

# Olmsted County

Southwest Regional  
Development Commission

November 27, 2023



*Delivering sustainable resource management solutions  
for the community*

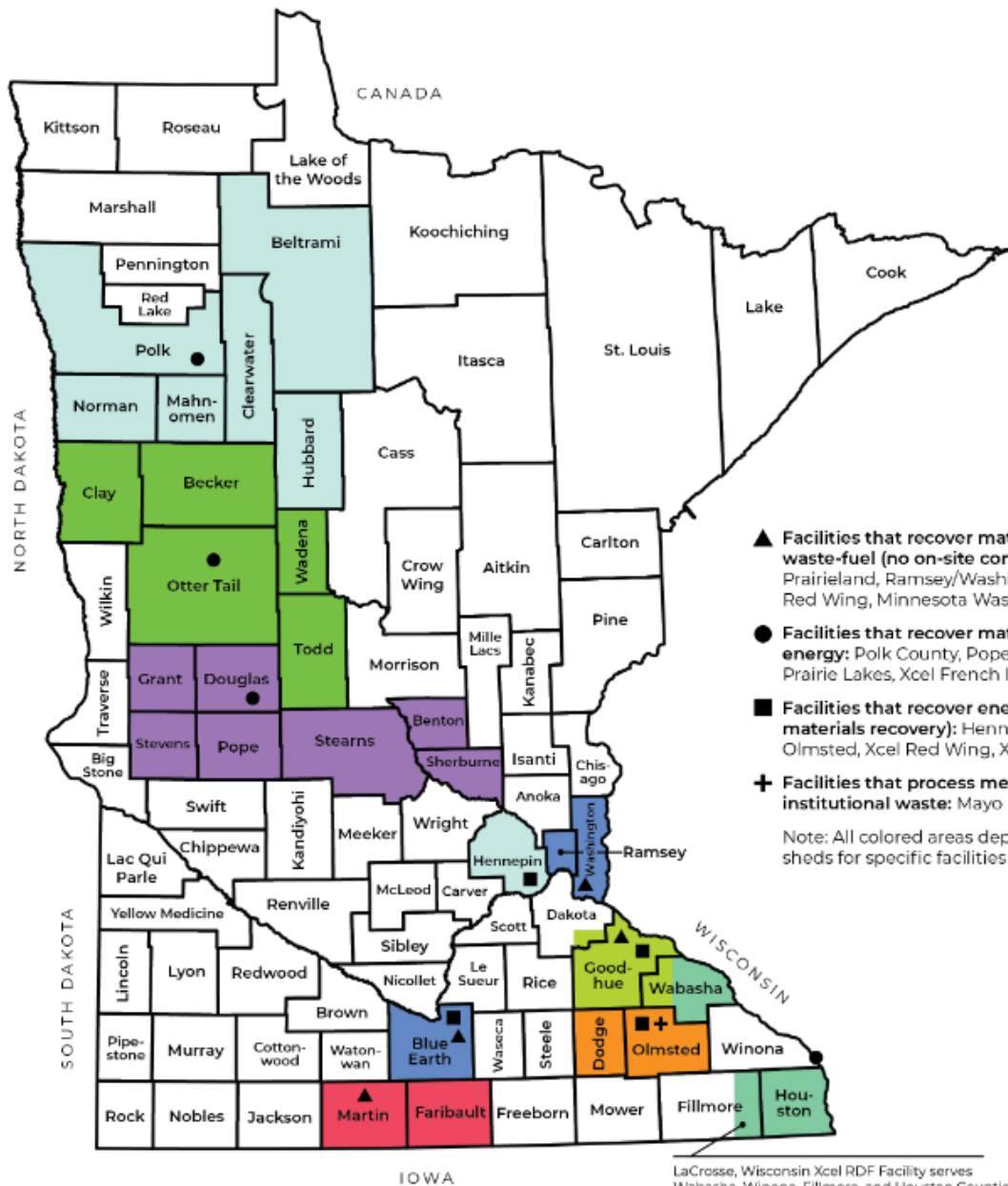
- **Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA)**

- Comprises of both public and private organizations that represents resource recovery facilities across Minnesota.
- MRRA facilities manage solid waste locally by keeping trash from entering landfills and using the waste as a resource to produce power for our communities.



# Minnesota Resource Recovery Facilities and Service Areas

Updated: October 2022



- ▲ Facilities that recover materials and produce waste-fuel (no on-site combustion):  
Prairieland, Ramsey/Washington, City of Red Wing, Minnesota Waste Processing
  - Facilities that recover materials and produce energy: Polk County, Pope-Douglas, Prairie Lakes, Xcel French Island
  - Facilities that recover energy (no on-site materials recovery): Hennepin Energy, Olmsted, Xcel Red Wing, Xcel Mankato
  - + Facilities that process medical and institutional waste: Mayo
- Note: All colored areas depict waste sheds for specific facilities

## Combined MRF & WtE Plants

- **Polk County Facility:** Polk, Beltrami, Norman, Mahnommen and Clearwater counties.  
Contact: Jon Steiner
- **Pope-Douglas Facility:** Grant, Douglas, Pope, Stevens, Benton and Sherburne counties.  
Contact: Steve Vrchota
- **Prairie Lakes Facility:** Clay, Becker, Ottertail, Wadena and Todd counties.  
Contact: Chris McConn
- **Xcel French Island:** Wabasha, Winona, Houston and Fillmore counties.  
Contact: Brian Schmidt

