

APPENDIX A– SCOPING SUMMARY

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Gold Branch

Multi-Use Trail &
Entrance Improvements

Scoping Efforts

Cobb County is the sponsor for the trail project, and has actively involved the NPS, citizens groups and Home Owners Associations (HOA), local politicians, and the general public beginning in 2007. These meetings include:

- Citizens groups and HOA including the bicycling community, Waterford Green/Riversound subdivision residents, St. Lyons subdivision residents, and the Ashford HOA in March, July, and September of 2007, November and December of 2008, and January of 2009

These meetings aided in gauging public support for the project and obtaining feedback for user requirements that could affect the design and location of the trail. With the exception of the bicycling groups represented, the residences and HOA reside in developments along Lower Roswell Road.

- County political leaders in March 2007, and May and September of 2008

County Commissioners for the district where the trail is located were kept informed of the design and progress of the project to provide information they could relay to their constituents.

- Representatives from the CRNRA in February and July 2007, February 2008, and February 2010

Because of impacts to the Park, coordination and consultation with representatives from the CRNRA was conducted from the beginning of the project. NPS personnel provided insight on the level of environmental analysis required, guidance on NPS policy and procedures, and copies of documents useful in preparing the environmental analysis, including the Draft Management Plan.

- Public meetings conducted by Cobb County in November 2007 and October 2008

These informal, open meetings to the general public were held to obtain comments and gauge support from residents along Lower Roswell Road, the area community, and interested citizens and organizations. Comments were encouraged to determine the level of support for the project and consider suggestions for incorporation into the project design.

Public information meetings were held for the project on November 15, 2007 and October 22, 2008. The first public meeting was held at Mt. Bethel Methodist Church, located at the intersection of Lower Roswell Road and Johnson Ferry Road, approximately three miles from the Park. Approximately 154 people attended the public meeting. During the two week comment period 116 comment sheets and emails were received.

The second public meeting was held at the East Cobb Government Center on Lower Roswell Road, also located approximately three miles from the Park. Approximately 147 people attended this meeting, and 182 comment sheets and emails were received during the two week comment period.

Scoping Results

Meetings with subdivision residents, HOAs, and cycling advocates helped the county develop a design to address concerns of these residents. Involvement with local governmental officials was important to gain insight for the project. These local officials in turn attended meetings with local residents to address questions and relay concerns from the local county government. Progress and concept meetings with representatives with the NPS provided an opportunity to address concerns from NPS, and incorporate design concepts that benefitted the Unit in support of CRNRA's goals and management policies.

The public meetings provided an informal opportunity for citizens, interested group organizations, and other parties to comment on the proposed project. From the first public meetings held on November 15, 2007, of the 116 comments received:

- 53 were in favor of the project, 35 expressed conditional support, and 28 opposed the project

Those in support of the project expressed approval of additional, safe recreational opportunities that would accommodate cyclists (both recreational and more serious cyclists), runners, and walkers. Support was also expressed for providing a safe pedestrian opportunity to access the Unit. Of those against the project concerns included a loss in property value, concerns over losing trees, vegetation and green space buffers to residential property, fear of increased crime to the area, and questioning the redundancy and need for both a sidewalk and multi-use trail.

From comments received from the first public meetings, the proposed project design was modified to include right turn deceleration lanes at some subdivisions, left turn lanes, a center turn lane, improvements to the horizontal curve at the St. Lyonn subdivision to provide a safer alignment (this design would also move the road further from the subdivision, addressing comments from some residents in the subdivision to preserve green space buffers), and narrowing the multi-use trail from 10 feet to 8 feet to lessen impacts to vegetation.

The revised project design was presented to the public at a second public meeting on October 22, 2008. Of the 182 comments received at this second meeting:

- 127 were in favor of the project, 21 expressed conditional support, and 34 opposed the project

APPENDIX B– CORRESPONDENCE

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Gold Branch

Multi-Use Trail &
Entrance Improvements



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
1978 Island Ford Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30350-3400



IN REPLY REFER TO

November 5, 2008

John Morey, P.E.
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, GA 30008

Dear John:

This letter provides comments from the National Park Service on Cobb County's proposed operational improvements to Lower Roswell Road from Davidson Road to Timber Ridge Road. As you may know, this section of Lower Roswell Road runs adjacent to the Gold Branch unit of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) for approximately 0.7 miles. Current plans indicate that the proposed improvements would require use of park land outside of the existing road right-of-way. In order to move forward, the project team will have to work with CRNRA staff to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the project's potential impacts on park resources.

Although CRNRA is generally supportive of the project and its goals of improving safety, recreational opportunities, and non-motorized transportation along Lower Roswell Road, a delay in completing an EA is likely to cause complications and delays in project implementation. In general, we estimate a one-year timeline for completion of an EA. The NPS has specific guidelines for completing an EA, which include the following two critical components.

- 1) The EA must include and evaluate multiple project alternatives. In a February 15, 2008 meeting of the project team and CRNRA staff, we recommended a number of alternatives to include in the EA. Project alternatives could include a narrower (8 feet wide) multi-use trail, no 4 foot bike lane on the side with the multi-use trail, no 5 foot sidewalk on the side opposite the multi-use trail, as well as the current design alternative. In addition, the EA must include a no-action alternative.
- 2) The EA must be made available to the public for review and comment. Although the project planning team has held two public meetings, including a recent open house on October 22, these meetings did not cover the range of alternatives to be developed in the EA. The meetings may have generated good public input on the project in general, which will be useful in completing the EA, but a draft EA will still have to be made available to the public for a minimum 30 day comment period.

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In addition to working together on the EA, the National Park Service would like to continue to work with Cobb County on plans to mitigate for the loss of park land. In the February 15 meeting, we recommended a couple of potential mitigations, including realignment of the driveway into Gold Branch to allow the installation of a left turn lane and paving the Gold Branch parking lot. The current alignment of the Gold Branch driveway presents an ongoing safety concern, particularly if the wider road allows traffic to move at greater speeds.

On a final related note, the current plans available to us appear to show at least 70 feet of existing right-of-way along all of Lower Roswell Road. Our records indicate that along certain sections of the road adjacent to the park, the right-of-way is limited to 50 feet. Please check to ensure that the existing right-of-way is correctly depicted on current and future project drawings.

We appreciate your efforts to provide new and enhanced recreational opportunities to the public and look forward to working with you as planning for the project continues. If you have any questions or would like more information on the drafting of an Environmental Assessment, please contact our Chief of Science and Resource Management, Rick Slade, at 678-538-1321 or rick_slade@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel R. Brown".

Daniel R. Brown
Superintendent



Natural Resources Conservation Service
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30601

July 28, 2011

Josh Earhart
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
1250 Winchester Parkway, Suite 200
Smyrna, GA 30080

Re: Early Coordination Request for CCDOT Project D6140, Lower Roswell Road East

Dear Mr. Earhart:

This letter is in reference to your request for information on the possible impacts the proposed road improvement project may have on land use, conservation, water quality and other general environmental concerns that may be of interest to our agency. The following outlines our concerns with the proposed project with regards to farmland protection, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed dams and project easements.

