



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BIRMINGHAM FIELD OFFICE
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209

CESAM-RD-N
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2016-00133-JMT

DATE 2 Mar 2016

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

REQUEST FOR THE FILLING OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH SCHOOL CAREER TECH CENTER, A NEW LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING, AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, A NEW BUS MAINTENANCE FACILITY, PARKING LOT FOR 51 BUSES AND PARKING SPACES FOR 227 VEHICLES IN LOWNDES 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 (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Lowndes County School District
Attention: Mr. Lynn Wright
1053 Highway 45 South
Columbus, Mississippi 39701

AGENT: Headwaters, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Curtis Robertson
Post Office Box 2836
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39158

LOCATION: The proposed project site is located on approximately 20 acres within Section 12, Township 18 South, and Range 18 West in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi (N33.516413, W-88.366332). The project is located in the Luxapallia watershed (HUC 03160105).

PROJECT PURPOSE: According to the applicant, the purpose of the project is to construct a centrally located campus to provide a more effective, efficient and higher quality educational environment for the students of Lowndes County, Mississippi.

WORK: The applicant is seeking authorization for the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States for the purpose of constructing a Career Tech Center, a new Lowndes County School District main office, an alternative school and bus maintenance

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facility in one location. The project would impact 30.74 linear feet of an ephemeral stream and 3.77 acres of emergent wetland.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant is proposing to purchase credits at a USACE approved mitigation bank for impacts associated with this project. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's compensatory mitigation plan at this time.

The applicant has applied for certification from the State of Mississippi in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

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 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 use 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, cultural values, 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 production, 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.

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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 to consider 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.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: 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. Although the extent of federal control and responsibility for these considerations are confined to the limits of the permit area for this particular project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking are also being considered. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally-recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. Historic architectural or archaeological investigations may be necessary to ascertain the existence of such resources. Efforts will be made through the consultation process to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to significant cultural and historic properties that may occur as a result of this undertaking.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: 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 most likely will not affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. **By letter dated December 21, 2015, the USFWS stated: "There are no protected species or their habitats within the project vicinity. Therefore, we anticipate that no species will be impacted by the work activities"**

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number SAM-2016-00133-JMT and should be directed to:

U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
Birmingham Field Office
Attention: Mr. Joseph Tanko

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218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222
Homewood, Alabama 35209

with a copy to the:

State of Mississippi
Department of Environmental Quality
Post Office Box 2261
Jackson, Mississippi 39225

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 via e-mail at joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil or telephone number **(205) 290-9096**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

