## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

December 14, 2020

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, Louisiana 70118 State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Water Permits Division Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

(504) 862-1217 Project Manager Kenny Blanke <u>Kenneth.G.Blanke@usace.army.mil</u> MVN 2013-01347-CQ (225) 219-3225 Project Manager Ms. Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC 201028-01

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).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with statutory authority contained in LRS30:2074 A(3), and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L.95-17).

## BREC GREENWOOD PARK & BATON ROUGE ZOO MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS NEAR BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT**: BREC- Recreation & Park Commission, c/o CSRS, Inc., Attn: Kim Arcement, 6767 Perkins Road, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

**LOCATION OF WORK**: Located within the existing approximate 660-acre campus of Greenwood Park and the Baton Rouge Zoo, in Sections 53 & 54, Township 7 South, Range 1 West, east of LA Highway 19 and north of LA Highway 423, near Baton Rouge, Louisiana, located in East Baton Rouge Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings (Latitude 30.563714 N Longitude -91.16955 W). This project is located in the Pontchartrain Basin (Amite River HUC 08070202).

**CHARACTER OF WORK:** The applicant is requesting a Department of the Army permit authorization for the implementation of the BREC-Greenwood Park and Baton Rouge Zoo Master Plan. The proposed project includes the relocation of the zoo's main entrance to LA Highway 19, the construction of a green parking lot, and entrance plaza into the center of Greenwood Park. The project will also provide rentable commercial office space and educational facilities. Cypress Bayou is proposed to be reconnected with historic meanders, that had been cut off in the 1960's, to help recreate hydrologic and ecologic functions. The hydrologic improvements proposed in the project include the installation of pedestrian boardwalks for access and swamp benches to help slow and retain stormwater in the bayou. The existing Dumas golf course would be closed, and the JS Clark Golf Course would be expanded across Ash Slough with two proposed bridge crossings and selective clearing of trees. JS Clark improvements also include playground amenities, walkways, picnic areas, and bayou overlook areas. The Dumas course would be allowed to revert to forested habitat. Service roads and zookeeper access paths area also proposed. The existing park train is

proposed to be re-routed in two existing portions of its current path. The project purpose compliments the goal of regaining accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and to provide improvements to the existing BREC park and Baton Rouge Zoo for the surrounding communities to visit. All stormwater and sanitary are proposed to be decoupled with contact stormwater routed to the onsite wastewater system. Approximately 1.47 acres jurisdictional wetlands and 0.62 acre of Other Waters of the US are proposed to be impacted directly as a result of project implementation. Approximately 1.15 acres of jurisdictional wetlands are proposed to be temporarily impacted during construction. Approximately 0.143 acre of jurisdictional wetlands would be avoided and not directly impacted. Approximately 821 cubic yards of native material are proposed to be excavated and 1,812 cubic yards of native material and hauled in materials are to be placed in jurisdictional areas as a result of project implementation. The applicant has claimed that the project has been designed to avoid and minimize direct and secondary adverse wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable. The applicant has stated that the project would integrate best management practices into the design which also includes sustainable stormwater features, bioswales, and rain gardens to capture and filter stormwater. The applicant has stated that all unavoidable impacts to wetlands as a result of the project would be mitigated through the purchase of mitigation credits at a Corps-approved wetland mitigation bank.

The comment period for the Department of Army Permit and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will close in 20 days from the date of this joint 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 and/or this WQC request and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, ATTENTION: REGULATORY BRANCH. Similar letters concerning the Water Quality Certification must reference the applicant's name and the WQC application number and be mailed to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at the address above. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request 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 Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

The application for this proposed project is on file with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and may be examined during weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Copies may be obtained upon payment of costs of reproduction.

## 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 US 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 US 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.

The New Orleans District is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and State Historic Preservation Officer.

Our initial finding is that the proposed work would neither affect any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Departments of Interior or Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species. Utilizing the Information & Planning Consultation for Endangered Species in Louisiana (IPaC), dated January 27, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office, the Corps has determined that with the proposed activity will have no effect on any listed species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of <u>NA</u> acres 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.

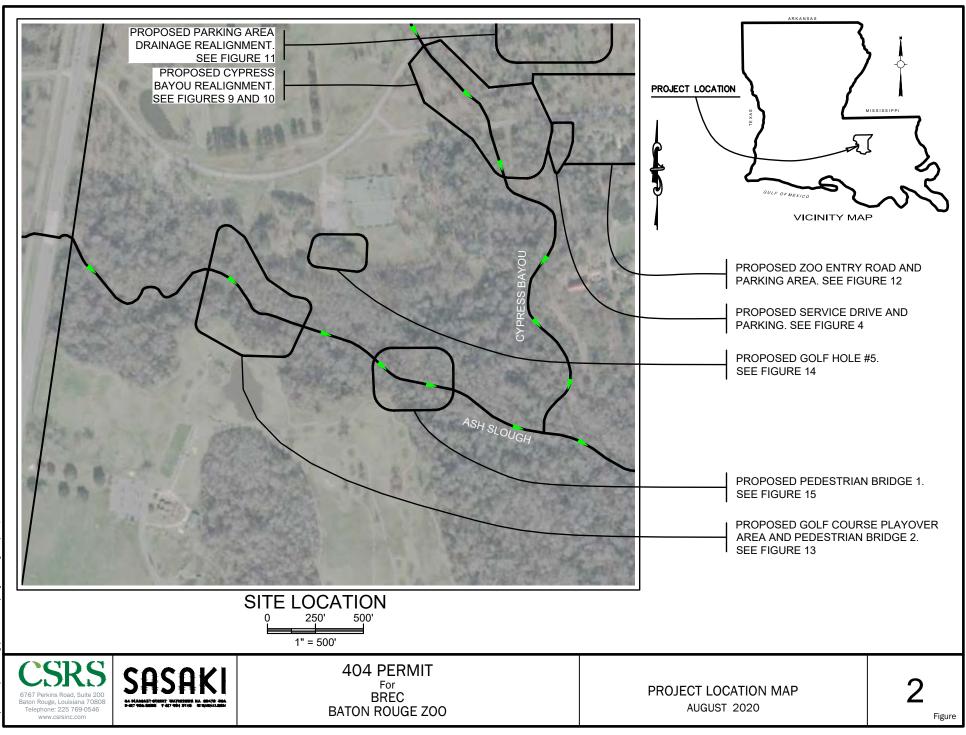
If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not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