Farmland Protection

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land uses, but not water or urban built-up land. It should be noted that the FPPA does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners.

NRCS uses a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score on proposed sites of federally funded and assisted projects. This score is used as an indicator for the project sponsor to consider alternative sites if the potential adverse impacts on the farmland exceed the recommended allowable level. It is our understanding that the proposed project involves federal funds or assistance, and thus could be subject to this assessment. However, this project is completely contained within an US Bureau of the Census urban area (Atlanta, GA03817) and is thus exempt from this assessment. You need take no further action for FPPA purposes.

NRCS Watershed Dams

More than 50 years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was authorized by Congress to help local communities with flood control and watershed protection through the Watershed Program (PL-534 Flood Control Act of 1944 and PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act). As a result, local communities, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,000 dams in 47 states since 1948. These dams were originally constructed for protection of farmlands from flooding impacts. In 2000, PL-566 was amended to provide NRCS authorization to assist communities with rehabilitation of their aging dams. The legislation authorizes NRCS to work with local communities and watershed project sponsors to address public health and safety concerns and potential environmental impacts of aging dams.

We have reviewed our records and have determined that there are no PL566 structures downstream or in the vicinity of this project.

NRCS Easements

NRCS easements relate to our Wetland Reserve Program and the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program. We have reviewed our records and have determined that there are no such easements within the vicinity of the proposed project that would be impacted.

NRCS appreciates this opportunity to comment. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact me at (706) 546-2078 or dan.wallace@ga.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

DANIEL F. WALLACE
State Resource Inventory Coordinator

cc: Michael Watson, Assistant State Conservationist (FO), NRCS, Griffin, GA
Valerie Pickard, District Conservationist, NRCS, Marietta, GA
Greg Clark, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, Griffin, GA

May 12, 2010

Dr. David Crass, Division Director and Deputy SHPO
Historic Preservation Division
254 Washington Street, SW
Ground Level
Atlanta, GA 30344

**RE: Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks Safety And Operational Improvements
Cobb County Department of Transportation Project D6140**

Dear Dr. Crass:

The purpose of Cobb County Department of Transportation (CCDOT) Project D6140 is to provide safety and operational improvements and geometric improvements, including a multi-use trail, to Lower Roswell Road from Davidson Road to the Fulton County line (Timber Ridge Road) in Cobb County, Georgia. The proposed safety improvements consist of improved roadway drainage with curbing, improved sight distances and expanded clear zones. Operational improvements would be accomplished through the addition of turn lanes, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian walkways along the corridor (see attached Figure 1).

The project begins at Davidson Road, in a commercial area near Johnson Ferry Road, with adjacent shopping centers and office parks, then transitions to a residential area toward the east before ending at Timber Ridge Road, adjacent to the parkland of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) Gold Branch. The project length is approximately 2.9 miles.

The existing typical section of Lower Roswell Road consists primarily of two travel lanes with rural shoulders (ditches). The proposed typical section consists of two 11-foot travel lanes. Safety improvements include a two-way-left-turn lane provided from Davidson Road to Thackston Drive and additional left-turn lanes would be added at the intersections with Hyde Road, Tally Green Drive, and Asheforde Drive. A right-turn deceleration lane would be added at the southern leg of Waterford Green, and a

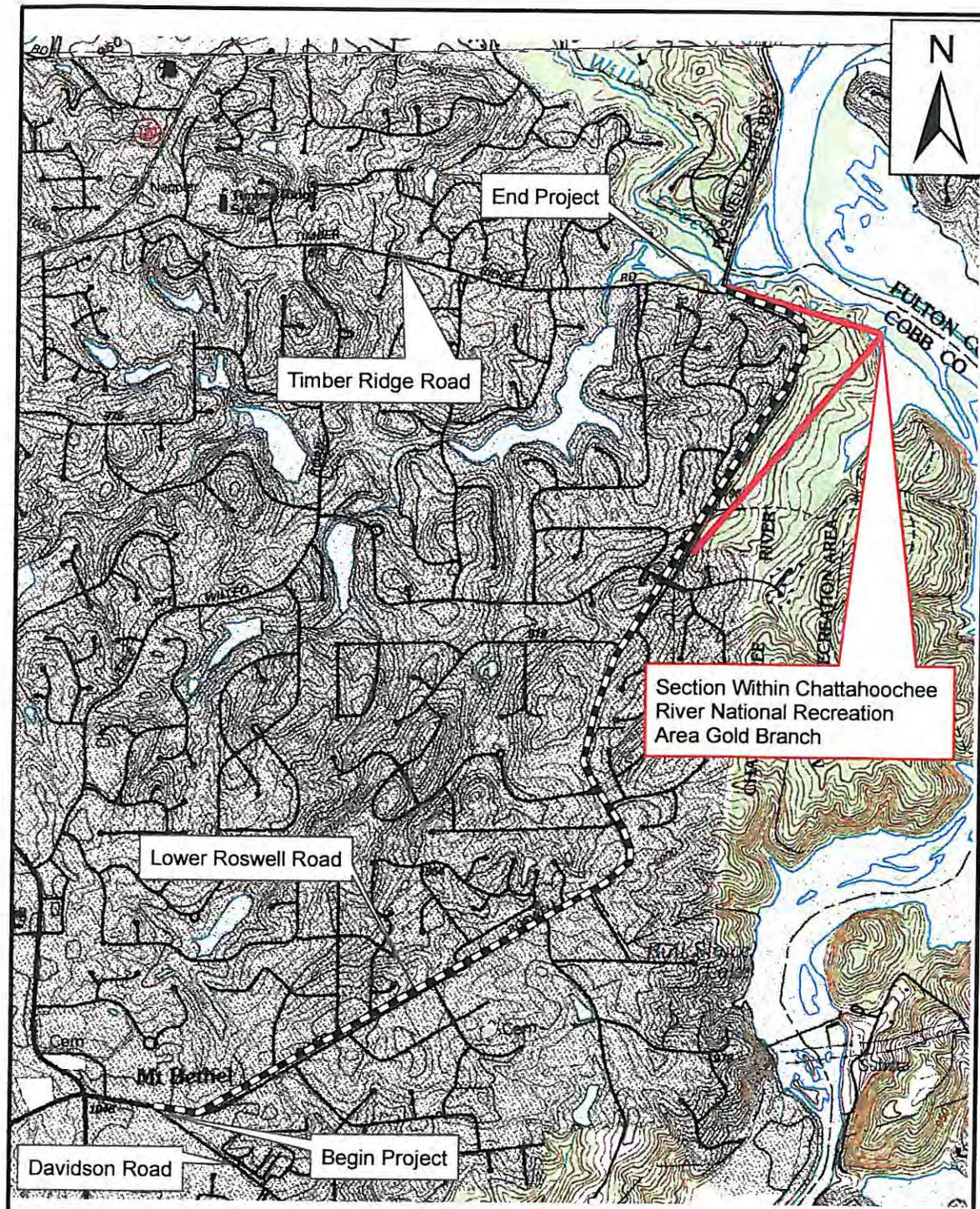


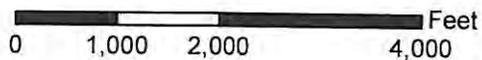
FIGURE 1

Project Location Map

Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks Safety And Operational Improvements
Cobb County Department of Transportation Project D6140



Source: Sandy Springs, GA Quadrangle
USGS 7.5' Series
(Topographic)





roundabout intersection is proposed at the end of the project at the intersection with Timber Ridge Road and Willeo Road.

