

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
CAMP ALLATOONA AQUATICS BASE
CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

1. INTRODUCTION:

a. Location: The proposed improvements are located at the Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base (CAAB) operated by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in Cherokee County, Georgia (Figure 1). The project area is located adjacent to Lake Allatoona, west of the portion formed by the Little River (34° 10' 3.02"N, 84° 36' 30.44"W).

b. Proposed Action: BSA wishes to improve the existing CAAB within its 500 acre lease of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) property adjacent to Lake Allatoona (Appendix A). The lease area is comprised of 347 acres of exclusive use and 153 acres of limited use areas. All proposed improvements are located within the exclusive use area.

The proposed improvements will include maintenance facility construction, remodeling/expansion of existing maintenance and caretaker facilities, parking expansion, restroom facilities, shelters, an outdoor classroom, an amphitheater, boat and swim docks, and improved water utilities.

c. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action: The CAAB has been in operation by the BSA in some capacity since 1951. The CAAB is one of three camps maintained by the Atlanta Area Council of the BSA. Primitive camping is available all year for BSA associates, and seasonal programs are offered on weekends from March to October each year. Camping takes place at the CAAB throughout the year, while campsites are operated to capacity during the eight month seasonal programs.

The primary immediate need to support the existing infrastructure is expansion of parking areas, improvements to restroom facilities, and expansion of water utilities to ensure the safety and health of campers. Long term improvements are proposed to improve the existing infrastructure and expand the teaching capabilities of the CAAB.

d. Authority: BSA's lease of CAAB is authorized under Title 16 of the U.S. Code (USC) Section 406(d), as amended. The Master Plan revisions require an Environmental Assessment to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance standards as detailed in 33 CFR 230.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING WITHOUT THE PROJECT:

a. General Environmental Setting. The CAAB is located on an upland ridge west of the Little River drainage on the south shoreline of Lake Allatoona. Lake Allatoona lies within the Etowah River drainage (Hydrologic Unit Code 03150104), which is part of the greater Coosa-Alabama River Basin terminating in Mobile Bay, Alabama. The CAAB lies within the Piedmont physiographic region of Georgia, which is categorized by rolling hills with eroded soils in uplands and alluvium in bottomlands. Based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey, the site contains the following soil types: Chewacla-Cartecay complex, Hayesville fine sandy loam, Hiwassee clay loam, Musella cobbly loam, Madison fine sandy loam, Tallapoosa fine sandy loam, and Tallapoosa channery sandy loam (Figure 2).

b. Significant Resource Description.

(1) Wetlands. Corblu Ecology Group (CEG) conducted an assessment for jurisdictional waters of the U.S. on the project site on December 13, 2013. No wetlands outside of the normal pool elevation of Lake Allatoona were observed. Further, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory does not identify any wetlands on the CAAB.

(2) Fishery Resources. Lake Allatoona is a popular sport fishing destination. Common sport fish species include spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*), Flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), crappie (*Pomoxis* spp.), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*), red ear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*), as well as stocked striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) and hybrid bass (*Morone saxatilis* x *M. chrysops*). Common baitfish include the gizzard shad (*Dorosoma cepedianum*) and threadfin shad (*Dorosoma petenense*). In addition to the sport fish and baitfish, common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and longnose gar (*Lepisosteus osseus*) are common in Lake Allatoona.

(3) Wildlife Resources. Wildlife habitat within the project area is primarily mixed-hardwood forest, with early successional mixed-pine hardwood forest in the northern-most portion of the site. These habitats provide cover and forage for small and large mammals, reptiles and amphibians (herpetiles), as well as birds. Common mammals found around Lake Allatoona include: beaver (*Castor canadensis*); big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*); black bear (*Ursus americanus*); bobcat (*Lynx rufus*); chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*); coyote (*Canis latrans*); deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*); eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*); eastern red bat

(*Lasiurus borealis*); gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*); gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*); hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*); little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*); opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*); raccoon (*Procyon lotor*); red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*); muskrat (*Neofiber alleni*); and skunk (*Spilogale putorius*). The shoreline habitats provide nesting opportunities for waterfowl and herpetiles. There are also nesting and forage habitats on the shorelines for bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). An active bald eagle nest is located on the CAAB property.

(4) Threatened and Endangered Species. According to records available from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR), 19 federally protected plant and animal species occur in Cherokee County and the surrounding Georgia counties (Appendix B). Further, based on the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPAC), the project site contains no critical habitat (Appendix C). Based on the field assessment conducted by CEG, the project site contains no habitats or individuals from the species identified in the records reviews.

Although not threatened nor endangered, the bald eagle is protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The active bald eagle nest is located approximately 1,000 linear feet from the proposed project and will not result in adverse effects to bald eagles nor their preferred habitats (Appendix D). Bald eagles typically nest in large trees and forage over open water where it feeds primarily on fish.

(5) Cultural Resources. Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc. (SASI) conducted a survey of USACE lands surrounding Lake Allatoona in 1987. Further, R.S. Webb & Associates conducted a literature review of official files and maps regarding historic and archeological resources in the project vicinity (Appendix E). Based on the previous studies, there are no known archeological resources in the project vicinity. In addition, no historic structures are located in the project area.

(6) Navigation. Lake Allatoona is a heavily utilized public water body in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Recreational boaters access the lake through eight marinas, two yacht clubs, and 15 public boat ramps.

The CAAB is a privately accessed property by BSA campers. All watercraft utilizing Lake Allatoona from the CAAB are launched from the CAAB's private docks and boat ramps, which are located in coves or shallow water as to avoid interference with public navigation.

(7) Recreation. The CAAB serves as a recreational destination for Boy Scouts. The area

is located on USACE property adjacent to Lake Allatoona, which is approved by the U.S. Congress for recreational use. The project area provides canoeing, fishing, kayaking, motor boating, swimming, rowing, sailing, camping, and hiking.

(8) Aesthetics. Lake Allatoona contains a predominantly undeveloped shoreline dominated by mixed pine-hardwood forest. Public and private boat ramps and marinas are sparsely located on the lake. Long-term leased lands with minimal development are also intermittently located adjacent to the lake. The CAAB provides consistent aesthetics with the remainder of the Lake Allatoona shoreline.

(9) Air Quality. Cherokee County, Georgia was designated as a nonattainment area for ground level ozone and fine particle pollution. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) created the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) to help meet and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Primary pollutants include sulfur dioxide and mono-nitrogen oxides, which are primarily associated with high vehicular traffic areas. Lake Allatoona allows gas combustion boat motors, which can emit sulfur dioxide and mono-nitrogen oxides. However, the USEPA is now regulating boat motors to create cleaner emissions and reduce air pollutants.

(10) Water Quality: The project area is located within the upper portion of Lake Allatoona adjacent to the Little River embayment. This area has recently been added to the 2014 draft 303(d) list for not meeting the designated use of drinking water and recreation. This portion of the lake violated the growing season average of Chlorophyll a once in the last five years.

(11) Floodplain There are no floodplains on the project site.

(12) Socioeconomic. Based on projections from the 2010 Census data, Cherokee County had an approximate population of 221,315 people. The median household income is estimated to be approximately \$68,000. According to the Georgia Department of Labor, Cherokee County has an unemployment rate of approximately 6.8%.

The CAAB is used and operated by the BSA Atlanta Area Council. The BSA Atlanta Area Council covers 13 metro-Atlanta counties including Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, and Rockdale. There are approximately 30,000 Boy Scouts and 11,000 adult volunteers that make up the Atlanta Area Council. The CAAB provides campers with an economical and educational experience. In

addition, patrons may provide localized economic stimulus through purchase of fuel, food, fishing tackle, and sporting goods.

(13) Prime and Unique Farmland. There are no prime and unique farmlands on the project site.

(14) Hazardous and Toxic Materials. The CAAB is used for recreation and does not generate toxic materials. Human wastes are disposed of in approved privies. All petroleum products (i.e., motor oil, lubricants, gasoline) used to support the operation and maintenance of the boat motors and landscape maintenance equipment are stored in the maintenance facility within U.S. Department of Transportation approved containers in small quantities. Regular maintenance of the equipment and facilities ensure no hazardous or toxic safety concerns.

