



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

CESAM-RD-M
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2019-00980-MGS

December 6, 2019

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
BUREAU OF WETLANDS PERMITTING**

**CONDUCT MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF TRIBUTARIES CONNECTED TO BAYOU
CASTELLE WITHIN HICKORY HILLS COMMUNITY OF GAUTIER, JACKSON
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) Permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

**APPLICANT: Jackson County Board of Supervisors
Attention: Mr. Brad Fulton
2915 Canty Street
Pascagoula, MS 39568**

**AGENT: Michael Baker International
Attention: Mr. TJ Holiday
2113 Government Street, Suite D-3
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564**

WATERWAY: Bayou Castelle and connected tributaries.

LOCATION: Bayou Castelle and connected tributaries within the Community of Hickory Hills, Gautier, Jackson County, Mississippi, Sections 1 and 12, Township 7 South, Range 7 West.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to provide safe and improved waterfront access to numerous properties fronting the tributaries of Bayou Castelle within the community of Hickory Hills.

PROJECT HISTORY: There were no records identified by the agent or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with respect to any previous dredging projects within Bayou Castelle or connected tributaries.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to dredge a total of 4,787 linear feet (LF) within the following four tributaries of Bayou Castelle:

Reach No. 1, (1,350 LF) between Latitude 30.456875° North, Longitude -88.647258° West and Latitude 30.455303° North, Longitude -88.643456° West,

Reach No. 2, (944 LF) between Latitude 30.461142° North, Longitude -88.647661° West and Latitude 30.460619° North, Longitude -88.645033° West,

Reach No. 3, (1,558 LF) between Latitude 30.464828° North, Longitude -88.644361° West and Latitude 30.463203° North, Longitude -88.640033° West, and

Reach No. 4, (935 LF) between Latitude 30.465722° North, Longitude -88.644956° West and Latitude 30.465639° North, Longitude -88.642011° West

The USACE has determined the permit area to include all the waters within the four Reaches to be dredged as well as all the waters within Bayou Castelle and Sioux Bayou (Beneficial Use Site). Approximately 3,815 cubic yards of material would be dredged from the four tributary bottoms using a crane and barge. The tributaries would be dredged to a depth of 6.0 feet below Mean Low Water. The small wetland island (0.04 acres) to be dredged at the east end of Reach No. 4 is estimated at 387 cubic yards. All four Reaches would be dredged at a 3:1 (horizontal to vertical) slope and the material would be placed within the Sioux Bayou Beneficial Use Site. The site is on west side of West Pascagoula River and north side of Sioux Bayou at approximate Latitude 30.409570° North, Longitude -88.621190° West, Gautier, Mississippi. Sediment Test Results of the dredge material have been submitted to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) for review and approval. The test results have also been sent to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) for suitability determination. If the dredge spoil is determined unsuitable, it will be disposed at the Harrison County Development Commission Disposal Area C-1 or another approved upland disposal site.

The agent indicated that they conducted a Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and Shell Fish Survey on June 4, 2019 for the project within five (5) Channels. The 5 Channels were labeled as 5 Reaches in their initial and subsequent drawings. The application only included the plans and profiles for 4 Reaches (Nos. 1 through 4). Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) was observed along the north bank of Reach 1 for approximately 115

feet and along the north bank of Reach 3 for approximately 15 feet. No shellfish beds were encountered during the survey. The average depth to the water bottoms within each Reach is as follows: 3.29 feet below Mean High Tide (MHT) for Reach 1, 4.28 feet below MHT for Reach 2, 4.08 feet below MHT for Reach 3, and 4.38 feet below MHT for reach 4. The proposed depths of the four water bottoms would be 6.0 feet below Mean Low Water. The average width is 47.5 feet for Reach 1, 41.5 feet for Reach 2, 52.5 feet for Reach 3, and 40.5 feet for Reach 4.

