

# DNR Buffer Map Project



February 8, 2016



# Buffer Legislation

- Riparian protection requirements for **public waters**:
  - a 50' average / 30' minimum width, continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation;
  - must comply with the state shoreland standards;
  - option: an alternative water quality practice
- Riparian protection requirements for **public drainage systems**:
  - a 16.5-foot minimum width continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation on public ditches
  - option: an alternative water quality practice

# Buffer Criteria

## **Requiring a 50 foot buffer:**

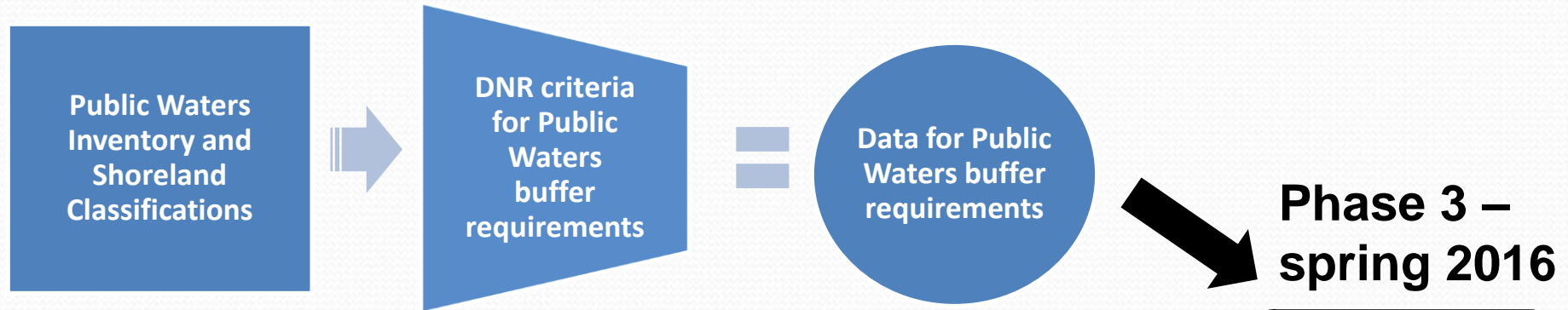
- Public waters (basins/watercourses)
- Public water wetlands with a shoreland classification
- Public ditches with a shoreland classification

## **Requiring a 16.5 foot buffer**

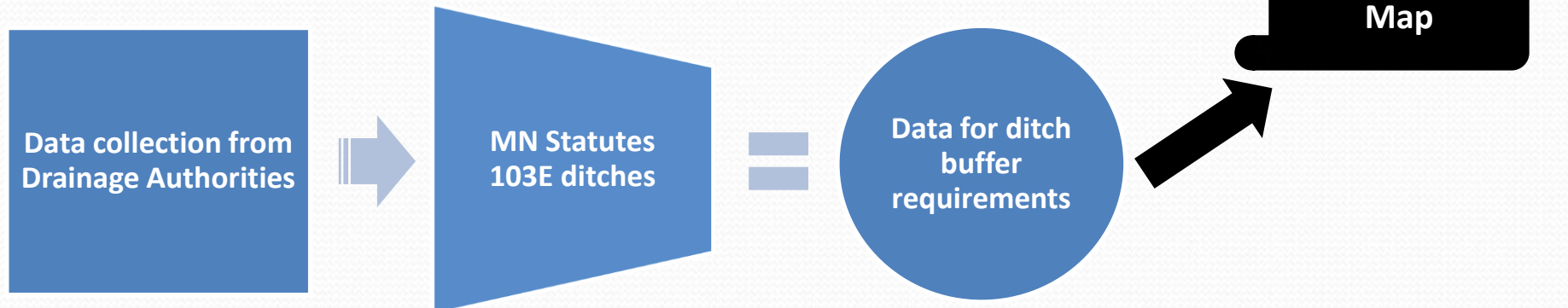
- Public ditches with no shoreland classification
- Note: public water wetlands having no shoreland management classification will not be included

# Project Phases

## Phase 1 – Fall 2015



## Phase 2 – Winter 2016



# Phase I - Public Waters

- Public Waters Inventory map layer is the base map for buffer requirements
- Shoreland classification was overlaid on PWI.
- Public Waters Inventory map is available on a public web viewer

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>

# Phase II – Winter 2016



# Phase II

## Step 1

- DNR is asking Drainage Authorities to provide public ditch locations
  - DNR will provide a method to transfer digital data
  - DNR will provide a method to transfer paper files or paper map data