There is no bulk storage for petroleum products. Gasoline is stored in 5 gallon containers. Lubricants, pesticides, cleaners and lawn chemicals will be contained and stored in their original one gallon size or smaller containers.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED PLAN:

The proposed improvements will include modifications to existing structures, new structures, and parking. Structure modification and construction will be conducted with measures to minimize vegetative and soil disturbance. Parking areas will be specifically located to compliment surrounding topography and vegetation to minimize impacts while meeting the goal of improved traffic flow. As depicted in Appendix A, the proposed improvements include:

- **MODIFICATION TO EXISTING STRUCTURES**
 - Entrance gate
 - Additions to Caretaker's residence
 - Convert existing maintenance facility to program facility
 - Additional row of swim dock guide poles
 - Five additional frost proof hydrants
 - Replace five existing hydrants
 - Replace existing water line with 2-inch and 1-inch polyvinyl chloride (pvc)

- **NEW STRUCTURES**
 - Two 30-foot by 40-foot pavilions
 - Outdoor classroom
 - Composting toilets for classroom and pavilions
 - One way drive to outdoor classroom and pavilion
 - Maintenance facility
 - Three rustic camp sites and fire rings
 - Two (South and North) boat docks
 - Amphitheater
 - One 20-foot by 30-foot pavilion
 - Five composting toilets to replace privies at existing structures
 - Future water line connection to County municipal water system, including four new hydrants
- **PARKING**
 - Barron's Hill – 30 car gravel lot adjacent to existing driveway
 - Utilize existing road cut for approximately 40 cars
 - Edge of road for pull in parking (2 sections of 10 cars each)
 - Fill old ditch for parking (8 cars) and check in
 - 20-30 car gravel lot at existing pavilion
 - Amphitheater and Pavilion – 5 pull in areas for a total of 35 cars
 - Campsite No. 1 – 2 pull in areas for a total of 17 cars
 - Campsite No. 2 – 2 pull in areas for a total of 6 cars
 - Campsite Nos. 3-5 – 50-foot by 100-foot gravel lot for 20 cars
 - Campsite Nos. 6-7 – Edge of road pull in for 27 cars
 - Campsite Nos. 8-9 – Edge of road pull in for 40 cars
 - Campsite Nos. 10-12 – Edge of road pull in for 43 cars
 - Expand parking at staff site

The improvements listed above are designed to complement each other to meet the project goal of improving safety, health, education opportunities, and aesthetics within the CAAB. BSA has chosen these improvements to meet the current demand of campers and provide a long-term sustainable educational experience in the CAAB. All improvements will minimize impacts to natural resources and result in a teaching environment that will make CAAB a desirable destination for aquatic and woodland outdoor recreation activities.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE RECOMMENDED PLAN:

a. Biological and Physical Impacts:

(1) Wetland. The proposed project will result in no wetland impacts.

(2) Fishery Resources. The proposed project will result in no impacts to streams; however, the proposed addition to the swim dock and proposed boat docks will have minimal impacts to fishery resources. The additional structures in the open water will provide cover for macrobenthos, which will attract foraging fish (i.e., bluegill and various sunfish) and subsequently predatory fish (i.e., spotted bass, largemouth bass, crappie). The proposed structures are not expected to provide negative impacts; however, minor positive impacts are expected.

(3) Wildlife Resources. The proposed improvements will result in minor impacts to wildlife resources. The primary biological resource that will be impacted is early successional forest, which provides wildlife habitat. During the field investigation, it was noted that trees proposed for removal to accommodate the improvements are primarily loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) located adjacent to the existing established camp sites and roadway. Other species noted include southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), white oak (*Q. alba*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and black cherry (*Prunus serrotina*). The average diameter of trees observed in the improvement areas is 9.1 inches at breast height. Parking areas may require removal of between 116 and 150 stems, while other structures proposed for construction/maintenance may require removal of 18 to 45 stems. When comparing the majority of the forest at the CAAB with studies conducted by USDA in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service¹, typical southern mixed hardwood forest with an average diameter of 14 inches contain a density of approximately 70 stems per acre. Therefore, removal of the dense early successional areas required for the improvements will not adversely affect the health or productivity of the surrounding hardwood forest. Therefore, the proposed tree removal will not harm the integrity of the larger forest component and will not result in a significant loss of biomass or wildlife habitat.

(4) Threatened and Endangered Species. No known endangered and/or threatened species occur in the project vicinity. Further, the project is located more than 1,000 feet from the known bald eagle nest, and the improvements are not expected to impact bald eagle habitat. The proposed improvements will not result in a loss of bald eagle foraging habitat. Further, the tree removal proposed within the CAAB is primarily of smaller trees (i.e., 9 inches diameter at breast height) that are not adequate for bald eagle nesting.

¹ Southern Region Cooperative Extension Services. *Southern Hardwood Management*. Management Bulletin R8-MB 67, March 1994.

(5) Cultural Resources. Based on review of existing studies in the project area, no known historic or archeological resources occur in the project area. Archeological monitoring will be conducted during construction in areas being removed of vegetation sensitive for potential cultural resources. Additionally, an Inadvertent Discoveries Plan is included as Appendix F.

(6) Navigation. The CAAB is used for teaching of small craft watersports including motor boating, sailing, rowing, kayaking, and canoeing. These activities all originate from the existing swim and boat docks and are conducted within Lake Allatoona. These activities are consistent with the identified use of Lake Allatoona as established by the U.S. Congress.

The proposed boat docks and swim dock expansion are not expected to negatively impact navigation. The locations of these docks are situated in shallow water and on shorelines that are away from heavy boat traffic. The boat docks will, however, improve navigation use by campers at the CAAB. These docks are designed to assist campers with the learning of safe and responsible boating.

(7) Recreation. The CAAB is currently approved for recreational use. The proposed improvements will provide better access and accommodate more campers, thereby improving recreational opportunities.

(8) Aesthetics. The proposed improvements will not result in a major change in aesthetics. All proposed improvements are located where significant use is occurring and the proposed improvements will complement the physical surroundings. Some of the proposed improvements, such as the entrance and signage, are designed to improve aesthetics. Other improvements, such as parking areas will indirectly improve aesthetics through the organization of parking and traffic flow. In addition, the area's aesthetics will be improved through the new facilities and associated landscaping/maintenance.

(9) Air Quality. The proposed improvements to the CAAB will result in minimal short-term adverse impacts to air quality during construction (i.e., combustion engine exhaust and dust). The improvements are designed to increase usage within the CAAB; therefore, there will be an increase in automobiles in the area. The CAAB is located within a metropolitan recreational area, which includes minor air pollutants from automobiles and outboard motors. The CAAB will not result in a major increase in automobiles or boaters in the project vicinity. Therefore, long-term minor impacts to air quality may be expected..

(10) Water Quality. The existing CAAB is managed by a caretaker who lives on-site. The caretaker is responsible for enforcing camp rules and maintaining the existing infrastructure. Due to the intensive management by the caretaker and BSA rules for campers pertaining to environmental protection, the water quality of the adjacent Lake Allatoona is not negatively impacted by the CAAB.

The sanitary waste from the caretaker's home is serviced by a septic system, while all camp sites are serviced by pit privies. These systems are maintained and installed to minimize water quality impacts.

The only impervious surfaces within the CAAB are associated with roof tops. All stormwater runoff areas are protected with water bars and/or timber grade controls to decrease runoff velocity and erosion potential. Further, high traffic areas are maintained by the caretaker to decrease erosion potential.

The proposed improvements will be conducted using Best Management Practices to minimize temporary impacts associated with construction. The improvements will result in a minimal increase in impervious surface (i.e., rooftops and gravel parking areas); however, all structures and parking areas will be constructed in established forested areas with existing constructed erosion protection measures. Stormwater runoff is currently managed in natural drainage areas through construction of timber water bars to reduce velocity and encourage recharge. Immediately following construction, all disturbed areas will be seeded and mulched to provide short and medium term erosion control until natural revegetation occurs. Long term stability will be maintained through encouragement of natural vegetation and the previously discussed timber water bars.

The proposed composting toilets will improve water quality through additional treatment of human wastes. The minimal use of privies within the CAAB does not provide significant nutrient contribution to groundwater; however, the composting toilets will reduce the negligible nutrient load even greater through microbial treatment and decomposition prior to discharge into the environment.

(11) Floodplain Impacts. There are no floodplains in the project vicinity. All proposed improvements are located outside of the limited use area, which is down-gradient of the 843-foot contour (above mean sea level).

(12) Socioeconomic Impacts. The CAAB is an established aquatic destination for Boy Scouts, and the proposed improvements are designed to accommodate more campers during the program period and allow more campers throughout the year. The proposed project will result in

an increase in the usage of the CAAB, which will benefit the local economy through the visiting patron's purchase of goods and fuel.

(13) Prime and Unique Farmland. There are no prime and unique farm lands in the project vicinity.

(14) Hazardous and Toxic Materials. The proposed project will not result in a source of hazardous and/or toxic materials. The only materials that would potentially be generated would be waste gear box fluid of used engine oil. Those would be collected and stored in smaller containers and taken to the appropriate recycler.

5. Cumulative Impacts. The goal of BSA is to continue operations at CAAB with minimal land disturbance and improvements in safety and organization. All improvements, both short and long term are planned in areas of existing use. Therefore, the proposed CAAB improvements will not result in significant cumulative impacts.

The proposed improvements are designed to increase BSA's passive use of the property. Due to instructor oversight and education of campers regarding environmental protection during BSA use, an increase in campers is not expected to cause habitat destruction. Further, improved parking and traffic flow will minimize vehicular impacts to the CAAB by localizing vehicles within approved areas prepared for vehicles. Finally, improved maintenance facilities and latrines will allow BSA to reduce environmental impacts.

BSA use of the CAAB property will result in positive cumulative impacts. The BSA strives to educate Scouts to respect the environment and enjoy natural resources responsibly through sound conservation techniques. These benefits will provide lasting cumulative impacts to the CAAB and other natural resources wherever CAAB campers may go in the future.

6. Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898). Executive Order (EO) 12898 of February 11, 1994 requires addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of Federal action on minority and low-income populations. The proposed project will not adversely affect these populations.