## WtE & Bio-Medical Only Plants (no MRF)

- **HERC:** Hennepin county. Contact: Dave McNary
- **Mayo Facility:** Olmsted county.  
Contact: Wade Schweinefus
- **Olmsted Facility:** Olmsted and Dodge counties.  
Contact: Tony Hill
- **Xcel Red Wing Facility:** see Ramsey/Washington R&EF and Prairieland.  
Contact: Brian Schmidt.
- **Xcel Mankato Facility:** see Ramsey/Washington R&EF and Prairieland.  
Contact: Brian Schmidt

## MRF/RDF Only

- **Minnesota Waste Processing:**  
Contact: Steve Metz
- **Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy Facility:** Ramsey and Washington counties.  
Contact: Dave Brummel and Michael Reed
- **City of Red Wing Facility:** Goodhue, Wabasha and Olmsted counties. Contact: Jeff Schneider
- **Prairieland Facility:** Jackson, Martin and Faribault counties. Contact: Billeye Rabbi

LaCrosse, Wisconsin Xcel RDF Facility serves Wabasha, Winona, Fillmore, and Houston Counties.



- **Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) Board**

- Chris McConn, Prairie Lakes
- Steve Vrchota, Pope-Douglas
- Michael Reed, Ramsey County
- David Brummel, Washington County
- Dave McNary, Hennepin County
- Jon Steiner, Polk County
- Jared Graham, Xcel Energy
- Tony Hill, Olmsted County



- **Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA)**

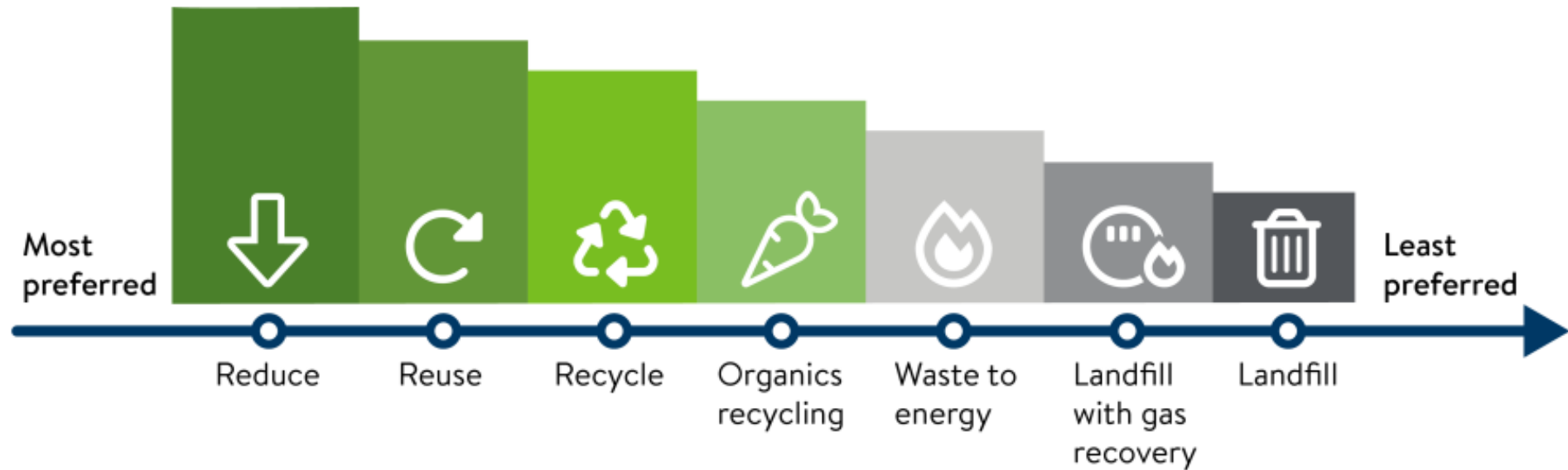
- **Mission** - To safely operate resource recovery facilities using state-of-the-art technology solutions that are part of integrated solid waste programs that protect the environment, people, and the economy.
- **Vision** – To promote a zero-waste society that advocates for reducing waste, sustainably reusing resources and less landfilling.



WASTE TO ENERGY

- **Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA)**

### Minnesota's waste management hierarchy



- **Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA)**

- **Manage over 1 million tons of trash** each year that would otherwise be landfilled
- **Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nearly one ton per ton** of processed trash
- Methane, produced trash in landfills is 28-36x more harmful over 100 years to the environment
- Counties with resource recovery facilities have the **highest rates for recycling and composting in the state**