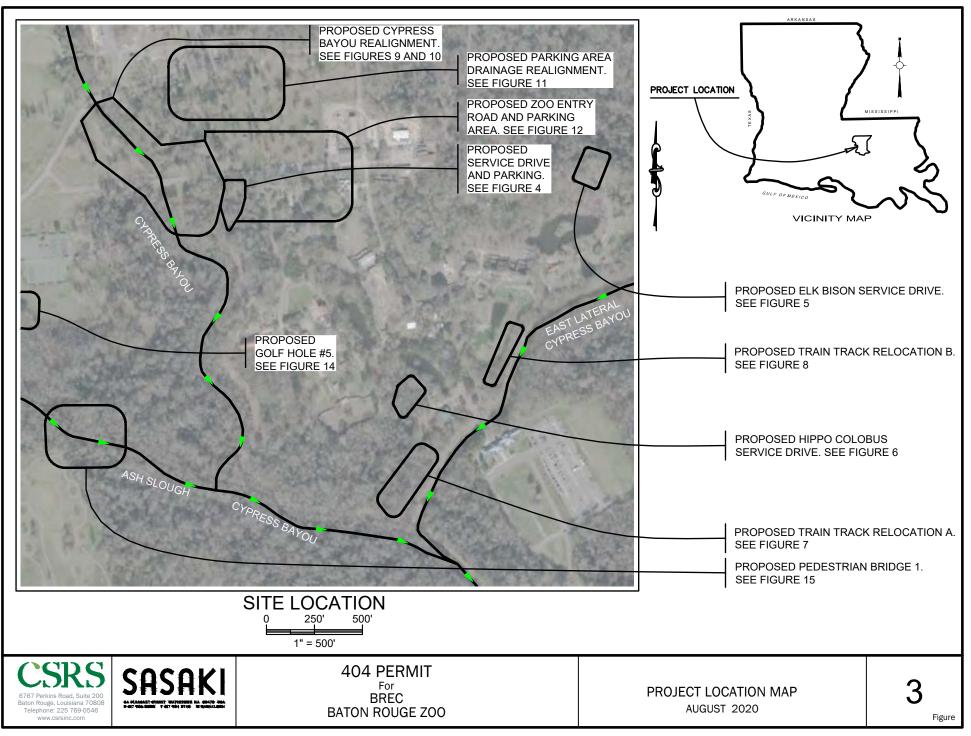
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

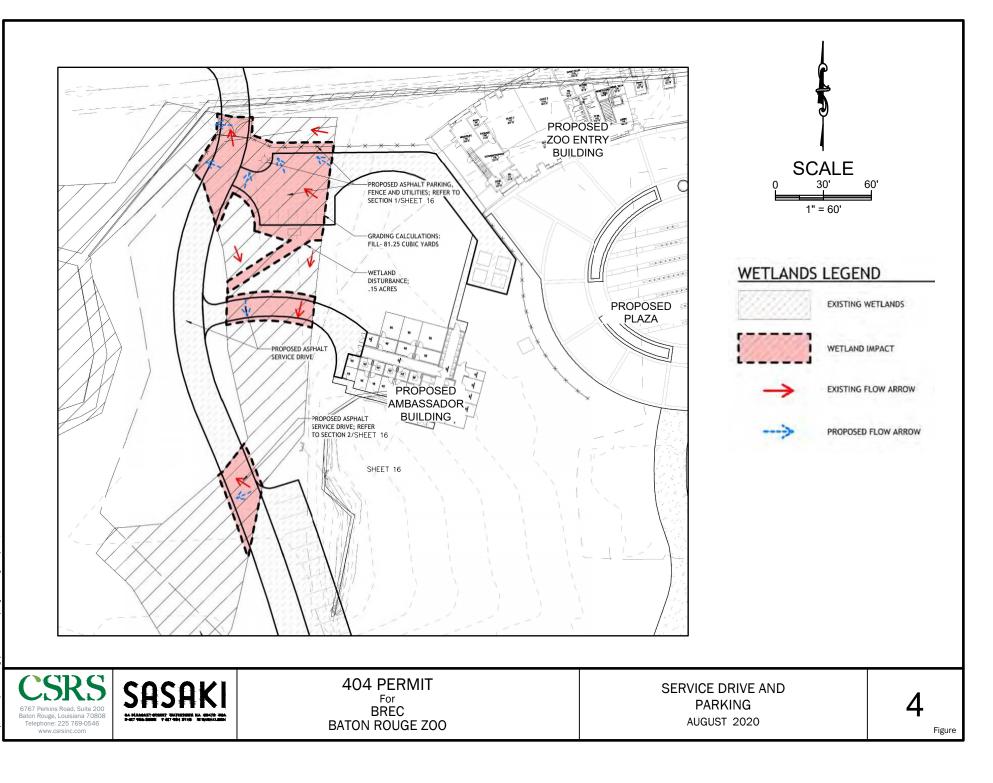
JOHN M. HERMAN Chief, Central Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch

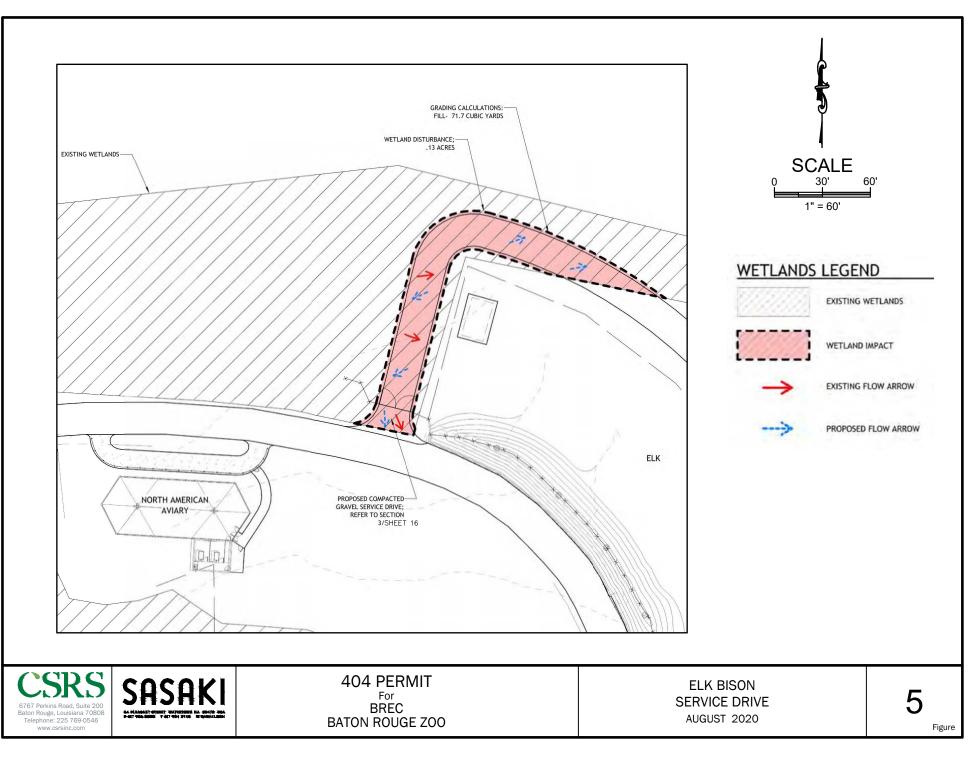
Enclosure

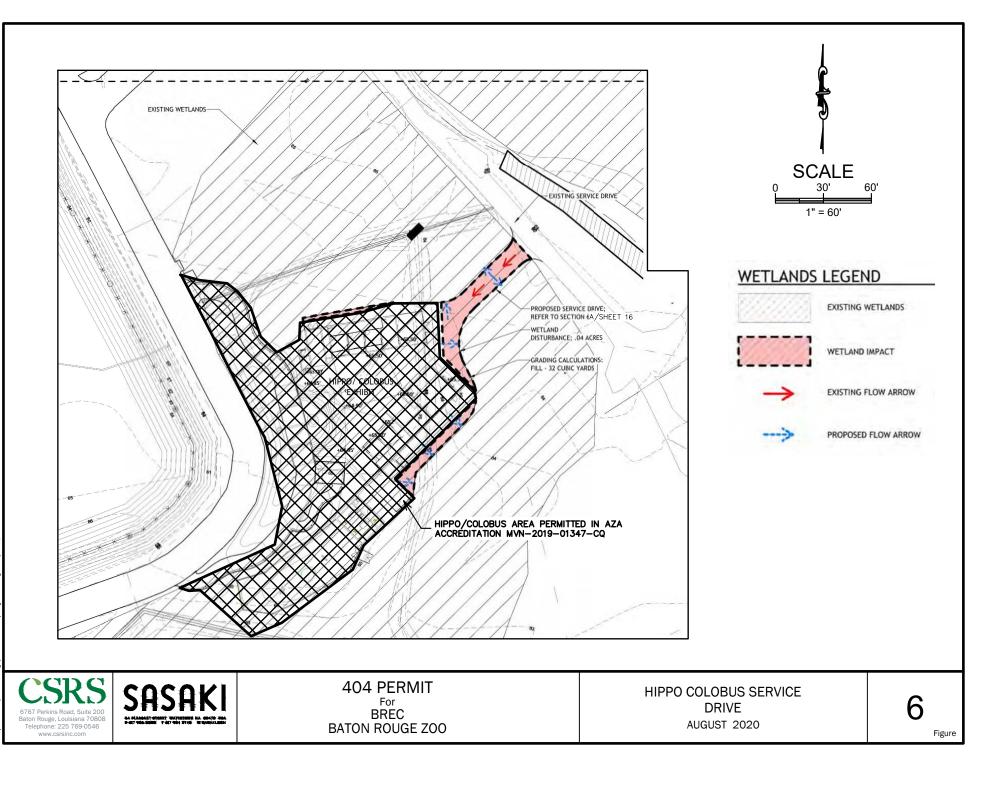
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		SITE LOCATION 0 2,500' 5,000' 1" = 5,000'							
CCSRRS 6767 Perkins Road, Suite 200 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808 Telephone: 225 769-0546 www.csrsinc.com		404 PERM <sup>For</sup> BREC BATON ROUGE		VICINI AUGUS		T			