7. Protection of Children (Executive Order 13045). EO 13045 of April 21, 1997 requires to the extent permitted by law and mission, identifying and assessing environmental health and safety risks to children posed by the proposed action. The proposed project will result in an

improvement in safety conditions, and therefore will not adversely affect the health and safety of children. Further, the goal of the BSA is to educate Scouts of safety risks and prevention of injury through preparation.

8. ANY IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED SHOULD THE RECOMMENDED PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED. Any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources involved in the proposed action have been considered and are either unanticipated at this time, or have been considered and determined to present only minor impacts.

All parking areas, camp sites, pavilions, and latrines will be reversible should these areas need to be reverted back to forest land. The water lines, maintenance facility, and caretaker's residence are semi-permanent; however, these structures could be removed with minimal environmental impact if needed.

9. ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED. Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the recommended project be implemented are expected to be minor individually and cumulatively.

The minimal tree removal required for improvements cannot be avoided. As previously described, these trees are located adjacent to existing high use areas and are comprised of early successional species. The minimal reduction of trees in the project area will complement the density of the surrounding established forest.

10. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY. The proposed project constitutes a short-term use of man's environment and is not anticipated to affect long-term productivity. The proposed improvements will accommodate the on-going local short-term use of man's environment for recreational and educational use. No long-term negative or cumulative effects are anticipated as a result of the improvements to support the continued use of recreation and education.

11. ALTERNATIVES TO THE RECOMMENDED PLAN.

- a. No Action Alternative: The no action alternative would consist of no changes to the current CAAB. The proposed Master Plan amendments for the CAAB are primarily designed to help BSA continue to grow their aquatics based education to campers. The improvements help provide a safer environment for campers and staff through

improved parking, water supply, and latrine areas. Finally, structure improvements allow BSA to improve aesthetics and be responsible stewards of the land and surrounding natural resources.

Not conducting the project as planned would reduce the ability for BSA to operate the CAAB. Potential safety and health concerns may reduce camper participation. In addition, no maintenance of existing structures will create environmental hazards as these structures deteriorate. Therefore, the no action alternative is not feasible.

- b. Parking Expansion Only: Parking and traffic flow is a significant safety concern at the CAAB. During the program season, vehicular traffic increases and when combined with minimal parking areas traffic flow becomes a concern. This alternative would include only parking improvements and pull offs that will provide vehicles with improved traffic flow by spreading vehicles throughout the CAAB and avoiding congestion caused by lack of available parking and turn around areas.

Even though parking is a significant concern, the CAAB is only an attractive destination if program improvement and education opportunities exist. Further, if safety concerns or environmental hazards exist, then campers are less likely to utilize the CAAB.

The CAAB is unique due to the large acreage of mature forest immediately adjacent to deep water. This combination creates a learning environment that allows campers to experience water sports, as well as hiking, and education of a wide variety of natural resources.

Construction of new structures including: pavilions, amphitheater, outdoor classroom, and docks increase the learning opportunities for campers. New structures such as the latrines, water supply, and drive ways, as well as maintenance of the existing structures create a more attractive, safer and enjoyable experience that results in more camper participation at the CAAB.

Although increased parking areas at the CAAB are a significant and immediate need, the remainder of the proposed project is required for sustained BSA use of the CAAB. Therefore, conducting the parking expansion only is not a feasible alternative that meets the project purpose.

- c. New Structures Only: This alternative includes only the construction of: 1) three pavilions; 2) an outdoor classroom; 3) an amphitheater; 4) eight latrines containing composting toilets; 5) drive way to the outdoor classroom area; 6) new maintenance facility; 7) two boat docks; 8) three rustic campsites; and 9) municipal water supply. These structures are critical in the future operation of the CAAB and continued

camper interest.

Construction of new structures without improvements to existing infrastructure and expansion of parking areas will not meet the project purpose. Improvements to the existing infrastructure are required to improve safety, health, and aesthetics. Further, expanding operation capacity without sufficient parking would be counterproductive. The proposed parking expansion is required to meet current needs but also supports future needs associated with the proposed structure improvements. Therefore, constructing new structures without the associated parking expansion and improvements to existing structures would not meet the project purpose.

- d. Structure Improvements Only: This alternative includes structure improvements only. The structure improvements are designed to benefit safety, education, health, and aesthetics. The improvements include: 1) entrance gate; 2) additions to the caretaker's residence; 3) conversion of maintenance facility to program facility; 4) expansion of swim dock; 5) five additional water hydrants; 6) replacement of five water hydrants; and 7) replacement of old water supply line with new pvc. These improvements are all designed to provide a safer and more enjoyable experience for campers and staff.

These improvements alone do not address needs for parking or for future operation of the CAAB. For the CAAB to provide a safe and attractive destination for campers, all of the proposed amendments to the Master Plan should be executed. These amendments together address the existing safety and health of campers, improve and expand educational opportunities, and create a more aesthetically pleasing environment that makes the CAAB an attractive destination. Further, these improvements together will improve landscape maintenance abilities and improve water quality through use of composting toilets.

12. COORDINATION.

The USACE solicited comments from Federal and state agencies, listed below regarding the proposed project. The Draft EA will be made available on the District website for a 30 day public review as well. A summary of the comments received from the Federal and state agencies or the general public will be included in the Final EA. A copy of the agency electronic mailings can be viewed in Appendix H.

- a. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Appendix B contains a table of threatened and endangered species found in Cherokee County and neighboring counties. Appendix C contains an IPAC report of the natural resources of concern.

c. Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD). The project will not result in disturbance within state water's buffers. All docks will be constructed over open water and no above-grade structures are proposed for access to the docks. Further, no water quality certification is required for the proposed improvements.

d. Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR)

e. GDNR Historic Preservation Division (HPD). Coordination with the GDNR Historic Preservation Division/ GA SHPO will be included in the Final EA.

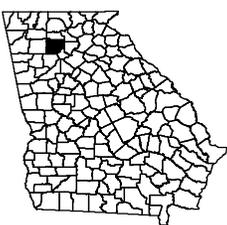
13. ATTACHMENTS

a. Figures

1. Site Location
2. Site Soils

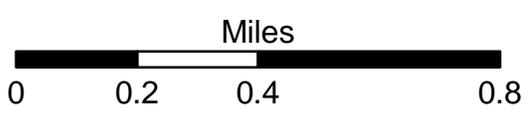
b. Appendices

- A. Master Plan and Utility Plan: Atlanta Area Council, BSA – Allatoona Aquatics Base
- B. Threatened and endangered animal and plant species listed by USFWS as potentially occurring in Cherokee County, and the surrounding Georgia counties of Bartow, Cobb, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, and Pickens. Protected Species Survey of Toonigh Creek and Blankets Creek in Cherokee County, Georgia.
- C. USFWS IPAC
- D. Known Bald Eagle Nest
- E. Findings – Cultural Resources Literature Search
- F. Inadvertent Discoveries Plan
- G. Photographs of Existing Conditions (1-18)



BSA - Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base
Cherokee County, Georgia

Figure 1
 Site Location
 CEG Project No. 02-110813

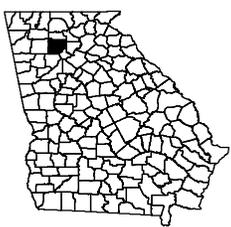


March 2014



Legend

Chc- Chewacla-Cartecay complex
 HIC- Hayesville fine sandy loam, 6-10% slopes
 HIE- Hayesville fine sandy loam, 10-25% slopes
 HTD3- Hiwassee clay loam, 6-10% slopes
 MCE- Musella cobbly loam, 10-25% slopes
 MjC- Madison fine sandy loam, 6-10% slopes
 MjD- Madison fine sandy loam, 10-25% slopes
 TcE- Tallapoosa fine sandy loam, 15-25% slopes
 TjF- Tallapoosa channery sandy loam, 25-60% slopes
 W- Water



**BSA - Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base
 Cherokee County, Georgia**

Figure 2
 Site Soils
 CEG Project No. 02-110813



March 2014

LEGEND

EXISTING FEATURES

- A RANGER'S HOUSE
- B BOAT DOCK
- C BOAT RAMP
- D TRAINING AREA #1
- E BOAT STORAGE
- G MAIN PAVILION
- H AMPHITHEATER
- I PAVILION
- J PARKING
- K SWIM AREA
- L GATE
- M MAIN GATE
- N TRAINING AREA #2
- O CAMP MASTER QUARTERS
- P INFORMATION CENTER
- Q BOAT STORAGE
- SHELTER
- PIT PRIVY
- FROST PROOF HYDRANT
- WELL

ST STAFF SITE

1 DRIVE IN CAMP SITE:
16'x20' SHELTER, TOILET FACILITY,
CAMP FIRE RING, WATER.

R-1 RUSTIC CAMP SITE:
CAMP FIRE RING

NORMAL POOL
ELEVATION 840.0
MAXIMUM POOL
ELEVATION 863.0

PROPOSED
20'x30' SHELTER

MAXIMUM POOL
ELEVATION 863.0

PROPOSED NORTH BOAT
DOCK SEE GENERAL
NOTE # 7

PROPOSED AMPHITHEATER
SEE GENERAL NOTE # 5

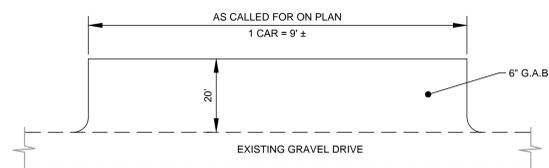
PROPOSED SOUTH BOAT
DOCK SEE GENERAL NOTE # 7

ALLATOONA LAKE
NORMAL POOL ELEVATION 840
MAXIMUM POOL ELEVATION 863

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO
CARE TAKER'S RESIDENCE
SEE GENERAL NOTE # 4

PROPOSED 30'x40' SHELTER
SEE GENERAL NOTE # 1

PROPOSED
IMPROVED
GATEWAY
AT
ENTRANCE



PROPOSED PULL IN PARKING DETAIL
N.T.S.

