

ST. ANTHONY'S COPTIC ORTHODOX MONASTERY

MASTER PLAN

PERTH, ONTARIO | JUNE 2018



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HISTORY / OVERVIEW

THE COPTIC CHURCH – AN OVERVIEW

The Coptic Church is one of the most ancient Churches in the World (alongside the Churches of Jerusalem, Antioch, and Rome), having been founded by Saint Mark the Apostle during the first century A.S. (traditionally, in 43 A.D or 61 A.D.).

Under the auspices of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Patriarch of the Christian Coptic Orthodox Church, the church wishes to establish the first Christian Coptic Monastery in Canada.

Monastic life is one of the cornerstones at the Coptic Church which originated in the early centuries of Christianity in Egypt (where the mother church still exists). Over the past 40 years, the church has grown in North & South America, Europe, and Australia. At present, there is a monastery in Sydney, Australia, and three monasteries in USA.

There are over 10 monasteries established outside of Egypt in the last 40 years but none in Canada, St. Anthony Monastery will be the first monastery established in Canada to serve all Copts in Canada, not only Eastern Ontario.

THE CHRISTIAN COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH IN CANADA

Of the 50 Christian Coptic Orthodox Churches in Canada, 37 are in Eastern Ontario.

In 1967, there were four families in Ottawa; in 1989 there were 40 families, this year the number of families belonging to the Coptic Church in Ottawa is exceeding 750 Coptic families. St. Mary's Church, was the first to be built in Ottawa in the late eighties, located at Green Bank Rd., Nepean and currently serving over 350 families.

In June 1997, St. Georges and St. Antony's Church became the second church in Ottawa, currently serving over 400 families. Montreal Churches are now serving over 3,000 Coptic families. The Greater Toronto area and Mississauga are now serving over 12,000 Coptic families.

Since 75% of the Copts in Canada live in Ontario (there are 37 Ontario churches), Ontario was the chosen location for St Anthony Monastery. Ottawa will benefit the most from the Monastery because it is only 75 minutes away. Since the location was also chosen to be close to Quebec, Montreal and its 6 churches will be the second city that will benefit from the Monastery.

Ninety percent of the Copts in Canada are living within 4 hours driving distance from the Monastery site.

ST. ANTHONY MONASTERY OF EASTERN ONTARIO

In addition to the established Coptic Orthodox Churches nationwide, there are several congregations in the process of establishing new churches in remote areas. All these churches are in desperate need of local monastery to teach the new Copts generations the values of Monastic life, it is not practical at all to send all these young man and women to Egypt to learn and benefit from monastic life and therefore H.H. Pope Tawadros determined it was needed to establish the first monastery in Canada.

St. Anthony Monastery will host a group of monks (5 -50 monks), who will stay there all the time living in the sustainable community. Time will be spent, aside from devotional worship, in reading, research, farming and running small scale workshops for maintenance and small projects.