Operational improvements include 4-foot bike lanes and curb and gutter on both sides of the road. A 5-foot sidewalk would be constructed on the north side of the road and an 8-foot asphalt multi-use trail on the south side. Additional right-of-way and easement would be required for construction of the sidewalk from areas outside the CRNRA.

Approximately 0.75 mile of the multi-use trail constructed along the east side of Lower Roswell Road would be adjacent to the CRNRA. Although no additional right-of-way or transfer of land ownership would be required for construction, through an agreement between the National Park Service and Cobb County, access would be granted to 1.45 acres within the boundary of CRNRA Gold Branch for placement of fill, construction of the trail, and access for maintenance of the trail. The project would also involve improvement to the existing entrance to CRNRA Gold Branch. The entrance would be widened and realigned approximately 200 feet to the northeast to align with Asheforde Drive. Left-turn lanes would be added to Lower Roswell Road for safe access to the realigned driveway.

Due to the potential impacts to this federal property, the section of the proposed project located adjacent to the CRNRA was field surveyed for historic properties in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and amendments thereto.

The review of existing information on previously identified historic properties revealed that no National Register of Historic Places (NR) listed properties, properties pending NR nomination, National Historic Landmarks, or bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the NR in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) were identified within the proposed project area adjacent to the CRNRA.

The review of existing information also revealed that no resources 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project area in the 2007 Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Cobb County survey. In February of 2010, the section of the proposed project located adjacent to the CRNRA was field surveyed for historic properties. As a result of those efforts, no properties listed in or considered eligible for listing in the National Register were identified. The remains of a driveway entrance wall are located near the area of the proposed project within the CRNRA (see attached Photograph). According to the Cobb County Tax Assessor's records, the house associated with the driveway entrance was constructed in 1953 and was located within the CRNRA. The house associated with the driveway entrance is no longer extant and the site of the former house is located approximately 560 feet from the project area (see Figure 2). According to aerial photography, the house appears to have been torn down in 2006.

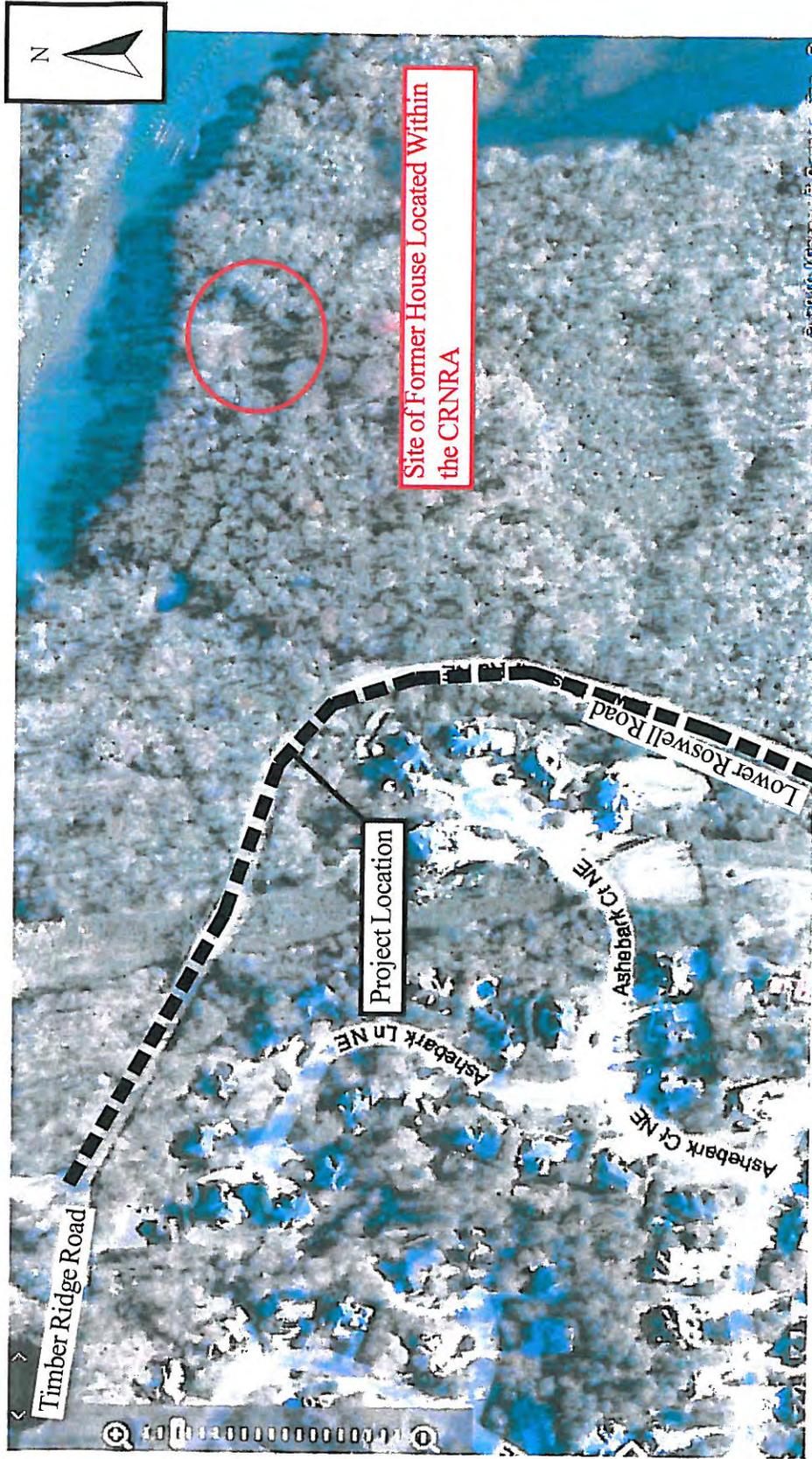


FIGURE 2
Location Of The Former House Site And The Proposed Project
 Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks Safety And Operational Improvements
 Cobb County Department of Transportation Project D6140



Source: Local Live Aerial



Not To Scale



Based on the results of our historic resource identification efforts, no properties listed in or considered eligible for listing in the NR were located adjacent to the area of this undertaking within the CRNRA. Therefore, no historic properties located within the CRNRA would be affected by project implementation. The National Park Service is requesting concurrence from the Georgia SHPO on this matter. An Archeology Survey Report for this project shall be submitted separately.