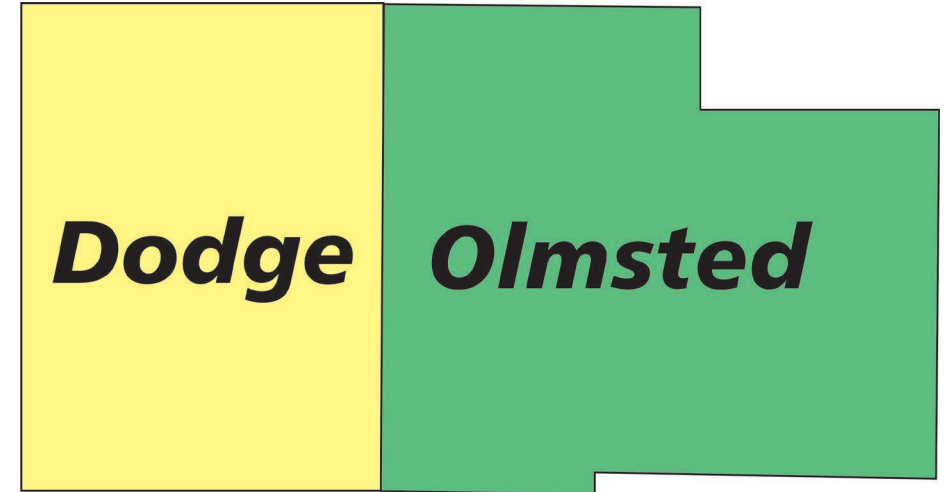
- **2 County Solid Waste Management System**

- Olmsted County Population = 162,847
- Dodge County Population = 20,867

- **Oversight By Olmsted-Dodge Solid Waste Management Joint Powers Board**

- 2 Olmsted County Commissioners
- 2 Dodge County Commissioners

- **Olmsted and Dodge counties have worked together since the 1980s to manage waste responsibly**





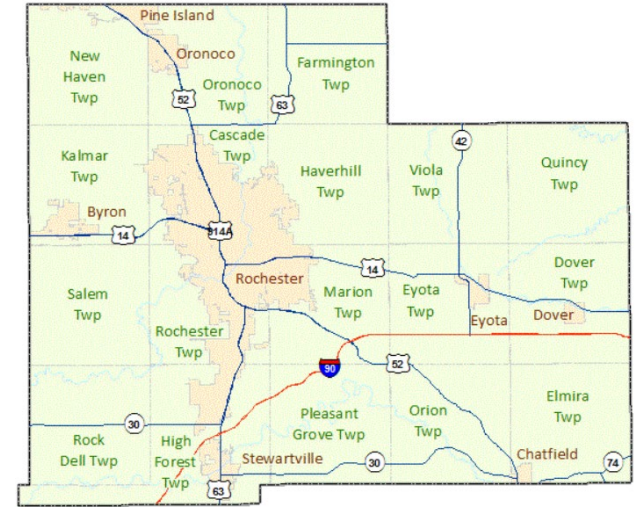
# Overarching Policies

- **Fiscal Responsibility and Fairness**

- No property taxes
- 100% user fees
- Volume based fees
  - *the more you "throw away" the more you pay*
- Handle our waste in our own back yard (keep control of the wastes) and above ground

- **Limit Future Liability**

- Waste does not transfer title
  - generator of the waste is responsible for future harm caused by waste
- In our system the generator of the waste pays for the proper management
- Avoid future liability for environmental damage



# Overarching Policies

- **Solid Waste Hierarchy**

- Maximizing the benefits and use of materials over disposal
- Managing waste higher in the hierarchy

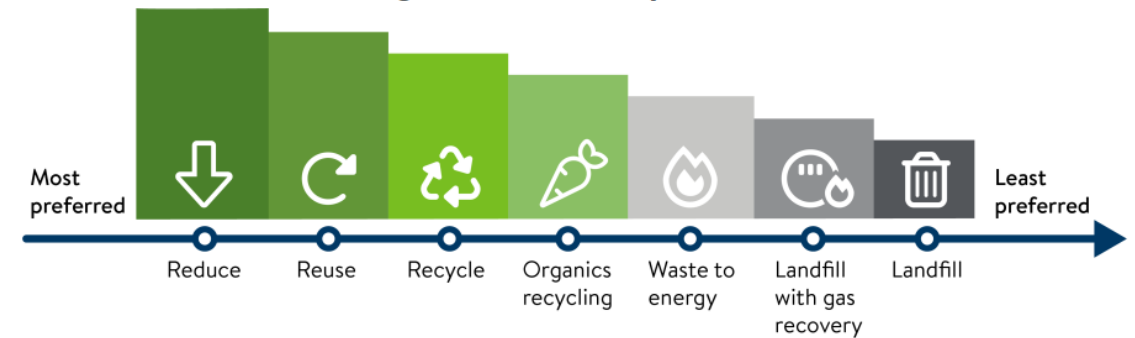
- **Programs and Services**

- Develop, enhance and expand high-quality services for the community's solid waste needs

- **Environmental Benefits**

- Reducing environmental impacts
  - Protecting the air, soil and water resources

