



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-M
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2019-00405-RCV

May 28, 2019

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

PROPOSED IMPACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL,
ON WETLANDS ADJACENT TO A TRIBUTARY OF THE WOLF RIVER,
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 404 of the Clean Water Act. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Harrison County School District
Attention: Mr. Larry Benefield
11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503

AGENT: Culpepper and Associates
Mr. Billy Culpepper
P. O. Box 1407
Long Beach, MS 39560

LOCATION OF WORK AND WATERWAY: The new Middle School is located on an approximately 60-acre tract located on Landon Road . The project site will impact 2.55 acres of low-quality bottomland hardwood/ pine savanna wetlands adjacent to a tributary of the Wolf River River, Section 16, Township 7 South, Range 12 West, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi (Latitude 30.4401° North, Longitude 89.2013° West).

PROJECT PURPOSE: The basic project purpose of the proposed development is the construction of a new school. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has initially determined this project to be non-water dependent.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project is located on Landon Road and adjacent to the existing West Harrison High School. The immediate area consists of rural farm and pasturelands, low and medium density residential development, light industrial and commercial development, and moderate to high volume highways. The 60 acre tract contains approximately 19.77 acres of wetlands. Prior to the construction of West Harrison High School, the site had historically been utilized for training purposes by the

U. S. Navy, Construction Battalion based in Gulfport, MS. The historical alignment of Wolf River Road bisected the site where it intersected County Farm Road prior to realignment many years ago. Currently, the site can generally be categorized as a mature mixed pine-hardwood forest with moderate and dense shrub understory. Wetlands at the site consist of ephemeral and intermittent drainages with pine flatwood and overgrown pine savannah upgradient of these drainages. Significant drainage improvements and other disturbances are apparent throughout the site as a result of the aforementioned Wolf River Road, historical use of the site by the Navy, and other anthropomorphic changes in the landscape.

ALTERNATIVES: Selection criteria of the preferred alternative was based upon locations proximate to the existing high school. All alternative locations were situated on the approximately 60 acres of land that is a portion of the 16th Section managed by the school district. On-site alternatives were considered for environmental concerns. There could be no other project design alternative that would result in as few wetland impacts as the project design, without further reducing the scope of the project.

PROPOSED WORK: This project consists of the construction of a new West Harrison Middle School to include supporting infrastructure, and located adjacent to the existing West Harrison High School. The area of impact will consists of 2.55 acre of forested wetlands located adjacent to a tributary of the Wolf River.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The plan view of the project shows that impacts to wetlands are unavoidable for this project. The approximate 35-acre development site is contained within the northern compartment of the 60 acres evaluated. No other configuration could be offered that would result in fewer wetland impacts without reducing the scope of the project.

The applicant states that minimization of wetland impacts will be carried out by best management practices. The USACE has not verified the accuracy or adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization at this time.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to 2.55 acres of low quality palustrine forested wetland. The mitigation would be provided by the purchase of the required wetland mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank servicing the location of the project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal 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, and upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to certification will be made by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register, which would be affected by the proposed work. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and Division of Archeological Services for further consultation and comments. Previous investigations for the facility have determined that no properties are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the USACE has determined the permit area is the full area of development for the overall project footprint. The agent representing the applicant submitted a Cultural Resource Assessment of the current permit review area to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for review. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the SHPO.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the proposed activity may require additional coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The site contains the presence of dense sapling/ shrub stratum, and to the lack of any supporting habitat that might otherwise be potentially occupied by the gopher tortoise, Louisiana quillwort, Dusky gopher frog, Black Pine Snake, Wood Stork, or other Federally listed species that may occur temporarily or otherwise in coastal Mississippi. Additional coordination will be performed with the FWS on the proposed project.

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, 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.