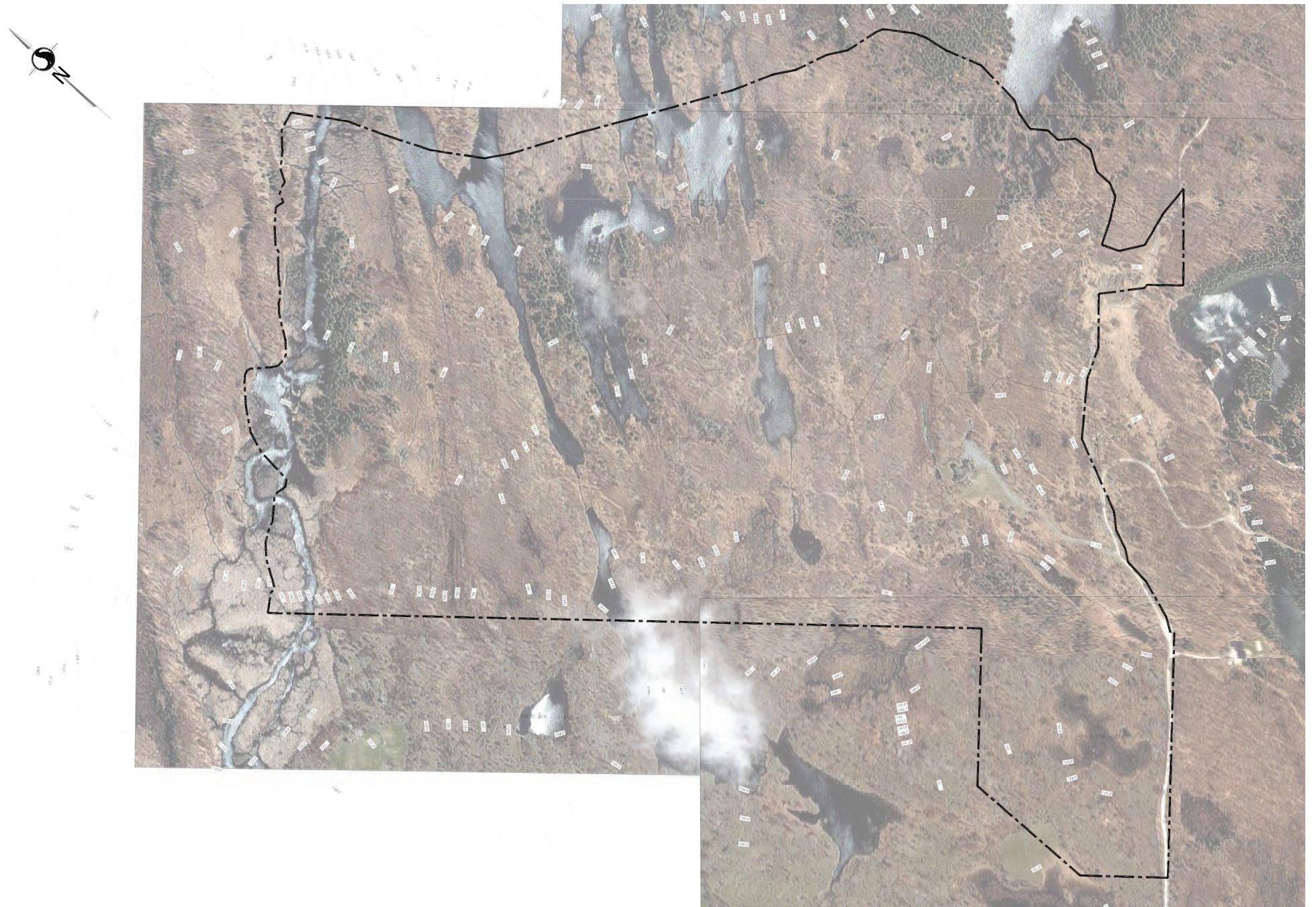
The Monastery's primary goal is to receive small groups of Copts Christians for retreat and Christian workshops on a weekly basis, all year long. The churches in the GTA area are planning to establish a second Monastery before the year 2016 which will leave St. Anthony Monastery serving primarily Ottawa and Montreal congregations.

ST. ANTHONY'S LAND – TAY VALLEY TOWNSHIP

The site chosen for the first Coptic Monastery in Canada is approximately 280 acres located within Tay Valley Township approximately 24 kilometres to the south of the town of Perth, Ontario. This land was chosen for the abundance of nature, its proximity to existing church congregations and its ability to accommodate the long-term future of the monastery. The property borders Murphy's Point Provincial Park, which provides certainty that the monastery will remain secluded well into the future.

LOCATION AND CONTEXT

The Saint Anthony's Coptic Orthodox Monastery site is 288 acres situated 25 km south of the town of Perth, Ontario. The property borders Murphy's Point Provincial Park and is adjacent to Big Rideau Lake. The site includes an existing 10,000 sq ft home currently used for Monastery functions. The land is rugged – covered nearly in wetlands, bogs, forests and ponds. However this rugged beauty provides opportunity, respite and reflection spaces throughout.



PROJECT PRINCIPLES

The Saint Anthony's Coptic Orthodox Monastery Master Plan is an opportunity to develop a site that is naturally sensitive, culturally significant and provides a lasting legacy to the Coptic congregation within Canada. As this is the first monastery within Canada for the Coptic Orthodox Church, it is important to plan for the right uses, anticipate growth, and situate buildings appropriately so that the uses are convenient and connected. The design team has utilized the following planning principles when approaching each concept:



SITE PROGRAM

The Monastery's Master Plan elements contemplate a 50 year buildout – to grow from a small facility to a larger functioning site for monks, Coptic congregation members and visitors alike. The development program includes:

RETREAT CENTRE

- Existing 10,000 sq ft. Facility
- Remain as guest quarters for male Coptic congregants
- Utilized as a reception facility

MONKS' BUILDING

- Phase 1 must accommodate up to 20 monks (20 rooms)
- Building must accommodate expansion for up to 50 monks (50 rooms)
- Include kitchen, bakery, chapel, meeting rooms, workshops, reflection spaces

