



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

**CESAM-RD-M**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2013-00702-KMN**

November 1, 2016

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
**DMR-170023**

**PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT A PUBLIC RECREATION PARK,**  
**GAUTIER, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **City of Gautier**  
**Attention: Ms. Chandra Nicholson**  
**3330 Highway 90**  
**Gautier, Mississippi 39553**

AGENT: **Brown Mitchell and Alexander, Inc.**  
**Attention: Mr. Jason Saucier**  
**401 Cowan Road, Suite A**  
**Gulfport, Mississippi 39507**

**WATERWAY: Mary Walker Bayou, Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 7 West, Gautier, Jackson County, Mississippi (Latitude 30.3990° North, Longitude -88.6574° West). The area is depicted on the MS-GAUTIER NORTH Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey Topographic Map, Hydrologic Unit Code 03170006.**

**WORK: The applicant is requesting a DA Permit for permanent impacts to 2.37 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, temporary impacts to 0.60 acre of wetlands, and impacts to 0.07 acre of linear other waters for the construction of a public recreational park. The public recreational park would include construction of an outdoor amphitheater, viewing lawn, 3.69 acre lake, concrete paved pedestrian pathway, interpretive trail/boardwalk, two pavilions, two public restroom buildings, children's playground, skate park, sand volleyball courts, two small business cottage complexes (retail and restaurants), a paved access road, and two paved parking areas. The approximately 32.3-acre site contains approximately 12.42 acres of wetlands and 1.67 acres of other waters. The on-site wetlands are located in four areas, three of which are pine savannah wetlands**

(11.03 acres) and one which is an emergent wetland (1.39 acres). Other waters located on the site consist of four ponds (non-linear) and four un-named perennial tributaries (linear) to Mary Walker Bayou. Three of the four perennial tributaries on-site appear to be man-made and all three flow into an un-named tributary to Mary Walker Bayou, a portion of which is the fourth tributary located on the north east portion of the site. The wetlands and other waters on-site drain eastward toward Mary Walker Bayou which flows into the Pascagoula River.

Proposed permanent impacts to wetlands would include three areas of road construction, sidewalks, lake construction and the beach volleyball area.

Proposed temporary impacts to wetlands would include 0.6 acre of wetlands at the site of the west cottages. This set of cottages would be elevated above ground using timber piles.

Proposed impacts to linear other waters would include two culverted road crossings. The crossing near the west entrance would involve 100 linear feet using a 36" round culvert. The crossing near the east entrance would include 100 linear feet using an 8' x 8' box culvert. Total proposed impacts would be 0.07 acre (2,960 square feet).

Approximately 1.67 acres of non-linear other waters (ponds) would be consolidated into the one proposed on-site lake.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The 32.3-acre site is mostly overgrown pine savannah. The site contains a high-tension power line which intersects the property, a power substation, and a water tower. Mary Walker Bayou is located east of the project site. Dolphin Drive is located south of the project site and Gautier-Vancleave Road to the east. A retail development is located south of the project site, residential property to the east, and schools are located to the north and southeast. The property to the west is mostly forested.

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** Construction of a public recreation park.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** As part of their avoidance measures, the applicant evaluated two different properties as possible locations for the proposed development. The applicant considered four on-site alternatives regarding lot layouts and parking. During construction the applicant proposes minimization of wetland impacts through use of best management practices to ensure that additional wetlands outside the project footprint not be affected. USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional wetlands through the purchase of mitigation credits from a wetlands mitigation bank approved by the Mobile District, USACE. USACE has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time.

**USACE initially determined the basic project purpose is construction of a public recreation park. The project as proposed would not be considered a water dependent activity. Additional reviews will be performed by USACE and cooperating agencies.**

The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and upon completion of the required advertising; a determination relative to certification will be made.

The applicant has applied for coastal zone consistency from the State of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with Section 57-15-6 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by USACE can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, 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 benefits, 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, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, protected species, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

USACE 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 Corps to determine whether to issue, 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 the 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. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held for consideration of this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to effect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, USACE has determined that the project as proposed would have "no effect".

**USACE will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer to make a final determination based upon this review unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. (MDAH Project Log #07-100-16)**

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the Dusky gopher frog (*Rana sevosa*), Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*), the Mississippi Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis pulla*), and Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). The applicant stated that site reconnaissance was conducted on February 3, 2016, to assess on-site habitat types. Site reconnaissance indicated that suitable habitat does not currently exist on-site for any of the species listed for Jackson County and no evidence of those species was found during on-site investigations. The proposed activity should have "no effect" on the remainder of endangered or threatened species listed for Jackson County.

