



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

South Mississippi Branch
Regulatory Division

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

8 May 2015

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE SAM-2015-00121-PAH
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL (DMR-150198)**

**COFFEE CREEK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS
GULFPORT, HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: **City of Gulfport
4050 Hewes Avenue
Gulfport, Mississippi 39507**

AGENT: **Pickering Firm, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Andy Phelan
126 Rue Magnolia, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530**

LOCATION: **The project is located at 250 East Railroad Street, Coffee Creek, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi, centered on Latitude 30.37951 North, Longitude 89.05628 West.**

WORK: The applicant proposes to fill 1.56 acres of wetlands to improve drainage along Coffee Creek and to allow access from the Gulfport beaches to the Centennial Plaza development. The project as proposed should improve the hydraulics of Coffee Creek and improving public access and recreational activities along both Coffee Creek and in the existing Clower-Thornton Nature Park. Hydraulic improvements on an approximate 1/2 mile stretch upstream of the 2nd Street Bridge are proposed to consist of: maintenance and debris/sediment removal, channel widening, channel deepening, removal of trees and invasive plants and replacement with low-lying native grasses and plants (on both banks). Additionally, a "levee" at the top of the west bank is proposed along with a 12' wide asphalt public access trail connecting the existing parking area on Railroad Street to the Katie Patterson Booth Community Center and an additional trail would connect this new path to an existing one east of Coffee Creek. These new trails are proposed to connect to the proposed Centennial Plaza development.

PROJECT PURPOSE: As stated by the applicant, the primary purpose of this project is flood control for this portion of Coffee Creek; the secondary purpose is the creation of a nature trail.

MITIGATION: The City of Gulfport is currently proposing onsite restoration to mitigate any permanent impacts to wetlands.

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 State Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and for coastal zone (CZ) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to WQC and CZ consistency will be made by the Mississippi Office of Pollution Control and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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 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, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Corps 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.

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. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the Corps has determined that the permit area consists of the work site. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally-recognized American Indian tribes, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that there should be no adverse affect to cultural and historic properties within the permit area based on the repeated maintenance work and upland development in the area.

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 will have no effect on listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitats, or essential fish habitat. The applicant has conducted surveys to check for the presence of possible endangered species or their habitat onsite and have found no sign of and species. The project will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal includes impacting an area approximately 1.56 acres of waters within an existing stream system. The project area includes no resources that would be utilized by various life stages of various marine species. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries. 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.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2015-00121-PAH** and should be directed to the District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, Mobile District, Attention: Mr. Philip A. Hegji RD-M, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, and a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Attention: Ms. Florance Watson, P.E., Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting and Mitigation, 1141 Bay view Avenue, 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 for this application, Mr. Hegji at **(251) 690-3222** or at **philip.a.hegji@usace.army.mil**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

CESAM-RD-M
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For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

