

INFORMATION PAPER

Department of Public Works
January 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Construction of a levee to remove floodplain designation from the downtown and areas south of downtown

1. Purpose: Identify funds to complete the construction of a levee along the Des Plaines River to remove portions of the downtown and areas south of downtown from floodplain designation.

2. Facts:

a. In 2008 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposed new floodplain maps that added floodplain designation to a large portion of the downtown and residential areas south of downtown. These areas have no history of flooding since the construction of the Chicago Ship and Sanitary canal in the 1930's.

b. The City fought/appealed the floodplain designation for almost 11 years but was ultimately unsuccessful. In order to maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the City was required to adopt the proposed floodplain maps in 2019.

c. The floodplain designation hampers downtown development and forces mortgage holders to obtain flood insurance. The residential area south of downtown is a low-income area that is being burdened paying insurance premiums where no flooding has historically occurred.

d. The City has obtained the services of a consultant to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a potential levee project along the east side of the I&M Canal north of the Ruby Street Bridge. The construction of this levee would allow the removal of the downtown and areas south of downtown from floodplain designation.

e. A feasibility study for the construction of the levee is being conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The current rough estimate for construction is \$5 million. Potential construction grant funding would provide 65% of this cost with the City required to match the remaining 35% (\$1.75 million). No funding source has been identified for the required matching funds but various sources, including a bond issue or a special service area, have been discussed.

Submitted To: Greg Ruddy/ ext. 4217
Jim Capparelli, 01/19/21

Enclosures: Project Exhibit

Des Plaines River

PROPOSED FLOODWALL AND/OR BERM

N JOLIET ST

N CHICAGO ST

BURLINGTON NORTHERN & SANTA FE
SCOTT ST (IL RTE 53)

COLUMBIA ST

Illinois and Michigan Canal Trail

CANADIAN NATIONAL

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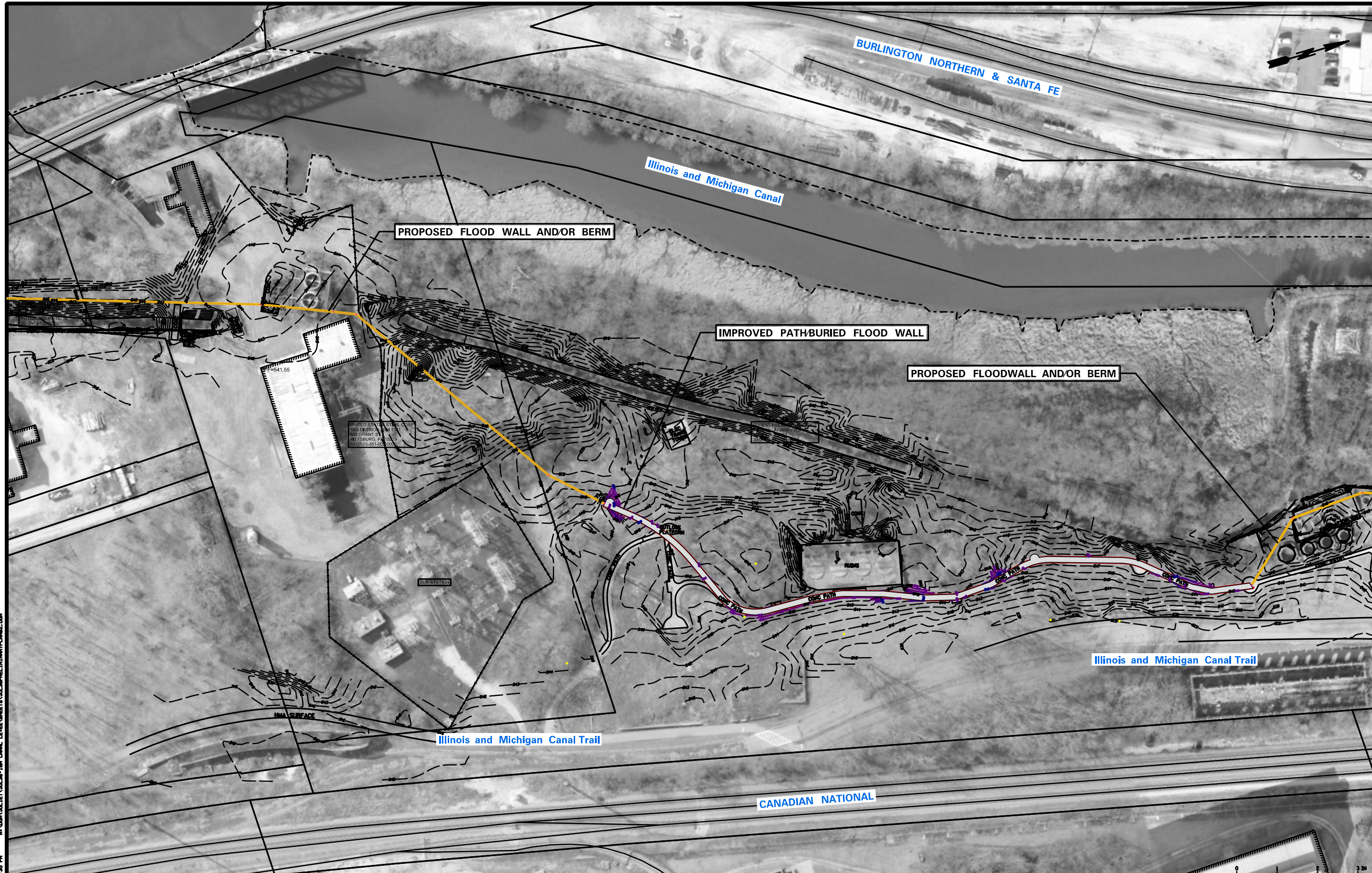
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CONSULTING ENGINEERS
ILLINOIS LICENSE NO. 104-000005
204 WEST STATE STREET - GENEVA, ILLINOIS 60134
Telephone (630) 230-0077 - Fax (630) 230-1000

