

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT 7400 LEAKE AVENUE NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

July 17, 2023

Regulatory Division
Eastern Evaluation Branch

Project Manager: Carrie Schott (504) 862-1153 Carrie.G.Schott@usace.army.mil

Application #: MVN-2000-00696-ECS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344), and/or [] Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. Section 408).

COQUILLE RECREATION PARK EXPANSION IN ST.TAMMANY PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: St. Tammany Recreation District 14, c/o: Hydrik Wetlands Consultants, Mr. Michael Henry, 2323 Highway 190 East, Suite 2, Hammond, Louisiana 70401.

LOCATION OF WORK: Located at the NE quad of Louisiana Highway 1077 and Louisiana Highway 1085, Covington, in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, (lat. 30.472434, long. -90.180804), as shown within the attached drawings. (Hydrologic Unit Code 080902010204, Soap and Tallow Branch Tchefuncta Watershed).

CHARACTER OF WORK: The original project included the clearing, grading, excavating, and depositing fill for the construction of soccer fields, baseball fields, walking trails, dog parks, skate parks, restroom areas, and parking areas, all for the purpose of expanding Coquille Recreation Park. A Department of the Army Permit was originally issued on June 6, 2001, for Coquille Recreation Park expansion and on May 20, 2011, that reflected a minor modification and time extension. The proposed project modification includes the preservation of 0.91 acre of wetlands that were originally permitted to be impacted by fill activities. Additional proposed project modifications include approximately 0.90 acre of previously permitted preserved wetlands being filled to expand walking paths.

<u>MITIGATION:</u> The original permit direct effects were permanent impacts to approximately 17.65 acres of pine flats/scrub shrub wetlands. The applicant purchased

13 acres of pine flatwood/savanna wetlands at the Southeast Louisiana Pine Wetlands Mitigation Bank-Perino Addendum as compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional wetlands associated with the original proposed project. The proposed project modification would result in no net increase in previously permitted impacts.

The comment period on the requested Department of the Army Permit will close 20 days from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit request, and must be submitted so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters and/or comments concerning the subject permit application must reference the Applicant's Name and the Permit Application Number and can be preferably emailed to the Corps of Engineer's project manager listed above or forwarded to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION, RGE, Carrie Schott. Individuals or parties may also request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by mail or preferably by emailing the specified project manager listed above. Any request for an extension of time to comment must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Branch Chief will review the request and the requester will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous and inclusive of the initial comment period and will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. This public notice is also available for review online at https://go.usa.gov/xennJ

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest

factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Further, all factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project.

The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. As deemed necessary, copies of this public notice will be sent to the State Archeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and federally listed tribes regarding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would have no effect on any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any such species.

Based on the Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana, as signed on January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the provided the determination of a "No effect" was concluded for the threatened Gopher Tortoise, Louisiana Quillwort, Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction, alteration, and/or disturbance of 0 acre of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