CLEAR WEST BANK OF INVASIVE SPECIES AND REPLANT WITH NATIVE GRASSES

EXIST GROUND

EXIST CHANNEL CENTERLINE

WATER SURFACE CREATED BY WEIR; ELEV = 3' MSL

EXIST CENTENNIAL PLAZA PROPERTY LINE

5'
HOLD EXIST ELEVATION

TIE BACK TO EXIST GRADE AT 3:1

ELEV = -2.50

VARIES

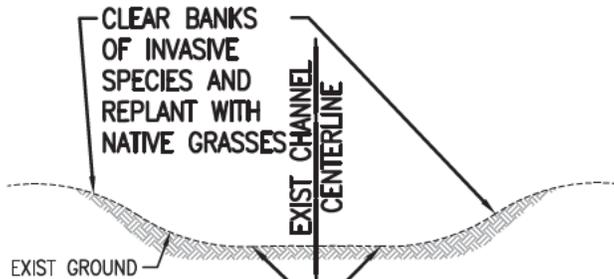
3:1

PLANT SLOPE ABOVE ELEV = 3' MSL WITH NATIVE GRASSES

1
A

COFFEE CREEK SECTION 1;
STA 22+80 TO STA 25+45

NOT TO SCALE

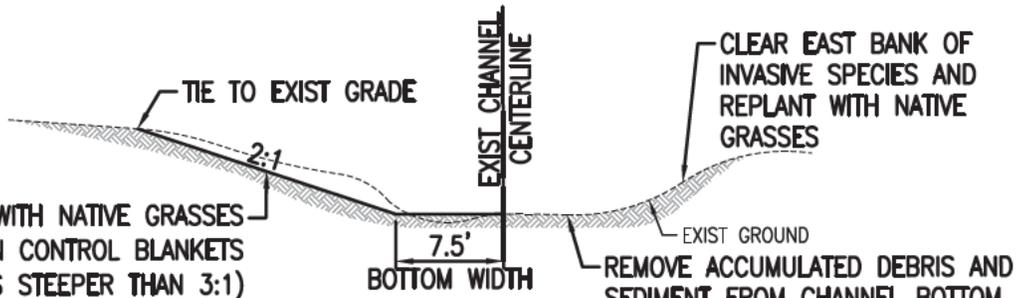


REMOVE ACCUMULATED DEBRIS AND SEDIMENT FROM CHANNEL BOTTOM AND PROVIDE LONGITUDINAL SLOPE PER PLANS; TIE BACK TO EXIST GRADE AT 3:1 AS NEEDED.

2
A

COFFEE CREEK SECTION 2;
STA 22+70 TO STA 22+80 &
STA 25+60 TO STA 28+00

NOT TO SCALE



3
A

COFFEE CREEK SECTION 3;
STA 28+00 TO STA 29+30

NOT TO SCALE



Pickering Firm, Inc.
Facility Design • Civil Engineering • Surveying •
Transportation • Natural / Water Resources