PROJECT
**I & M CANAL LEVEE
JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

SHEET TITLE
**PRELIMINARY PLAN
SHEET 1 OF 5**

SCALE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET
1"=50'	JOL-36	No.
	DATE	Of
	JAN 2019	



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PROJECT
**I & M CANAL LEVEE
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

SHEET TITLE
**PRELIMINARY PLAN
 SHEET 2 OF 5**

SCALE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET
1"=50'	JOL-36	No.
	DATE	Of
	JAN 2019	



LDNR
 OFC REALTY/ENV PLANNING
 ONE NATURAL RESOURCES WAY
 SPRINGFIELD, IL 62707
 30-07-03-101-001-0000

BURLINGTON NORTHERN & SANTA FE

Illinois and Michigan Canal

PROPOSED FLOOD WALL AND/OR BERM

IMPROVED PATHBURIED FLOOD WALL

IMPROVED PATHBURIED FLOOD WALL

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
 17540 W LARAWAY RD
 JOLIET, IL 60433
 30407-20-3891-2014-0000

Illinois and Michigan Canal Trail

CANADIAN NATIONAL

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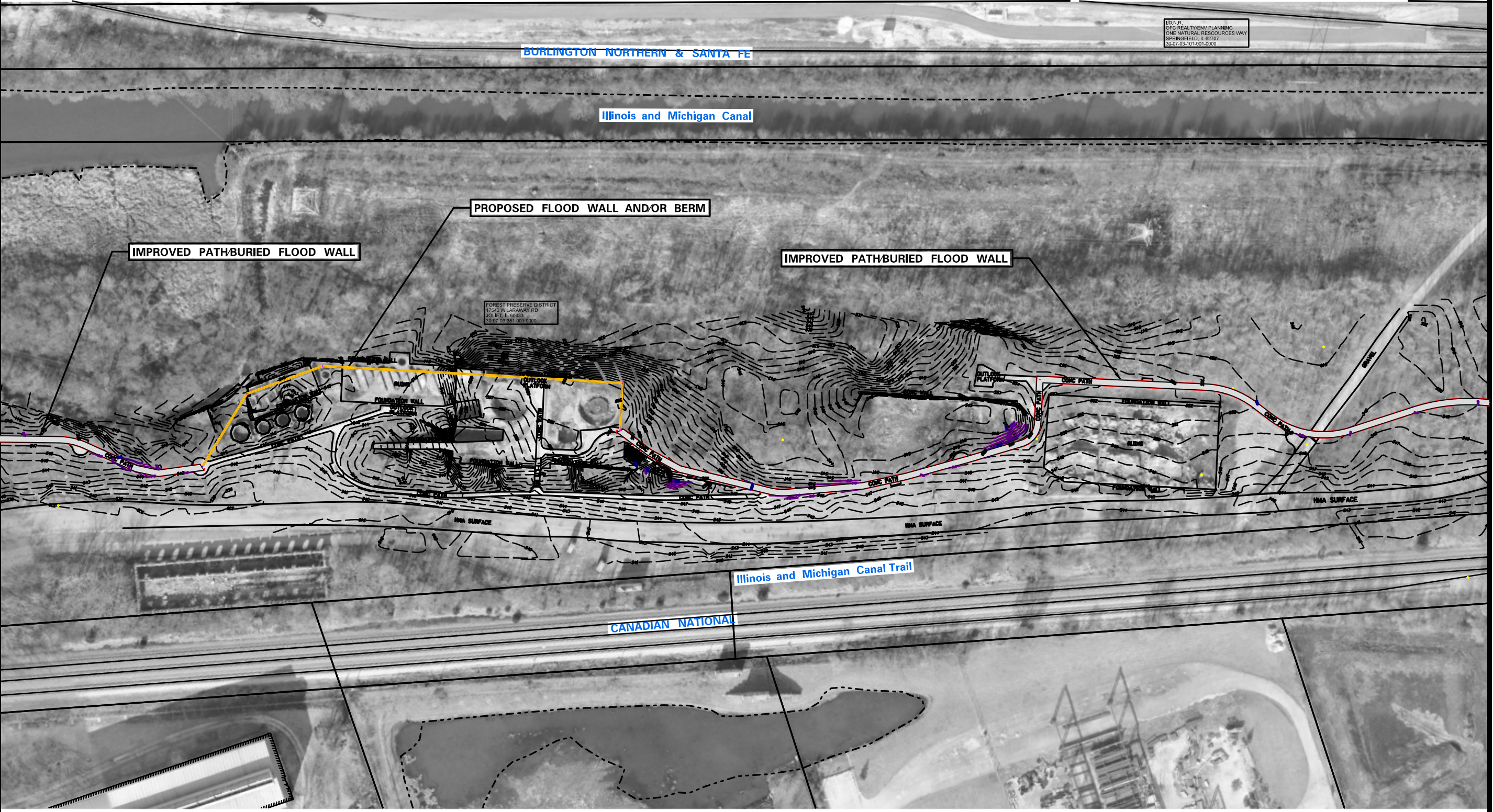
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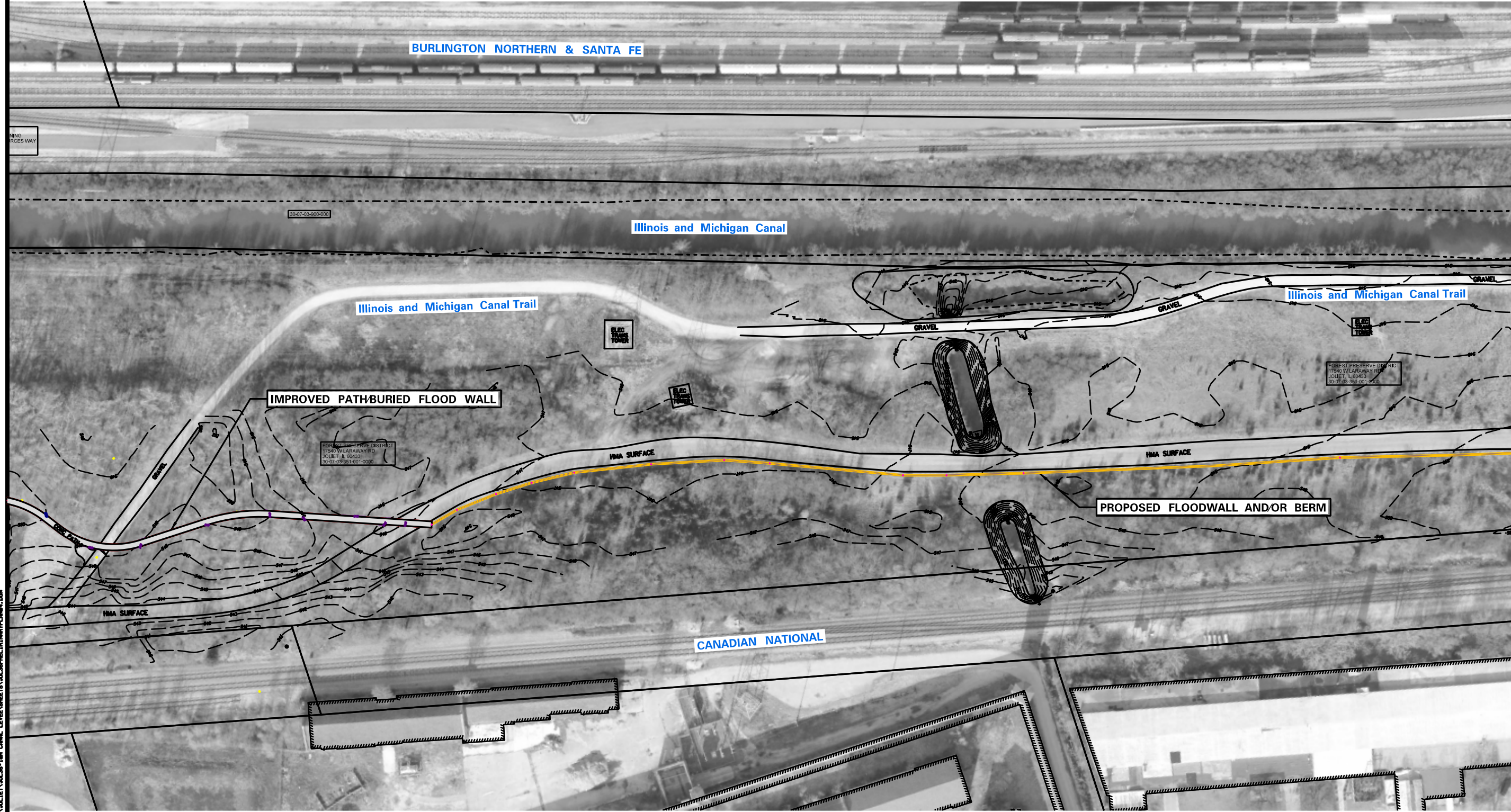
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PROJECT
**I & M CANAL LEVEE
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