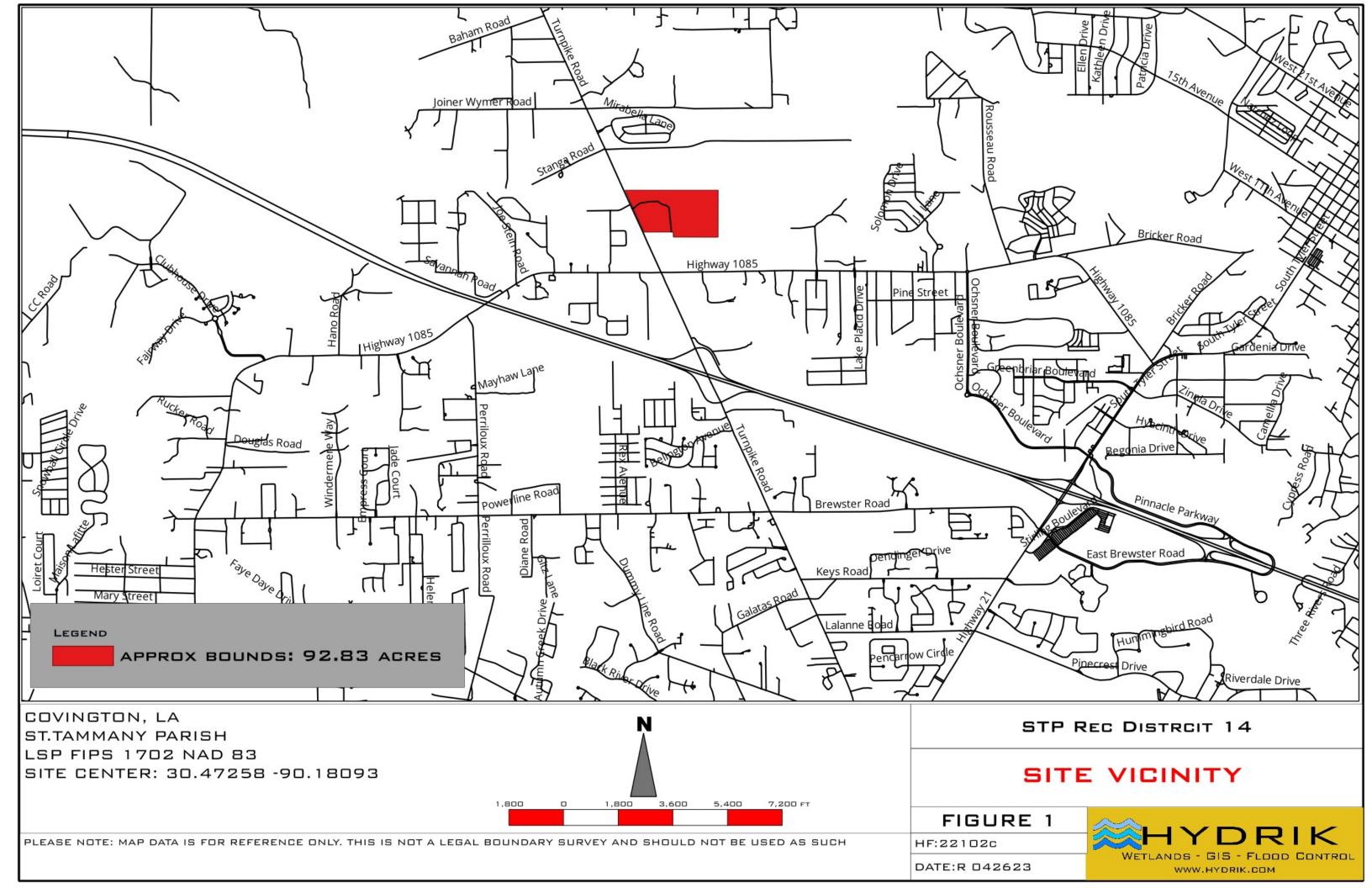
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the LA Department of Environmental Quality before a Department of the Army permit is issued.

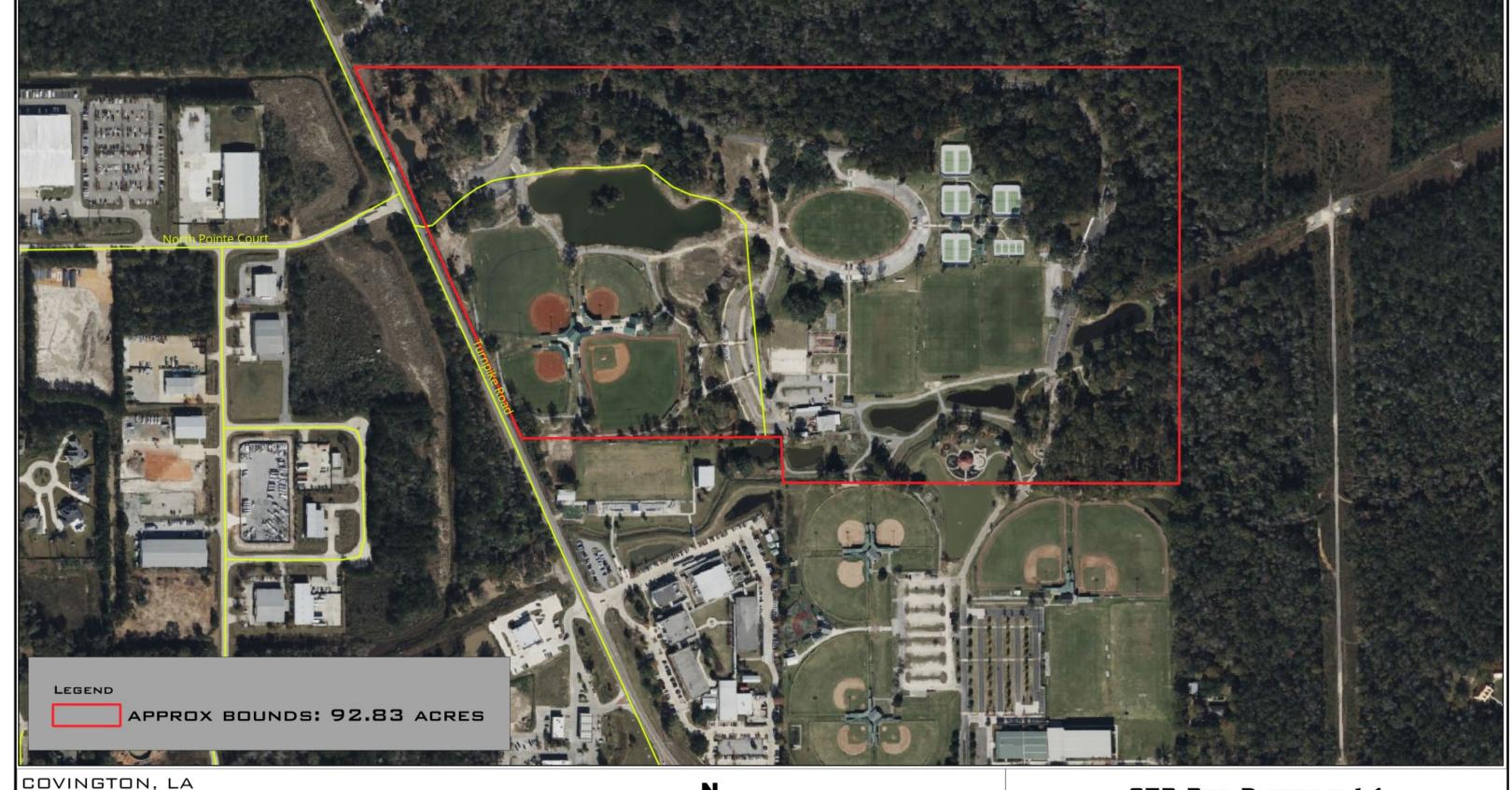
Any person may request, (preferably by email to the project manager, or in writing), within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