Please contact Grant D. Hudson at 770-333-9484 if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant D. Hudson".

Grant D. Hudson
Historian, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.



Photograph #1 - View of remains of driveway entrance wall associated with former house located within the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Gold Branch, facing east.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

CHRIS CLARK
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 25, 2010

Grant Hudson
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
1250 Winchester Parkway, Suite 200
Smyrna, Georgia 30080

**Re: Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks Safety and Operational Improvements
Cobb County, Georgia
HP-100517-002**

Dear Mr. Hudson:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the information received concerning the above-referenced project in Cobb County, Georgia. Our comments are offered to assist federal agencies and their project applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Based on the information submitted, HPD agrees that no historic structures that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this undertaking. We look forward to receiving the archaeological survey for the proposed project when available.

Please refer to project number HP-100517-002 in future correspondence concerning this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth (Betsy) Shirk, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Anderson-Córdova".

Karen Anderson-Córdova
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

KAC/ECS

cc: Rick Slade, CRNRA



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

December 17, 2010

Garrett Silliman
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
1250 Winchester Parkway, Suite 200
Smyrna, Georgia 30080
gsilliman@edwards-pitman.com

**Re: Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks Safety and Operational Improvements
Cobb County, Georgia
HP-100517-002**

Dear Mr. Silliman:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the information received concerning the above-referenced project in Cobb County, Georgia. Our comments are offered to assist federal agencies and their project applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

As previously stated, HPD agrees that no historic structures that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this undertaking. Furthermore, based on the information provided in the survey report entitled "Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Gold Branch Unit, Cobb County, Georgia" prepared by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. and dated July 2010, HPD concurs with the finding that no archaeological sites listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places are located in the project's area of potential effects (APE).

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth (Betsy) Shirk, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Anderson-Cordova".

Karen Anderson-Cordova
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

KAC/ECS

cc: Rick Slade, CRNRA

Hi Lori,

I'm writing to acknowledge receipt of the copies of the reports covered under ARPA permit CHAT 2010-002 (SEAC-02293). These included 2 bound, 1 unbound, and 1 digital copy of "Phase 1 Archaeological Survey of the Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks in the Chattahoochee..."

Assuming that you have sent copies of the above to Rick Slade, at the park, then this satisfies special permit conditions 9 and 10.

The next step in the process is to submit to us all archival project documents in paper or electronic forms, including GPS and GIS data and metadata where applicable.

Thanks!

David

David W. Morgan, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Southeast Archeological Center National Park Service
2035 E. Paul Dirac Drive
Johnson Building, Suite 120
Tallahassee, FL 32310
Phone: (850) 580-3011 x 123
Fax: (850) 580-2884



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Southeast Archeological Center
2035 East Paul Dirac Drive
Johnson Building, Suite 120
Tallahassee, Florida 32310



RECEIVED

JE
CORRIGENDUM

Dr. Garrett Silliman
1250 Winchester Parkway, Suite 200
Smyrna, GA 30080

Dear Dr. Silliman:

Enclosed are copies of excerpts from your draft report, "Phase I Archeological Survey of the Proposed Lower Roswell Sidewalks in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Gold Branch Unit, Cobb County, Georgia," which we received on June 14, 2010. Overall I am satisfied with the reporting of your efforts, and the report will be acceptable under the terms of ARPA permit CHAT 2010-002 once the comments shown on the enclosed pages are addressed.

Please revise as indicated, and submit your final report following the conditions of the permit. The latter include sending two bound and one unbound copies each to the park superintendent and SEAC. These require acid free, archival quality paper. Also required is an electronic copy of the final report in Word or searchable Adobe pdf formats. These are due within 30 days of the postmark of this letter. You also will need to complete the NTIS and NADB report and citation pages, as directed under Condition T of the permit.

You recovered no artifacts, but all project documents will be required for archival purposes within 90 days of my receipt of the final report. If you have questions about the archival requirements, please contact our curator, Mr. Richard Vernon, at 850-580-3011 or richard_vernon@nps.gov.

Please contact me or my staff if you have any questions about this process.

Sincerely,

David W. Morgan, Ph.D.
Director

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

Please use this number
when referring to this permit

DI Form 1991 (Rev Jan 2008)
for use with DI Form 1926
OMB No 1024-0037
Exp. Date (4/30/2011)

No. CHAT2010-0

United States Department of the Interior

PERMIT FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

To conduct archeological work on Department of the Interior lands and Indian lands under the authority of:

- The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm) and its regulations (43 CFR 7).
- The Antiquities Act of 1906 (P.L. 59-209, 34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431-433) and its regulations (43 CFR 3).
- Supplemental regulations (25 CFR 262) pertaining to Indian lands.
- Bureau-specific statutory and/or regulatory authority _____

1 Permit issued to <p style="text-align: center;">Garrett Silliman</p>	2 Under application dated <p style="text-align: center;">3/12/2010</p>
3 Address 1250 Winchester Parkway Suite 200 Smyrna, GA 30080	4. Telephone number(s) <p style="text-align: center;">770-333-9484</p>
	5. E-mail address(es) <p style="text-align: center;">gsilliman@edwards-pitman.com</p>
6 Name of Permit Administrator same as above Telephone number(s) same as above Email address(es) same as above	7 Name of Principal Investigator(s) same as above Telephone number(s) same as above Email address(es) same as above
8 Name of Field Director(s) authorized to carry out field projects <p style="text-align: center;">Alana Hise</p>	Telephone number(s): 770-333-9484 Email address(es): ahise@edwards-pitman.com
9 Activity authorized Surface survey and systematic subsurface shovel testing at 30 m intervals to identify cultural resources within the area of potential effect for the proposed safety and operational improvements for Cobb County, Georgia (Project D6140) where it crosses the CRNRA's Gold Branch.	
10 On lands described as follows <p style="text-align: center;">See attached project map</p>	
11 During the duration of the project From 3/15/2010 To 3/15/2011	
12 Name and address of the curatorial facility in which collections, records, data, photographs, and other documents resulting from work under this permit shall be deposited for permanent preservation on behalf of the United States Government Curator, Southeast Archeological Center, NPS 2035 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Johnson Bldg, Suite 120, Tallahassee, FL 32310	
13 Permittee is required to observe the listed standard permit conditions and the special permit conditions attached to this permit	
14 Signature and title of approving official	15 Date