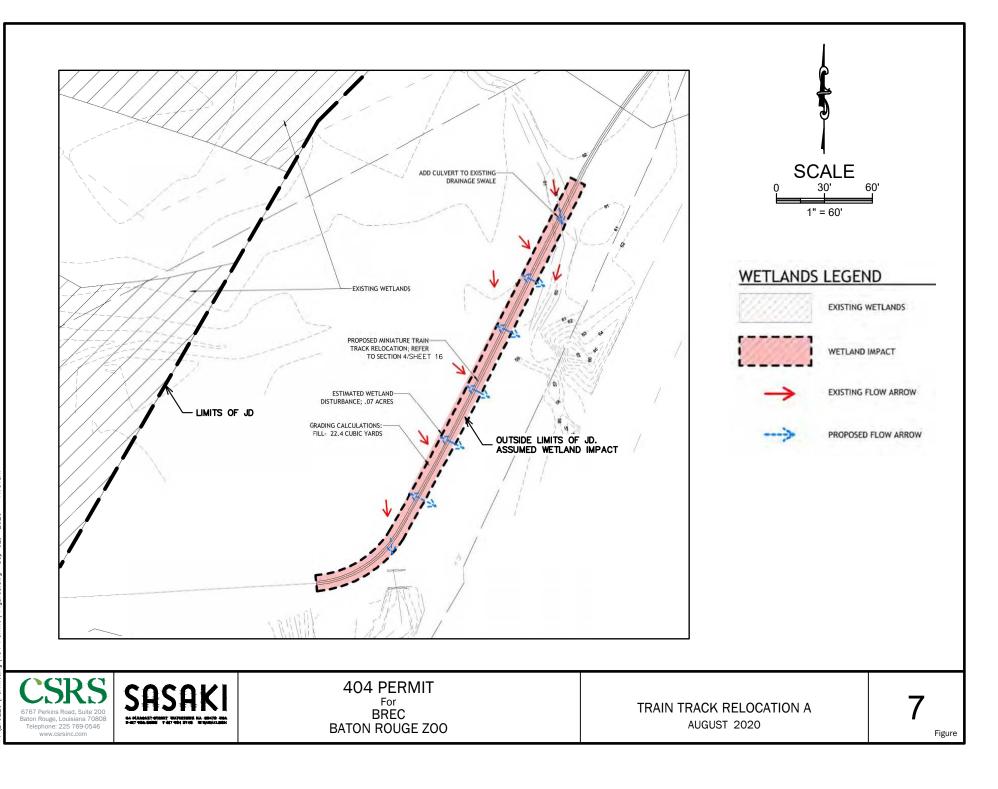


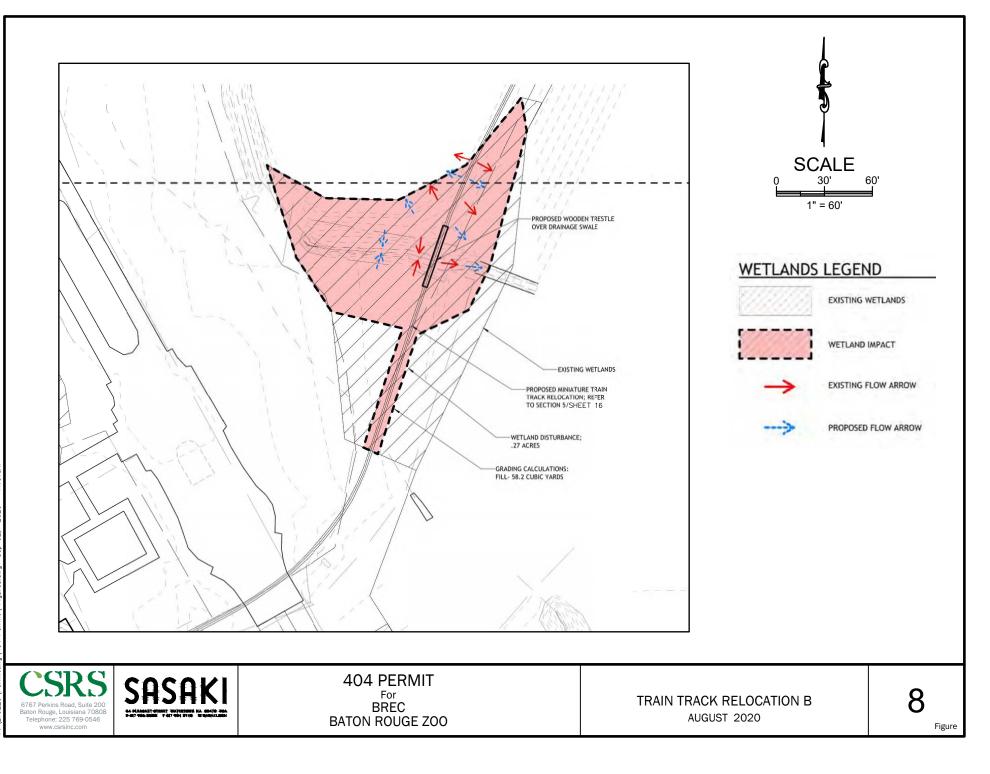


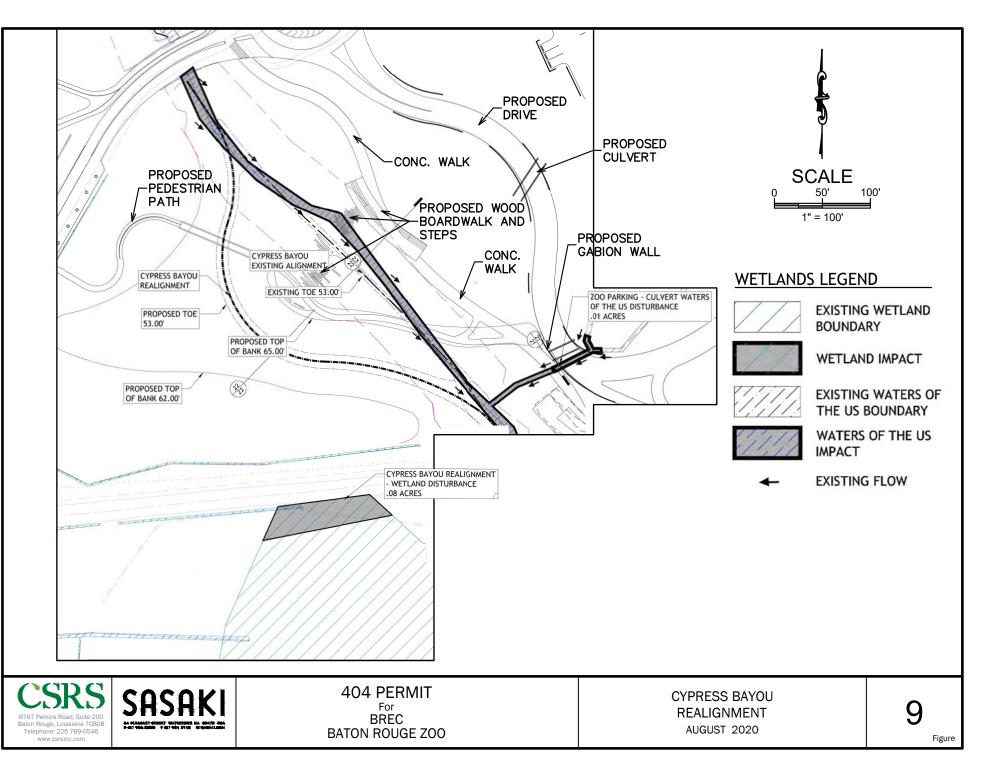


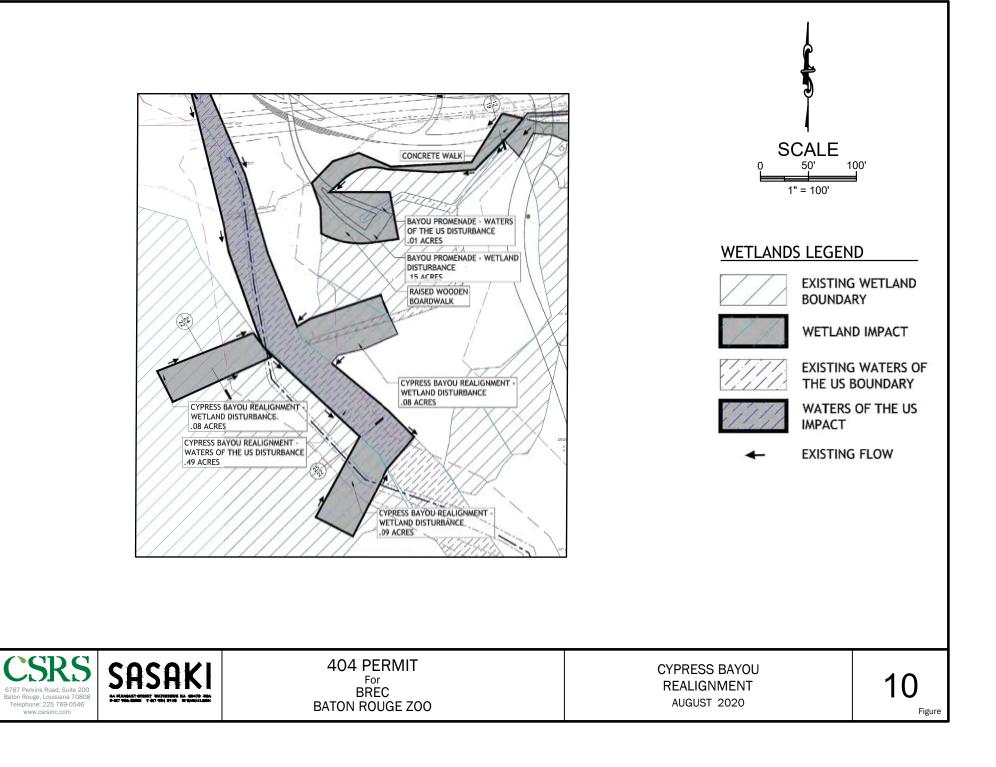


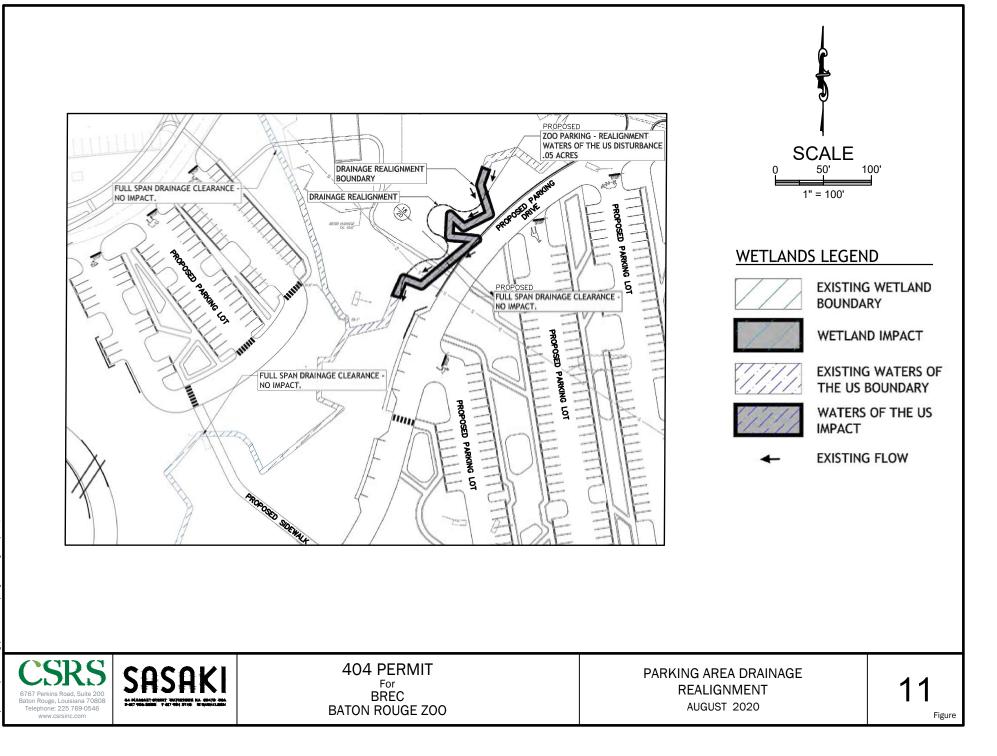


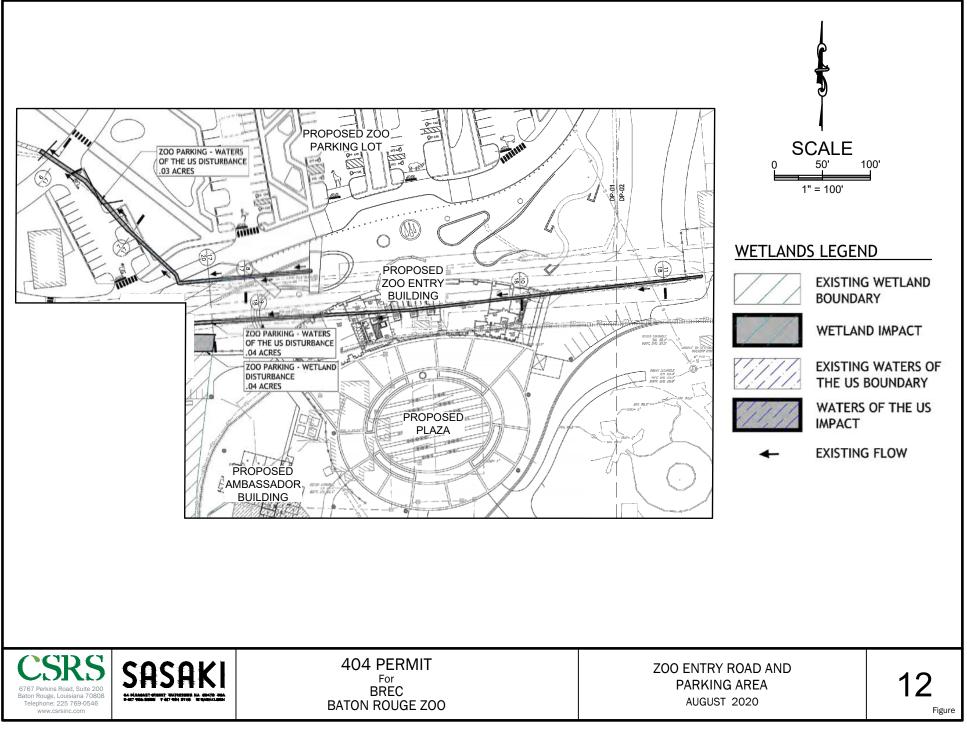


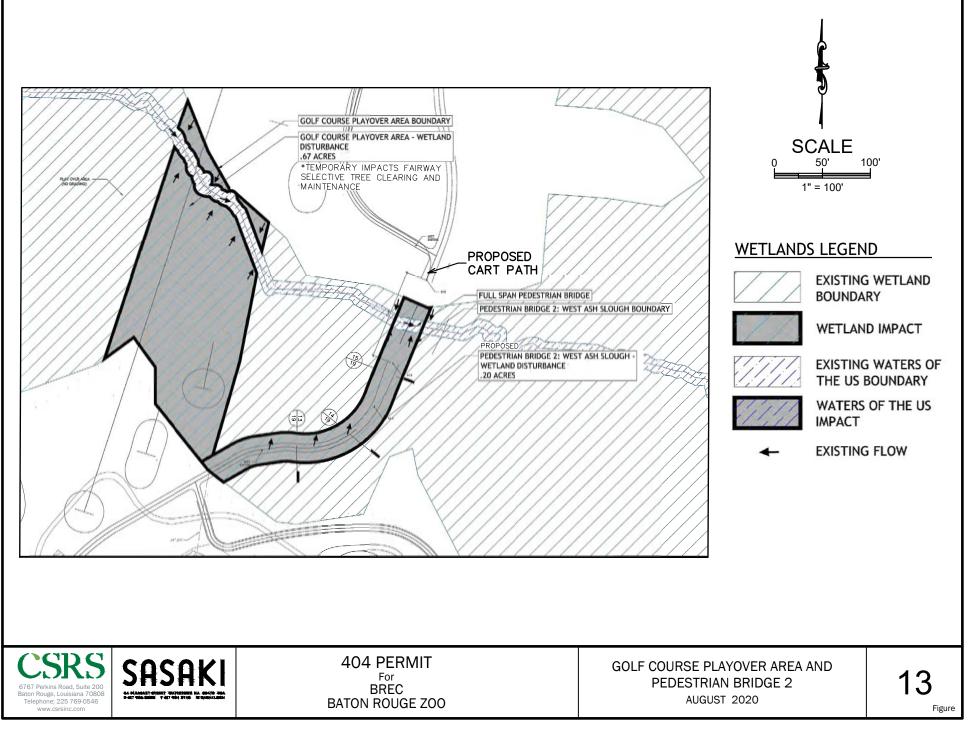


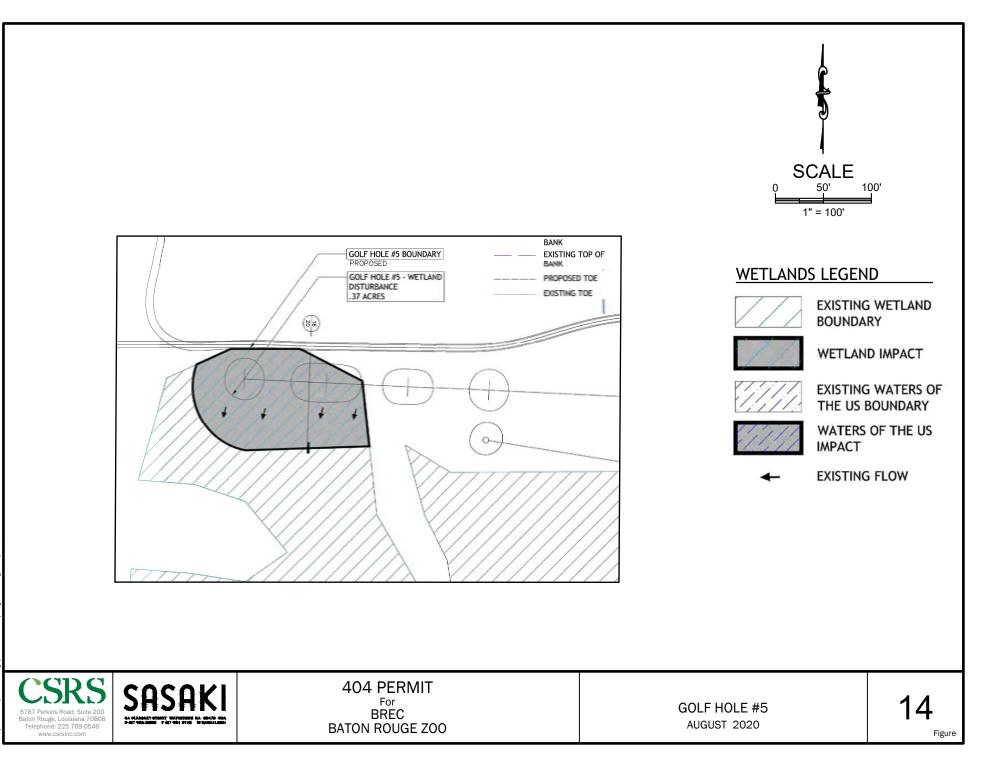


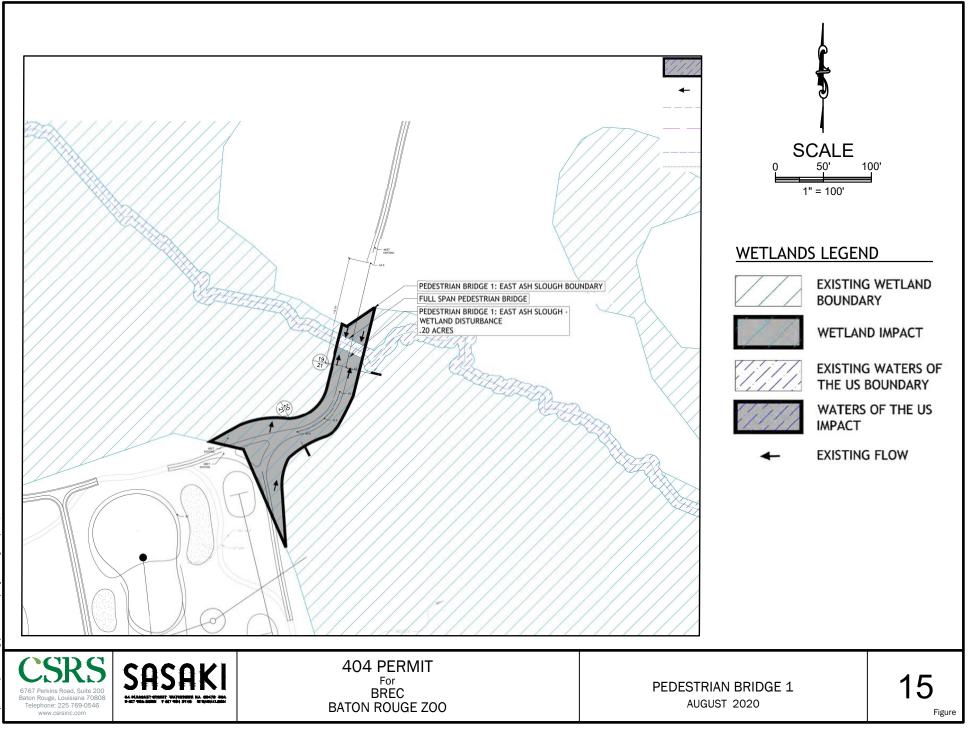


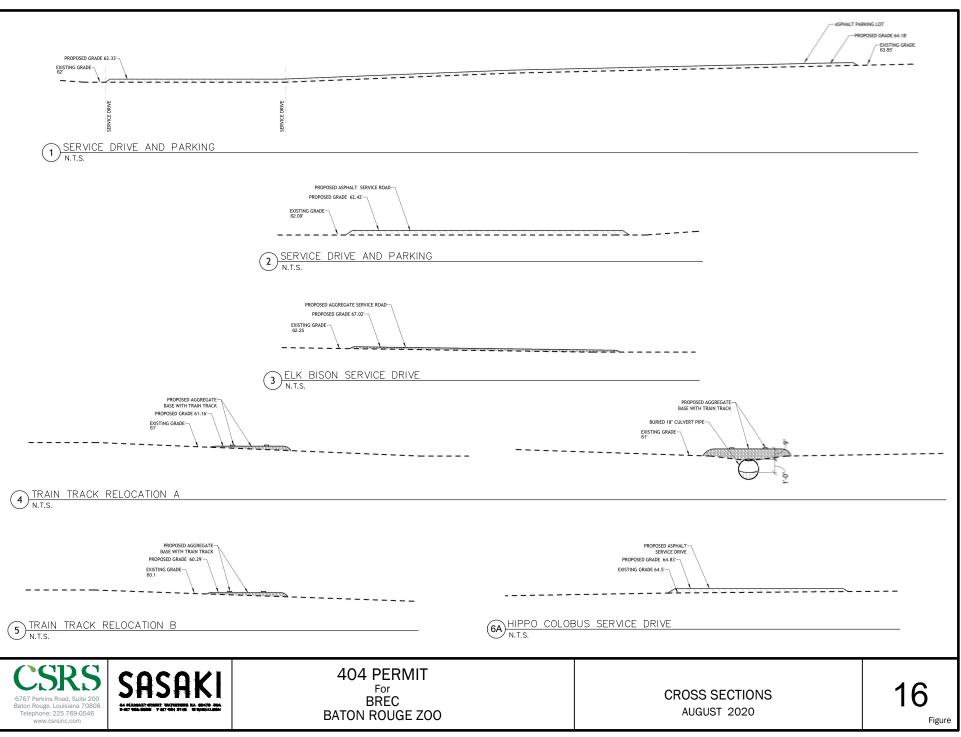


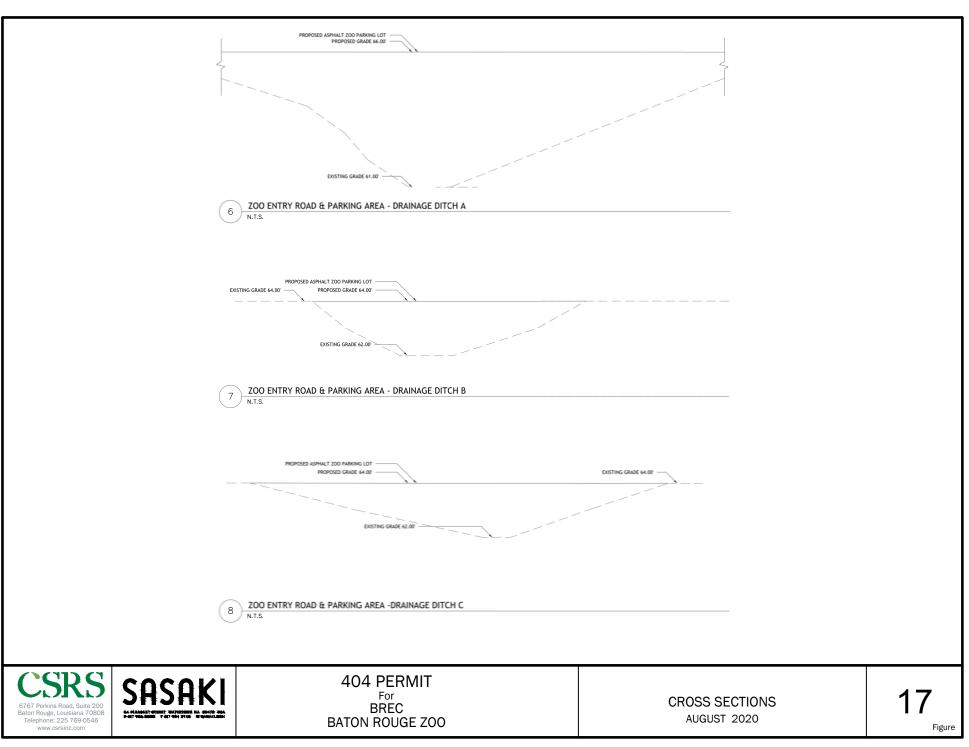


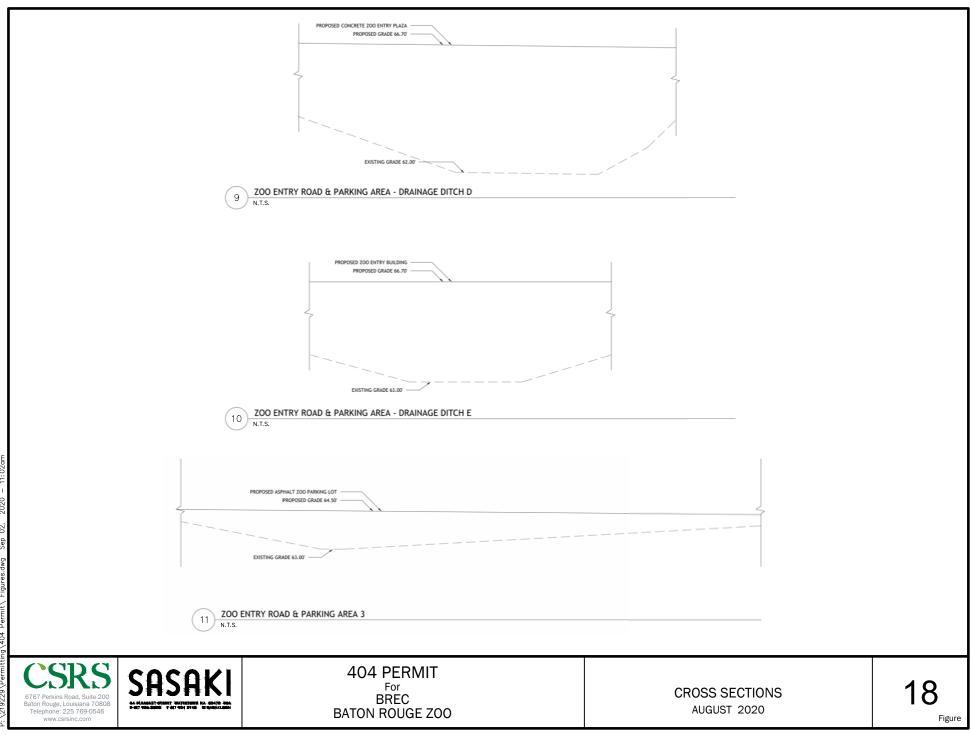


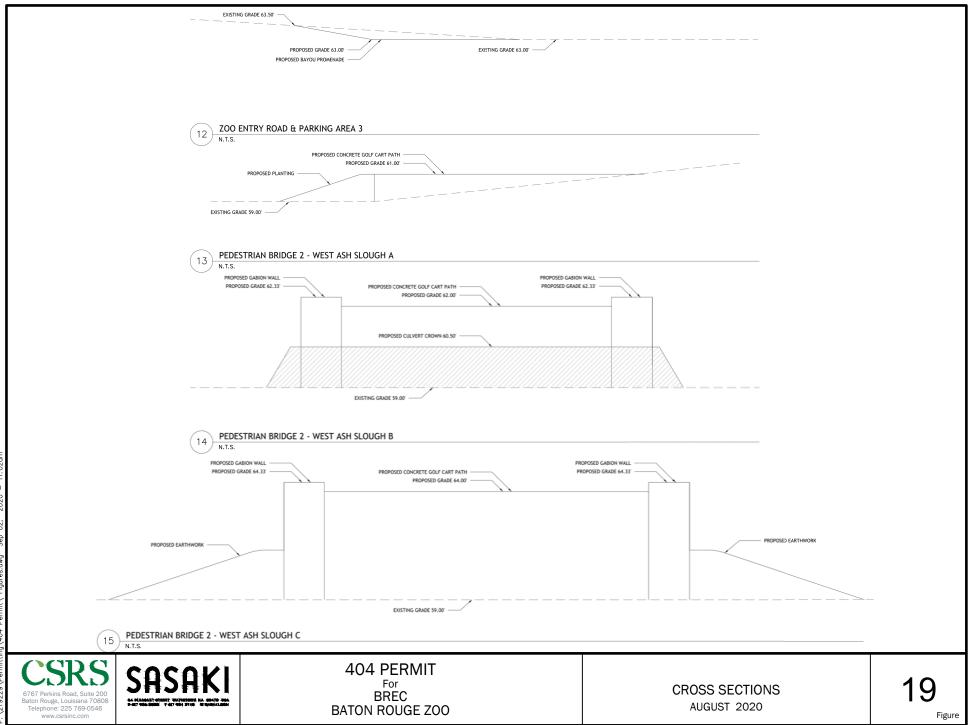


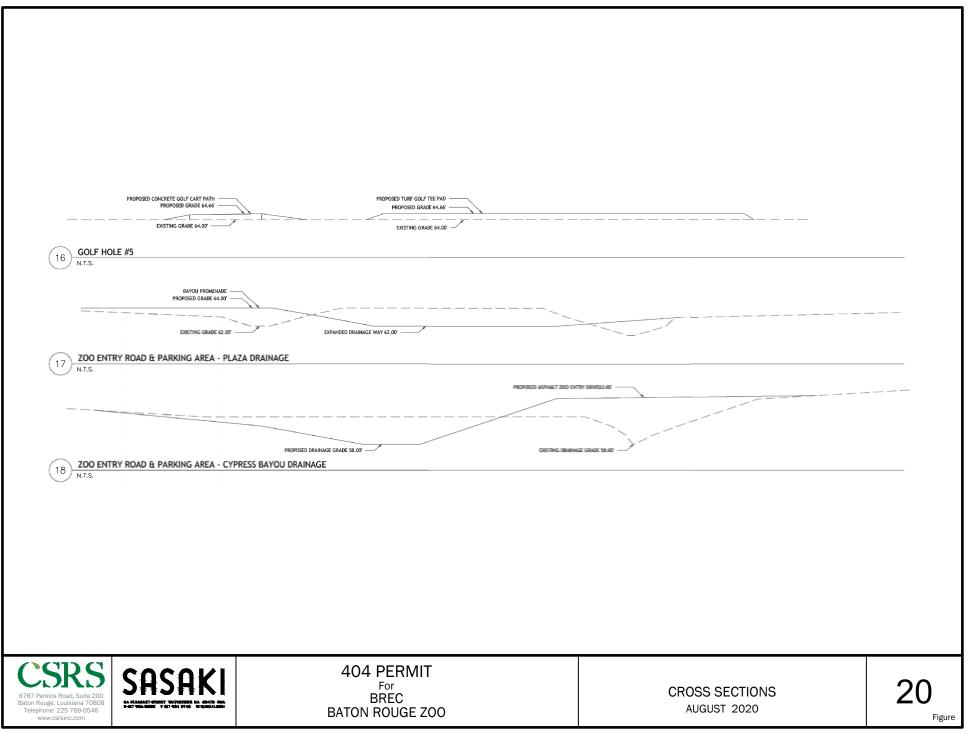


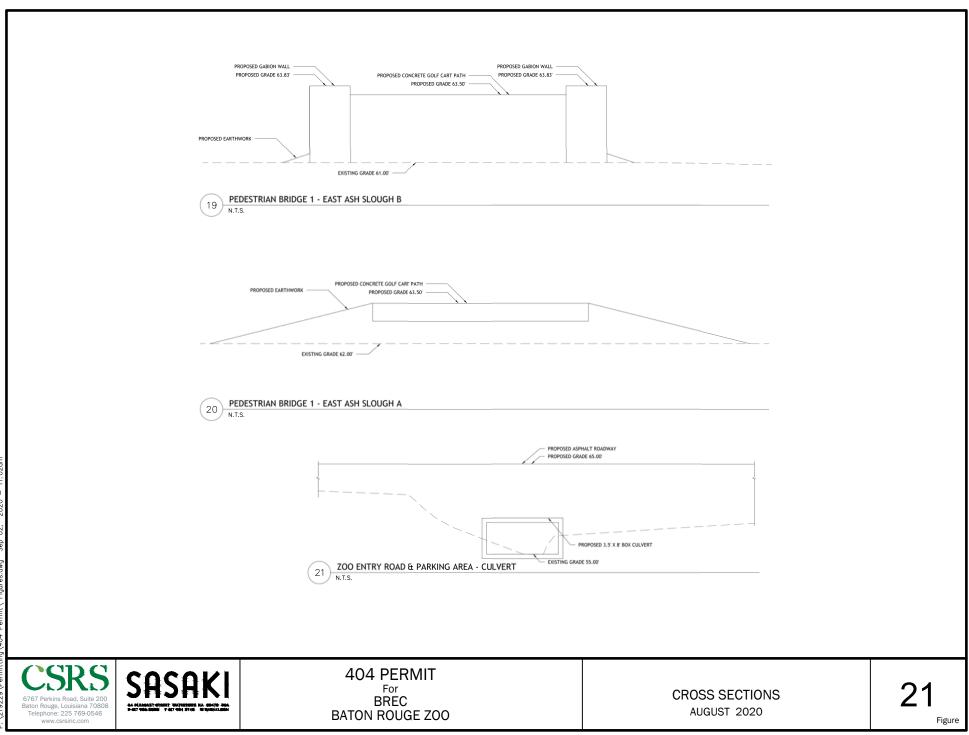