Brad LaBorde Chief, Eastern Branch Regulatory Division

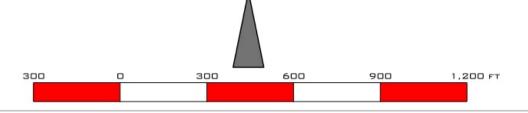
Enclosures





COVINGTON, LA ST.TAMMANY PARISH LSP FIPS 1702 NAD 83

SITE CENTER: 30.47258 -90.18093



PLEASE NOTE: MAP DATA IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. THIS IS NOT A LEGAL BOUNDARY SURVEY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED AS SUCH

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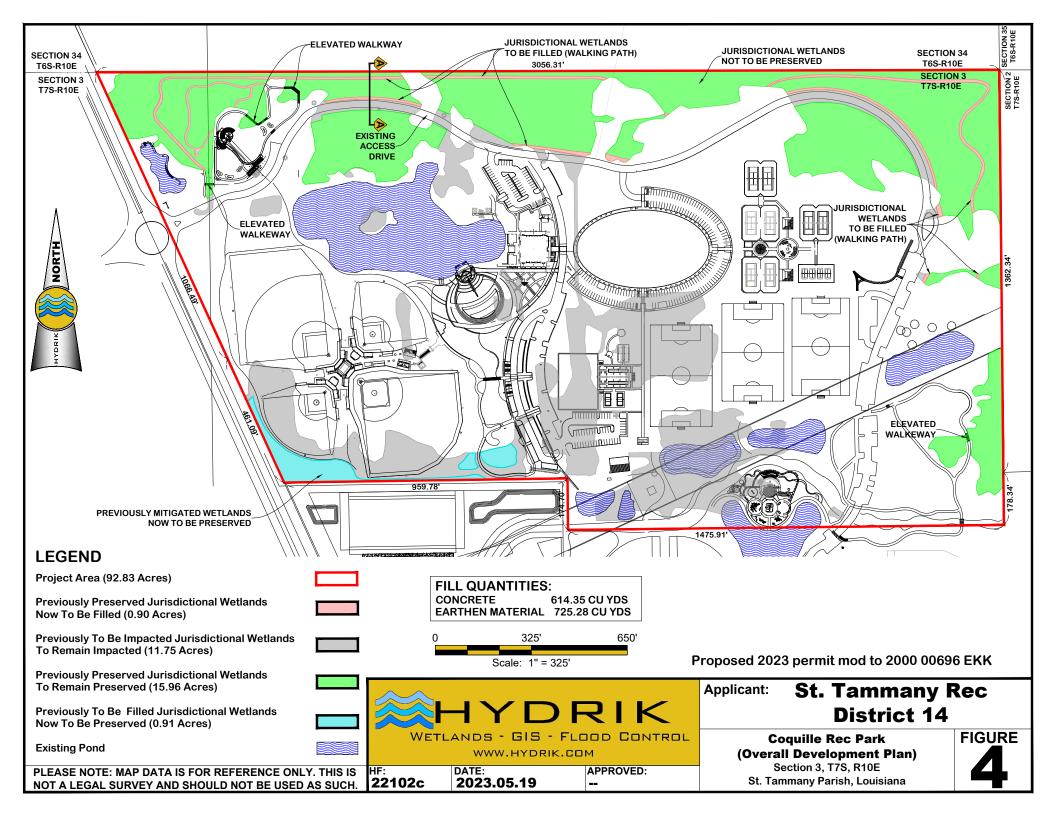
FIGURE 2