15. Standard Permit Conditions

- a. This permit is subject to all applicable provisions of 43 CFR Part 3, 43 CFR 7, and 25 CFR 262, and applicable departmental and bureau policies and procedures, which are made a part hereof.
- b. The permittee and this permit are subject to all other Federal, State, and local laws and regulations applicable to the public lands and resources.
- c. This permit shall not be exclusive in character, and shall not affect the ability of the land managing bureau to use, lease or permit the use of lands subject to this permit for any purpose.
- d. This permit may not be assigned.
- e. This permit may be suspended or terminated for breach of any condition or for management purposes at the discretion of the approving official, upon written notice.
- f. This permit is issued for the term specified in 11 above.
- g. Permits issued for a duration of more than one year must be reviewed annually by the agency official and the permittee.
- h. The permittee shall obtain all other required permit(s) to conduct the specified project.
- i. Archeological project design, literature review, development of the regional historic context framework, site evaluation, and recommendations for subsequent investigations must be developed with direct involvement of an archeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation; fieldwork must be generally overseen by an individual who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation.
- j. Permittee shall immediately request that the approving official (14. above) make a modification to accommodate any change in an essential condition of the permit, including individuals named and the nature, location, purpose, and time of authorized work, and shall without delay notify the approving official of any other changes affecting the permit or regarding information submitted as part of the application for the permit. Failure to do so may result in permit suspension or revocation.
- k. Permittee may request permit extension, in writing, at any time prior to expiration of the term of the permit, specifying a limited, definite amount of time required to complete permitted work.
- l. Any correspondence about this permit or work conducted under its authority must cite the permit number. Any publication of results of work conducted under the authority of this permit must cite the approving bureau and the permit number.
- m. Permittee shall submit a copy of any published journal article and any published or unpublished report, paper, and manuscript resulting from the permitted work (apart from those required in items q and s, below), to the approving official and the appropriate official of the approved curatorial facility (item 12 above).
- n. Prior to beginning any fieldwork under the authority of this permit, the permittee, following the affected bureau's policies and procedures, shall contact the field office manager responsible for administering the lands involved to obtain further instructions.
- o. Permittee may request a review, in writing to the official concerned, of any disputed decision regarding inclusion of specific terms and conditions or the modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit, setting out reasons for believing that the decision should be reconsidered.
- p. Permittee shall not be released from requirements of this permit until all outstanding obligations have been satisfied, whether or not the term of the permit has expired. Permittee may be subject to civil penalties for violation of any term or condition of this permit.

15. Standard Permit Conditions (continued)

- q. Permittee shall submit a preliminary report to the approving official within a timeframe established by the approving official, which shall be no later than 6 weeks after the completion of any episode of fieldwork, setting out what was done, how it was done, by whom, specifically where, and with what results, including maps, GPS data, an approved site form for each newly recorded archeological site, and the permittee's professional recommendations, as results require. If other than 6 weeks, the timeframe shall be specified in Special Permit Condition p. Depending on the scope, duration, and nature of the work, the approving official may require progress reports, during or after the fieldwork period or both, and as specified in Special Permit Condition r.
- r. Permittee shall submit a clean, edited draft final report to the agency official for review to insure conformance with standards, guidelines, regulations, and all stipulations of the permit. The schedule for submitting the draft shall be determined by the agency official.
- s. Permittee shall submit a final report to the approving official not later than 180 days after completion of fieldwork. Where a fieldwork episode involved only minor work and/or minor findings, a final report may be submitted in place of the preliminary report. If the size or nature of fieldwork merits, the approving official may authorize a longer timeframe for the submission of the final report as specified in Special Permit Condition q.
- t. Two copies of the final report, a completed NTIS Report Documentation Page (SF-298), available at <http://www.ntis.gov/pdf/rdpform.pdf>, and a completed NADB-Reports Citation Form, available at http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/tools/nadbform_update.doc, will be submitted to the office issuing the permit.
- u. The permittee agrees to keep the specific location of sensitive resources confidential. Sensitive resources include threatened species, endangered species, and rare species, archeological sites, caves, fossil sites, minerals, commercially valuable resources, and sacred ceremonial sites.
- v. Permittee shall deposit all artifacts, samples and collections, as applicable, and original or clear copies of all records, data, photographs, and other documents, resulting from work conducted under this permit, with the curatorial facility named in item 12, above, not later than 90 days after the date the final report is submitted to the approving official. Not later than 180 days after the final report is submitted, permittee shall provide the approving official with a catalog and evaluation of all materials deposited with the curatorial facility, including the facility's accession and/or catalog numbers.
- w. Permittee shall provide the approving official with a confirmation that museum collections described in v. above were deposited with the approved curatorial facility, signed by an authorized curatorial facility official, stating the date materials were deposited, and the type, number and condition of the collected museum objects deposited at the facility.
- x. Permittee shall not publish, without the approving official's prior permission, any locational or other identifying archeological site information that could compromise the Government's protection and management of archeological sites.
- y. For excavations, permittee shall consult the OSHA excavation standards which are contained in 29 CFR §1926.650, §1926.651 and §1926.652. For questions regarding these standards contact the local area OSHA office, OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA, or the OSHA website at <http://www.osha.gov>.
- z. Special permit conditions attached to this permit are made a part hereof.

16. Special Permit Conditions

- a. Permittee shall allow the approving official and bureau field officials, or their representatives, full access to the work area specified in this permit at any time the permittee is in the field, for purposes of examining the work area and any recovered materials and related records
- b. Permittee shall cease work upon discovering any human remains and shall immediately notify the approving official or bureau field official. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until the authorized official has given permission.
- c. Permittee shall backfill all subsurface test exposures and excavation units as soon as possible after recording the results, and shall restore them as closely as reasonable to the original contour
- d. Permittee shall not use mechanized equipment in designated, proposed, or potential wilderness areas unless authorized by the agency official or a designee in additional specific conditions associated with this permit
- e. Permittee shall take precautions to protect livestock, wildlife, the public, or other users of the public lands from accidental injury in any excavation unit.
- f. Permittee shall not conduct any flint knapping or lithic replication experiments at any archeological site, aboriginal quarry source, or non-site location that might be mistaken for an archeological site as a result of such experiments.
- g. Permittee shall perform the fieldwork authorized in this permit in a way that does not impede or interfere with other legitimate uses of the public lands, except when the authorized officer specifically provides otherwise.
- h. Permittee shall restrict vehicular activity to existing roads and trails unless the authorized officer provides otherwise.
- i. Permittee shall keep disturbance to the minimum area consistent with the nature and purpose of the fieldwork
- j. Permittee shall not cut or otherwise damage living trees unless the authorized officer gives permission.
- k. Permittee shall take precautions at all times to prevent wildfire. Permittee shall be held responsible for suppression costs for any fires on public lands caused by the permittee's negligence. Permittee may not burn debris without the authorized officer's specific permission.
- l. Permittee shall conduct all operations in such a manner as to prevent or minimize scarring and erosion of the land, pollution of the water resources, and damage to the watershed
- m. Permittee shall not disturb resource management facilities within the permit area, such as fences, reservoirs, and other improvements, without the authorized officer's approval. Where disturbance is necessary, permittee shall return the facility to its prior condition, as determined by the authorized officer
- n. Permittee shall remove temporary stakes and/or flagging, which the permittee has installed, upon completion of fieldwork.
- o. Permittee shall clean all camp and work areas before leaving the permit area. Permittee shall take precautions to prevent littering or pollution on public lands, waterways, and adjoining properties. Refuse shall be carried out and deposited in approved disposal areas.
- p. Permittee shall submit the preliminary report within 30 days of completion of any episode of fieldwork.
- q. Permittee shall submit the final report within 120 days after completion of fieldwork.
- r. Permittee shall submit progress reports every --NA-- over the duration of the project
- s. Additional special permit conditions are attached.