126 Rue Magnolia
Biloxi, MS 39530
228.432.5925

CITY OF GULFPORT
COFFEE CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

DOCUMENT #
DMR

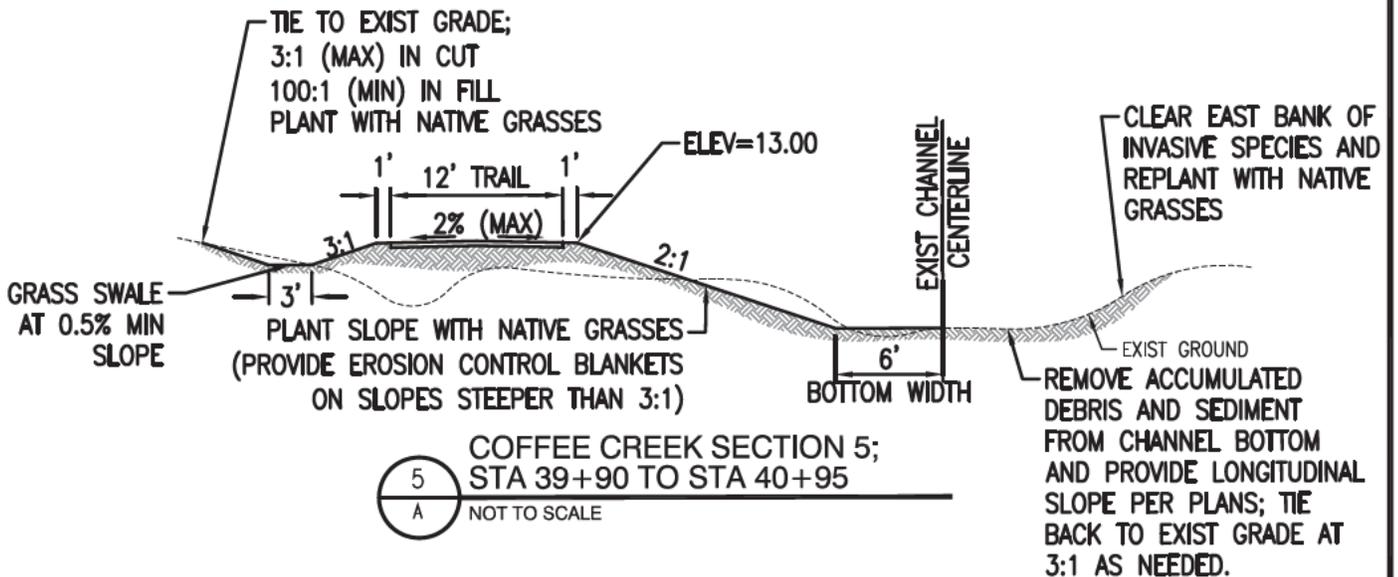
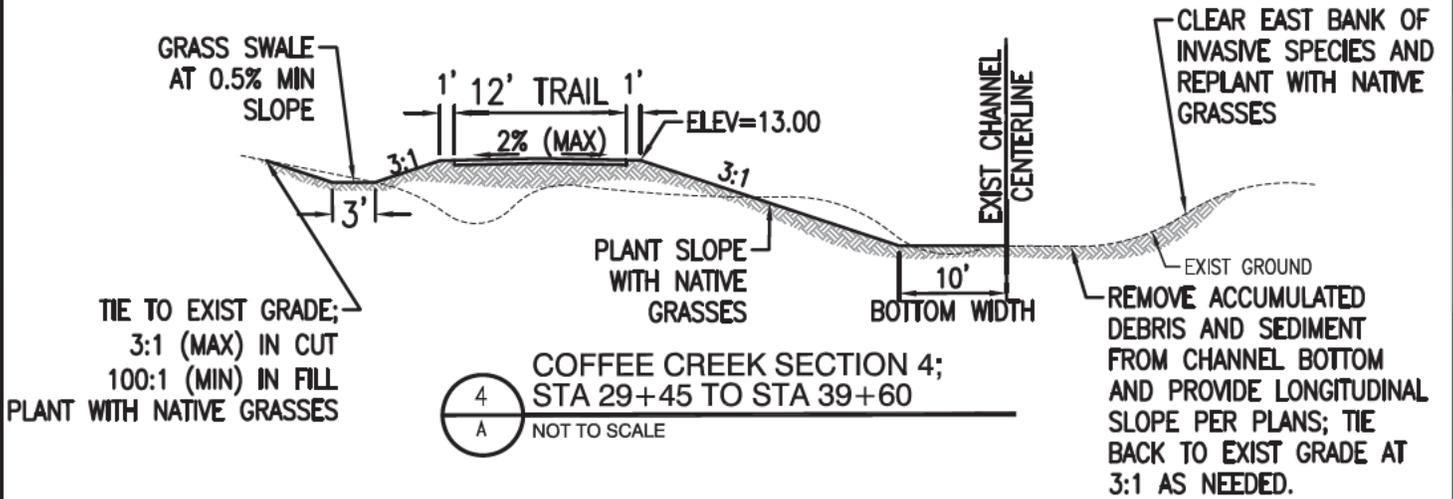
DESCRIPTION
CROSS SECTIONS 1

PROJECT #
24468.01

SHEET #
4

SCALE
N.T.S.

DATE
JANUARY 2015



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CITY OF GULFPORT
 COFFEE CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