ST. MINA'S LODGE

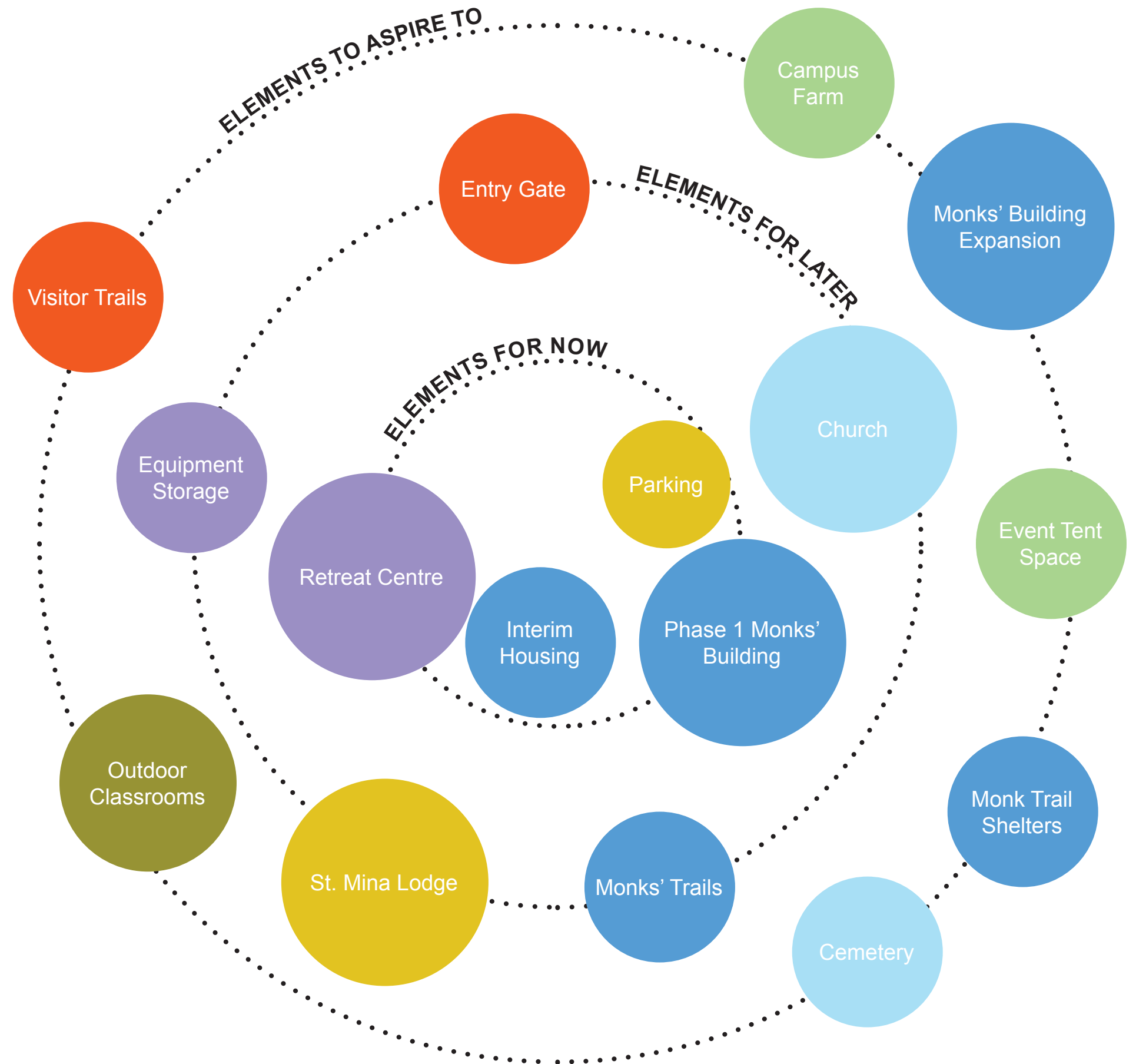
- Must accommodate up to 50 visitors (20 rooms)
- Kitchen, dining area, conference room, laundry areas to be included in design

CHURCH

- Must accommodate up to 99 people
- Must include a small kitchen for baking bread

The site also requires the following items:

- The location of up to 5 interim monks' cells that can be utilized for rental to visitors upon completion of the full Monks' Facility
- Location for a seasonal tent (9m x 12m) near public areas
- Parking Areas (each concept accommodates approximately 80 stalls total across site)
- Entrance Feature
- Monk's trail system, including seating areas, unserviced shelters, gazebo location opportunities, an outdoor classroom space
- Visitor trail system, including seating areas, gazebo location opportunities, a classroom space
- Recommend potential changes to the Rideau Trail alignment and interface
- Include a farming operation of at least 5 acres and consider greenhouses, fish farms, apiaries as programming elements
- Consider heavy equipment storage facility location and size
- Cemetery location for monk burials