# Phase II

## Step 2

- The Public Waters data layer from phase 1 will be combined with the public ditch location information to produce a Preliminary Buffer Protection Map

Note: the DNR is trying to produce a “21<sup>st</sup> century” Buffer Protection Map – this means that it will be an Internet-accessible statewide digital map layer that will allow users to zoom in and out from statewide, regional, county or watershed scales



# Phase III – Spring 2016



# Phase III

## Step 1

- The Preliminary Buffer Protection Map will be available for review
- Drainage authorities will be asked to review the Preliminary Buffer Protection Map for accuracy of public ditch locations
- Other organizations and individuals will be provided with the opportunity to provide comments on the Preliminary Buffer Protection Map and criteria used to produce the map

# Phase III

## Step 2

- Essential corrections to locations of public ditches and Public Waters will be identified by local government organizations
- DNR will review comments offered by other organizations and individuals
- DNR will produce the Minnesota Buffer Protection Map

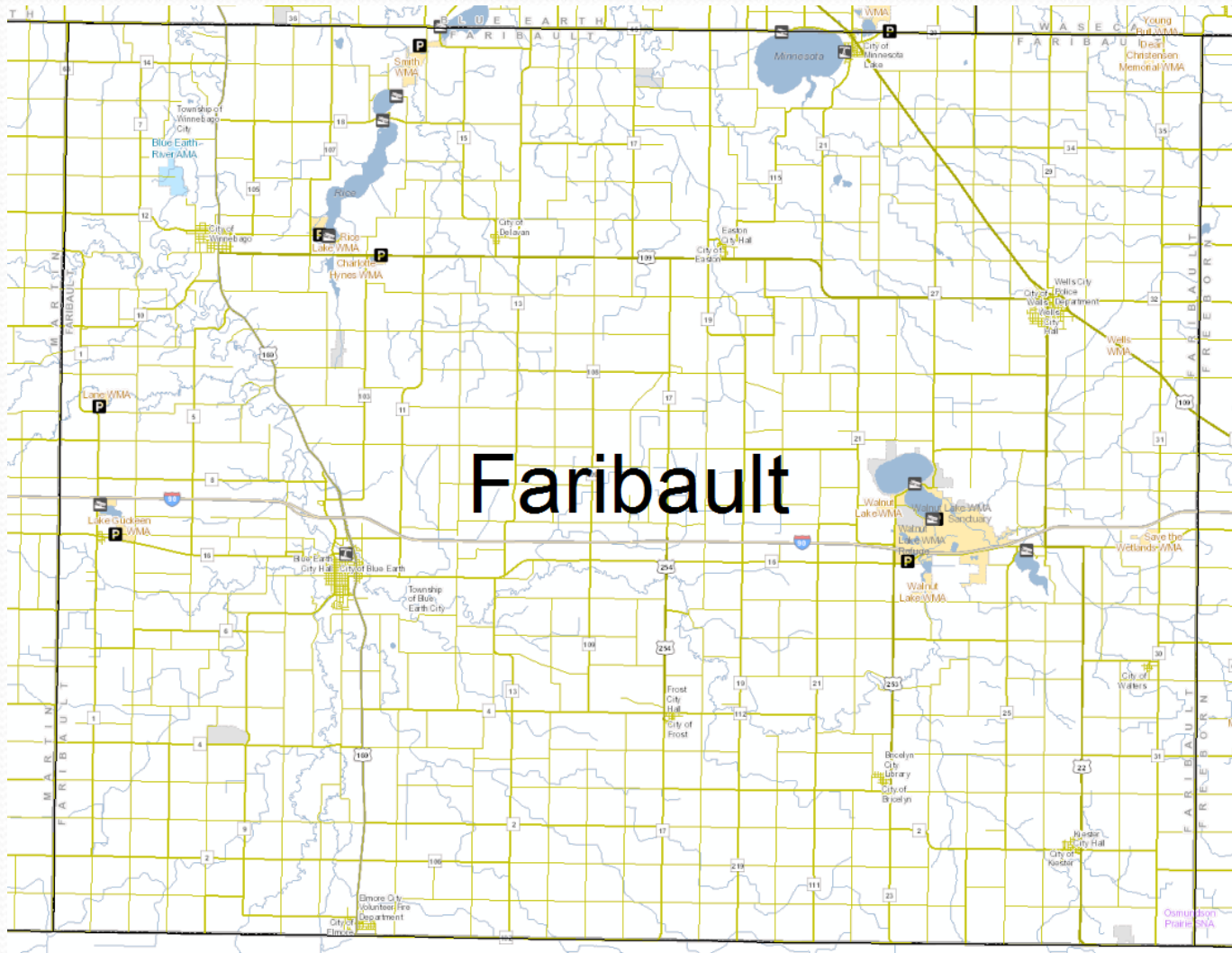
# Phase IV – Summer 2016



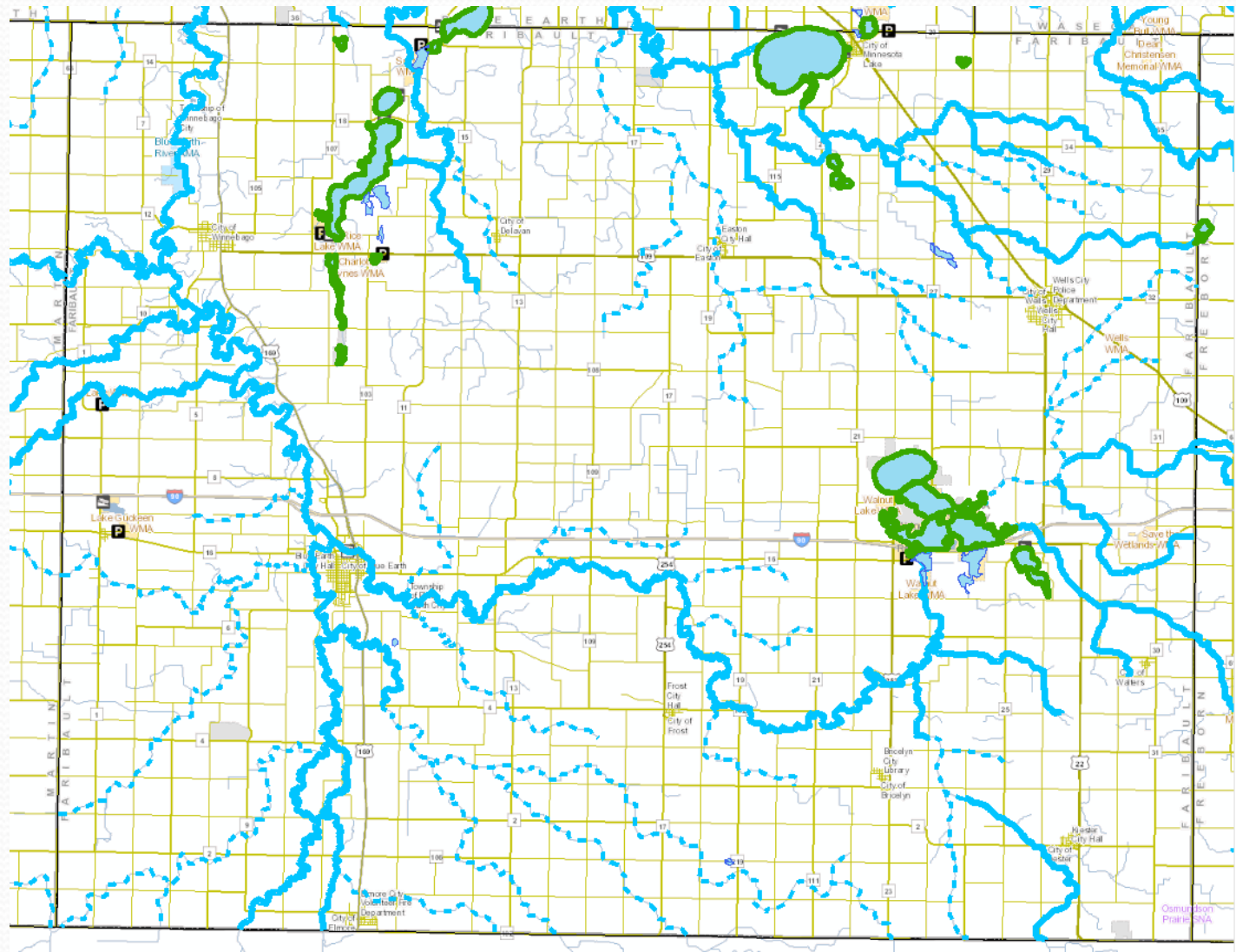
# Phase IV

- The Minnesota Buffer Protection Map will be available for use by landowners, local SWCDs, and BWSR staff
- Landowners and local governments will use the Map to guide implementation and maintenance of buffers and alternative water quality practices
- DNR will incorporate any changes to the Minnesota Buffer Protection Map requested by BWSR and will maintain an accurate map