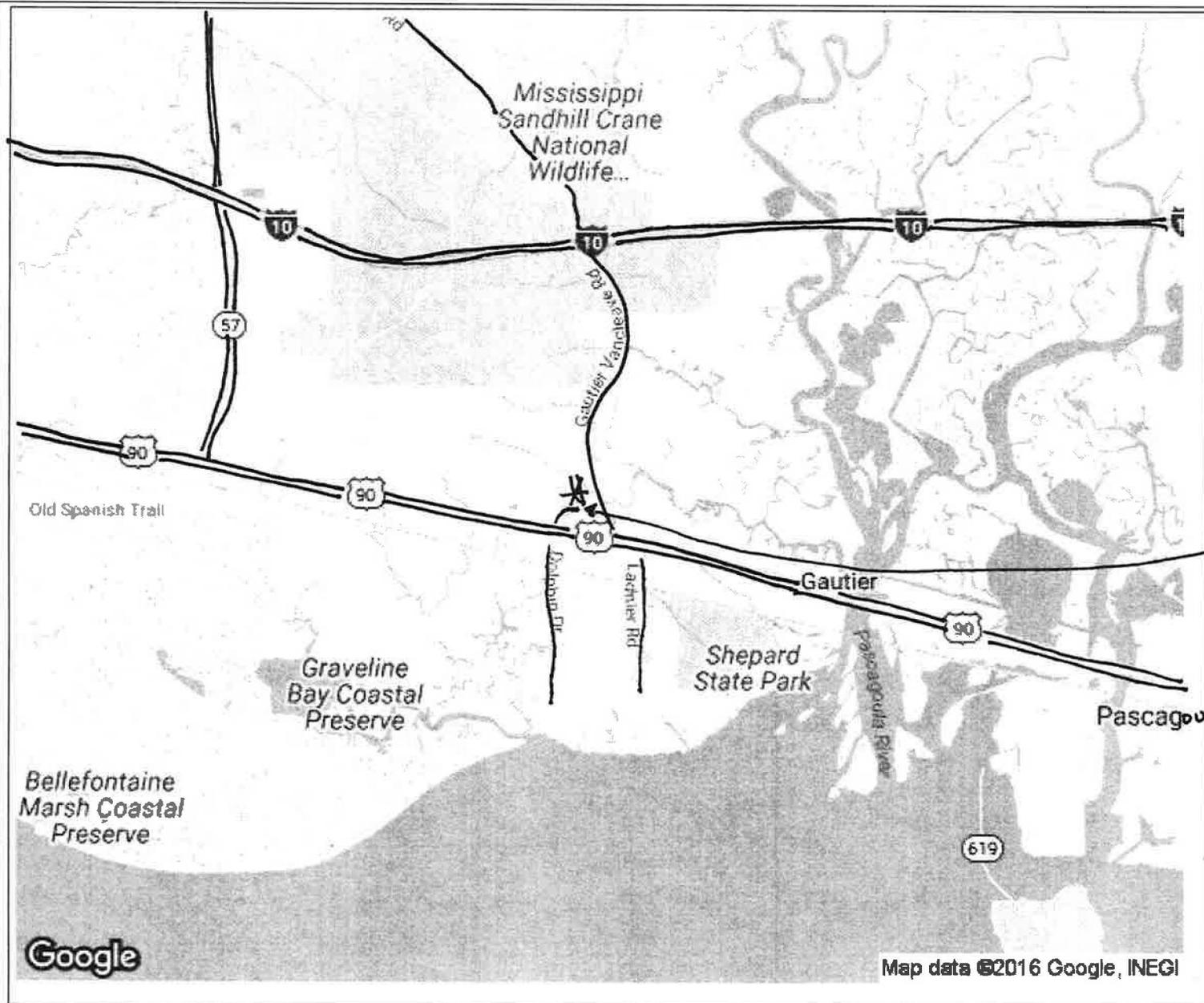
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2016-00261-KMN** and should be directed to USACE, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: **Ms. Kaaren M. Neumann**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, Attention: USACE Biloxi field Office, with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, **Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, P.E.**, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, **Attention: Ms. Jennifer Wilder**, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530.

**All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice.** If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (228) 523-4024 or email at [kaaren.m.neumann@usace.army.mil](mailto:kaaren.m.neumann@usace.army.mil). Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Mission/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Mission/Regulatory.aspx).