GRAPHIC SCALE



(IN FEET)
1 inch = 200 ft.

PARKING NOTES

- Parking area 1 will require minimal grading. The tree cover in the area is smaller 2'-4' pines with a portion of the area being open and currently being used as boat storage.
- Parking area 2 utilizes an old road cut. The dirt bank would be widened out to allow for pull in parking.
- Parking area 3 parking is currently a wide spot on the side of the road. The area would need to be smoothed and crushed stone placed to prevent erosion and prevent cars from being stuck in the mud.
- Parking area 4 and proposed drive would support the proposed training shelter. Minimal grading would be required in this area. There are several large hardwood trees in the area that would not be removed. The drive and parking would be worked around them.
- Parking area 5 parking would require filling what appears to be an old eroded ditch now filled with tree limbs and leaves. The area would need to be cleaned, backfilled and stone placed.
- Parking area 6 is an existing area used as overflow parking. The area needs to be shaped for proper drainage and crushed stone placed.
- Parking area 7 parking is currently a wide spot on the side of the road. The area would need to be smoothed and crushed stone placed to prevent erosion and prevent cars from being stuck in the mud.
- Parking area 8 is an area that is currently used for parking. The intent is to prepare the area with crushed stone to help control where cars are parked.
- Parking area 9 is a larger parking area that would use an existing area that is relatively open. Light grading would be required and crushed stone toping.
- Parking areas 10, 11 & 12 are existing wide spots used for parking. These areas would be shaped for drainage and crushed stone placed for erosion control and preventing cars from getting stuck in the mud.
- The existing, main parking lot would be expanded northeasterly to add an additional row of vehicles. This would require the area to be graded down to create the fill material necessary. There are several large pines that would need to be removed.

GENERAL NOTES

- The shelter and restroom, in the Rustic camping area would be positioned that only smaller trees, preferably none would be cut. Grading for the shelter would be very minimal. The restroom would be located to keep excavation minimal for the lower level. Access to this area would be a mulched drive.
- The outdoor classroom and shelter would be located to reduce the area disturbed. The classroom area would only involve seating benches between trees. The shelter would be positioned to minimize disturbance and tree removal.
- The proposed maintenance facility is a part of the long range plan. The intent is to remove equipment maintenance out of the middle of camp. The existing structures would be cleaned up and used as learning program facilities.
- The caretaker's residence would be expanded to add additional bedroom and living space. The current facility is approx. 1000 SF.
- The proposed amphitheater built in and around the existing trees and there would be no grading.
- The proposed rest room facilities would be constructed as a composting type facility. The existing pit privies would be removed and backfilled as the new facilities are built and put into service.
- There are two proposed docks shown and both would be used to support the sailing programs offered. The northern one is a part of the long range plan. The southern dock would be used to secure boats after launching them from storage and provide easier access. The dock would extend into deeper and allow for the program to function when the water levels were low.

SITE

LEGEND

PROPOSED FEATURES

- 1 (BARRON'S HILL) MINIMAL GRADING, 30 CARS
- 2 CLEAN UP OLD ROAD CUT, REGRADE FOR PULL-IN PARKING, HIDDEN, 40 CARS
- 3 PULL IN, EDGE OF ROAD, 2 SECTIONS AT 10 CARS EACH.
- 4 ONE WAY DRIVE, 20-30 CARS. PAVILLION LOCATION.
- 5 FILL OLD DITCH, USE FOR DROP OFF AND PICK UP, 8 CARS
- 6 5 AREAS, PULL IN, 35 CARS
- 7 PULL IN, EDGE OF ROAD, 2 SECTIONS 17 CARS TOTAL.
- 8 PULL IN, 2 AREAS, 6 TOTAL.
- 9 50x100 LOT, 20 CARS
- 10 PULL IN, EDGE OF ROAD, 27 CARS.
- 11 PULL IN, EDGE OF ROAD, 40 CARS.
- 12 PULL IN, EDGE OF ROAD, 43 CARS.
- RR REST ROOM COMPOSTING TOILET
PIT PRIVIES TO BE REMOVED AS COMPOSTING
TOILETS ARE CONSTRUCTED (GENERAL NOTE #6)
- FROST PROOF HYDRANT
- R-4 RUSTIC CAMP SITE:
CAMP FIRE RING

NOTE: ALL DRIVES, EXISTING AND PROPOSED ARE GRAVEL.



Initial	Date
	6/14/2013

No.	Code for Review	Revisions
1		



ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL, BSA
ALLATOONA AQUATICS BASE

MASTER PLAN

Drawn: ELL	Project No: R2012-026
Design: KK	Scale: 1"=200'
Checked: KK	Date: AUGUST, 2012
Sheet No.	

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LEGEND

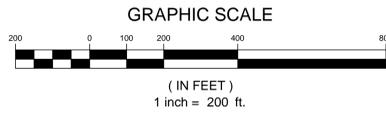
EXISTING FEATURES

- A RANGER'S HOUSE
- B BOAT DOCK
- C BOAT RAMP
- D TRAINING AREA #1
- E BOAT STORAGE
- G MAIN PAVILION
- H AMPHITHEATER
- I PAVILION
- J PARKING
- K SWIM AREA
- L GATE
- M MAIN GATE
- N TRAINING AREA #2
- O CAMP MASTER QUARTERS
- P INFORMATION CENTER
- Q BOAT STORAGE
- SHELTER
- ⊗ PIT PRIVY
- ⊕ FROST PROOF HYDRANT
- WELL

ST STAFF SITE

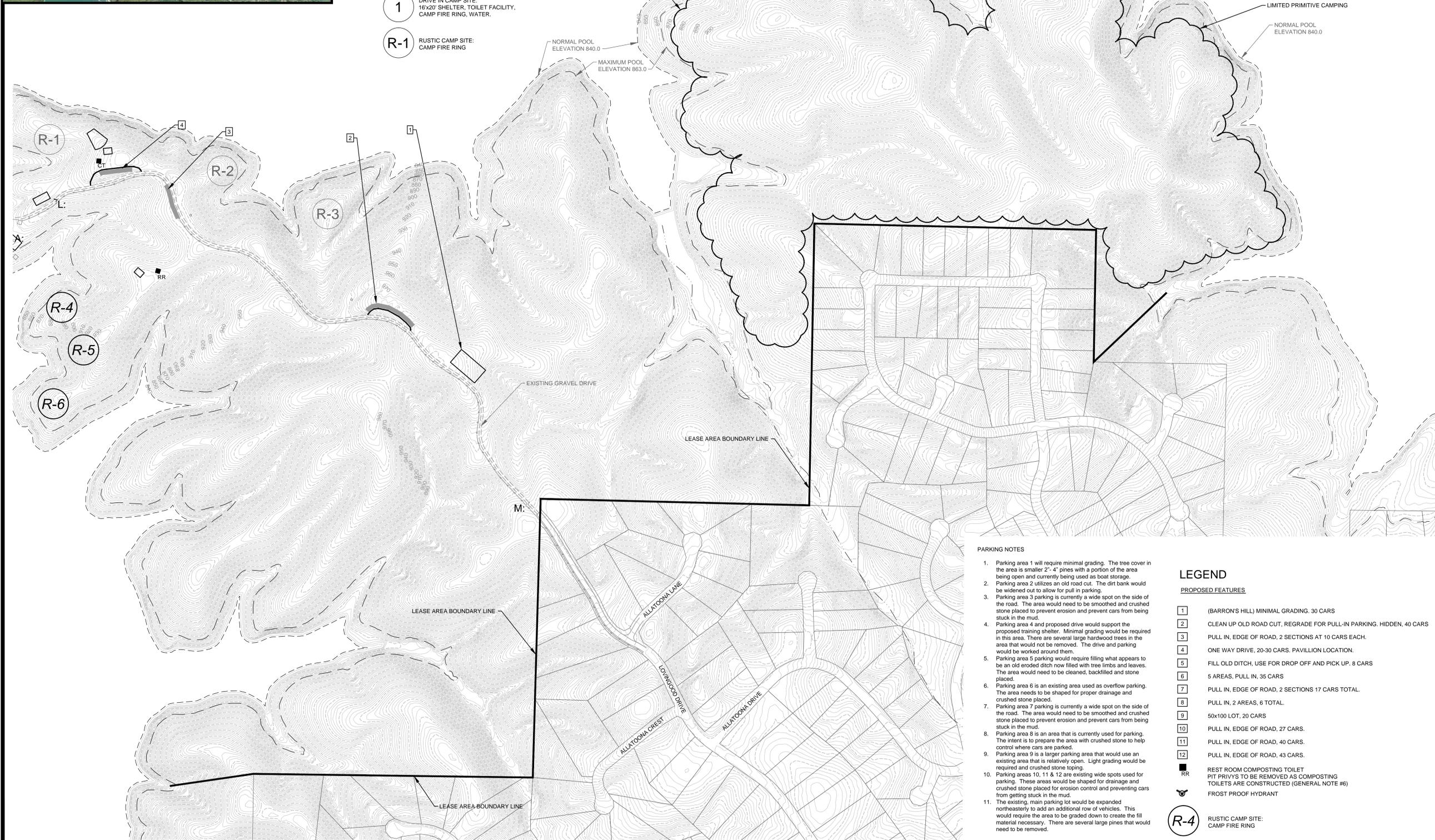
1 DRIVE IN CAMP SITE:
16x20 SHELTER, TOILET FACILITY,
CAMP FIRE RING, WATER.