SITE ANALYSIS

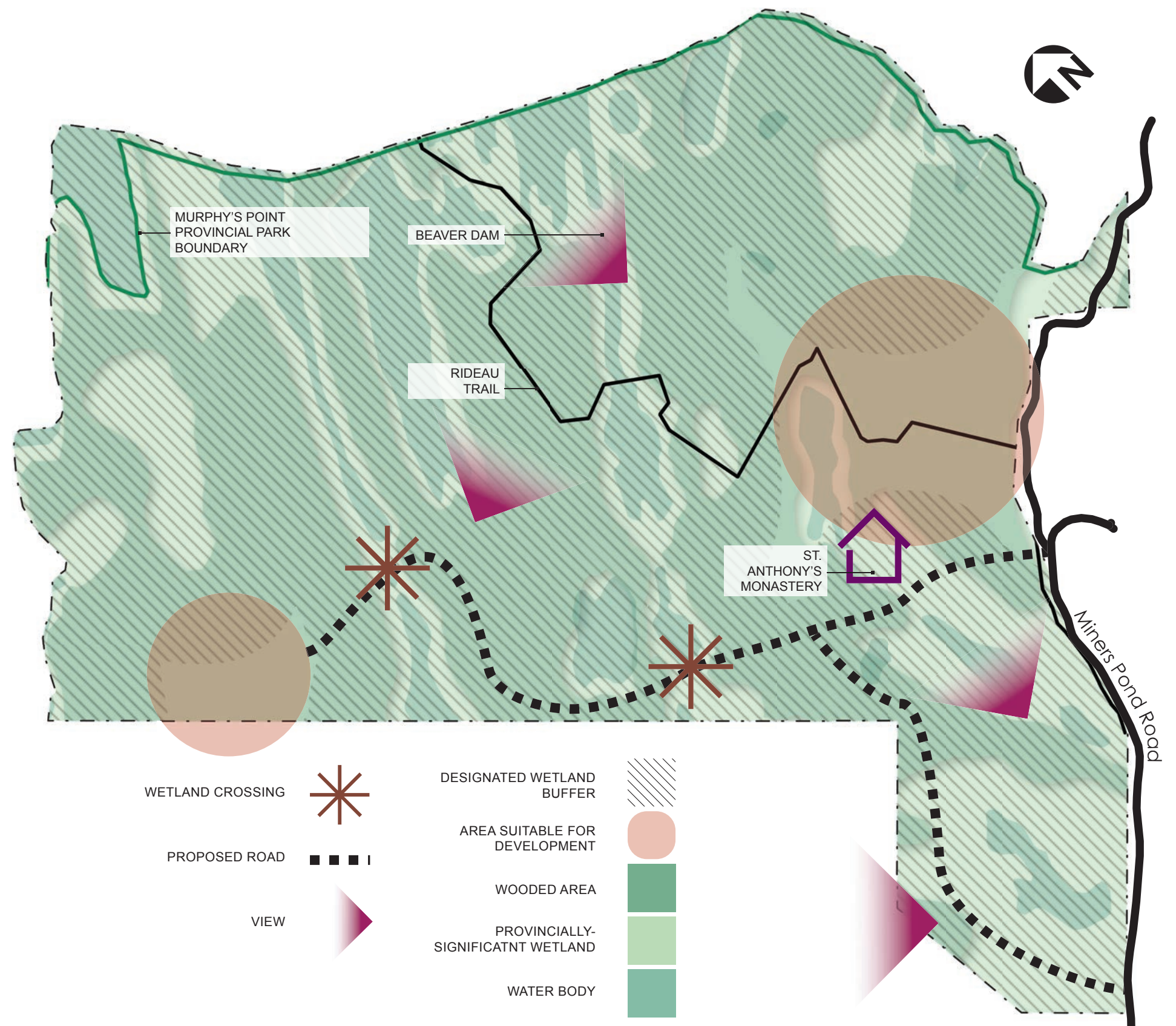
OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

The rugged beauty of the property and adjacent sites is both an opportunity and constraint. Care will be required with building placement as the geological and geographic constraints will be costly should building locations be selected in areas with rock right at the surface. This would require significant site development.