Minnesota's waste management hierarchy





Waste Reduction & Education



Hazardous Waste Facility



Recycling Center Plus



Kalmar Landfill



Metals



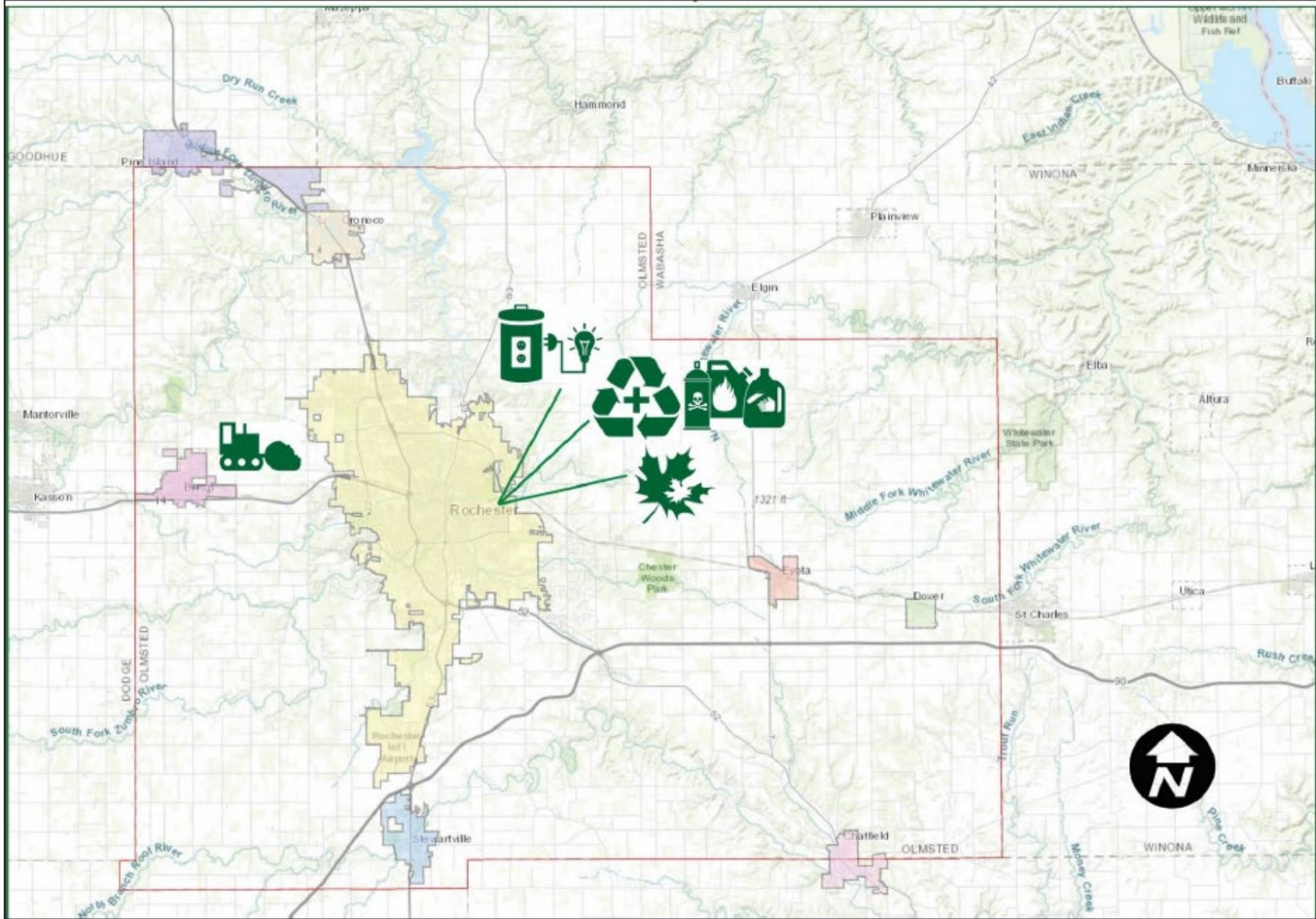
Waste-to-Energy Facility

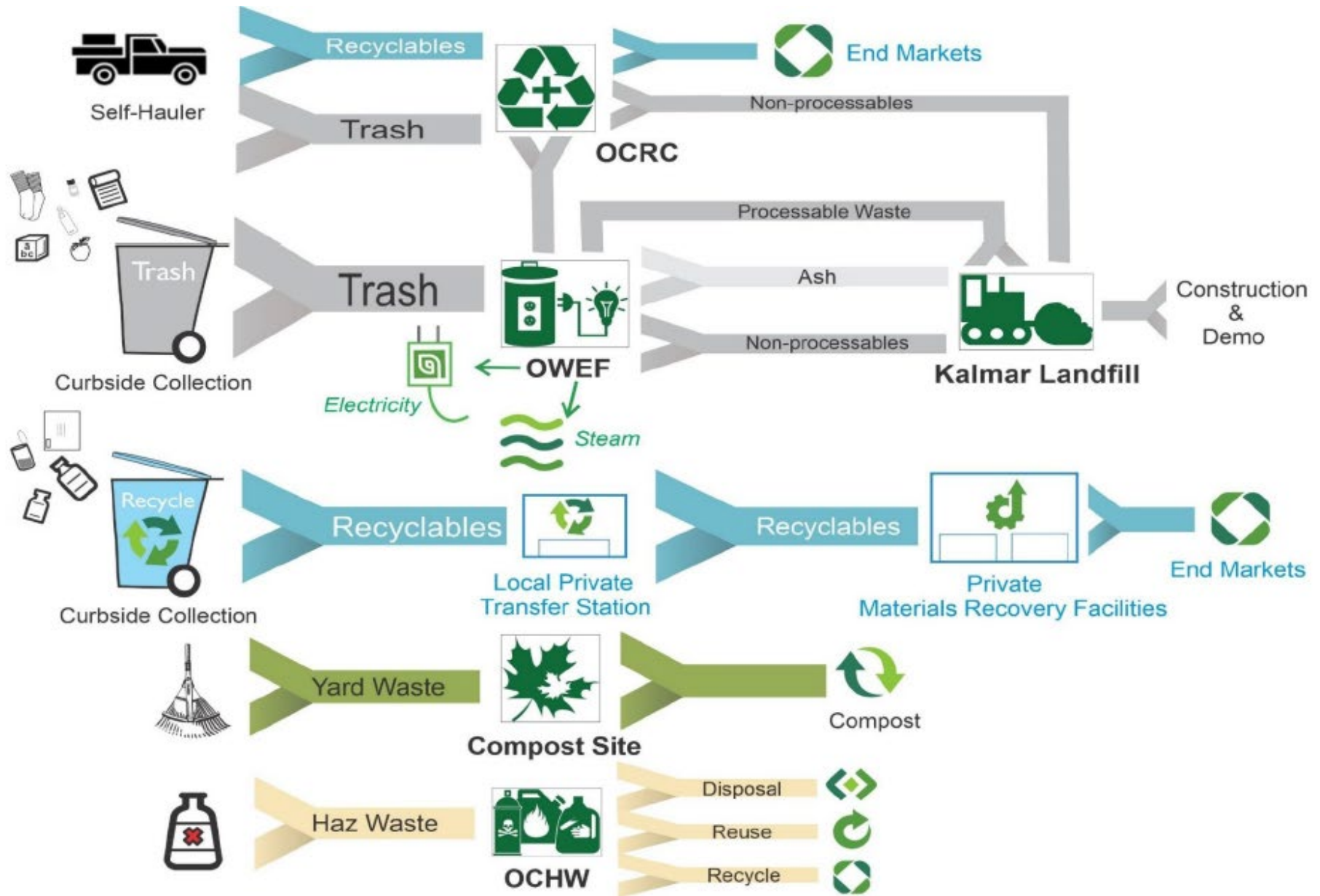


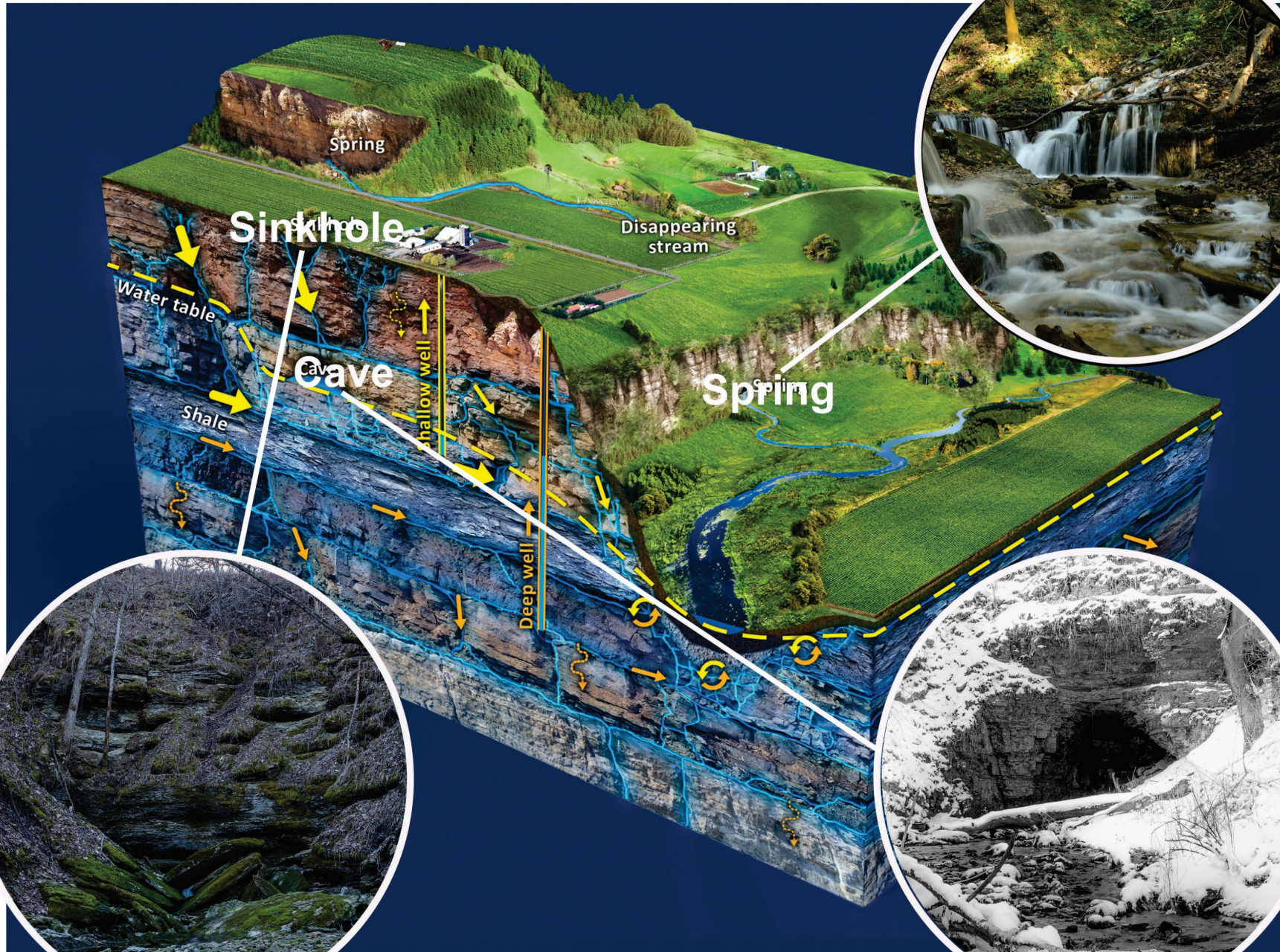
Compost Site

# Integrated Solid Waste Management System









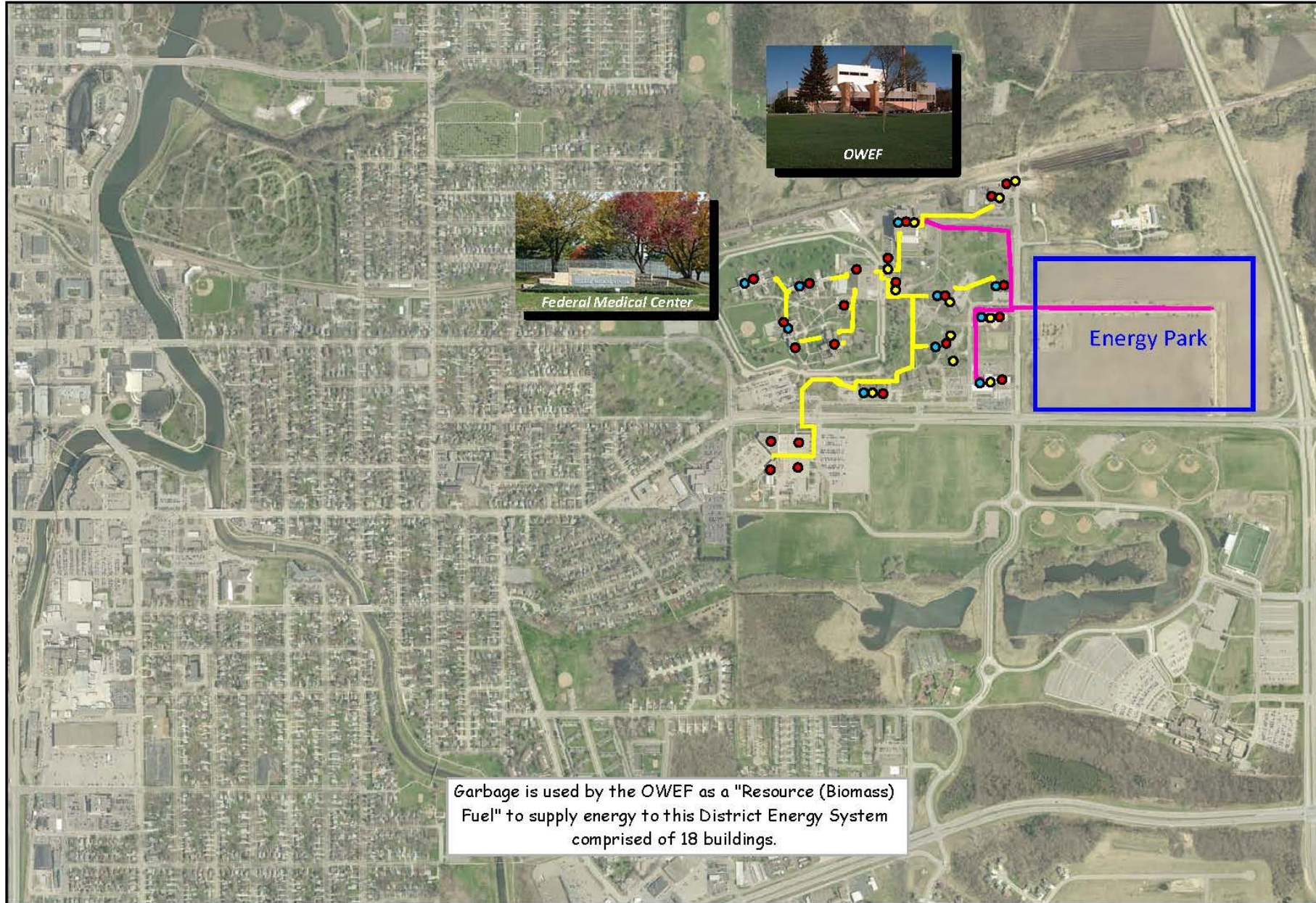
# ❖ Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF)



- **Opened in 1987 & expanded in 2010 (Process 400 tons of garbage per day)**
- **Operates as a power plant 24 hours/day, 7 days/week**
- **Converts garbage into locally renewable steam & electricity**
- **9 MW electrical capacity (sell excess electricity to SMMPA via RPU)**
- **Sells chilled water and energy as steam & electricity to 18 buildings on the District Energy System (DES)**

# Olmsted County District Energy System

Creating Energy From Your Garbage





# ❖ Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF)

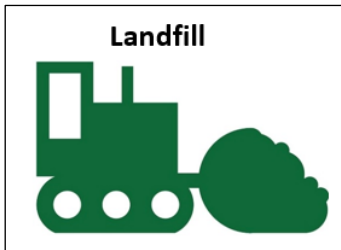
- Process around 116,000 tons annually
- 90% of the waste not recycled is used to create energy
- 3,762 homes could be powered per year by the equivalent electricity produced at the OWEF
- 2.7 million tons of garbage diverted from the landfill since 1987
- Without waste-to-energy, existing-landfill space would have been filled by 1997 and would have needed to build 3 more landfills
- Landfilling the waste would increase greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 115,000 tons or equivalent of adding another 25,000 gas vehicles to the road