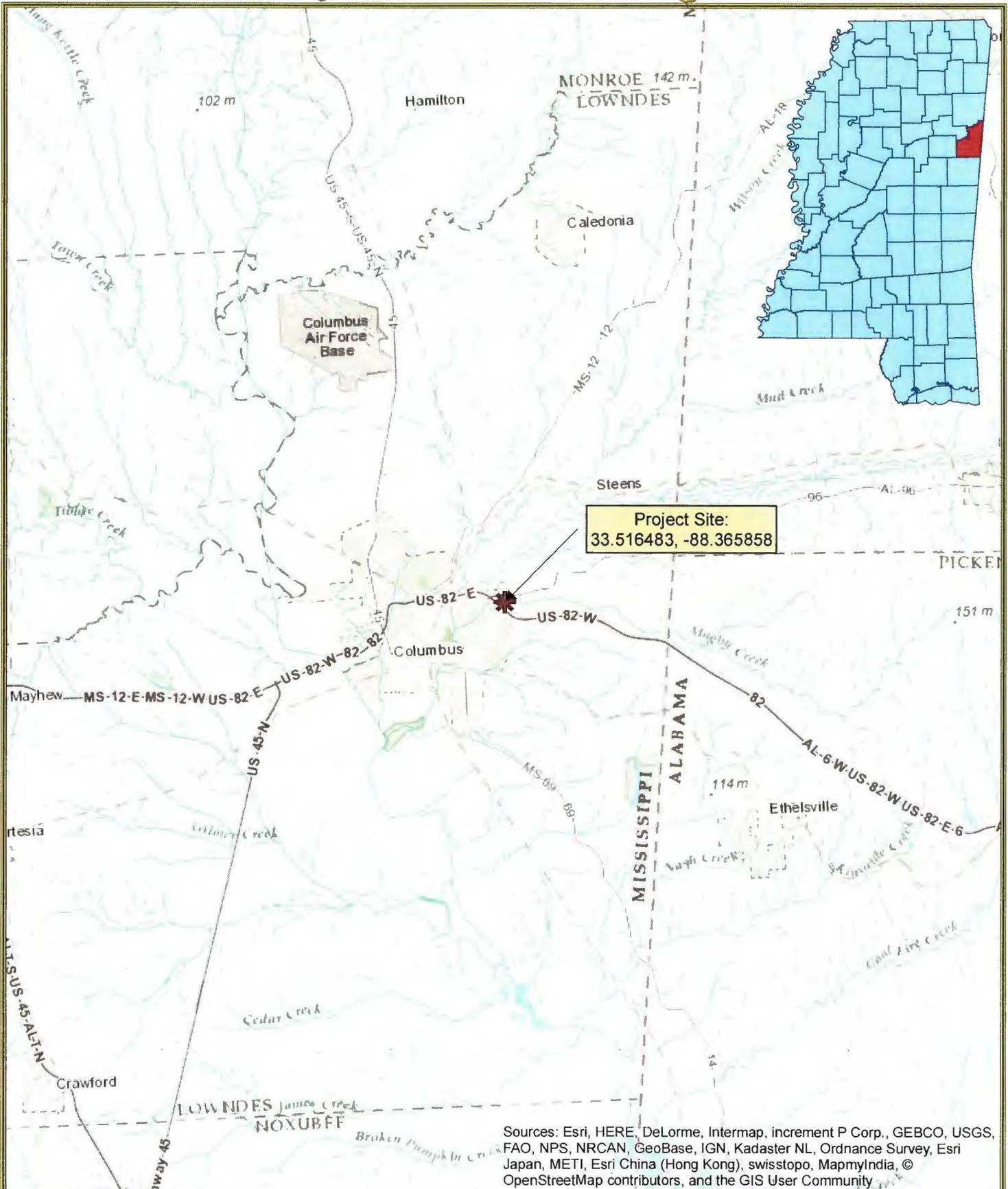
For additional information about our program, visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will help us to improve our services.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer

Enclosures

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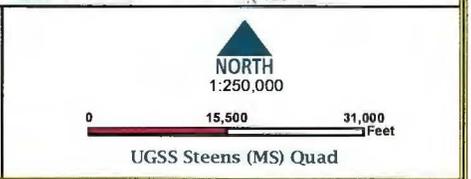