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 for consideration of this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2019-0405-RCV** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District Mobile, Attention: **Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal**, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, 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: Mr. Brock Peacock**, 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 (251) 690-3246, or at rudolph.c.villarreal@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/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

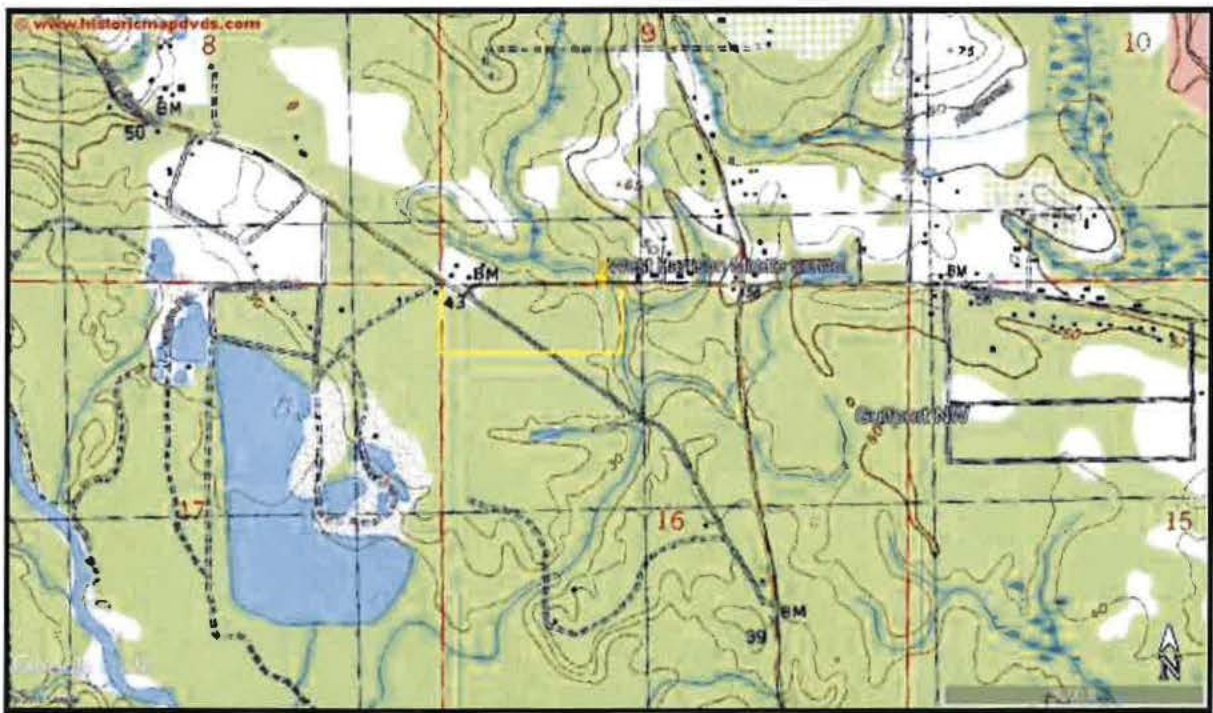
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

Vicinity Maps For Harrison County School District
Proposed West Harrison Middle School