ALTERNATIVES: This project is not water dependent. Since the proposed dredging activities are site-specific to the four Reaches in need of dredging, no alternatives were provided.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The proposed dredging would comply with other state-issued permits and requirements. With the exception of the proposed excavation and dredging of a small wetland area (0.04 acres) at the east end of Reach 4, the agent has indicated that a 10-foot minimum buffer would be maintained between the shoreward limit of the proposed dredging and wetlands; the agent confirmed that a 3.5-foot minimum buffer would also be maintained between the shoreward limit of the proposed dredging and SAV. The agent also indicated that Best Management Practices (BMPs), including the utilization of sediment silt curtains would be implemented during project activities.

Mitigation: The discharge of dredge material in an approved Beneficial Use Site or approved upland disposal landfill would not require mitigation by the USACE. The excavation and dredging of the 0.04-acre wetland island at the east end of Reach 4 may require mitigation by the USACE.

Water Quality and Coastal Zone Management: 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 Management (CZM) consistency in accordance with the State CZM Program. Upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to WQC and CZM consistency will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Historic Properties: 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. The National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) database and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) Historic Resources Inventory Map (HRIM) have been reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

No properties were identified as eligible for the NRHP or noted on the HRIM within or near the Permit Area. The USACE's preliminary determination is that the proposed project would have **no affect** for cultural resources or historic properties within the Permit Area. The USACE is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work.

Endangered Species: Upon the USACE's preliminary review and evaluation of the 2019 Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species for the Jackson County HUC Zone (Little Bluff Creek – Bluff Creek; 031700060204) and utilization of the Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) agreement for Mississippi, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) preliminary determination is that the proposed project may affect, but **not likely to adversely affect** the West Indian Manatee (with Appendix D Conditions) and the Alabama Red Bellied Turtle or their critical habitat. For the remaining species, the project should have **no effect** on the Mississippi Sandhill Crane, Wood Stork, Black Pine Snake, Dusky Gopher Frog, Gopher Tortoise, Yellow-Blotched Map Turtle, and the Louisiana Quillwort or their critical habitat. The USACE is seeking comment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for information on whether any listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

Essential Fish Habitat: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would have a **minimal adverse effect** on EFH or federally managed fisheries within the permit area. 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.

Environmental Protection Agency: 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.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the 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 benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Comments: The 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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 to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Correspondence concerning this publication notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2019-00890-MGS**, and should be directed to the District Engineer, Mobile District, Mobile Office, Attention: Mr. Michael G. Stevens, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001 or via email (Michael.G.Stevens2@usace.army.mil), with a copy to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permitting Division, Attention: Ms. Florance Bass, P.E. via email FBass@MDEQ.MS.GOV or postal mail at Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225 and to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting, Attention: Mr. Chris Pickering via email Chris.Pickering@DMR.MS.GOV or postal mail at 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 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 (251) 694-3702 or email at Michael.G.Stevens2@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.