R-1 RUSTIC CAMP SITE:
CAMP FIRE RING



GENERAL NOTES

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R-4 RUSTIC CAMP SITE:
CAMP FIRE RING



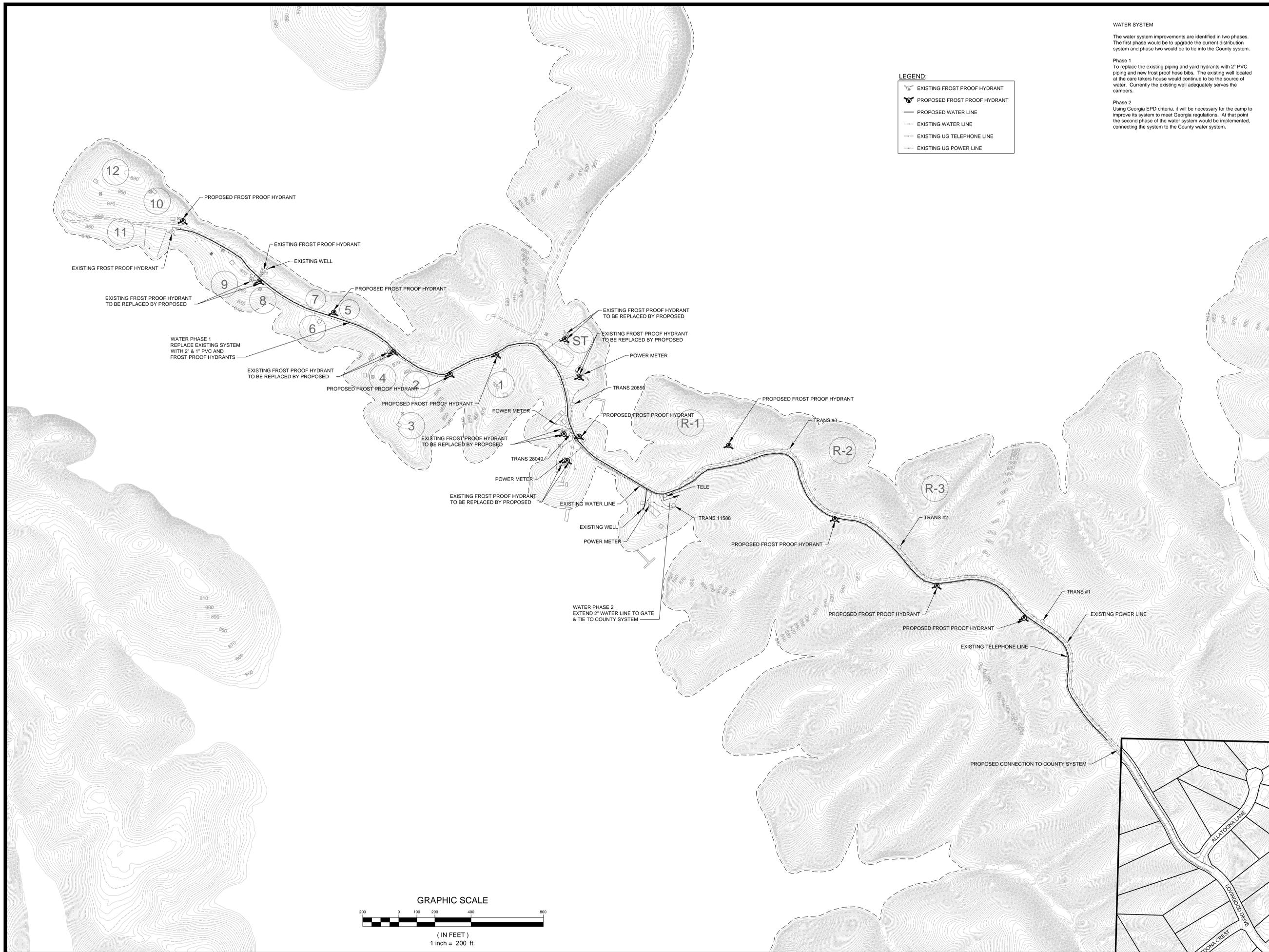
ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL, BSA
ALLATOONA AQUATICS BASE

MASTER PLAN

Drawn: ELL	Project No: R2012-026
Design: KK	Scale: 1"=200'
Checked: KK	Date: AUGUST, 2012
Project No: R2012-026	Scale: 1"=200'
Date: AUGUST, 2012	Scale: 1"=200'

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LEGEND:

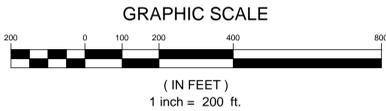
- ☐ EXISTING FROST PROOF HYDRANT
- ⬮ PROPOSED FROST PROOF HYDRANT
- PROPOSED WATER LINE
- - - EXISTING WATER LINE
- - - EXISTING UG TELEPHONE LINE
- - - EXISTING UG POWER LINE

WATER SYSTEM

The water system improvements are identified in two phases. The first phase would be to upgrade the current distribution system and phase two would be to tie into the County system.

Phase 1
To replace the existing piping and yard hydrants with 2" PVC piping and new frost proof hose bibs. The existing well located at the care takers house would continue to be the source of water. Currently the existing well adequately serves the campers.

Phase 2
Using Georgia EPD criteria, it will be necessary for the camp to improve its system to meet Georgia regulations. At that point the second phase of the water system would be implemented, connecting the system to the County water system.



	Date 06/14/2013			
	Initial			
	Revisions			
No.	1	Code for Review		

RMA
Rindt-McDuff Associates, Inc.
Engineering and Environmental Consulting
Phone: (770) 427-8123

ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL, BSA
ALLATOONA AQUATICS BASE

UTILITY PLAN

Drawn: ELL	Design: KK	Checked: KK	Project No: R2012-026	Scale: 1"=200'
			Date: AUGUST, 2012	

Sheet No. 3 of 3

Appendix B: Threatened and endangered animal and plant species listed by USFWS¹ as potentially occurring in Cherokee County, and the surrounding Georgia counties of Bartow, Cobb, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, and Pickens.

Species Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status*	Preferred Habitat	Habitat Available in Project Area	Individuals Observed on Subject Site
SNAILS				
Cylindrical Lioplax Snail (<i>Lioplax cyclostomaformis</i>)	E	Gill-breathing snail that lives in mud under large rocks in rapid currents over stream and river shoals. Historic population in Oothcalooga Creek, Bartow County, probably extirpated.	No	No
MUSSELS				
Shiny-Rayed Pocketbook (<i>Lampsilis subangulata</i>)	E	Medium-sized creeks to main stems of rivers throughout the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint river basins with slow to moderate currents over sandy substrates and associated with rock or clay.	No	No
Gulf Moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>)	E	Medium streams to large rivers with slight to moderate current over sand and gravel substrates; may be associated with muddy sandy substrates around tree roots. Restricted to the Apalachicola river system.	No	No
Upland Combshell (<i>Epioblasma metastriata</i>)	E	It has been located in shoals in rivers and large streams, above the fall line, on stable substrates in moderate to swift currents (USFWS, 1997; 2000).	No	No
Southern Acornshell (<i>Epioblasma othcoolagensis</i>)	E	The only available information appears to be in van der Schalie (1938). He lists two specimens he questionably called this species from Lily Shoals of the Cahaba River. Species of this genus typically were found in strong currents and coarse particle substrates.	No	No
Alabama Moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>)	E	This species is usually found in sand on the margins of streams with a typical sand and gravel substrate in clear water of moderate flow in small to large rivers (USFWS, 2000).	No	No
Coosa Moccasinshell (<i>Medionidus parvulus</i>)	E	The species is usually found in sand and gravel in highly oxygenated, clear streams with moderate to strong flow in streams and small rivers (USFWS, 2000).	No	No

Appendix B: Threatened and endangered animal and plant species listed by USFWS¹ as potentially occurring in Cherokee County, and the surrounding Georgia counties of Bartow, Cobb, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, and Pickens. –Continued–