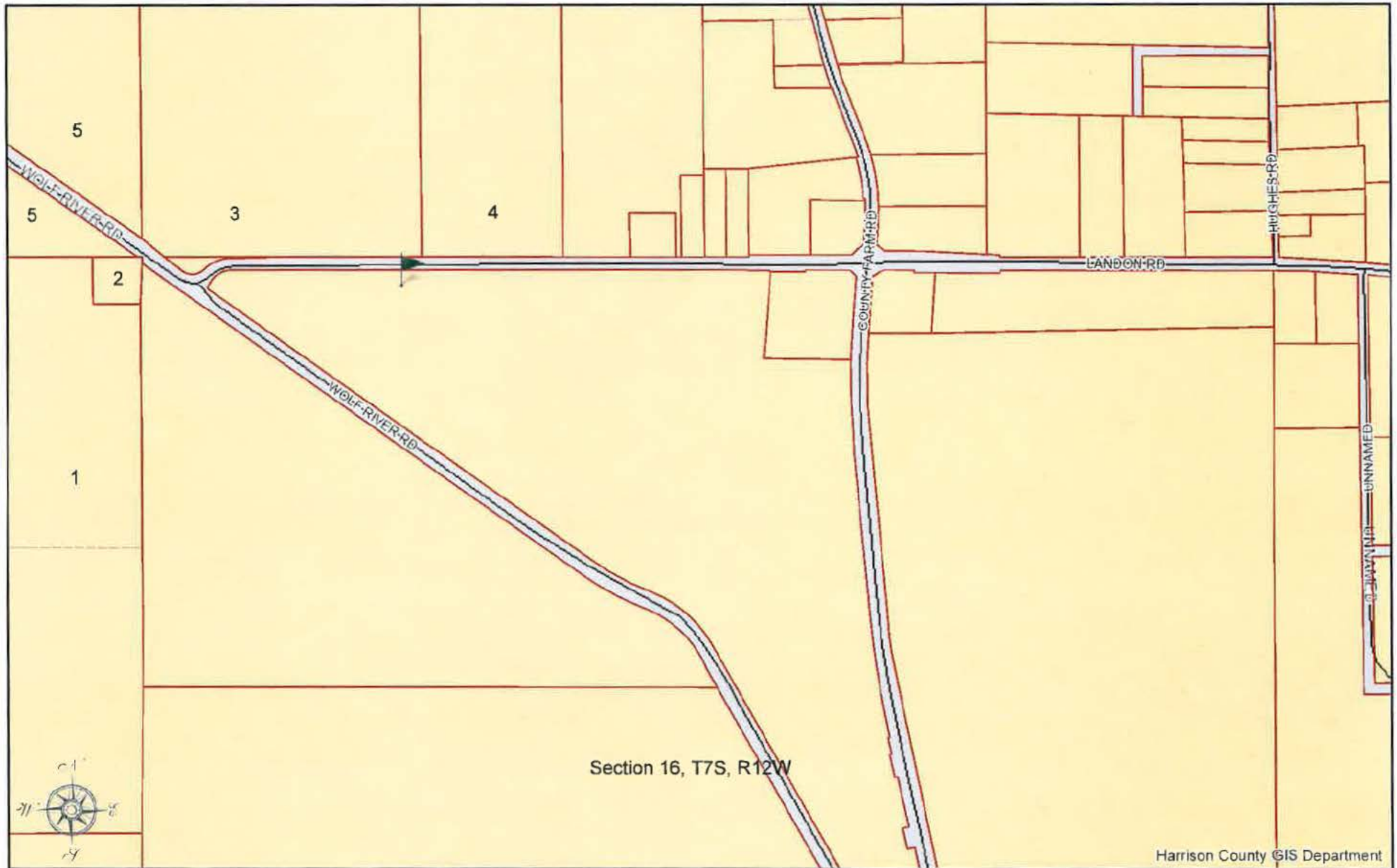


GE Aerial



USGS Quadrangle 7.5' Series, Gulfport NW

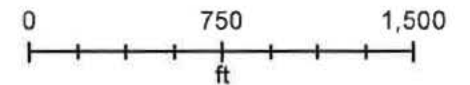
M, Map



HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DISCLAIMER: THIS MAP IS FOR PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED FROM PROPERTY INFORMATION RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS AND IS NOT CONCLUSIVE AS TO LOCATION OF PROPERTY OR LEGAL OWNERSHIP. TAL FLURRY, TAX ASSESSOR.

MAP DATE: April 1, 2019



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VICINITY MAP
 TOTAL WETLANDS: 19.77 ACRES
 IMPACTED WETLANDS: 2.55 ACRES
 AVOIDED WETLANDS: 17.22 ACRES