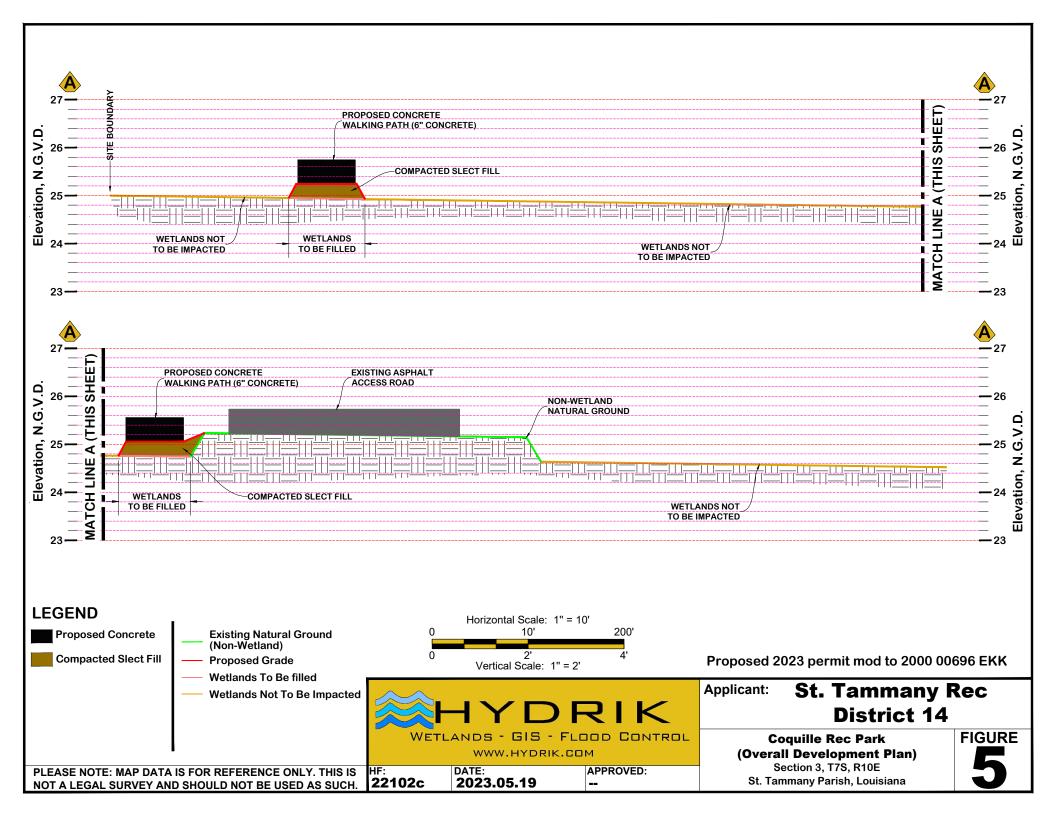
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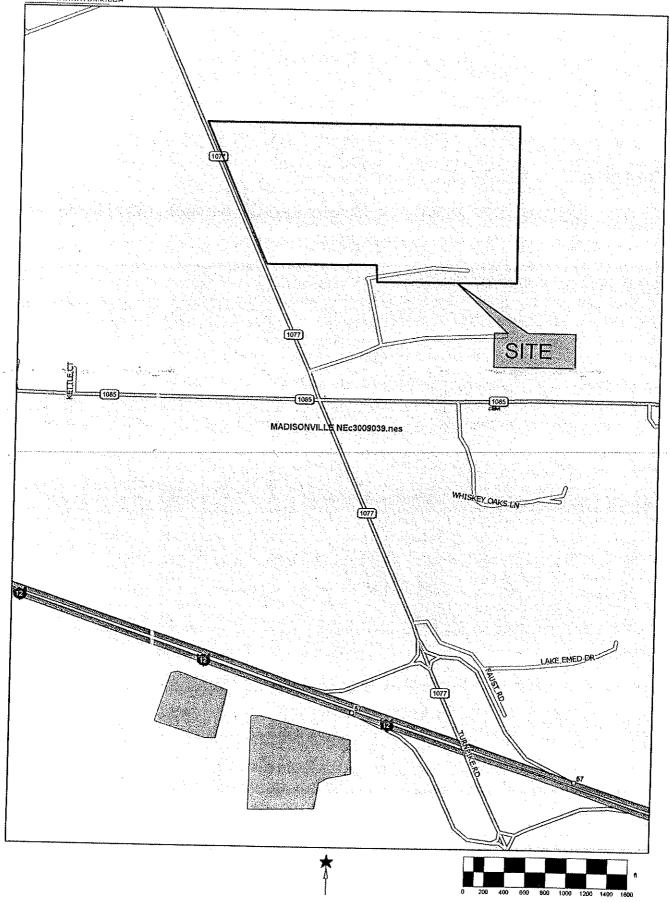