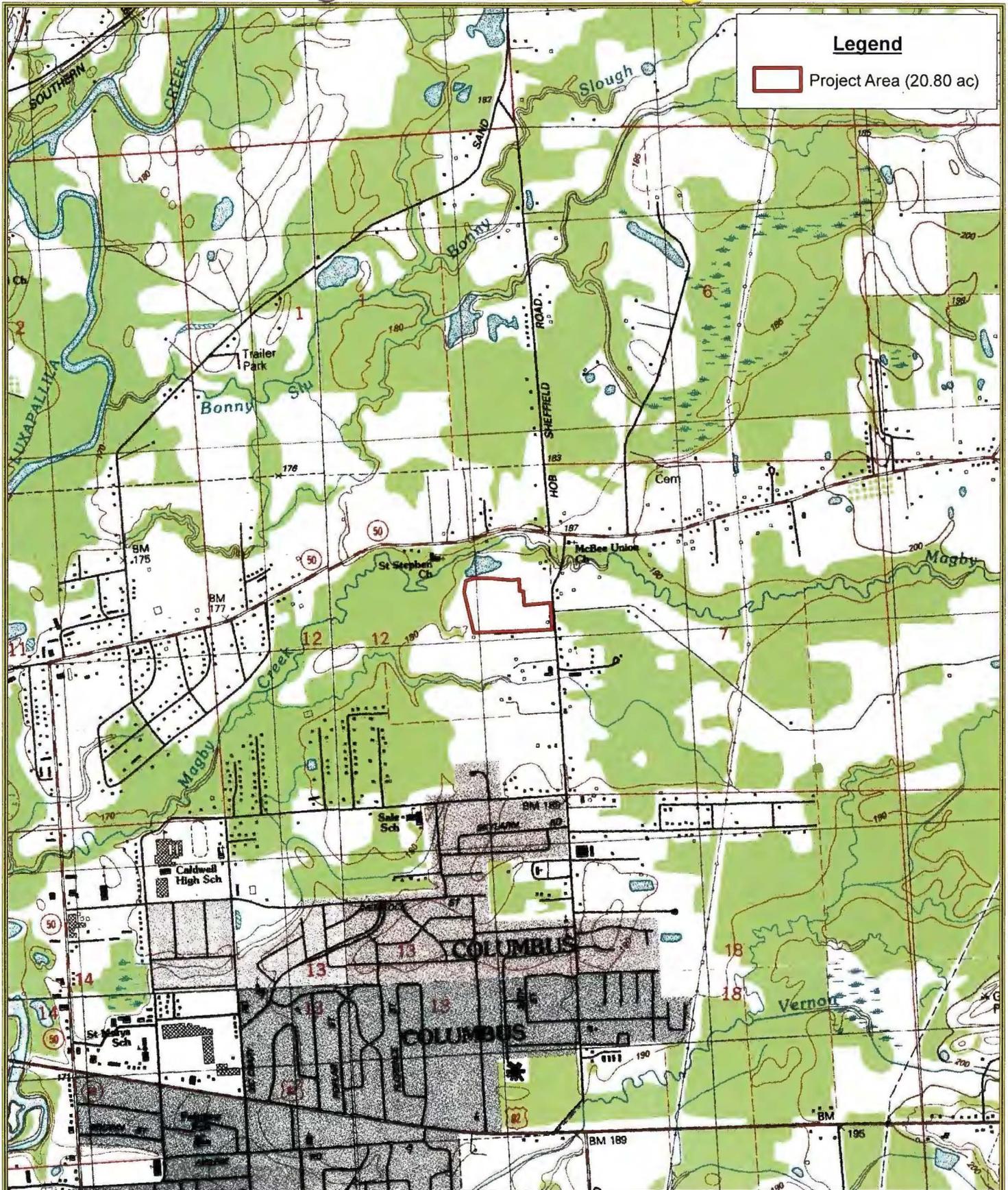
Project Site:
33.516483, -88.365858

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

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**Lowndes County School District
Career Tech Center**
Section 12, Township 18S, Range 18W
Lowndes County, Mississippi
General Location Map