# ❖ Kalmar Landfill



**Ash**

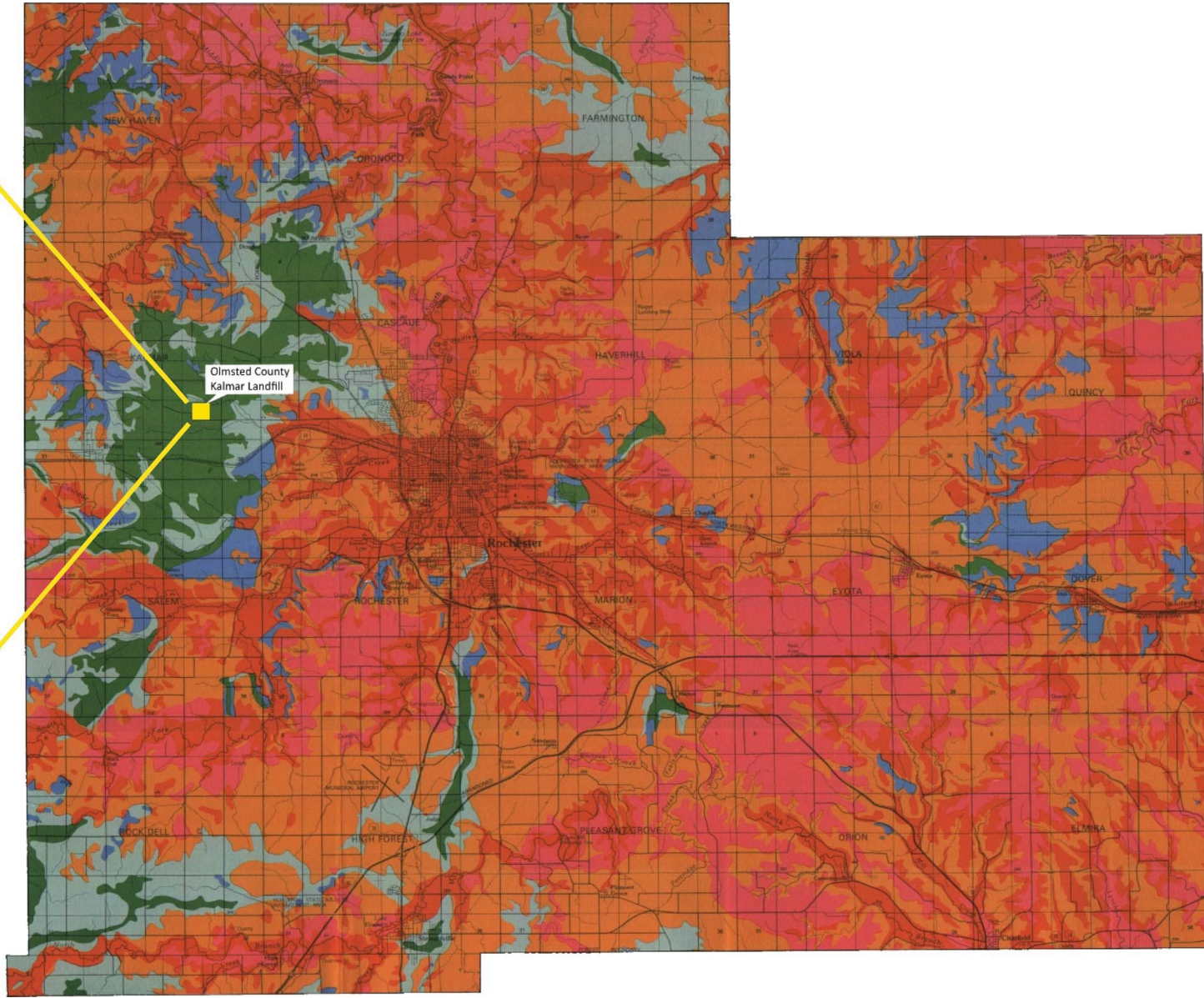
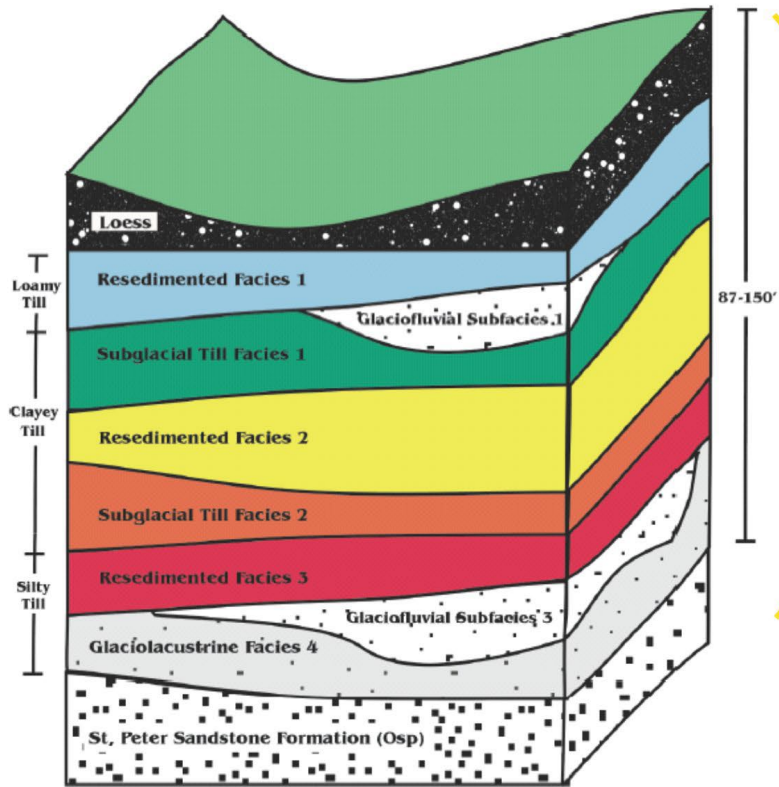