The land immediately surrounding the existing Retreat Building is best suited to accommodate most of the uses contemplated. These constraints offer an opportunity to develop in a clustered, campus-like manner, which will not only provide the efficiency of development over time, but provide the opportunity for shared uses, shared parking and leave the remaining lands for contemplative hikes, outdoor class spaces and views.

Further – with the significant geological and geographical challenges – a new road alignment is discouraged at this time. Our team recommends using the existing infrastructure and perhaps realign in strategic ways to support each concept, but a new entrance is not required at this time.

As most of the land is subject to provincial wetland setbacks we will work with concepts that look to mitigate these impacts, staying outside of the 30 metre buffer areas from all provincially designated significant wetlands, but some areas will require development within the 120 metre setback area.



SITE PHOTOS

WINTER



TYPICAL EDGE CONDITION



TYPICAL WOODLAND LANDSCAPE



POTENTIAL MONKS' FACILITY LOCATION



VIEW ACROSS BEAVER DAM

SITE PHOTOS

SUMMER



TYPICAL FOREST LANDSCAPE



TYPICAL WETLAND LANDSCAPE



TYPICAL MEADOW LANDSCAPE



VIEW ACROSS BEAVER DAM

CONCEPTS AND PREFERRED PLAN

SITE CONCEPTS

WORKING TOGETHER



Collaboration together on three concepts that morphed into a preferred plan is the foundation of success of the Monastery Master Plan. Site visits, detailed building placement surveys, exchanges of sketches and images of the preferred outcomes all played important roles to establish a theme, strategy and layout of the overall monastery plan.

The process began with three concept strategies to explore different themes. This allowed the design teams to work through constraints and opportunities in a variety of different ways that eventually led to elements of each plan that worked together into a preferred plan.



OPTION 1 ECO-MONASTERY

- Allowing the existing landscape to determine how the site is laid out
- Pathways and buildings located around natural features, with little impact to existing landscape
- Off-grid building design where practical, with consideration of energy efficiency and self-sustainability
- Site programming less dense and spread out

OPTION 2 NATURAL PATTERNS

- Site design that reflects local natural patterns, such as the pattern of wetlands laid out by glacial processes
- Clustered buildings, like islands, connected by pathways and 'portage' routes
- Intensely-used buildings centrally located, with smaller buildings and programming elements situated according to their uses
- Design language that reflects the look of the Canadian Shield

OPTION 3 NATURAL FORMAL

- Inspired by Old World landscape design, which creates a restful, contemplative reminder of paradise
- Buildings centered around a central courtyard
- More formal landscape design and site layout
- Landscape elements are designed around buildings, which use local materials and forms