DESCRIPTION
 CROSS SECTIONS 1

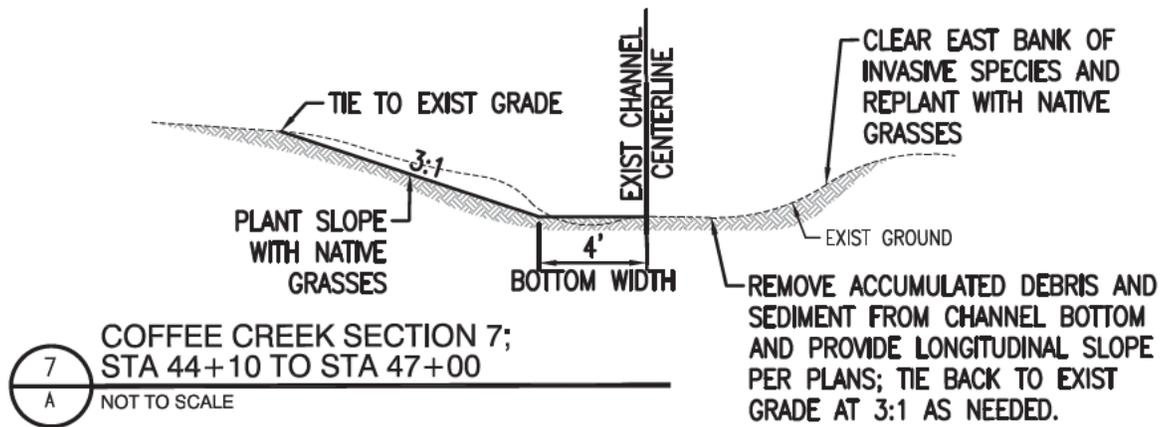
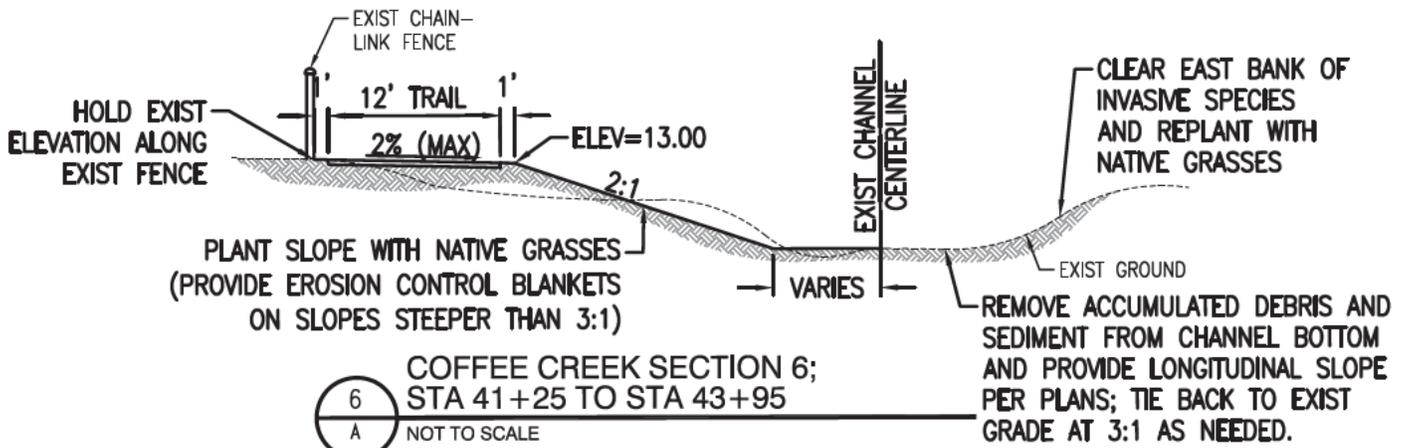
SCALE
 N.T.S.

PROJECT #
 24468.01

DATE
 JANUARY 2015

DOCUMENT #
 DMR

SHEET #
 5



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CITY OF GULFPORT
 COFFEE CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

DOCUMENT #
DMR
 SHEET #
6

DESCRIPTION
 CROSS SECTIONS 1
 SCALE
 N.T.S.