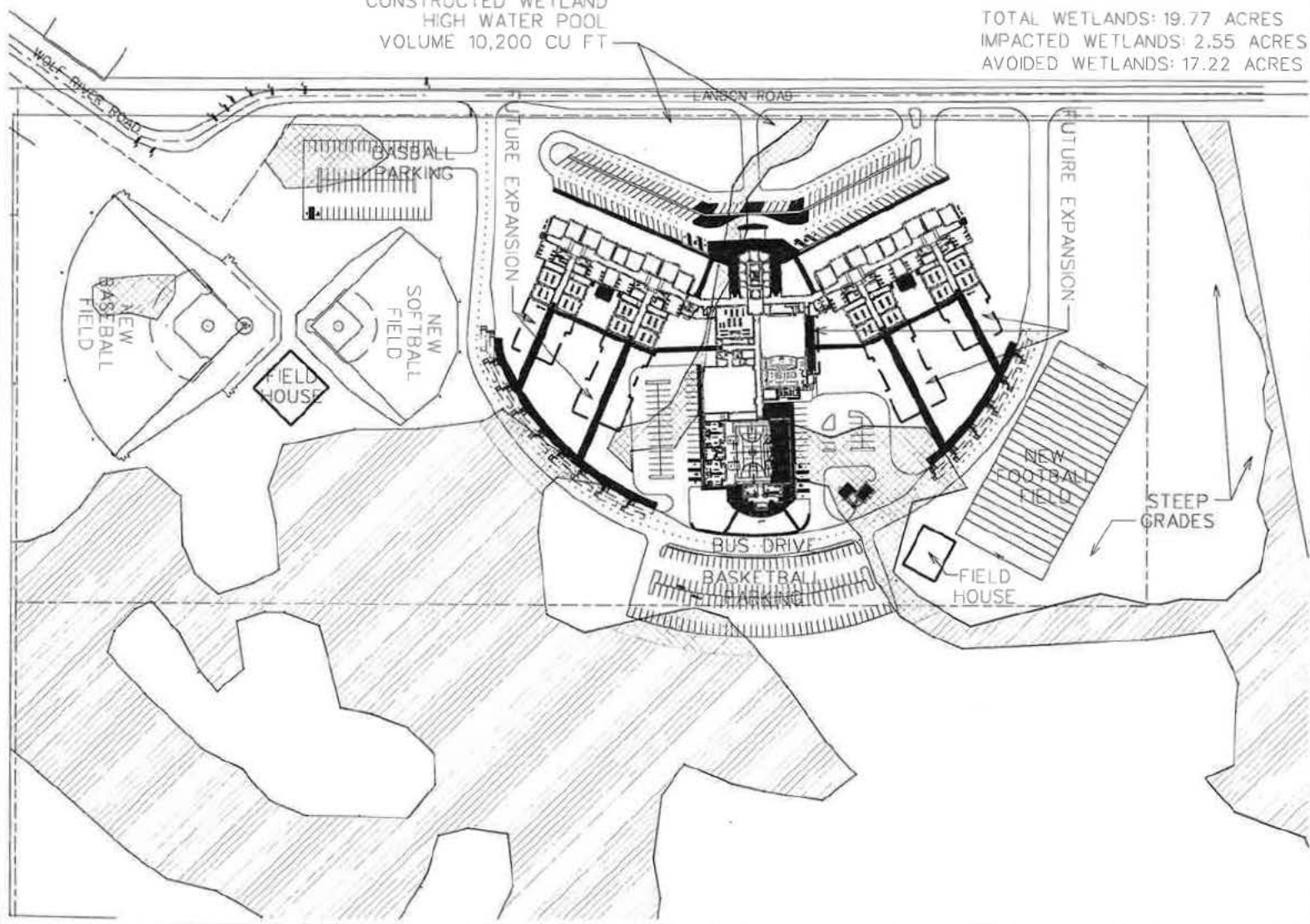


DETENTION DATA
 IMPERVIOUS AREA:
 BUILDINGS - 118,089 SQ. FT.
 PAVED AREA - 278,661 SQ. FT.
 SIDEWALKS - 19,579 SQ. FT.
 TOTAL IMPERVIOUS AREA - 416,329 SQ. FT. = 9.56 ACRES
 LINEAR FEET OF GRASS SWALE TREATMENT - 5150 FEET
 TREATMENT AREA PROVIDED BY GRASS SWALE - 5.15 ACRES
 CONSTRUCTED WETLAND HIGH WATER POOL VOLUME REQUIRED - 20,010 CU. FT.
 CONSTRUCTED WETLAND HIGH WATER POOL VOLUME PROVIDED - 20,400 CU. FT.

CONSTRUCTED WETLAND
 HIGH WATER POOL
 VOLUME 10,200 CU FT

LEGEND

	AVOIDED WETLANDS
	IMPACTED WETLANDS

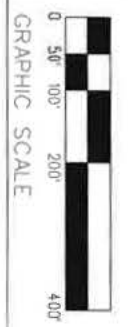


PROJECT: HARRISON CO. SCHOOL DISTRICT - W. HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
 EILON, MS 39532
 PROJECT NO.: 018-018
 DATE: MARCH 2019

ALTERNATIVE A
 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
 SITE PLAN

H **HARDY and Associates / Architect**
 HEALTHCARE EDUCATIONAL COMMERCIAL PLLC

15350 BIG JOHN RD, SUITE A, BLOOMINGVILLE, MS 39532 PHONE: (662) 219-1151



DWG. NO.