# An Illustration of what the Map might look like



# Faribault County, MN Public Waters, Public Ditches, and Altered Watercourses

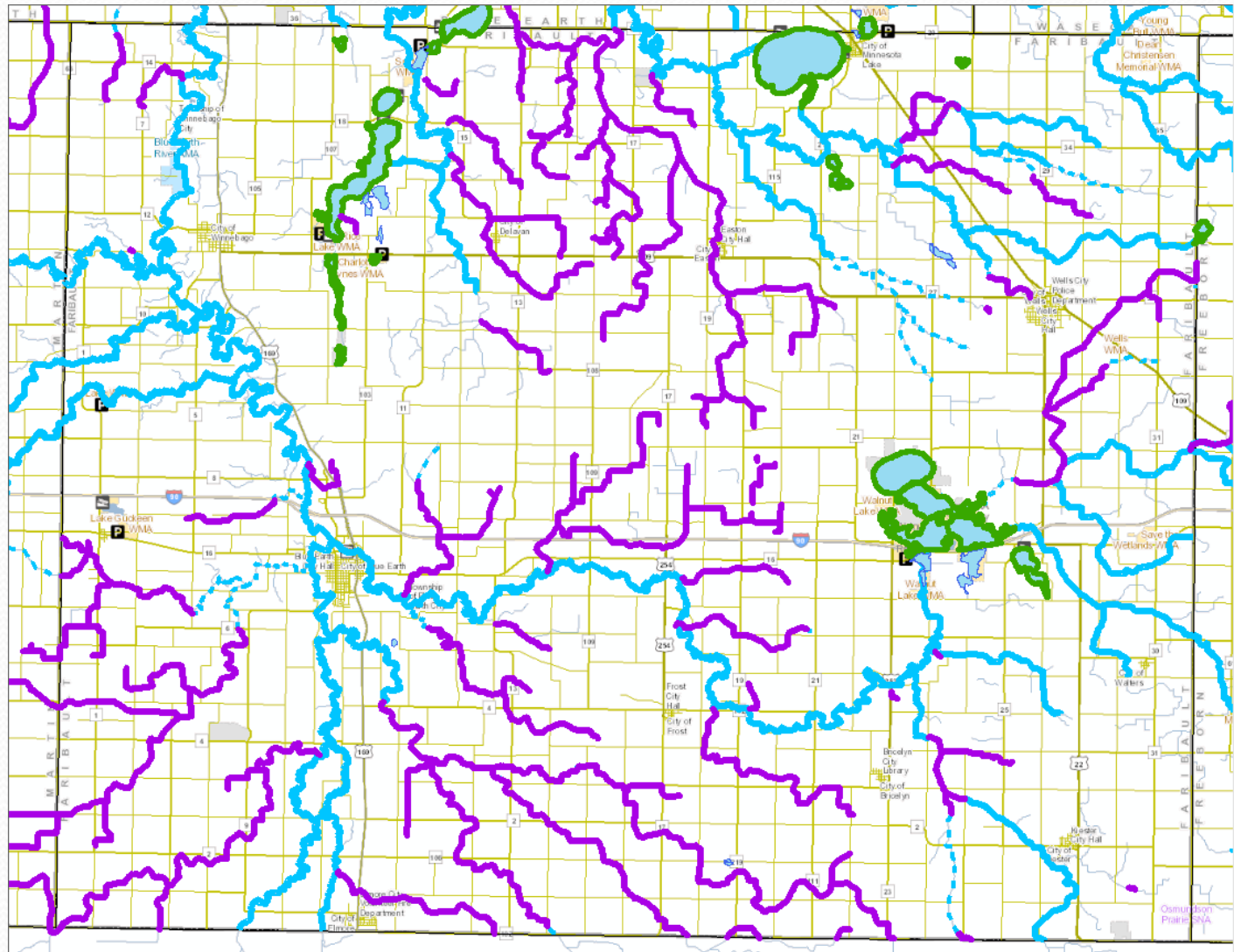


# DRAFT

— Natural Watercourse    - - - Altered Natural Watercourse    Public Water Basin

# Faribault County, MN

Public Waters,  
Public Ditches, and  
Altered Watercourses



# DRAFT

- Natural Watercourse
- Altered Natural Watercourse
- Public Water Basin
- Public Ditch



# Questions? Comments...