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



site



SAM-2013-00702-KMN

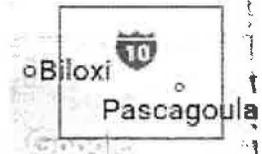


City of Gautier  
Public Recreational Park



Date Printed: 10.31.2016

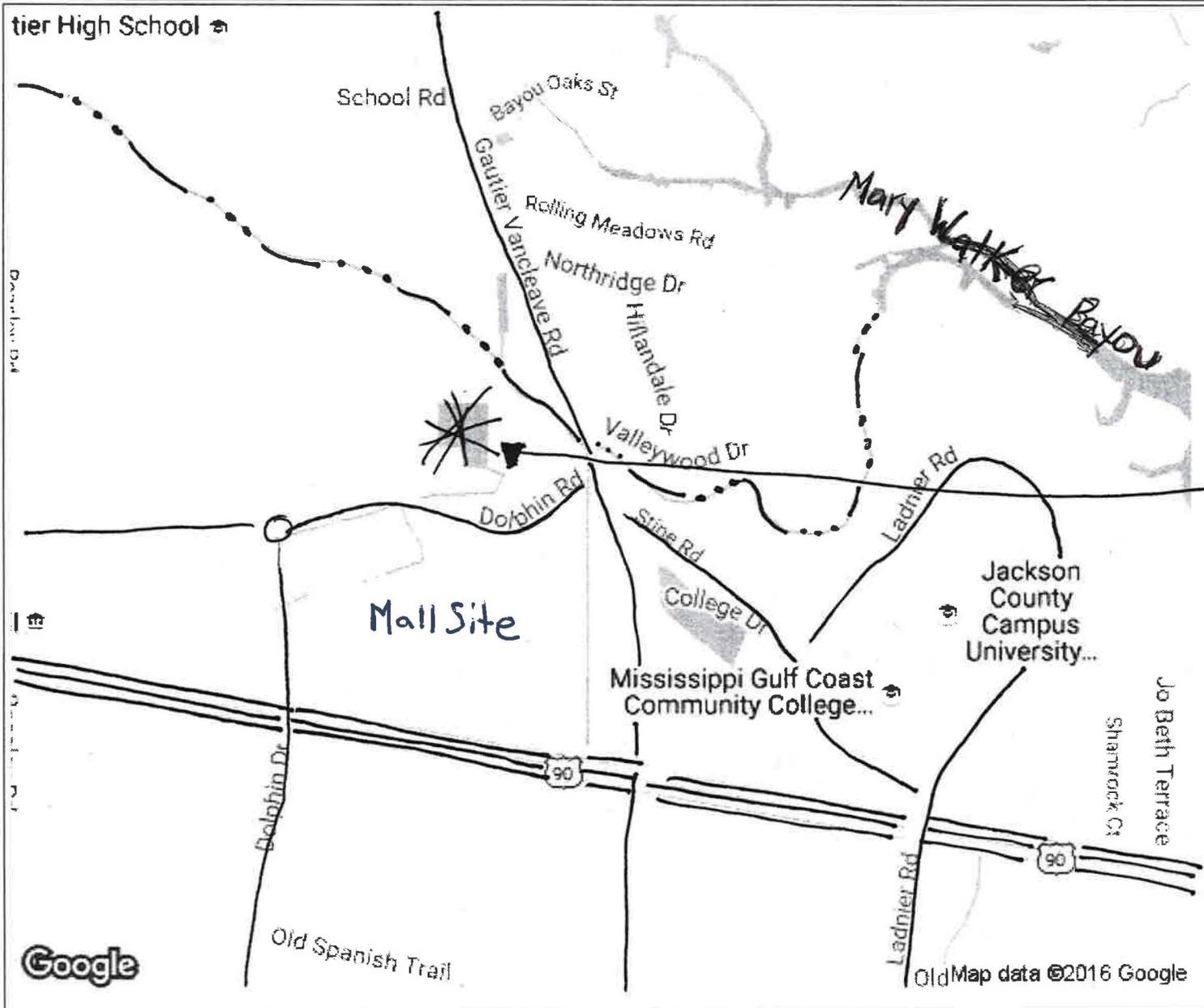
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Google

Map data ©2016 Google, INEGI

tier High School



Site

Google

OldMap data ©2016 Google



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City of Gautier  
Public Recreational Park