OPTION 1















ECO-MONASTERY

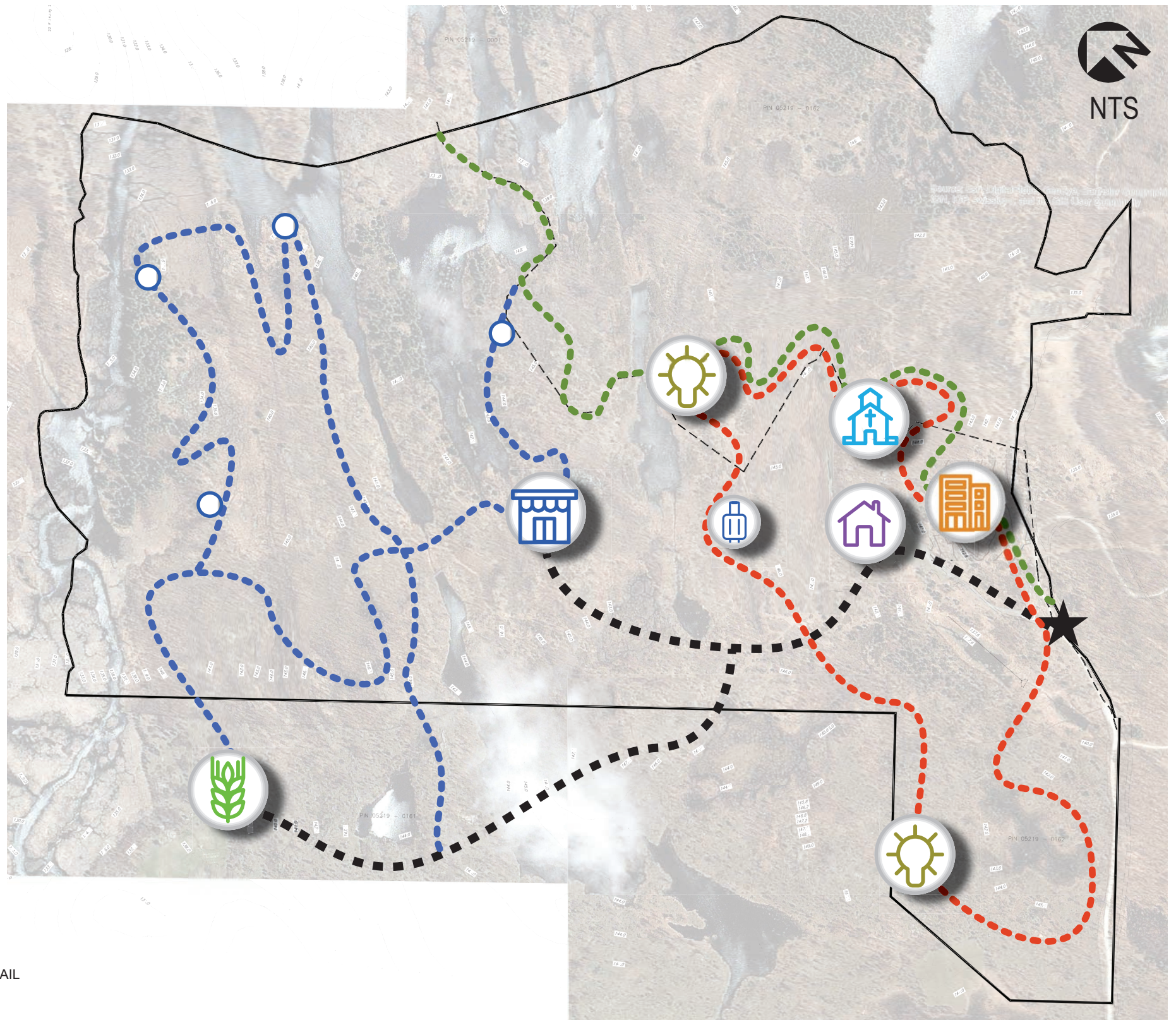
The first option layers sustainability, the rugged nature of the site and the desire to be more integrated into the landscape as organizing principles of the site. In this option the Monks' Facility will be as off-grid as possible, and sited deep within the site, offering the greatest seclusion. A larger farming operation is contemplated on the property south of the current property. This farming operation will allow for over 5 acres of fields, a barn structure, rest areas, greenhouses and fish farms in structures. The larger farming operation is designed to accommodate as much food as possible for the Monks and visitors to the site.

The more public areas of the site will include the church, st. Mina's lodge and retreat facility. They would be situated within the landscape, either perched or nestled, to minimize site disturbance as much as possible. All buildings in this concept would be as net-zero or net-positive as possible, reducing the need for additional infrastructure to service the site with electricity. Trail systems for the public would follow existing systems or be slightly realigned to minimize disturbance.

The benefits of this option are an opportunity to develop a site that is self-sustaining as well as sustainable. However, some building locations may require initial site disturbance so extra care for rehabilitation will be required. Further, the location of the Monks' Facility and Farm would require a multi-use path that can accommodate vehicles, which is lengthy in design, and would require at least two wetland crossings.

LEGEND

 FARM	 CHURCH	 POTENTIAL ROAD
 MONKS' BUILDING	 CEMETERY	 RIDEAU TRAIL
 INTERIM HOUSING	 RETREAT CENTRE	 PUBLIC TRAIL
 MONKS' CABIN	 ST. MINAS LODGE	 PRIVATE/MONKS' TRAIL
 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM	 SITE ENTRANCE	