Special Permit Conditions Continuation Sheet

1. At least 5 working days prior to beginning fieldwork the Permittee is required to notify Rick Slade, Chief of Science & Resource Mngt. (678) 538-1321
2. If any human remains are discovered work at the project area will cease immediately, and the Permittee shall immediately notify Superintendent Dan Brown, (678)-538-1211
See Special Permit Condition "b "
3. The Permittee shall make no recommendations or offer opinions as to the significance or eligibility of an archeological site or historic property for the National Register of Historic Places without prior review by the federal land manager and the Regional Archeologist.
4. The Permittee must contact the coordinator for the Archeological Sites Management Information System (ASMIS) at SEAC to obtain ASMIS numbers for all known sites and to obtain ASMIS numbers for all new sites recorded (850-580-3011x124). Georgia State Site Forms will be prepared for all new sites discovered during this project. These forms will be submitted by the Permittee to the Georgia State Archaeologist for entry in the state's master site file. Once official site numbers have been obtained, copies of state site forms will be submitted by the Permittee to Rick Slade, Chattahoochee River and the ASMIS coordinator at SEAC. SEAC will provide the Permittee with ASMIS numbers once state site numbers are received. Both state site and ASMIS site numbers will be used in reference to all NPS owned sites referred to in the report. ASMIS and Site Condition Assessment forms supplied by Rick Slade at Chattahoochee River NRA and/or SEAC will be completed and returned to Rick Slade at Chattahoochee River NRA and SEAC.
5. The National Park Service (NPS) Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) is the designated repository for archeological collections from park units in the region. Consequently SEAC is named on the permit as the curatorial facility where the collection will be deposited. Collections will be prepared for curation—bagged, labeled, and stored—according to NPS and SEAC standards. If the collection is less than one cubic foot in volume, SEAC will catalog the collection and prepare it for storage. If larger, the permit holder will be responsible for these activities. SEAC Accession Number SEAC-2287 has been assigned to the documents and artifacts from this project. Artifacts will be cataloged to NPS and SEAC standards using the Interior Collection Management System (ICMS). Information and guidance regarding cataloging and storage and cataloging software may be obtained by contacting the SEAC Curator (850-580-3011 x 145). *See Standard Permit Condition "v" and "w "*
6. Artifacts and project documents in paper and electronic form (original notes, maps, photographs, records, and any other form of documentation resulting from the archeological investigations done under the terms of this permit) are the property of the NPS and will be delivered to
Curator, Southeast Archeological Center
2035 East Paul Dirac Dr., Johnson Building Suite 120
Tallahassee, FL 32310
- at no cost to the government. This includes, but is not limited to, digital photographs, GPS data, CAD drawings, and GIS data layers. These materials will be delivered within 90 days after the submission of the final report to SEAC. Catalogs and analytical results associated with the materials deposited at SEAC will be provided to SEAC within 180 days after the submission of the final report. *See Standard Permit Condition "v" and "w "*
7. The Permittee shall submit all field drawn and computer generated maps. The Permittee shall provide raw global positioning systems (GPS) data acquired in the field in original formats and along with any post-processed formats and data. The Permittee will furnish SEAC with copies of all geographic information systems (GIS) data developed from this investigation. All GIS and GPS data must be accompanied by metadata, including equipment, datum, and coordinate systems used. All metadata must be consistent with and meet the most recent NPS and Federal Geographic Data Committee standards.
8. The Permittee will submit a draft copy of a preliminary report to the Regional Archeologist. *See Standard Permit Condition "q" and Special Permit Conditions "p" and "r "* The Regional Archeologist has 30 days from receipt of the draft report to provide the Permittee with comments. Then the Permittee has 30 days from receipt of the comments to revise the preliminary report and provide 2 bound copies and 1 unbound camera ready copy each to the Park Superintendent and Regional Archeologist.

Special Permit Conditions Continuation Sheet

- 9 The Permittee will submit a draft final report to the Regional Archeologist 120 days after the completion of the field work. See *Standard Permit Condition "r"*. Both state site and ASMIS site numbers will be used in reference to all NPS owned sites referred to in the report. The Regional Archeologist has 30 days from receipt of the draft final report to provide the Permittee with comments. Then the Permittee has 30 days from receipt of the comments to submit the final report. See *Standard Permit Condition "s"* and *"t"* and *Special Permit Conditions "q"*. In addition to the mandatory 2 bound copies, the Permittee will provide 1 unbound camera ready copy each to the Park Superintendent and Regional Archeologist, using acid free archival-quality paper, and an electronic copy in Word or Adobe format.

- 10 Addresses for reports:

Superintendent Chattahoochee River NRA 1978 Island Ford Pkwy. Sandy Springs, GA 30350	Regional Archeologist Southeast Archeological Center 2035 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Johnson Bldg Suite 120 Tallahassee, FL 32310
--	--

- 11 Final Reports are to be prepared consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology (http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_7.htm). The title page on all reports submitted pursuant to this permit will contain the Permit Number and the SEAC Accession Number. See *Standard Permit Condition "t"*.

- 12 Site location information developed on lands covered under this permit is the property of the NPS. Restrictions on dissemination of locational information pursuant to the Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended shall apply. See *Standard Permit Condition "u"* and *"x"*.

By signing below, I, the Principal Investigator, acknowledge that I have read and understand the Permit for Archeological Investigations and agree to its terms and conditions as evidenced by my signature below and initiation of work or other activities under the authority of this permit.

Signature and title.

[Handwritten Signature], P. I.

Date

3-17-10



February 1, 2011

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
105 West Park Drive, Suite D
Athens, GA 30606

**RE: Request for Concurrence of No Effect to Protected Species
Lower Roswell Road Sidewalks
Cobb County Project No. D6140
Cobb County Georgia**

Attn: Pete Pattavina

The purpose of Cobb County Department of Transportation (CCDOT) Project D6140 is to provide safety and operational improvements and geometric improvements, including a multi-use trail, to Lower Roswell Road from Davidson Road to the Fulton County line (Timber Ridge Road). Safety improvements consist of improved roadway drainage with curbing, improved sight distances and expanded clear zones. Operational improvements are accomplished through the addition of turn lanes, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian walkways along the corridor.

The project begins at Davidson Road, in a commercial area near Johnson Ferry Road, with adjacent shopping centers and office parks, then transitions to a residential area toward the east before ending at Timber Ridge Road, adjacent to the parkland of the CRNRA Gold Branch. The project length is approximately 2.9 miles.