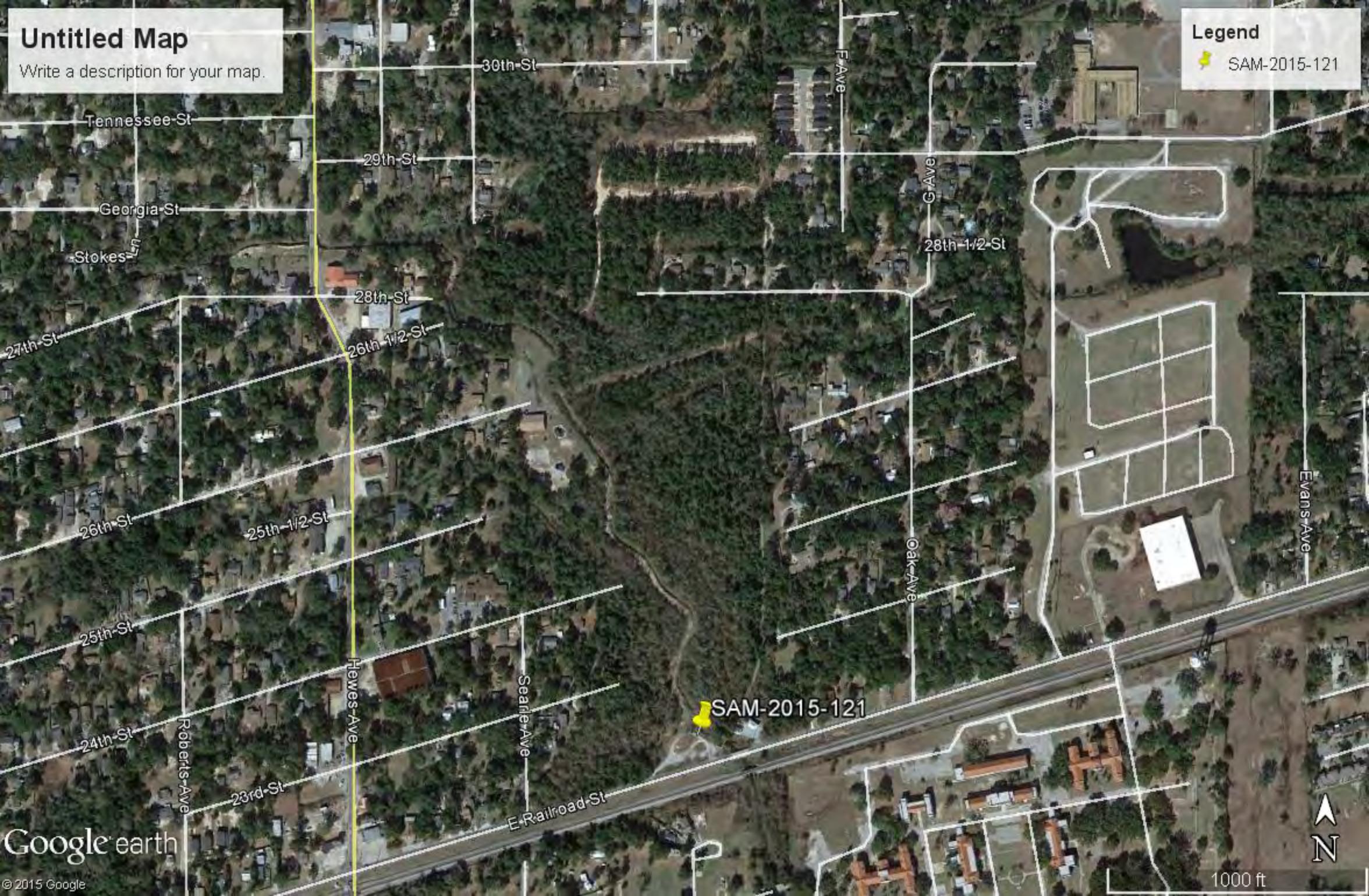
PROJECT #
 24468.01
 DATE
 JANUARY 2015

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Write a description for your map.