OPTION 1

ECO-MONASTERY

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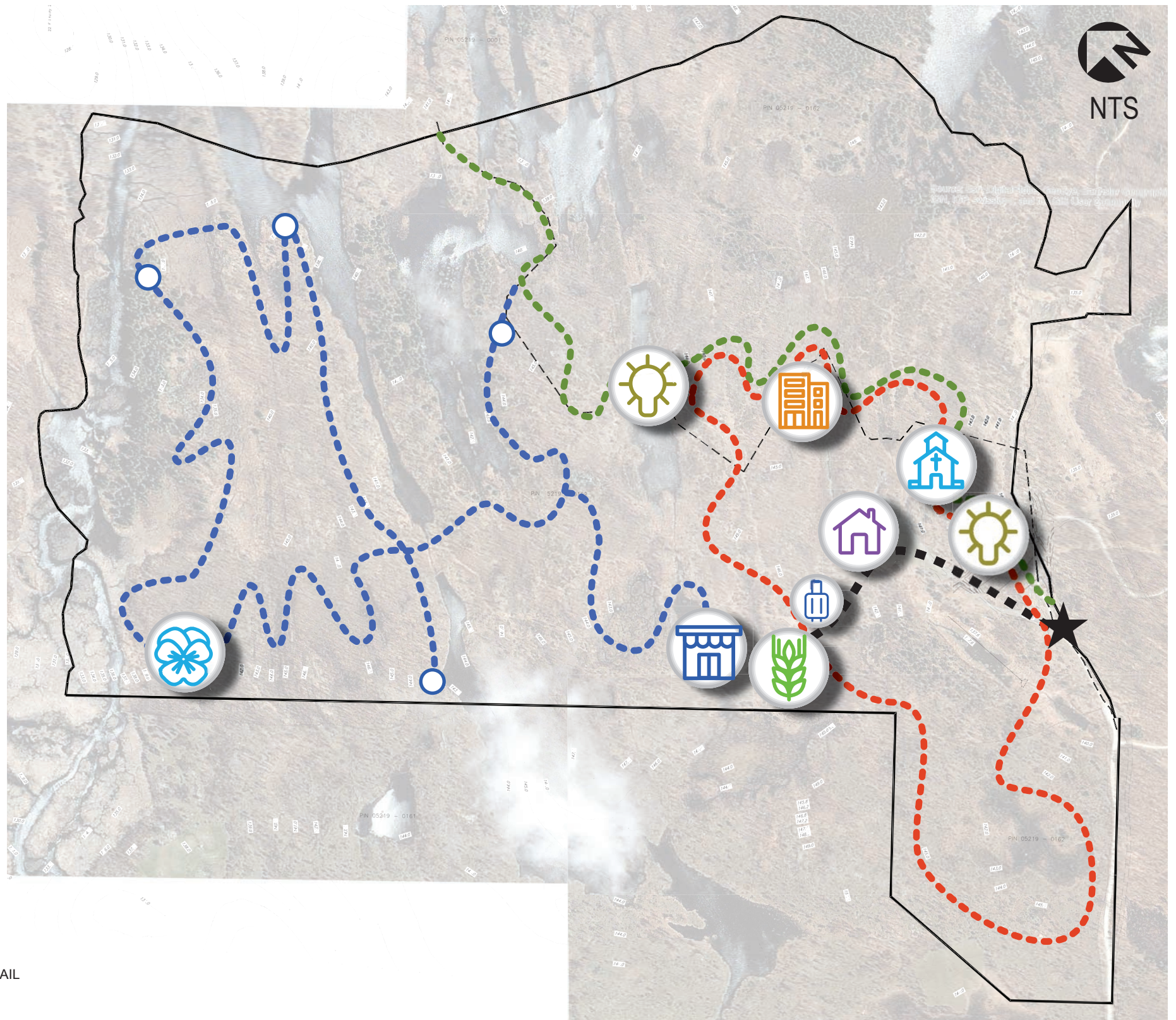


OPTION 2

NATURAL PATTERNS

This option promotes a site design that reflects the natural patterns – from the glacial scouring to the pattern of wetlands laid out on site. Buildings would be clustered – like islands – and connected by pathways and ‘portage’ routes. Building placement would be loose and informal – like the rock outcroppings on site. The public use buildings are centrally located in this concept, with smaller buildings and programming elements situated according to their use and required proximity to each other. The design language of this concept is inspired by the Canadian Shield and all open spaces would reflect this concept both in formal and informal arrangements.

The Monks Facility is situated closer to the public building cluster, yet separate. A small multi-use pathway connects the Monks Facility to other uses. In this concept a small urban-style farm would compliment the Monks Facility, with greenhouses, indoor fish farms and raised garden beds allowing some production of food on site.