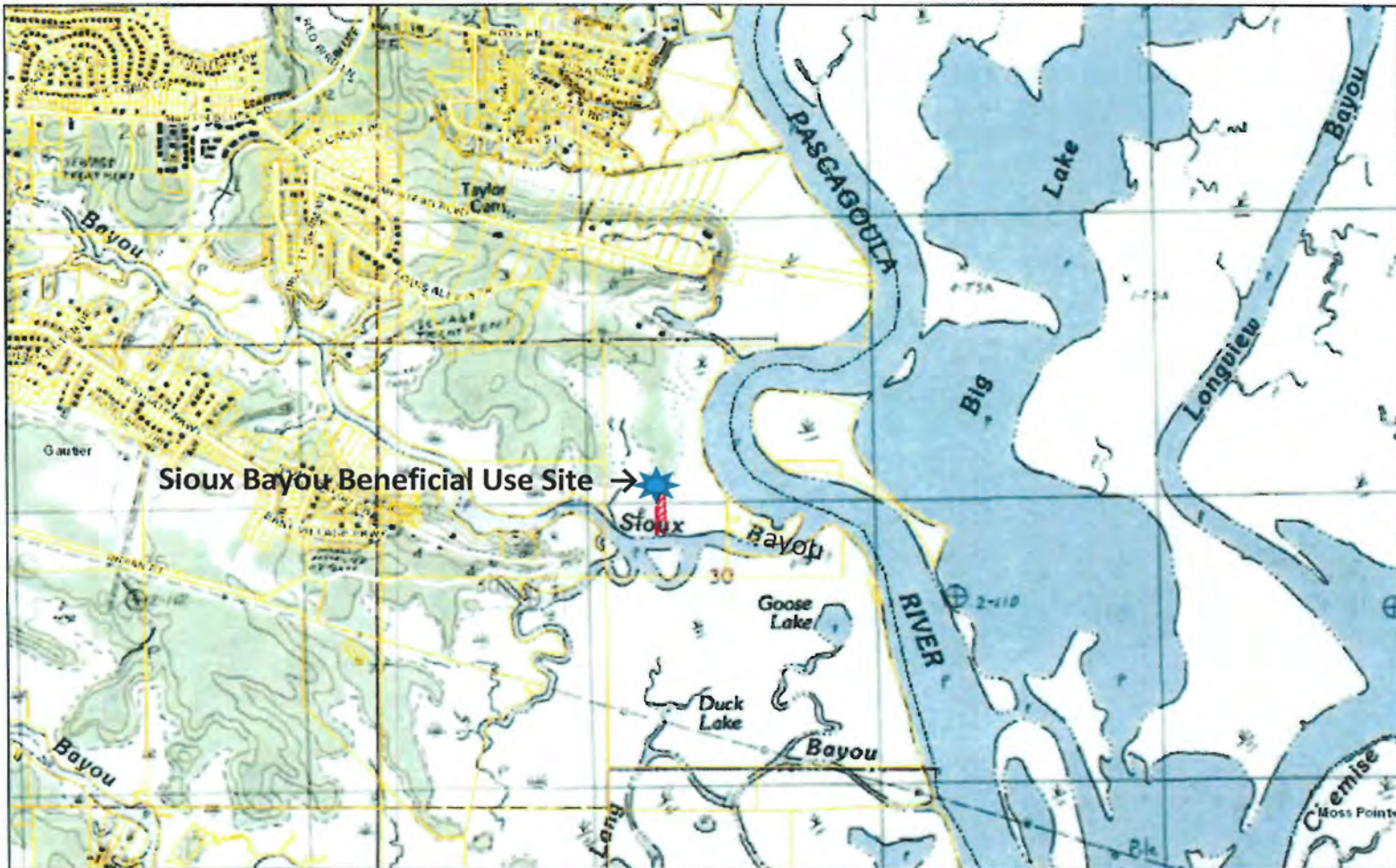
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



Aerial Site Vicinity Map of Section 10 Navigable Waters; Bayou Castelle; SAM-2019-00980-MGS; Map revised by MGS 25 Nov 19.