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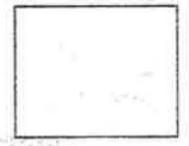
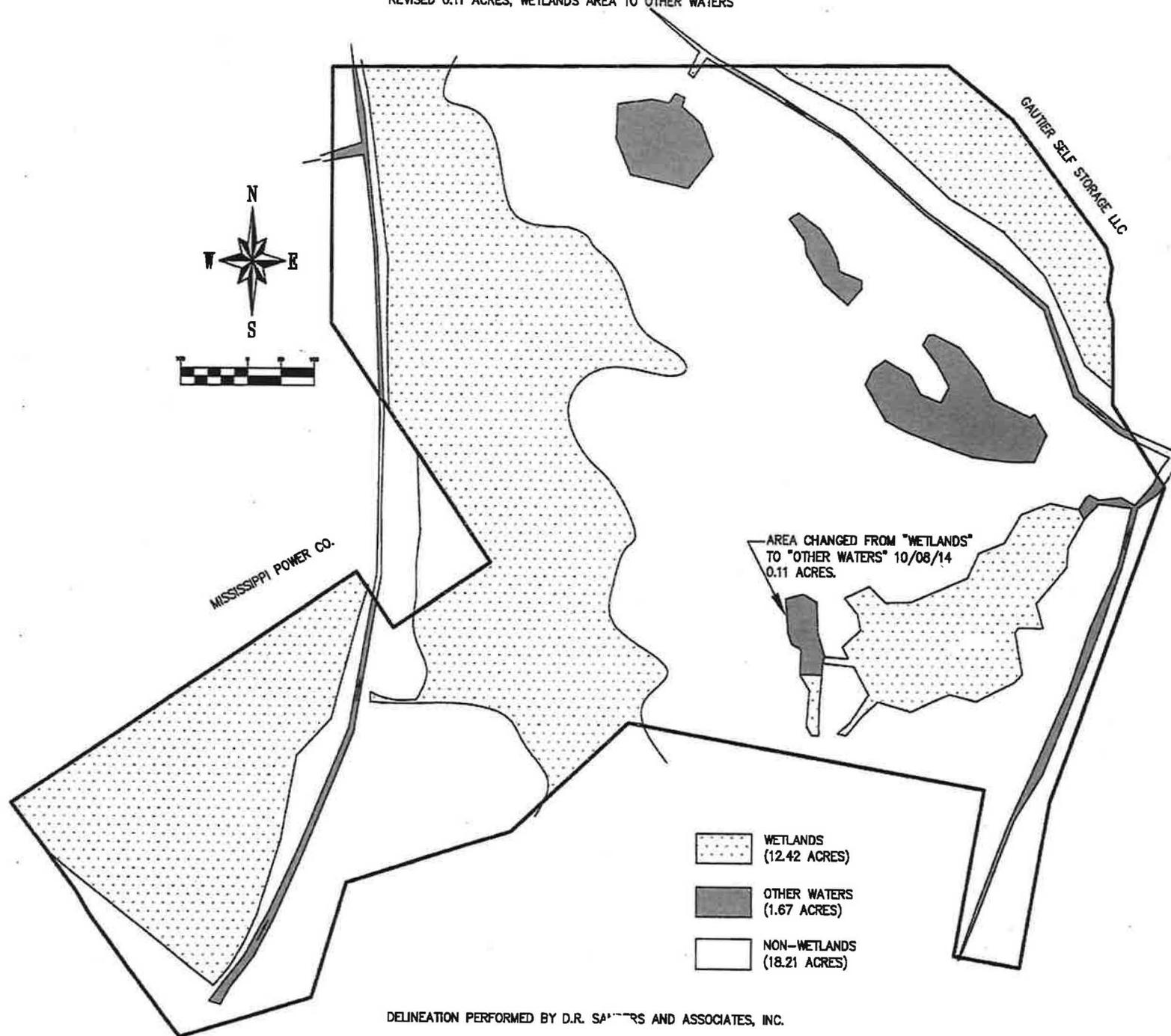
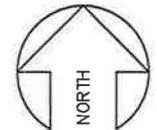