Legend

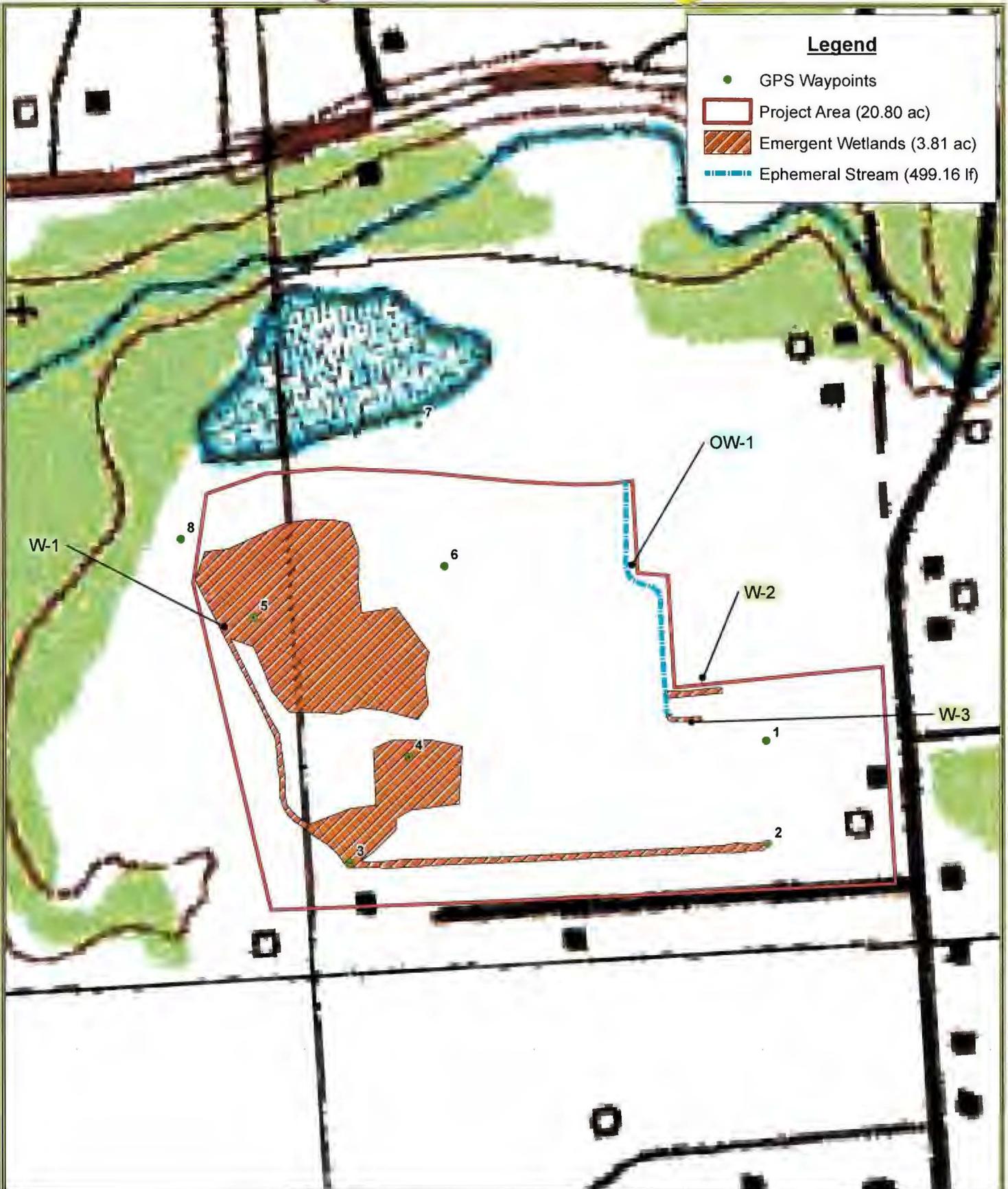
Project Area (20.80 ac)

**Lowndes County School District
Career Tech Center**
 Section 12, Township 18S, Range 18W
 Lowndes County, Mississippi
 Site Location Map