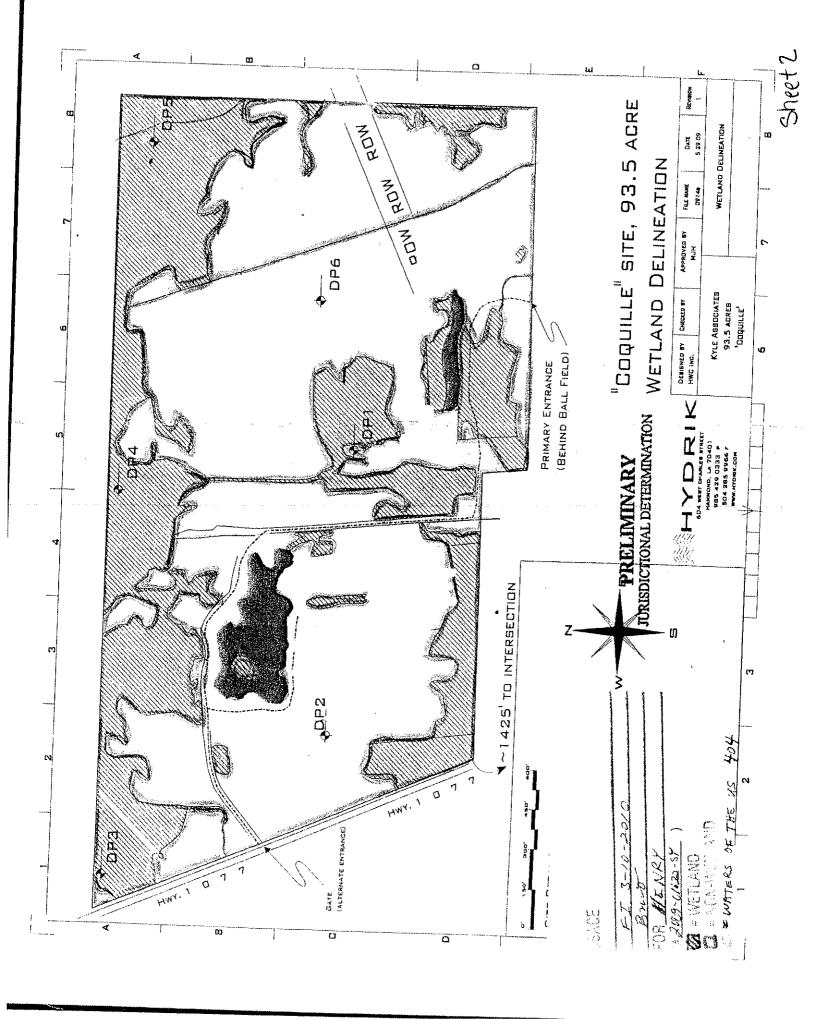


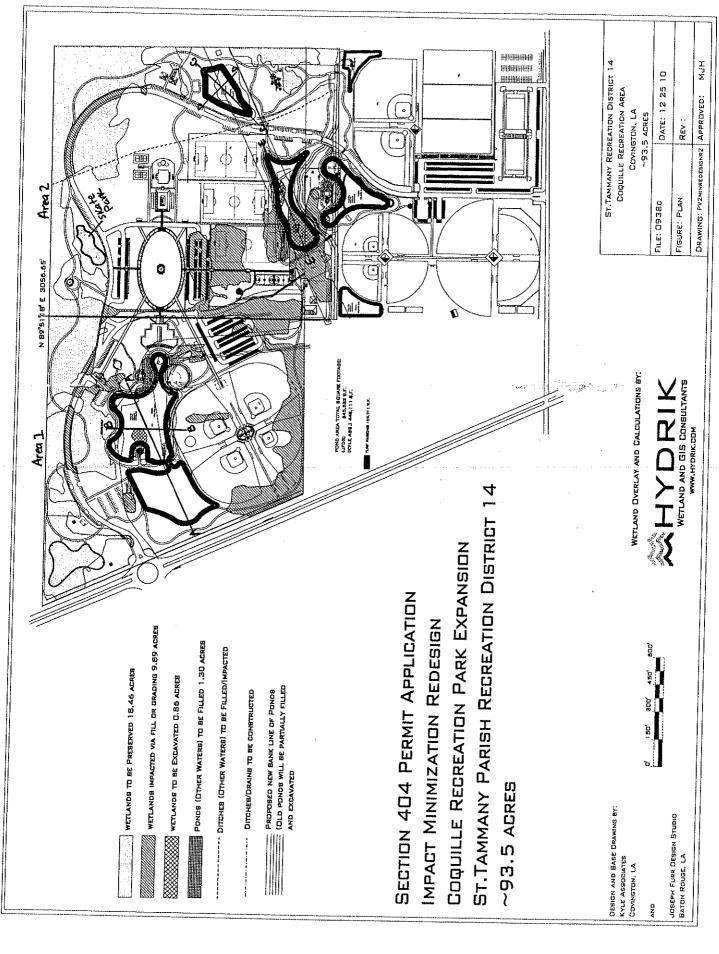


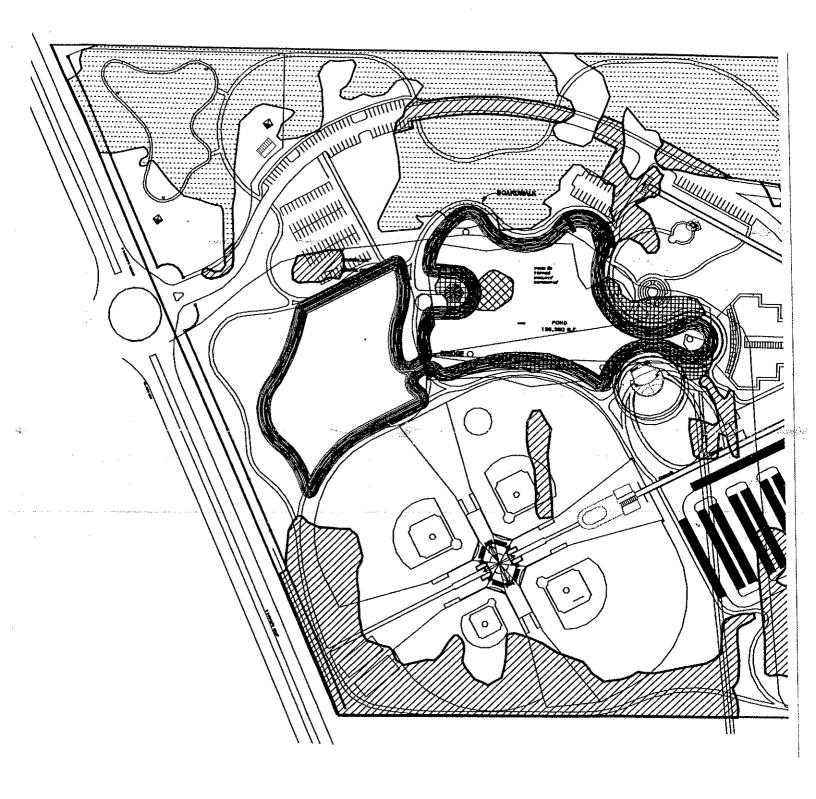