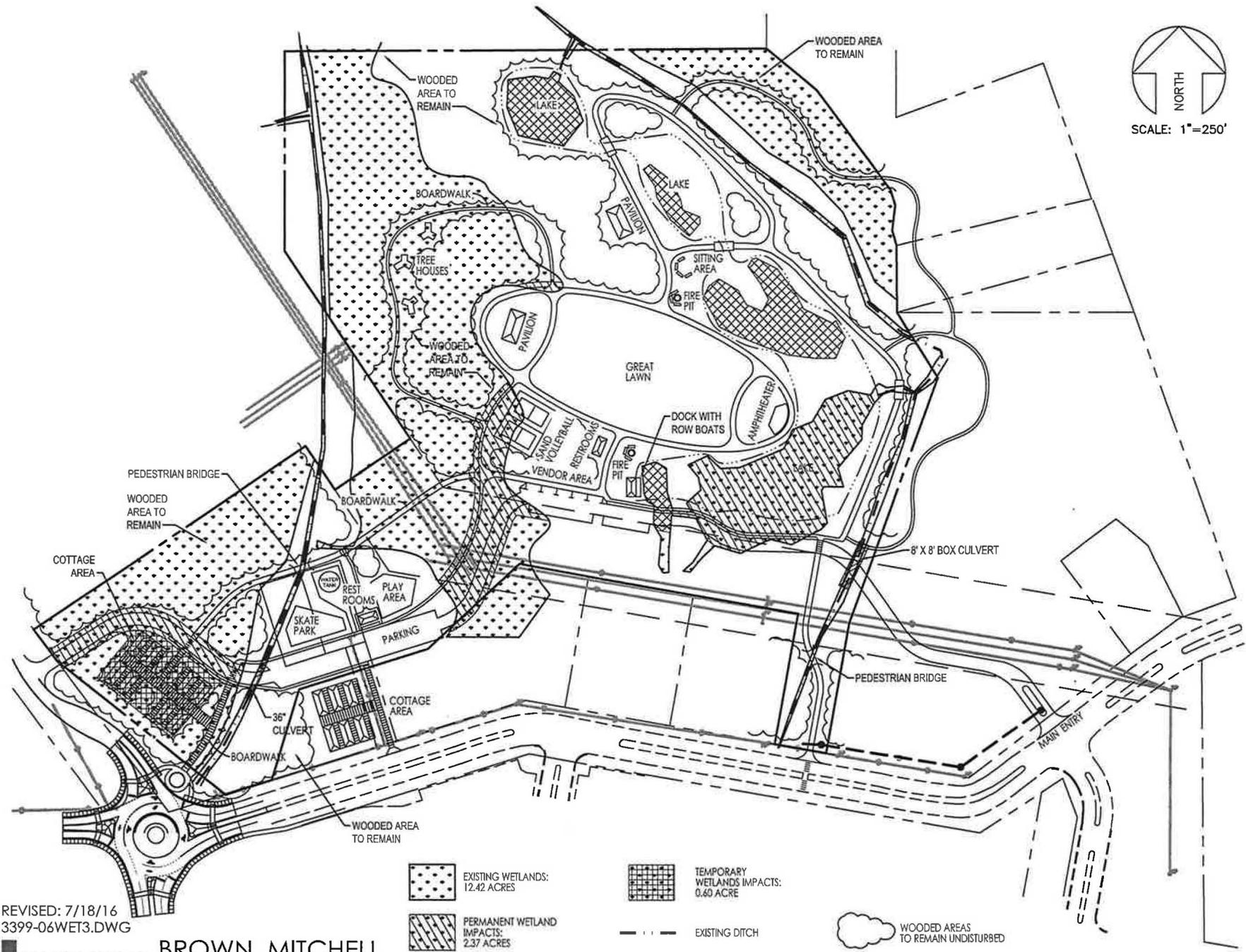
FIGURE 2. WETLAND DELINEATION FOR MISTY MEADOWS TRACT.  
GAUTIER, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI 9/25/12  
REVISED 0.11 ACRES, WETLANDS AREA TO OTHER WATERS







SCALE: 1"=250'



REVISED: 7/18/16  
3399-06WET3.DWG

**bma** BROWN, MITCHELL & ALEXANDER, INC.  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

-  EXISTING WETLANDS: 12.42 ACRES
-  TEMPORARY WETLANDS IMPACTS: 0.60 ACRE
-  PERMANENT WETLAND IMPACTS: 2.37 ACRES
-  NON-LINEAR OTHER WATERS: 1.67 ACRES
-  EXISTING DITCH
-  WOODED AREAS TO REMAIN UNDISTURBED
-  LINEAR (DITCHES) OTHER WATERS IMPACTS: 0.07 AC. (2,960 S.F.) CULVERT CROSSINGS

THE COMMONS PARK  
GAUTIER, MISSISSIPPI  
DESIGN ALTERNATE #3