By: J. Ray, M. Woodrum  
 Date: May 2023  
 Software: ArcGIS Pro 3.1.1  
 File: R222390.00

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Location 1



Location 2







Location 3





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Location 4



Location 5









Location 6



Location 7



Location 7









Location 8



Location 16





Location 17