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. (EPEI) is being requested by the National Park System Department of Interior to respectfully requests your concurrence with the no effect determination to the federally protected Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), Gulf moccasinshell (*Medionidus penicillatus*), Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*), and white fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integrilabia*). The federal candidate Georgia aster (*Symphytotrichum georgianum*) was located 165 feet south of the limit of easement for construction within an utility right-of-way. No work would be done beyond the limit of easement and given the constraints of project limits and distance to the population we have made determination would have no effect on the Georgia Aster.

The attached report and Figure 1 – Location of Georgia Aster outlines potential impacts to the protected species for the referenced project. No waters of the US or their associated buffers would be impacted by the proposed project.

We appreciate your assistance with this project. Please call me or Josh Earhart at (770)-333-9484, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.


Rick Filer
Senior Ecologist

**List of Known Occurrences of Protected Species & Georgia Natural Heritage Program Watch List Species
Within Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area and/or Within a 3-Mile Radius (Date: 2009).**
(note species documented within NPS boundary are highlighted in yellow)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal: State Status	Global: State Rank	Habitat
BIRDS				
<i>Grus americana</i>	Whooping Crane			Freshwater marshes; bays; fields
<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Greater Sandhill Crane	--; --	G5T4; S2	Freshwater marshes; bays; fields
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	--; ST	G5; S2	Edges of lakes & large rivers; seacoasts
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine falcon	; SR	G4; S1	Rocky cliffs and ledges
<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Yellow-crowned night heron	--; --	G5; S3S4	River swamps; marshes; cypress/gum ponds
FISH				
<i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	Bluestripe shiner	--; SR	G2G3; S2	Flowing areas in large creeks and medium-sized rivers over rocky substrates
<i>Micropterus caracarae</i>	Shoal Bass	--; --	G3; S3	Shoals and riffles of large streams to rivers
<i>Moxostoma</i> sp. 1	Apalachicola Redhorse	--; --	G3; S3	Pools, runs, and riffles (shoals) of large rivers and their tributaries
<i>Notropis hypsilepis</i>	Highscale shiner	--; SR	G3; S3	Flowing areas of small to large streams over sand or bedrock substrates
INVERTEBRATES				
<i>Cambarus howardi</i>	Chattahoochee Crayfish	--; ST	G3; S3	moderate to swiftly flowing streams with rocky or rubble substrate
<i>Elipifio arcata</i>	Delicate Spike	--; SE	G2G3Q; S1S3	Large rivers and creeks with some current in sand and limestone rock substrates
<i>Elipifio fraterna</i>	Brother spike	--; --	G1; S1	Sandy substrates of river channels with swift current
<i>Hamiota subangulata</i>	Shinyrayed pocketbook mussel	LE; SE	G2; S2	Sandy/rocky medium-sized rivers & creeks
<i>Medionidus penicillatus</i>	Gulf moccasinshell	LE; SE	G2; S1	Sandy/rocky medium-sized rivers & creeks
<i>Quincuncina infucata</i>	Sculptured pigtoe mussel	--; --	G3; S3	Rivers and large streams with moderate current in sand and limestone rock substrate
AMPHIBIANS				
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> ^	Four-toed salamander	--; --	G5; S3	Swamps; boggy streams & ponds; hardwood forests
<i>Plethodon websteri</i> ^	Webster's salamander	--; --	G3; S2	Moist hardwood forests
REPTILES				
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	Northern Pine Snake	--; --	G4T4; S2	Dry pine or pine-hardwood forests

PLANTS

<i>Amorpha schwerinii</i>	Schwerin Indigo-bush	--; --	G3G4; S2	Rocky upland woods
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	--; --	G5T5; SNA	Mesic forests
<i>Carex picta</i>	Boott Sedge	--; --	G4G5; S3	Dry, oak-hickory or chestnut oak forests
<i>Carex venusta</i> var. <i>minor</i>	Dark Green Sedge	--; --	G4T4; S2?	Floodplains and bottomlands
<i>Cyripedium acaule</i>	Pink ladyslipper	--; SU	G5; S4	Upland oak-hickory-pine forests; piney woods
<i>Cyripedium parviflorum</i>	Yellow lady slipper	--; SR	G5T5; S3	Upland oak-hickory-pine forests; mixed hardwood forests
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	Dwarf mountain witch alder	--; ST	G3; S1	Rocky (sandstone, granite) woods; bouldery stream margins
<i>Hexastylis shuttleworthii</i> var. <i>harperi</i>	Shuttleworth's ginger	--; --	G4T3; S2S3	Low terraces in floodplain forests; edges of bogs
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	Goldenseal	--; SE	G4; S2	Rich woods in circumneutral soil
<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	Florida Anise Tree	--; SE	G5; S1	Steepheads, floodplain forests
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily	--; --	G5; S2?	Openings in rich woods
<i>Melanthium latifolium</i>	Broadleaf Bunchflower	--; --	G5; S2?	Mesic deciduous hardwood forests
<i>Monotropsis odorata</i>	Sweet Pinesap	--; ST	G3; S1	Upland forests
<i>Myriophyllum laxum</i>	Loose Watermilfoil	--; SR	G3; S2S3	River sinks and shallow freshwater pools
<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	Indian Olive	--; SR	G4; S3	Transition oak-hickory-pine woods
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	Ginseng	--; --	G3G4; S3	Mesic hardwood forests; cove hardwood forests
<i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	Monkeyface Orchid	FC; ST	G2G3; S1S2	Red maple-gum swamps; peaty seeps and streambanks
<i>Pycnanthemum curvipes</i>	Stone Mountain Mint	--; --	G3; S2	Open, mesic woods
<i>Rhus michauxii</i>	Michaux's sumac	LE; SE	G2G3; S1	Open forests over ultramafic rock
<i>Schisandra glabra</i>	Bay star-vine	--; ST	G3; S2	Rich woods on stream terraces and lower slopes
<i>Smilax biltmoreana</i>	Biltmore carrion-flower	--; --	G4; S3?	Deciduous forests
<i>Solidago sphacelata</i>	Heartleaf Goldenrod	--; --	G4G5; S3?	Rich calcareous bluffs
<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	Mountain camellia	--; --	G4; S3?	Mesic hardwood forests; bluff forests
<i>Symphotrichum georgianum</i>	Georgia aster	FC; ST	G2G3; S2	Upland mixed forests and openings
<i>Veratrum woodii</i>	Ozark bunchflower	--; SR	G5; S2	Mesic hardwood forests over basic soils
<i>Waldsteinia lobata</i>	Piedmont barren strawberry	--; SR	G2G3; S2	Stream terraces and adjacent gneiss outcrops

Abbreviations for Global and State Rank & Federal and State Status:

SE - State Endangered	G1 - Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences).
ST - State Threatened	G2 - Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences).
SR - State Rare	G3 - Rare and local throughout range or in a special habitat or narrowly endemic (21 to 100 occurrences).
SU - State Unusual	G4 - Apparently secure globally (of no immediate conservation concern).
SA - Accidental in state	G5 - Demonstrably secure globally.
SN - Regularly occurring, usually migratory and typically nonbreeding species.	S1 - Critically imperiled in state because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences).
FE - Federally Endangered (Listed)	S2 - Imperiled in state because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences).
FT - Federally Threatened (Listed)	S3 - Rare or uncommon in state (on the order of 21 to 100 occurrences).
FC - Federal Candidate	S4 - Apparently secure in state (of no immediate conservation concern).
Q - Taxonomic question; unsure status	S5 - Demonstrably secure in state.