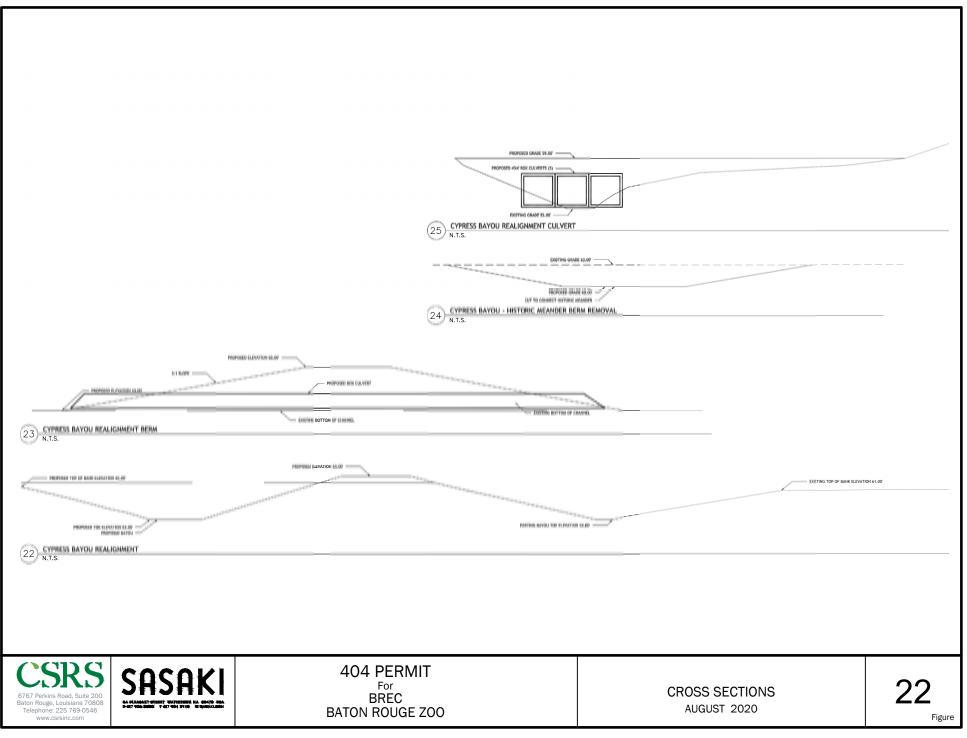












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PROJECT DESCRIPTION / DETAILS AT 30% DESIGN	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT IMPACT	WETLAND IMPACT (ACRES)	IMPACTS AVOIDED (ACRES)	WATERS OF THE US IMPACT (ACRES)	CUT VOLUME (C.Y.)	FILL (C.Y.) BY MATERIAL TYPE	PLAN SHEET	CROSS SECTION SHEET	TEMPORARY STRUCTURES WITH DIMENSIONS	PERMANENT STRUCTURES WITH DIMENSIONS
GOLF COURSE PLAYOVER AREA	N30°33'49.37"	W91°10'10.40"	Т	0.67			0	0	13	N/A	CONTINUED PRUNING TO MAINTAIN GOLF DRIVING LANES	N/A