Species Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status*	Preferred Habitat	Habitat Available in Project Area	Individuals Observed on Subject Site
Southern Clubshell Mussel (<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>)	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments.	No	No
Southern Pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>)	E	This species inhabits high quality rivers (small rivers to large streams) in shoals and runs with stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates (USFWS, 2000).	No	No
Triangular kidneyshell (<i>Ptychobranthus greenii</i>)	E	This species appears most prevalent in sections of river three feet in depth and having a good current and a firm substrate as opposed to coarse gravel and sand (Parmalee and Bogan, 1998) in shoals and runs of small rivers and large streams (USFWS, 2000).	No	No
FISHES				
Etowah Darter (<i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>)	E	Shallow riffle habitat with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers with moderate to high gradients in the upper Etowah river system.	No	No
Cherokee Darter (<i>Etheostoma scotti</i>)	T	Shallow water in small to medium warm water creeks with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters in the Etowah River watershed.	No	No
Amber Darter (<i>Percina antesella</i>)	E	Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i> sp.) during summer, last taken in the Etowah River in 1980; historic population in Shoal Creek probably extirpated by construction of Allatoona Reservoir in 1950.	No	No
Goldline Darter (<i>Percina aurolineata</i>)	T	Main channels of small to medium rivers in areas of white-water rapids to three or more feet deep, and substrates of bedrock, boulders, rubble and gravel. <i>Podostemum</i> sp. and <i>Justicia</i> sp. characteristically are present. (Lee et al. 1980, Page and Burr 1991).	No	No

Appendix B: Threatened and endangered animal and plant species listed by USFWS¹ as potentially occurring in Cherokee County, and the surrounding Georgia counties of Bartow, Cobb, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gordon, and Pickens. –Continued–

Species Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status*	Preferred Habitat	Habitat Available in Project Area	Individuals Observed on Subject Site
Blue Shiner (<i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>)	T	Cool, clear, small to medium-sized rivers over firm substrates (sand, gravel, or rubble) in pools, backwaters, and areas of moderate current (Lee et al. 1980, Pierson and Krotzer 1987, Page and Burr 1991, Etnier and Starnes 1993).	No	No
MAMMALS				
Gray Bat (myotis) (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>)	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lakeshores.	No	No
PLANTS				
Large flowered skullcap (<i>Scutellaria montana</i>)	T	Typically found in rocky, shallow soils, and on submesic to xeric, well-drained, slightly acidic oak-pine forests in the Ridge and Valley and Cumberland Plateau provinces of Northwestern Georgia and adjacent southeastern Tennessee.	No	No
Michaux's (Dwarf) Sumac (<i>Rhus michauxii</i>)	E	Sandy or rocky open woods, usually on ridges with a disturbance history (periodic fire, prior agriculture use, maintained right-of-ways); the known population of this species in Cobb County has been extirpated.	No	No
Tennessee Yellow-Eyed Grass (<i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>)	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams.	No	No

¹ Listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

*Federal Status

E=Endangered

T=Threatened



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

This resource list is to be used for planning purposes only — it is not an official species list.

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is available online and listed below for the following FWS Field Offices:

Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
105 WESTPARK DRIVE
WESTPARK CENTER SUITE D
ATHENS, GA 30606
(706) 613-9493

Project Name:

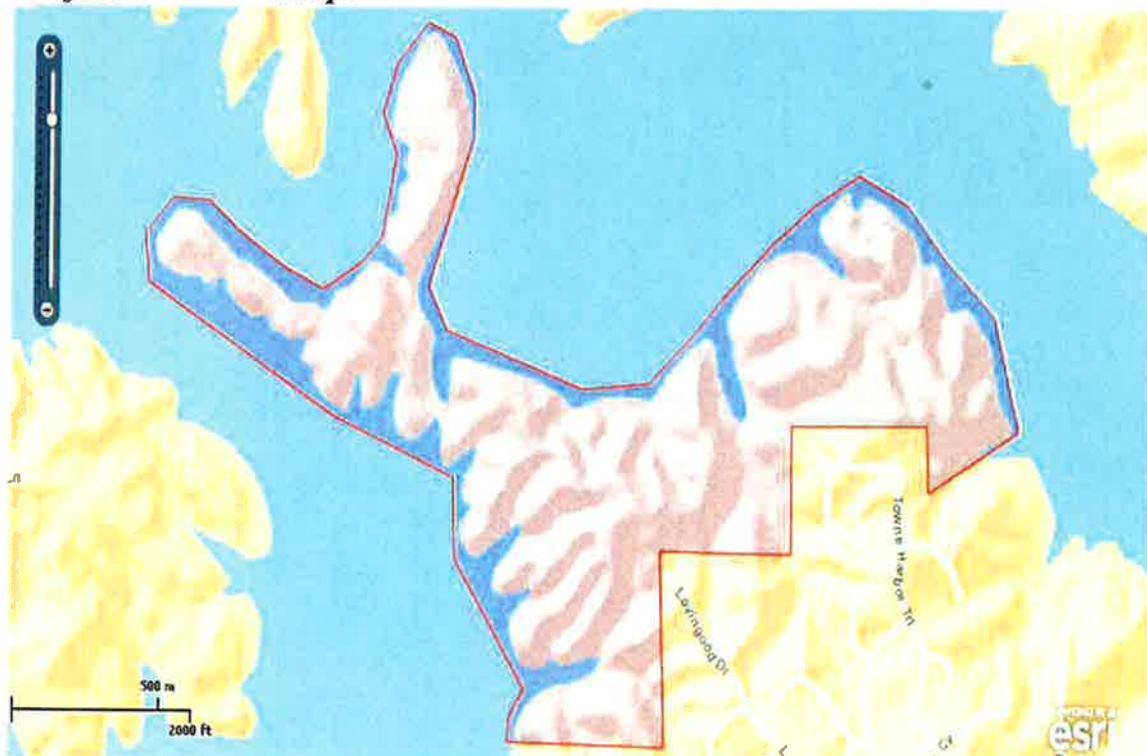
BSA - Allatoona Aquatics Base



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Project Location Map:



Project Counties:

Cherokee, GA



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Geographic coordinates (Open Geospatial Consortium Well-Known Text, NAD83):

MULTIPOLYGON (((-84.6227235 34.1718281, -84.6228952 34.1730389, -84.6218695 34.173891, -84.6204962 34.17382, -84.6194663 34.1731099, -84.6176638 34.1721867, -84.6162905 34.1716896, -84.6149172 34.1723287, -84.6141448 34.1729678, -84.6136298 34.1749561, -84.6141448 34.1759503, -84.6136298 34.1771574, -84.612514 34.1781515, -84.611484 34.1777965, -84.6107974 34.1764438, -84.6107974 34.1753076, -84.6124281 34.1717713, -84.6117415 34.1707061, -84.6066775 34.1692858, -84.6041884 34.1694278, -84.6026434 34.1705641, -84.6015276 34.1714872, -84.5996394 34.1728365, -84.5980944 34.1737596, -84.5964636 34.1744697, -84.5946612 34.173749, -84.5932021 34.1724033, -84.5913996 34.1710505, -84.5904555 34.1682809, -84.5937986 34.166786, -84.5938887 34.168423, -84.5989527 34.168423, -84.5989527 34.1652982, -84.6037592 34.1653693, -84.6035876 34.1606109, -84.6094241 34.160753, -84.6093382 34.1613921, -84.6088233 34.1620313, -84.6113982 34.1651562, -84.611484 34.1671447, -84.6159472 34.168636, -84.6227235 34.1718281))))

Project Type:

Recreation Construction / Maintenance

Endangered Species Act Species List (USFWS Endangered Species Program).

There are a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fishes may appear on the species list because a project could cause downstream effects on the species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section below for critical habitat that lies within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Species that should be considered in an effects analysis for your project:

Fishes	Status		Has Critical Habitat	Contact
Cherokee darter (<i>Etheostoma scotti</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info		Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
Etowah darter (<i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info		Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
Mammals				
Gray bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info		Georgia Ecological Services Field Office



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info		Georgia Ecological Services Field Office
northern long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) Population:	Proposed Endangered	species info		Georgia Ecological Services Field Office

Critical habitats within your project area:

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

FWS National Wildlife Refuges ([USFWS National Wildlife Refuges Program](#)).

There are no refuges found within the vicinity of your project.

FWS Migratory Birds ([USFWS Migratory Bird Program](#)).

Most species of birds, including eagles and other raptors, are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703). Bald eagles and golden eagles receive additional protection under the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 668). The Service's [Birds of Conservation Concern \(2008\)](#) report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become listed under the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

Migratory bird information is not available for your project location.