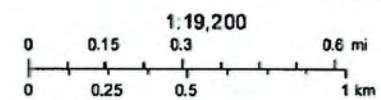
ArcGIS Web Map



November 12, 2019

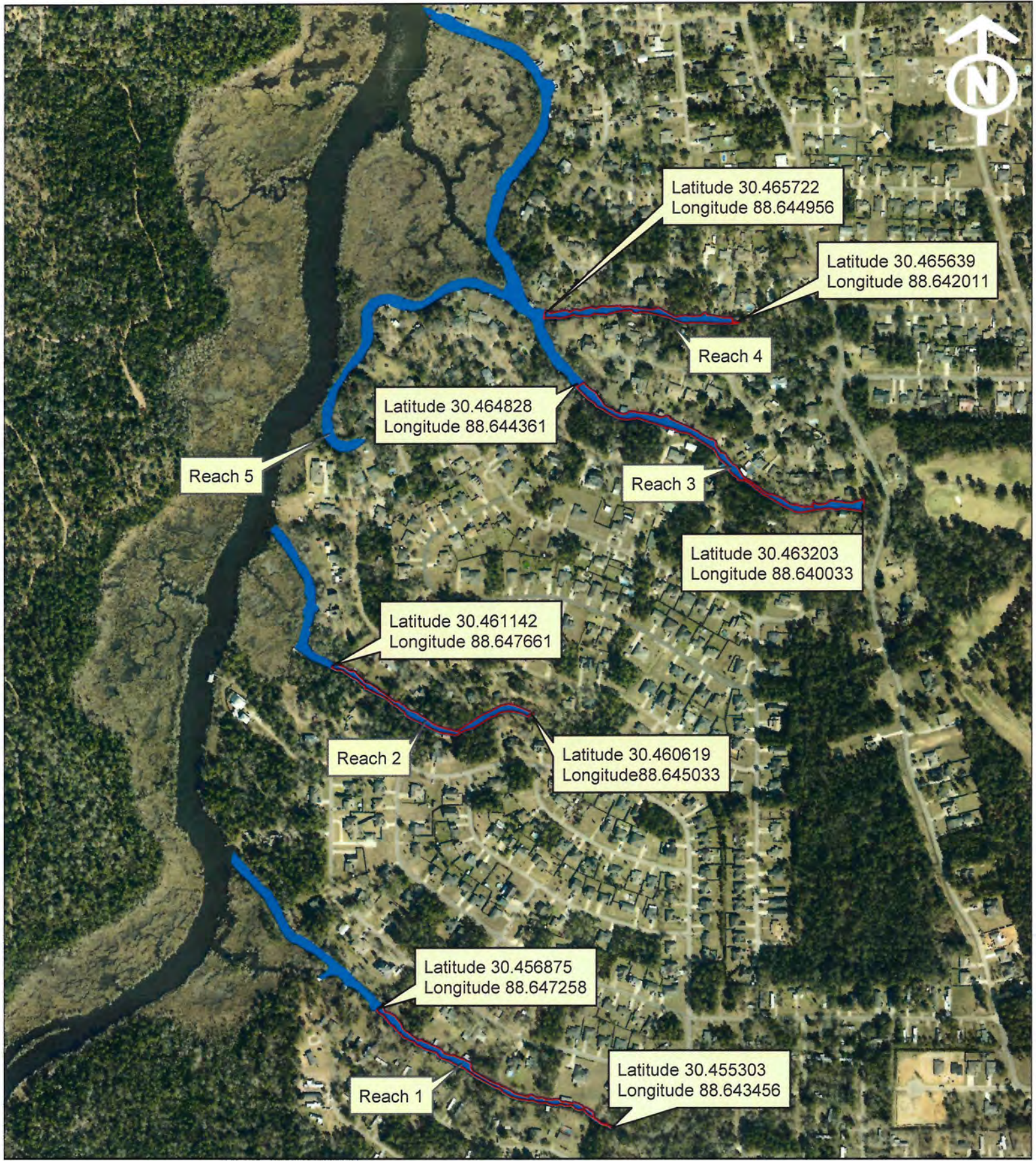
- Parcels
- CenterLines
- Major PrimaryRoads
- City Limits

Latitude 30.409570° North
Longitude -88.621190° West



Jackson County GIS
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Legend

- Dredge Limits
- Project Limits





**Bayou Castelle
 Dredging & Clearing
 Project Area Map
 Gautier, MS
 November 2019**

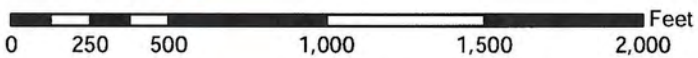


SAV Location 2

SAV Location 1



-  SAV
-  Project Limits



Bayou Castelle
Dredging & Clearing
SAV Locations
Gautier, MS
November 2019