Legend

 SAM-2015-121

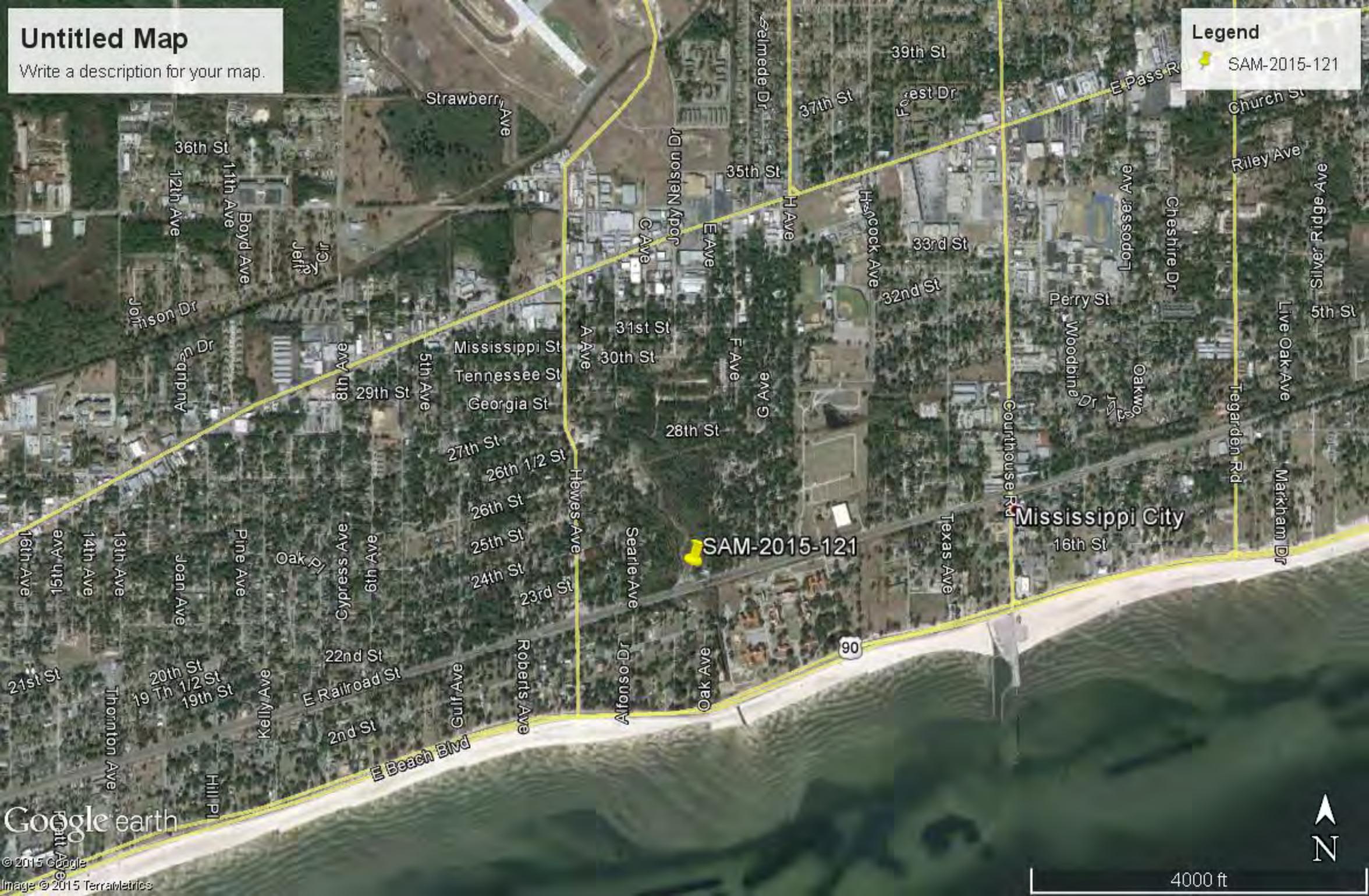


Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

Legend

 SAM-2015-121



SAM-2015-121

Mississippi City

90

Google earth

© 2015 Google
Image © 2015 TerraMetrics



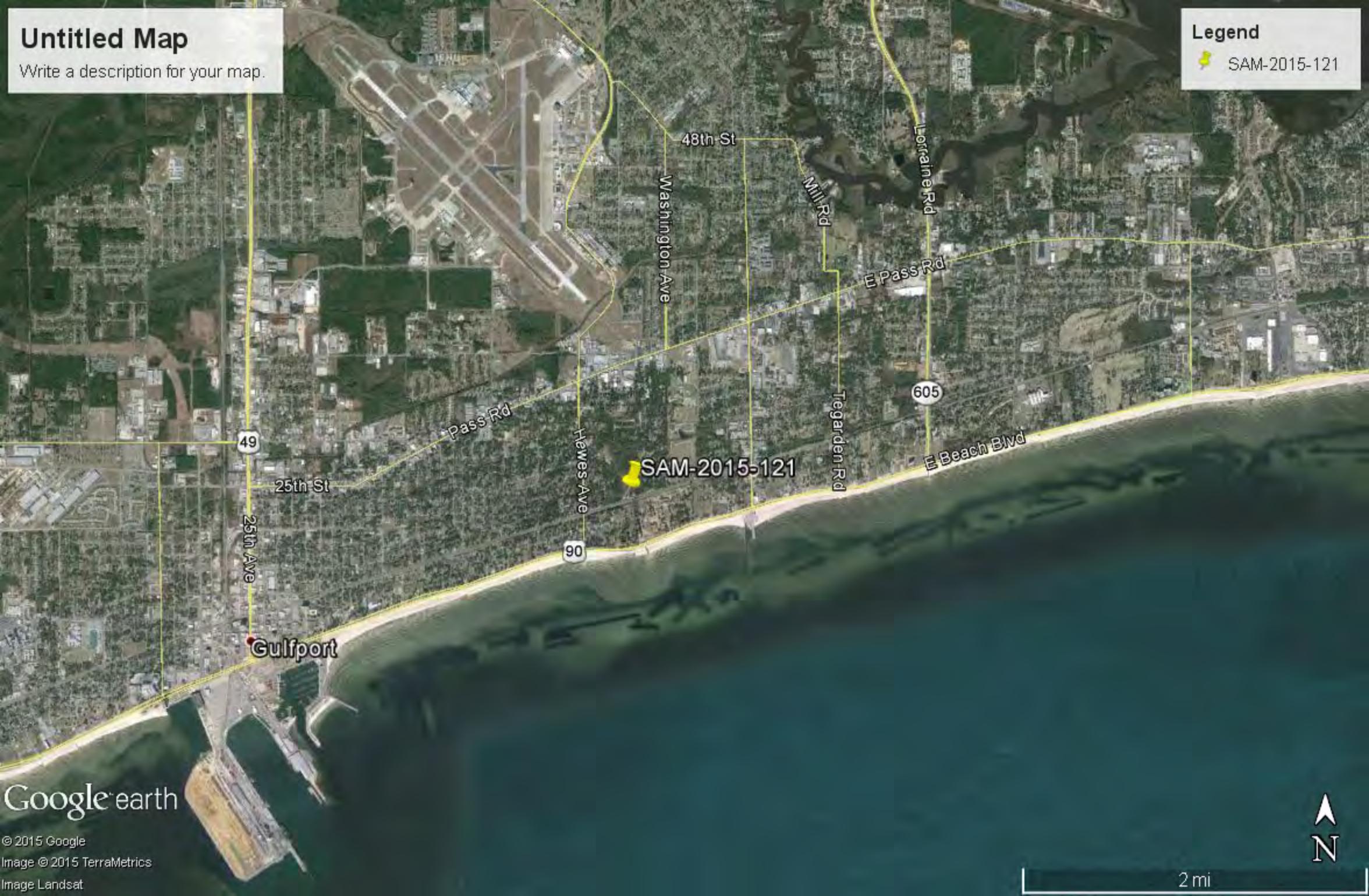
4000 ft

Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

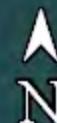
Legend

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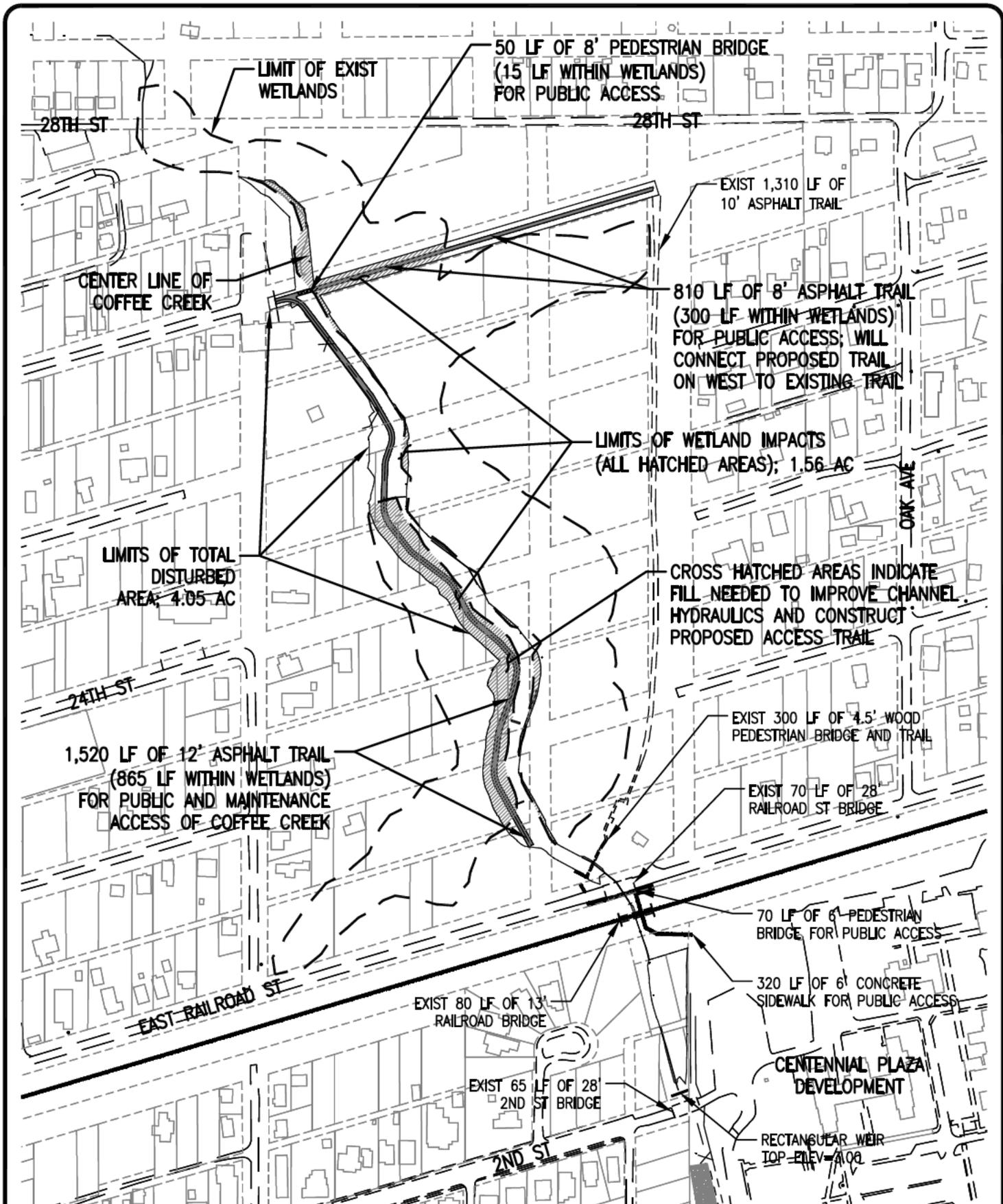


Google earth

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Image Landsat



2 mi



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CITY OF GULFPORT
 COFFEE CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

DESCRIPTION
 LAYOUT MAP

SCALE
 1" = 300'

PROJECT #
 24468.01

DATE
 MARCH 2015

DOCUMENT #
 DMR

SHEET #
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