NWI Wetlands ([USFWS National Wetlands Inventory](#)).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency that provides information on the extent and status of wetlands in the U.S., via the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI). In addition to impacts to wetlands within your immediate project area, wetlands outside of your project area may need to be considered in any evaluation of project impacts, due to the hydrologic nature of wetlands (for example, project activities may affect local hydrology within, and outside of, your immediate project area). It may be helpful to refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website. The designated FWS office can also assist you. Impacts to wetlands and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes. Project Proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

The following wetlands intersect your project area:

Wetland Types	NWI Classification Code	Approximate Acres
Lake	L1UBHh	9445.083256



N

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Imagery Dates: Oct 24, 2012 - Apr 10, 2013 34°10'24.83" N 84°36'46.02" W elev 896 ft

Eye alt 7978 ft



R.S. Webb & Associates

Cultural Resource Management Consultants
2800 Holly Springs Parkway, Suite 200 - P.O. Drawer 1319
Holly Springs, Georgia 30142
Phone: 770-345-0706 - Fax: 770-345-0707

November 6, 2014

Mr. Neil E. Blackman
Corblu Ecology Group
3225 South Cherokee Lane, Bldg. 800
Woodstock, Georgia 30188

**Subject: Findings-Cultural Resources Literature Search
Camp Alatoona Aquatics Base
Lake Allatoona, Cherokee County, Georgia
R.S. Webb & Associates Project No. 14-099-303
Corblu Ecology Group Project No. 02-110813**

Dear Mr. Blackman:

BACKGROUND

During the period of October 31 through November 6, 2014, R.S. Webb & Associates conducted a literature review for the Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base site in Cherokee County, Georgia (Figure 1). The study area is situated on U.S. Corps of Engineers property and it is situated between Lake Allatoona and Bells Ferry Road. The project area is within the USGS South Canton, Georgia quadrangle (Figure 1). The literature review was conducted to identify previously recorded cultural resources located within or adjacent to the project area. A “cultural resource” is defined as a discrete area of human activity that is more than 50 years old.

METHODOLOGY

Literature and Records Search: Official files and maps of the Georgia Archeological Site File (GASF), University of Georgia in Athens (UGA) were examined, followed by a review of the pertinent site forms. At the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division (HPD) (Atlanta), pertinent compliance document files, official maps, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)/pending files were reviewed, as well as the Cherokee County historic structures survey, Identified Sites, and Centennial Farms records. Georgia’s Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources Geographical Information System (NAHRGIS) was also used to confirm the presence or absence of state-recognized historic resources in Cherokee County. Historic maps, aerial photographs, and relevant land lot plats were examined at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Georgia. The *Official Military Atlas of the Civil War* (Davis *et al.* 1983) was also consulted for the location of Civil War-era military actions or associated features.

RESULTS

National Register of Historic Places: The files at the HPD show that there are no NRHP-listed properties located within one mile of the project area.

Archeological Resources: There are 18 recorded archeological sites located within or immediately adjacent to project area, all of which have been recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP

(Figure 1; Table 1). These sites were recorded or revisited during the course of a 1987 survey of lands associated with Lake Allatoona (Ledbetter *et al.* 1987).

Table 1. Recorded Archeological Sites Located in the Project Area.

Site Number	Site Type	Cultural Period-Phase	NRHP-Eligibility Determination
9CK347	House Site and Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined and Historic-Late 19 th Century	Not Eligible
9CK439	House Site	Historic-Middle 19 th Century	Not Eligible
9CK440	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Early Archaic through Woodland and Historic-Early 19 th Century	Not Eligible
9CK451	House Site and Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined and Historic-Late 19 th Century	Not Eligible
9CK452	House Site	Historic- Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK453	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Mississippian	Not Eligible
9CK454	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Archaic and Mississippian and Historic-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK456	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined and Historic-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK457	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Early Archaic	Not Eligible
9CK458	Quarry and Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined and Historic-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK487	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Early Archaic and Middle Woodland and Historic-Late 19 th Century	Not Eligible
9CK488	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK489	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK490	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK491	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined Archaic	Not Eligible
9CK539	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK633	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined	Not Eligible
9CK634	Artifact Scatter	Prehistoric-Undetermined	Not Eligible

Cherokee County Historic Structures Surveys: Historic resources surveys of Cherokee County were conducted in 1976 and 1989. Only the results of the 1989 survey are available through the GNAHRGIS database. Survey maps indicate that no historic resources have been recorded within one mile of the project area.

Original Cherokee County Land Lottery (1832): Land Lots 317, 328, 329, 332-335, 387-393, 401-404, and 461-463 of District 21, Section 2, original Cherokee County encompass the project area. The plats were examined for structures, improvements, or other features recorded within or adjacent to the project area. The survey plats for Land Lots 317 and 335 show “Indian Improvements” that appear to have been located on the opposite side of the Etowah River from the project area. The plat for Land Lot 461 shows one such improvement located on the project side of the river (Figure 1). The plats do not show demarcated areas for the noted improvements, so their specific locations are uncertain.

Civil War Features: Following the Battle of Resaca (May 13-15, 1864), the left wing of the Union army crossed the Etowah River near Emerson, Georgia, approximately 8.5 miles southwest of the project area. The army marched generally southeast in the direction of Marietta, Georgia. Maps of the Atlanta Campaign shows that Jones’ Ford of the Etowah River was located near the project area (Figure 1). Raiding and foraging could have occurred in the project region, but no military action is known to have occurred there.

Structures or Features on Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs: General highway maps of Cherokee County produced in the middle 20th century show no structures located in the project area. The maps show a single road running through the west-central portion of the project and extending into the northwest corner of the project area (Figure 1). Maps of the Atlanta Campaign produced after the Civil War show the above referenced road plus a system of roads leading to Jones’ Ford of the Etowah River, which was located near the northeast corner of the project tract (Figure 1). The campaign maps also show five structures in the project area associated with the Drummond, Reese, Fountain, Elliot, and Williams families (Figure 1).

Aerial photographs taken in 1938 show that the floodplain south of the Etowah River was almost all under cultivation and the project area itself was mostly wooded. Three structures appear in the northwest, north central, and northeast portions of the project area. The photos show three roads, trending generally southeast-northwest, leading to the area of structures; a system of secondary roads appeared in the northeast portion of the project area.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information reviewed during the current study, no NRHP-listed properties or state-recognized historic structures are recorded within one mile of the project area. There are 18 known archeological sites located in the project area; all determined ineligible for the NRHP in the 1980s. Civil War-era maps show that several roads and five houses were located in the project area late in the 19th century; Jones’ Ford was located nearby.. Historic maps and aerial photographs show that 20th century agricultural practices took place largely in the now inundated floodplain of the Etowah

River, that there was one primary (west) and several secondary roadways in the project area, and that there were three structures located in the project area.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Blackman, we appreciate the opportunity to work with Corblu Ecology Group on this project. If you have any questions concerning our findings, please contact Mr. Neil Bowen at 770-345-0706.

Sincerely,
R.S. WEBB & ASSOCIATES

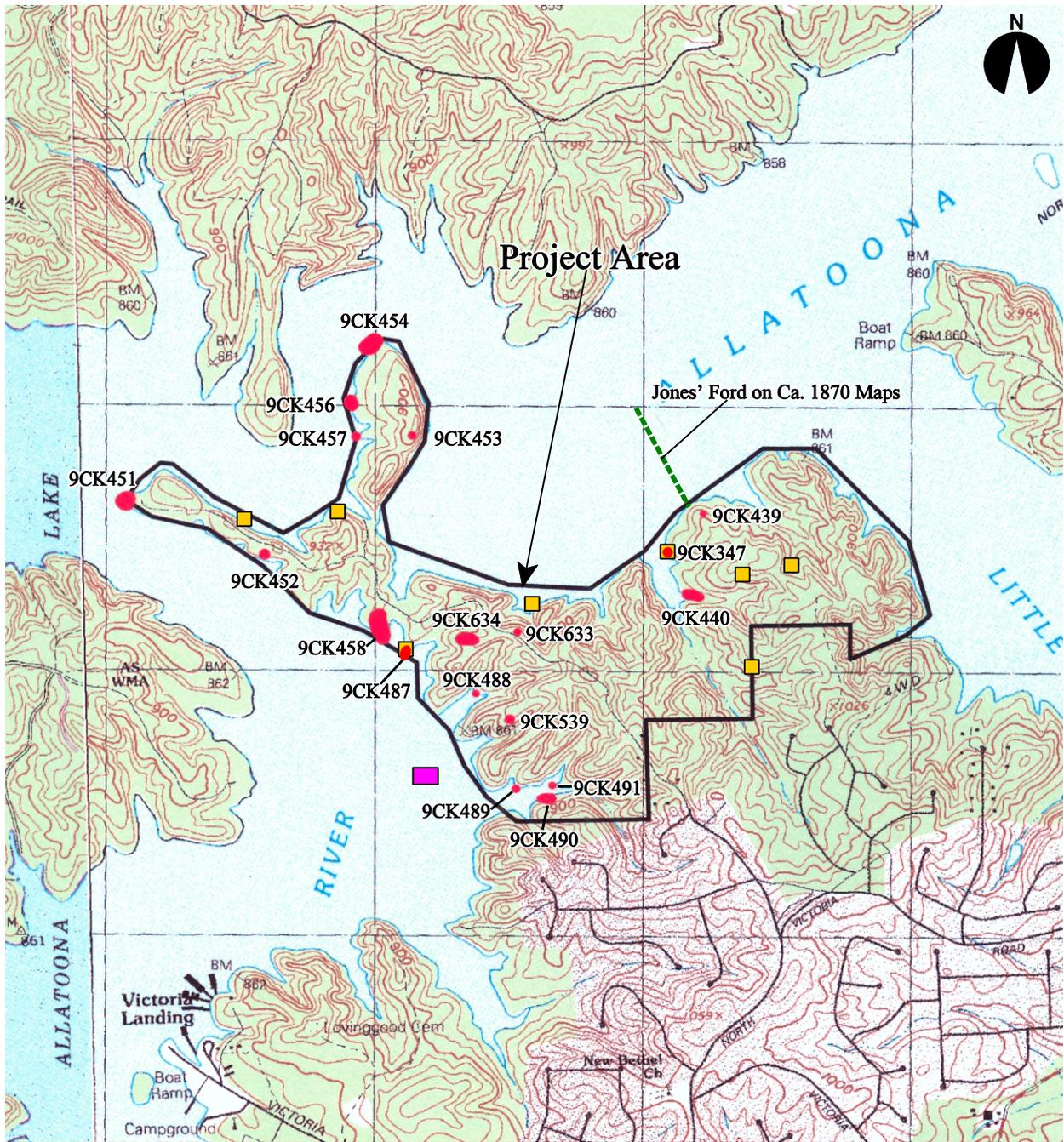


Neil J. Bowen
Historian

Attachment: Figure 1

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1983 *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*.
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1987 *Cultural Resources Survey of Allatoona Lake Area, Georgia*. Southeastern
Archeological Services, Inc., Athens, Georgia.