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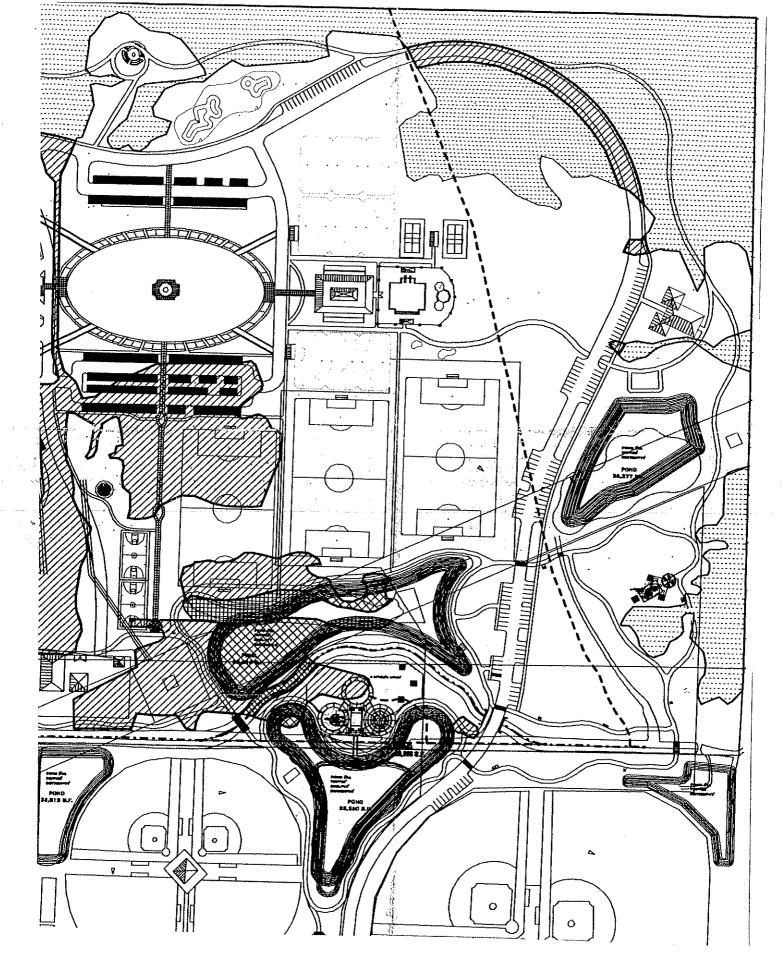
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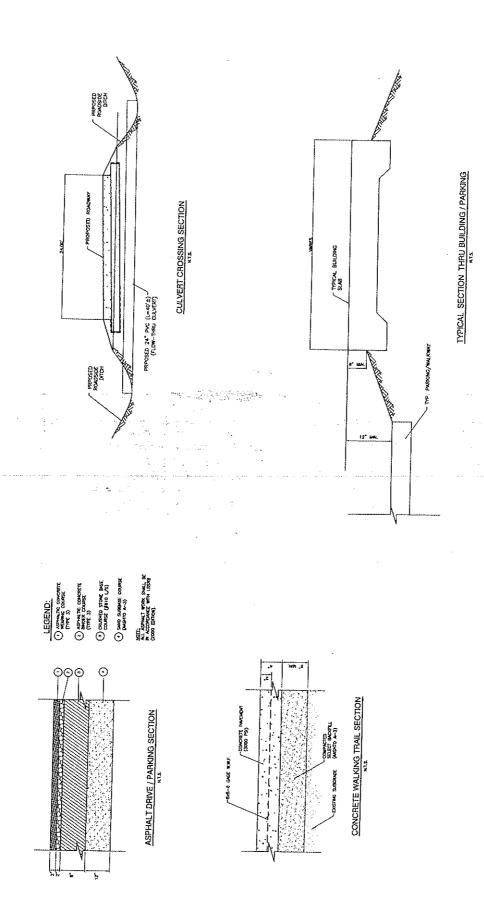