**MSW/ISW**



**C&D**





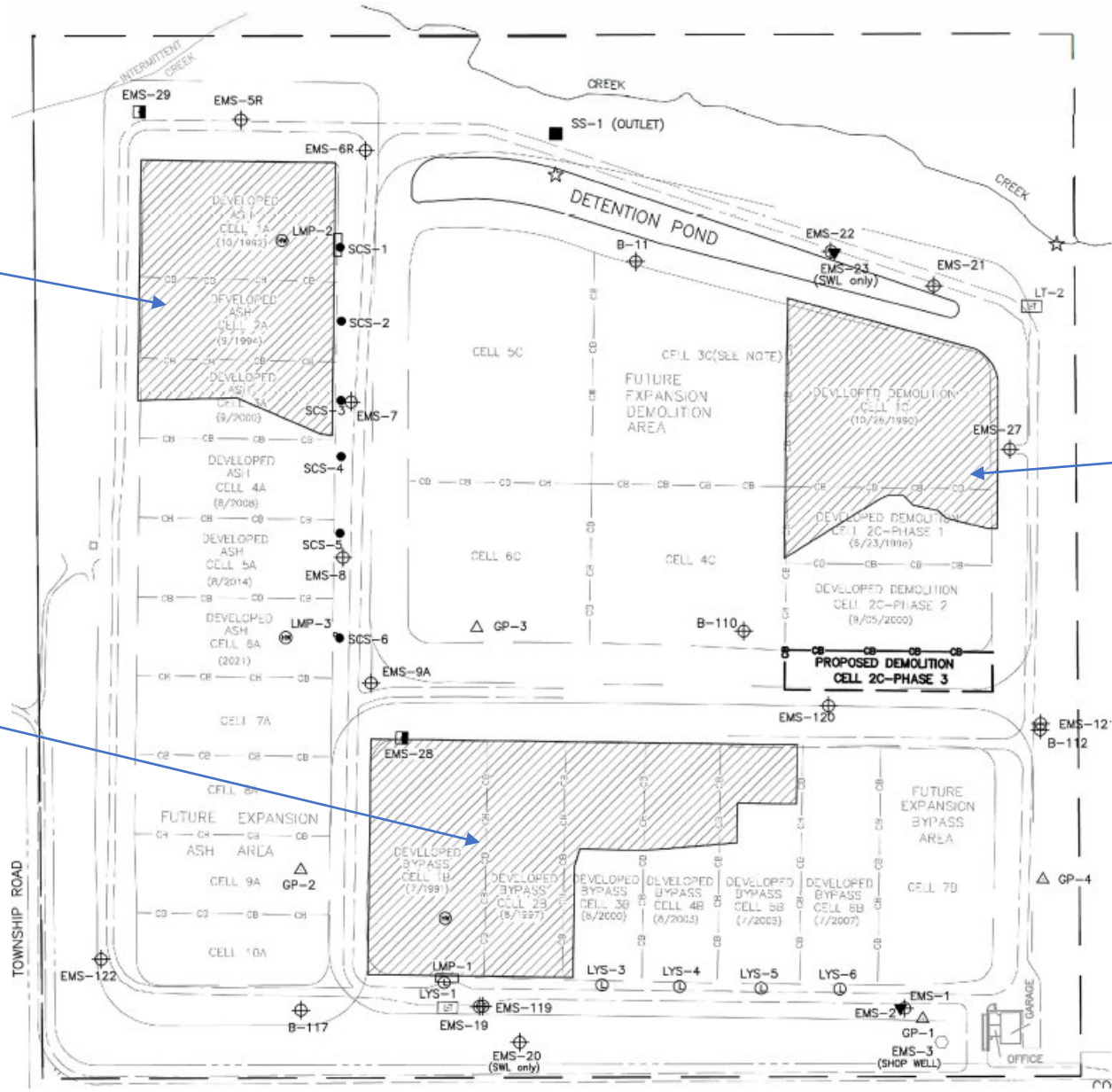
OLMSTED COUNTY  
MINNESOTA



Ash – 30,000 tons



MSW/ISW – 2,200 tons



C&D – 5,500 tons



- Legislatures rethinking waste hierarchy
- Supply chain issues
- Cost of parts and insurance
- Staffing

**CURRENT  
ISSUES**