- Structure on Historic Maps and Aerial Photographs
- Archeological Site
- Approximate Location of "Indian Improvement" on 1832 Plat for Land Lot 461

Map References: 7.5-Minute USGS Quadrangles
 South Canton (1993) and
 Allatoona Dam (1961, PR 1985), Georgia

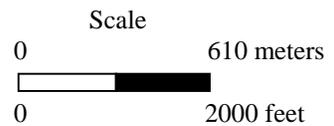


Figure 1 Previously Recorded Cultural Resources in the Vicinity of the Project Area

Inadvertent Discovery Plan
Proposed Improvements to Boy Scouts of America
Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base
Cherokee, Georgia

Introduction

The proposed improvements are located at the Camp Allatoona Aquatics Base (CAAB) operated by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in Cherokee County, Georgia. The project area is located adjacent to Lake Allatoona, west of the portion formed by the Little River (34° 10' 3.02"N, 84° 36' 30.44"W). BSA wishes to improve the existing CAAB within its 500 acre lease of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) property adjacent to Lake Allatoona. The lease area is comprised of 347 acres of exclusive use and 153 acres of limited use areas. All proposed improvements are located within the exclusive use area, and include maintenance facility construction, remodeling/expansion of existing maintenance and caretaker facilities, parking expansion, restroom facilities, shelters, an outdoor classroom and amphitheater, boat and swim docks, and improved water utilities.

The proposed improvements will include modifications to existing structures, new structures, and parking. Structure modification and construction will be conducted with measures to minimize vegetative and soil disturbance. Parking areas will be specifically located to compliment surrounding topography and vegetation to minimize impacts while meeting the goal of improved traffic flow.

This real estate action does not meet the requirements of a categorical exclusion. The impacts associated with this project have been evaluated in an Environmental Assessment. Further NEPA documentation could be necessary in the event of any changes to the project as it was evaluated in the Environmental Assessment or presented in the implementation plan.

Federal permits are required; therefore, this project constitutes a federal undertaking as defined under 36 CFR Part 800 *Protection of Historic Properties; Final Rule*, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation's administrative regulations implementing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). As this project is on USACE Mobile District property, the Mobile District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has been designated the Lead Federal Agency for this project and is, therefore, responsible for cultural resources issues. Section 36 CFR Section 800.13 details actions to be taken in the event that historic properties are discovered during the implementation of this undertaking.

Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc. (SASI) conducted a survey of USACE lands surrounding Lake Allatoona in 1987. Based on communication with USACE Lake Allatoona personnel, the 1987 SASI report identified 20 archeological sites within the CAAB boundaries (9Ck345, 9Ck346, 9Ck347, 9Ck439, 9Ck440, 9Ck451, 9Ck452,

9Ck458, 9Ck487, 9Ck488, 9Ck489, 9Ck490, 9Ck491, 9Ck492, 9Ck493, 9Ck494, 9Ck538, 9Ck539, 9Ck634, 9Ck637). None of these sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, due to the project area involved, there may be other as-yet-unidentified resources that would become apparent during the construction phase.

Principal Areas of Concern

1. Unidentified archaeological sites that have not been subjected to NRHP evaluation.

These are sites which usually consist of cultural materials (artifacts) as contained within a reasonably intact soil matrix. For prehistoric sites, items such as projectile points (arrow heads), pottery sherds, shells, bone fragments, etc., which may be contained within a dark soil. The dark soil is usually the result of humans introducing organics such as carbon from fires, animal tissue, waste, etc. These may be large dark areas where people lived or smaller dark areas that represent storage pits, fire basins or even graves. For historic sites, the artifacts may consist of brick fragments, broken bottle glass (clear, green, amethyst, etc.), ceramic plate fragments, iron objects (nails, hinges, etc.), bones, and so forth which may be associated with dark soil.

2. Human remains.

Beginning in prehistoric times and continuing into the present, humans have inhabited the project area. As a result, human remains may have been interred within the project area. If present, human remains are likely to appear as bone fragments or caulky white substances as contained within elongated dark areas (graves).

Archaeological Site Identification Training

Site Managers, Grading supervisors and heavy equipment operators (bulldozers, excavators, trackhoes, etc.) will attend an initial training session. This should be done as a part of their regular safety meetings. Archaeologists will spend fifteen to thirty minutes describing potentially significant artifacts that the operators might find, describing how such finds might appear (by providing actual examples of artifacts), and explaining what to do in the event that discoveries of such potentially significant artifacts are made. The operators will also be instructed as to what is NOT considered significant (i.e., recent trash such as beer bottles, aluminum cans, plastic, etc.). The aim of such training is not to slow down the earth-moving process but rather to identify a critical path to be followed for legitimate potentially significant discoveries. Grading supervisors and other supervisory personnel, will be given more intensive instruction including a visit to a known archaeological site to observe first-hand what constitutes a significant site. They will also be apprised of the exact protocol to be followed in the event they encounter what they believe to be a potentially significant artifact.

Emergency Discovery Protocol

In the event that a potentially significant artifact(s) (i.e. not recent trash) representing one or a combination of the above described areas of concern is observed, then the following procedures will be followed.

All heavy equipment operations within a fifty (50)-foot buffer surrounding the potentially significant artifact(s) will cease and the grading supervisor will be notified of the find.

The grading supervisor, site manager and / or the equivalent will investigate. If he or she believes that the find does not warrant further investigation (i.e., that it is not a potentially significant artifact), then he or she will document the find, note the area via photograph and location, and, if possible, collect the item in question for further identification. However, in the event that, in his or her opinion, the find is a potentially significant artifact and does fall within one or more of the above referenced concerns, then he or she will cordon off the relevant area and enforce the aforementioned buffer around the find. He or she will then initiate the notification process outlined below.

Upon his or her determination of the finding of a potentially significant artifact, the grading supervisor, site supervisor or equivalent will immediately contact the Lake Allatoona Project Office and detail the circumstances of the find. The Lake Allatoona Project Office will then contact Mr. Michael Fedoroff, District Archaeologist at (251) 694-4114 (direct office line) or (251) 263-3190 (cell phone), or Brian Zettle, Inland Chief (251) 694-2115 at the USACE Mobile District Office. USACE will then notify the SHPO and the appropriate Federally recognized Tribes, if applicable. The District Archaeologist will be responsible for further investigation of the potentially significant artifacts. The District Archaeologist will investigate the find and, if they determine it, in their professional opinion, to not be significant, they will document sufficient justification for their decision. If, however, they determine the find to be significant, then, USACE, and the SHPO and, the appropriate tribes will be notified immediately and a plan of action will be initiated.

Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide an emergency discovery protocol in the event that unidentified cultural materials are revealed during grading and construction activities. It should be noted that there may be historic materials which may remain on certain sites after the archaeologists have completed their work. These sites, though mitigated through data recovery, may contain some archaeological materials as a result of the sampling program employed. This is interpreted as an acceptable loss and should not hinder the construction program as long as they are not human remains. In this case, all work will cease, as per the protocol outlined above, in order to allow an appropriate plan of action to be developed to address the particular circumstances of a particular specific find(s).



Photograph No. 1: Proposed parking area.



Photograph No. 2: Proposed parking area.



Photograph No. 3: Typical existing privy to be replaced with latrine and composting toilet.



Photograph No. 4: Proposed parking area.



Photograph No. 5: Proposed parking lot.



Photograph No. 6: Proposed parking area.



Photograph No. 7: Proposed pavilion location.



Photograph No. 8: Proposed amphitheater area.



Photograph No. 9: Proposed dock location.



Photograph No. 10: Proposed swim dock expansion area.



Photograph No. 11: Proposed dock location.



Photograph No. 12: Proposed expansion area at caretaker's residence.



Photograph No. 13: Proposed maintenance facility location.



Photograph No. 14: Proposed outdoor classroom and pavilion location.



Photograph No. 15: Proposed pavilion location.



Photograph No. 16: Proposed parking area.



Photograph No. 17: Entrance location proposed for improvements.



Photograph No. 18: Proposed parking area.