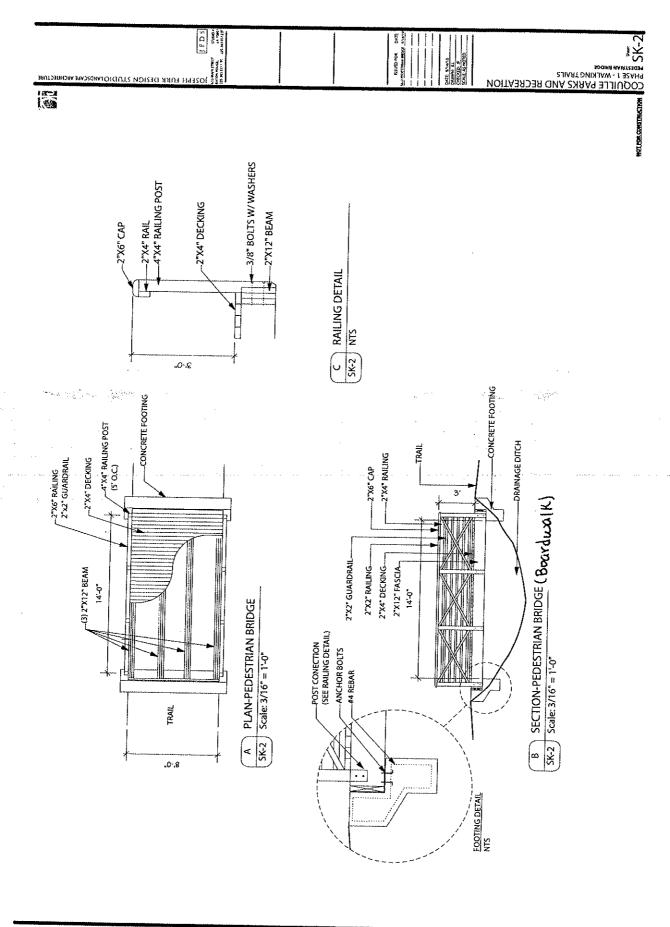


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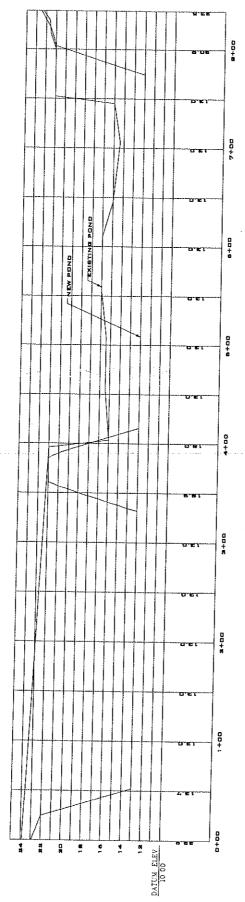