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE 1 (EAST ASH SLOUGH)	N30°33'44.85"	W91°10'00.17"	Р	0.20			0	138.4 CONCRETE, GABION WALL, EARTH	15	21		CONCRETE GOLF CART PATH
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE 2 (WEST ASH SLOUGH)	N30°33'47.92"	W91°10'07.41"	Р	0.20			0	315 CONCRETE, GABION WALL	13	19		8' CONCRETE GOLF CART / MAINTENANCE VEHICLE PATH
GOLF HOLE #5	N30°33'51.46"	W91°10'04.35"	Р	0.37			0	30 - CONRETE 100 - TURF	14	20	TREE CLEARING	N/A, TURF
ZOO ENTRY ROAD AND PARKING AREA, DRAINAGE REALIGNMENT	N30°34'00.93"	W91°09'50.24"	Р	0.04		0.12	0	676 BUILDING, ASPHALT AND CONCRETE	11 - 12	17 , 18 , 20		PARKING LOT AND ZOO ENTRY PLAZA
CYPRESS BAYOU REALIGNMENT	N30°33'58.64"	W91°09'55.67"	т	0.48		0.51	TBD	TBD	9 - 10	19 , 21, 22	SEDIMENT / EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES	CONCRETE BAYOU PROMENADE, WOODEN BAYOU PROMENADE
HIPPO / COLOBUS SERVICE DRIVE	N30°33'47.18"	W91°09'40.76"	Р	0.04	0.06		0	32 GRAVEL	6	16	8' CHAIN LINK FENCE - 757 L.F.	ASPHALT SERVICE DRIVE
SERVICE DRIVE AND PARKING	N30°33'56.89"	W91°09'50.96"	Р	0.15	0.03		0	81.25 ASPHALT	4	16	8' CHAIN LINK FENCE - 490 L.F.	8' CHAIN LINK FENCE - 84 L.F. 8' ELECTRIC SWING GATE - 21 L.F.
ELK / BISON SERVICE DRIVE	N30°33'58.86"	W91°09'30.05"	Р	0.13			0	71.7 GRAVEL	5	16	8' CHAIN LINK FENCE - 328 L.F.	
TRAIN TRACK RELOCATION A	N30°33'42.89"	W91°09'40.44"	Р	0.07	0.02		0	22.4 AGGREGATE	7	16	8' CHAIN LINK FENCE - 625 L.F.	STEEL RAIL AND PLASTIC TIE TRACK - 307 L.F.
TRAIN TRACK RELOCATION B	N30°33'48.07"	W91°09'35.70"	Р	0.27	0.003		0	58.2 AGGREGATE	8	16	8' CHAIN LINK FENCE - 437 L.F.	STEEL RAIL AND PLASTIC TIE TRACK - 200 L.F. , STEEL TRESTLE 5'x40'
			TOTAL		0.143	0.62	821	1811.35				
		TOTAL PERMANANT IMPACTS	1.47									
CSRRS 767 Perkins Road, Suite 200 aton Rouge, Louisiana 70808 Telephone: 225 769-0546 www.csrsinc.com	Perkins Road, Suite 200 Rouge, Louisiana 70808 phone: 225 769-0546						PERMITTING TABLE AUGUST 2020				23	