SHEET TITLE
**PRELIMINARY PLAN
 SHEET 3 OF 5**

SCALE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET
1"=50'	JOL-36	No.
	DATE	Of
	JAN 2019	





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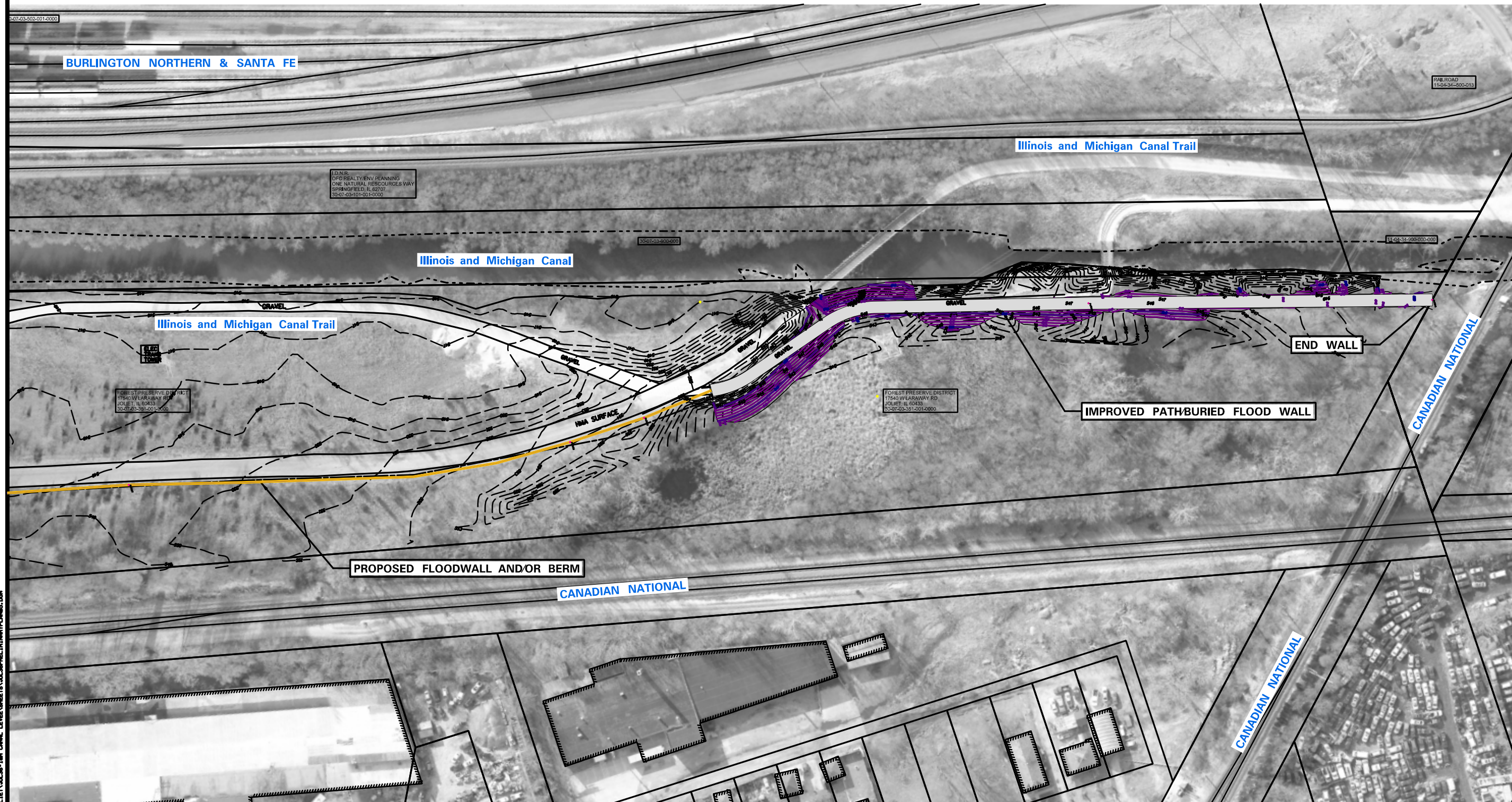
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PROJECT
**I & M CANAL LEVEE
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

SHEET TITLE
**PRELIMINARY PLAN
 SHEET 4 OF 5**

SCALE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET
1"=50'	JOL-36	No.
	DATE	Of
	JAN 2019	



BURLINGTON NORTHERN & SANTA FE

Illinois and Michigan Canal Trail

Illinois and Michigan Canal

Illinois and Michigan Canal Trail

END WALL

IMPROVED PATHBURIED FLOOD WALL

PROPOSED FLOODWALL AND/OR BERM

CANADIAN NATIONAL

CANADIAN NATIONAL

CANADIAN NATIONAL

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PROJECT
**I & M CANAL LEVEE
 JOLIET, ILLINOIS**

SHEET TITLE
**PRELIMINARY PLAN
 SHEET 5 OF 5**

SCALE	PROJECT NO.	SHEET
1"=50'	JOL-36	No. _____
	DATE	Of _____
	JAN 2019	