Area 2





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NEW POND #3 SECTION AA

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COQUILLE RECREATION AREA ST.TAMMANY PARISH, LA

~93.5 ACRES

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FIGURE: PLAN VIEW

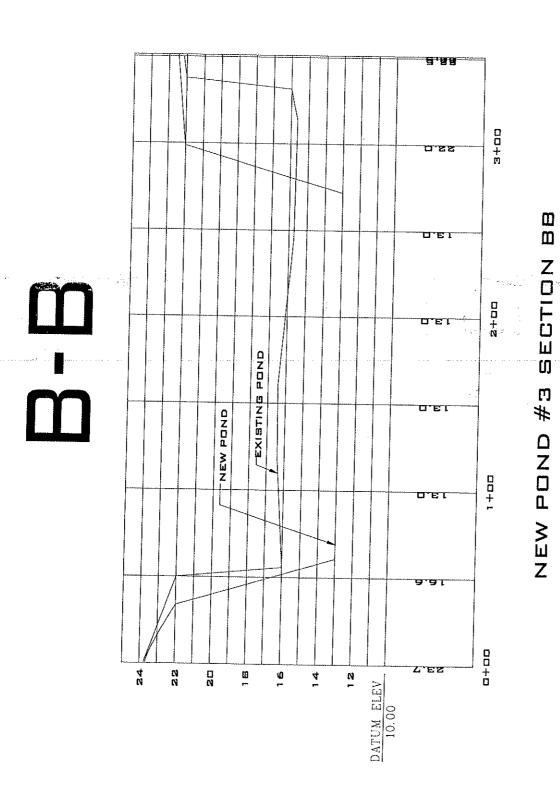
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KYLE ASSOCIATES

Sheet 8



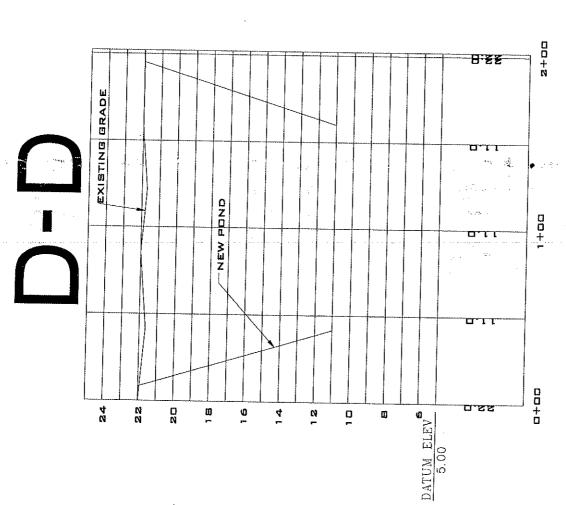
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WETLAND AND GIS CONSULTANTS.
WWW.HYDRIK.COM

WETLAND OVERLAY AND GALBULATIONS BY:

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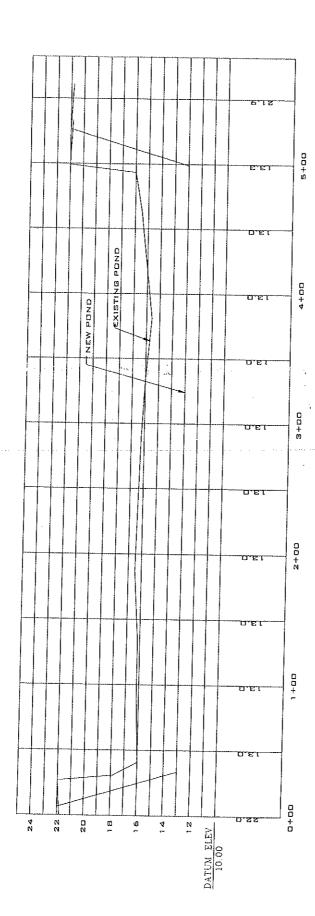


NEW POND #2A SECTION DD

WETLAND GVERLAY AND GALGULATIONS BY:

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NEW POND #2B SECTION EE

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KYLE A	KYLE ASSOCIATES
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Sheet 12