1

PROJECT
LOCATION



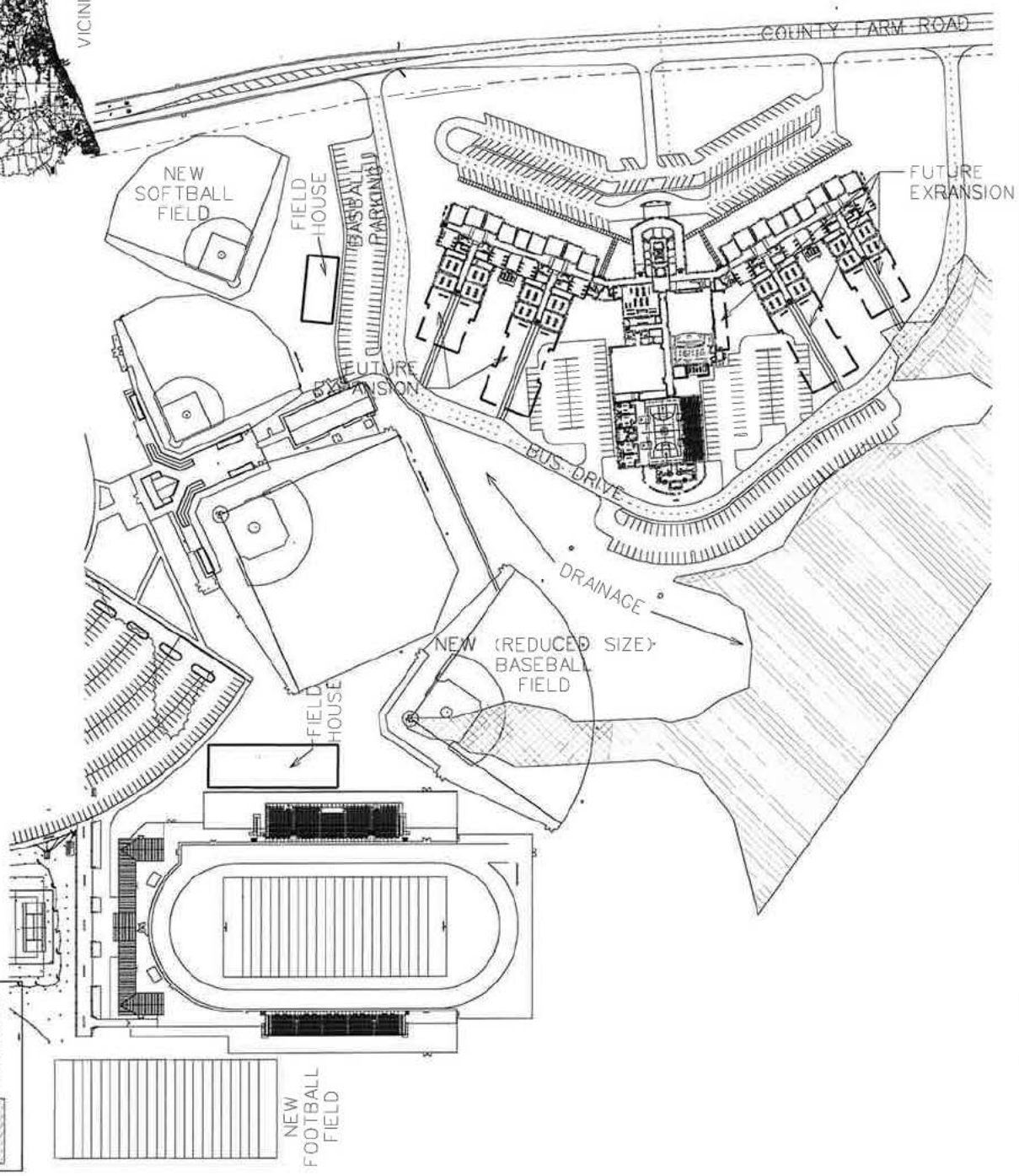
VICINITY MAP

TOTAL WETLANDS: 9.32 ACRES
IMPACTED WETLANDS: 0.91 ACRES
AVOIDED WETLANDS: 8.41 ACRES



LEGEND

	AVOIDED WETLANDS
	IMPACTED WETLANDS



PROJECT: HARRISON CO. SCHOOL DISTRICT - W HARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BILOXI, MS 39532

PROJECT NO.: 018-018

DATE: MARCH 2019

ALTERNATIVE B
REJECTED ALTERNATIVE
SITE PLAN

H **HARDY and Associates / Architect**

HEALTHCARE EDUCATIONAL COMMERCIAL PLLC

15280 BIG JOHN RD, SUITE A BILOXI, MS 39532 PHONE: (228) 218-1851

0 50' 100' 200' 400'

GRAPHIC SCALE

DWG. NO.
2

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