LEGEND

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| FARM | CHURCH | POTENTIAL ROAD |
| MONKS' BUILDING | CEMETERY | RIDEAU TRAIL |
| INTERIM HOUSING | RETREAT CENTRE | PUBLIC TRAIL |
| MONKS' CABIN | ST. MINAS LODGE | PRIVATE/MONKS' TRAIL |
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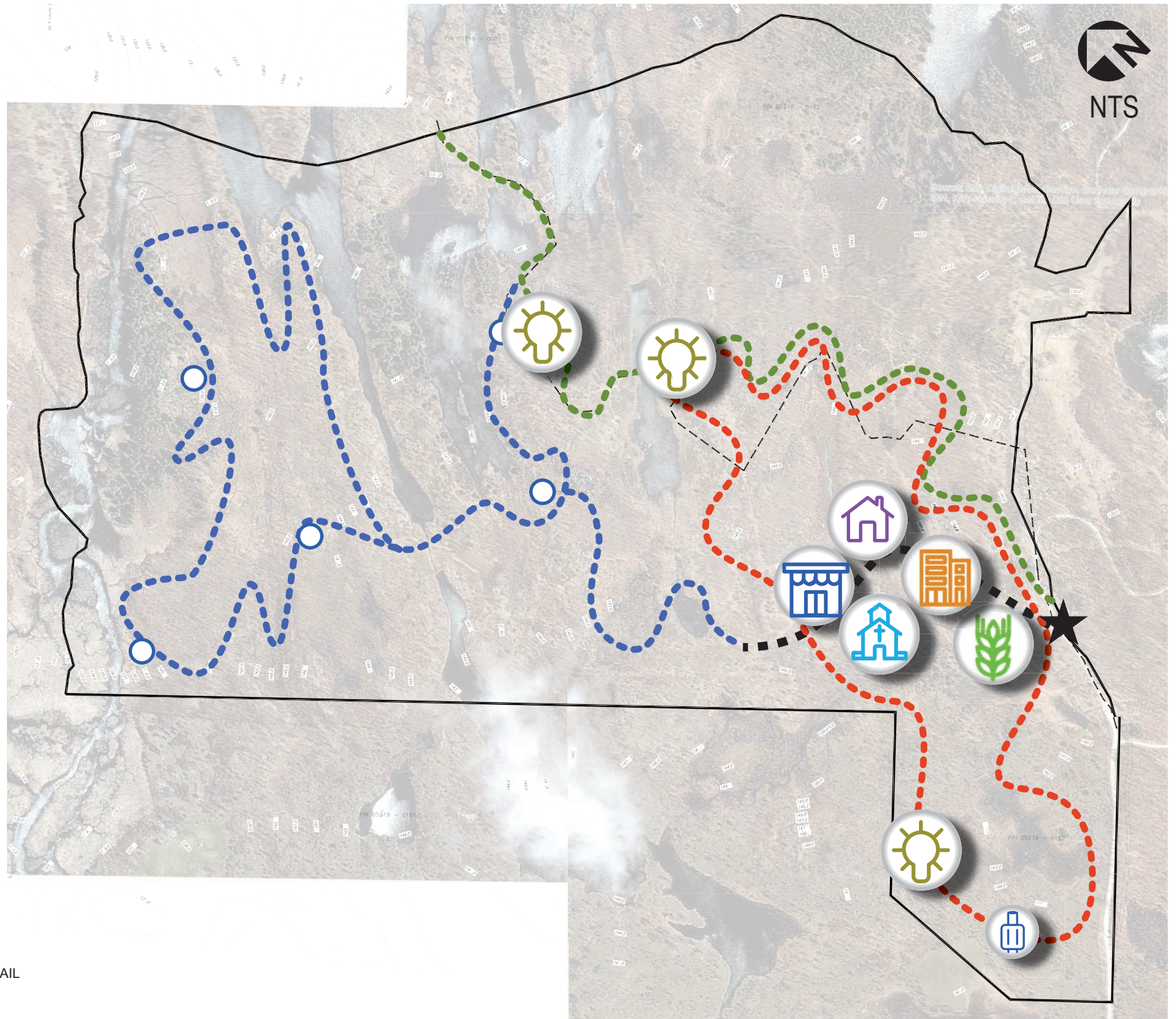


OPTION 3

FORMAL

The final concept arranges all buildings in a formal, campus-like setting. This strategy is inspired by Old World monastery design, allowing for a more formal styling of the spaces and building arrangement. Buildings will be centered around a central plaza space, offering the opportunity for programming and formal/informal gathering. This scenario proposes to locate the church and Monks' Facility together, while arranging the St. Mina's Lodge to frame the plaza. Urban-style farming practices will be prominent in this design, situated along the existing stormpond. The pond would be reconfigured to allow for more water held in it year-round, which can be used for watering the farming operations. By placing the farming operation within the public areas, it provides an opportunity for informal monk interaction as well educational moments of how to produce food.

This concept allows a grander style of development, with all buildings contributing both aesthetically to the site and framing edges strategically to create a piazza-like space. However, this concept could potentially be more costly in overall design – including the open space systems which may require additional maintenance. The compact nature of this concept though minimizes the impact of the overall site, which could realize some development savings.



LEGEND

- | | | |
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