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 NORTH
 1:24,000

 0 1,500 3,000 Feet
 UGSS Steens (MS) Quad



Legend

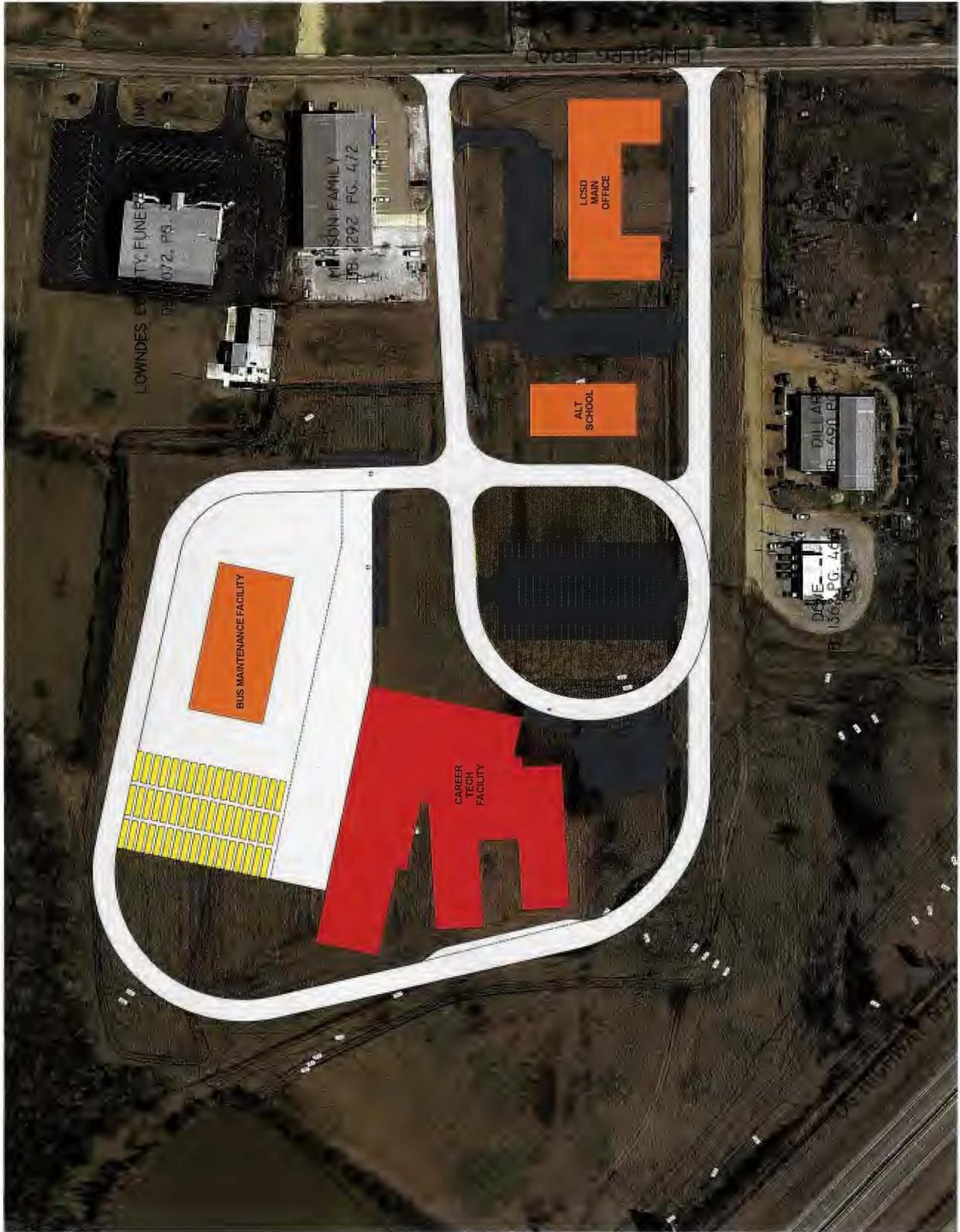
- GPS Waypoints
- ▭ Project Area (20.80 ac)
- ▨ Emergent Wetlands (3.81 ac)
- Ephemeral Stream (499.16 lf)

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**Lowndes County School District
Career Tech Center**
Section 12, Township 18S, Range 18W
Lowndes County, Mississippi
GPS/Wetland Location Map


 NORTH
 1:3,000


 0 187.5 375 Feet
 UGSS Steens (MS) Quad



① Proposed Site Plan - 01.07.2016

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Site Plan