T - Taxonomic subdivision used in determining status
Sources: USFWS, NPS, GA Natural Heritage Program

From: Robin_Goodloe@fws.gov [mailto:Robin_Goodloe@fws.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:41 AM
To: DiMassimo, Faye
Subject: Re: Fw: Lower Roswell Sidewalks

Given design and construction constraints outlined in Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc.'s Feb. 1, 2011 (2012?) letter, the Fish and Wildlife Service concurs with the National Park Service's determination that the proposed project will not affect federally-listed or candidate species. Consultation should be reinitiated if the project is modified in a way that may affect these species, or if other species are listed before the project is completed. This ends Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. Please contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

Robin Goodloe
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Georgia Ecological Services
105 West Park Dr., Suite D
Athens, GA 30606
706-613-9493 X221
706-613-6059 fax

From: Rick Filer [mailto:rfile@edwards-pitman.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 2:06 PM
To: 'Pete_Pattavina@fws.gov'
Cc: 'Josh Earhart'
Subject: Lower Roswell Sidewalks

Pete,

We have are preparing an Environmental Assessment and respectfully requests your concurrence with the no effect to determination to any federally protected species. I have attached Kevin's ecology report and Figure 1 – Georgia Aster location. The initial survey during March of 2010 identified potential habitat for the Georgia Aster and during a follow up survey in the fall of 2011 I located a population of Georgia aster outside of the project easement (165 feet south of the project) and the designers are fully aware of their location and the project would not result in any impacts to the Georgia aster. We were requested by the National Park System not to show the population on the plans due to poaching fears.

Thanks,
Rick Filer
Edwards-Pitman Environmental Inc.
1250 Winchester Parkway Suite 200
Smyrna, GA 30080



63P0703
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division

Nongame Conservation Section
2065 U.S. Highway 278, S.E., Social Circle, Georgia 30025-4743
(770) 918 6411

August 14, 2007

Matt Wilson
Project Ecologist
Edwards-Pitman
1250 Winchester Parkway
Suite 200
Smyrna, GA 30080

RECEIVED

BY
EDWARDS-PITMAN

Subject: Known Occurrences of Conservation Areas and Special Concern Animals and Plants On or Near Lower Roswell Road Improvements, Cobb County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wilson:

This is in response to your request of July 30, 2007. According to our records, within a three-mile radius of there are the following Natural Heritage Database occurrences:

Begin Project - South End (-84.41155, 33.96648; NAD27):

- GA *Cambarus howardi* (Chattahoochee Crayfish) approx. 2.5 mi. SW of site in Soap Creek
- GA *Elliptio arctata* (Delicate Spike) approx. 1.5 mi. SE of site in the Chattahoochee River
- GA *Schisandra glabra* (Bay Star-vine) approx. 2.0 mi. E of site
- GA *Schisandra glabra* (Bay Star-vine) approx. 2.5 mi. SW of site
- Greenspace [Fulton County] approx. 1.5 mi. S of site
- McFarlane Nature Park [Cobb County Parks and Recreation] approx. 1.5 mi. S of site
- Morgan Falls Bat Cave approx. 1.5 mi. E of site

End Project - North End (-84.38936, 33.99250; NAD27):

- Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area [National Park Service] 0.2 mi. E of site
- GA *Cyprinella callitaenia* (Bluestripe Shiner) approx. 2.5 mi. E of site in Big Creek
- GA *Cyprinella callitaenia* (Bluestripe Shiner) approx. 2.5 mi. NE of site
- US *Hamiota subangulata* (Shinyrayed Pocketbook) [HISTORIC] approx. 1.0 mi. NE of site in the Chattahoochee River
- Moxostoma sp. 1* (Apalachicola Redhorse) approx. 2.5 mi. E of site in Big Creek
- GA *Notropis hypsilepis* (Highscale Shiner) approx. 2.5 mi. E of site in Big Creek
- GA *Notropis hypsilepis* (Highscale Shiner) approx. 2.5 mi. NE of site
- Quincuncina infucata* (Sculptured Pigtoe) approx. 1.5 mi. E of site in the Chattahoochee River
- US *Rhus michauxii* (Dwarf Sumac) approx. 2.5 mi. N of site
- BIG TREES NATURE PRESERVE [Managing_a] approx. 2.5 mi. SE of site
- Greenspace [Cobb County] approx. 3.0 mi. NW of site

* Entries above preceded by "US" indicates species with federal status (Protected, Candidate or Partial Status). Species that are federally protected in Georgia are also state protected; "GA" indicates Georgia protected species.

Recommendations:

We have no records of species of concern within the project area. However, two federally listed species, *Rhus michauxii* (Dwarf Sumac) and *Hamiota subangulata* (Shinyrayed Pocketbook) [HISTORIC] are within three miles of the proposed project. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act states that taking or harming of a listed species is prohibited. We recommend all requestors with projects located near federally protected species consult with Robin Goodloe of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (706-613-9493, ext.221 or Robin_Goodloe@fws.gov).

We are concerned about streams and other habitats that could be impacted by the proposed road improvement project. We recommend that stringent erosion control practices be used during construction activities and that vegetation is re-established on disturbed areas as quickly as possible. Silt fences and other erosion control devices should be inspected and maintained until soil is stabilized by vegetation. Please use natural vegetation and grading techniques (e.g. vegetated swales, turn-offs, vegetated buffer strips) that will ensure that the road or ROW does not serve as a conduit for storm water or pollutants into the water during or after construction. These measures will help protect water quality in the vicinity of the project as well as in downstream areas.

New Data Available on the Nongame Conservation Section Website

We have recently updated the Nongame Conservation Section Website!!! You can view the updated rare species and natural community information by Quarter Quad, County and HUC8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare Species and Natural Community Information page at:

<http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/content/displaycontent.asp?txtDocument=89>

An updated ESRI shape file of our rare species and natural community data by quarter quad and county is also available. It can be downloaded from:

<http://georgiawildlife.dnr.state.ga.us/assets/documents/gnhp/gnhpds.zip>

Disclaimer:

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Nongame Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Nongame Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. **Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our**

files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.

If you know of populations of special concern species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com>) or by contacting our office. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katrina Morris".

Katrina Morris
Environmental Review Coordinator



Re-vegetation Standards for CRNRA September 2010

INTRODUCTION

This document establishes a protocol for re-vegetation purposes in the park. Re-vegetation is necessary when an area is restored to its natural state. Restoration is necessary for many reasons including;

- damage from vehicles to trees, shrubs and grassy areas,
- closing of trails,
- closing unauthorized access to river,
- streambank erosion,
- improving parking lot areas, and
- protection of species-of-concern.

Other disturbances that involve restoration and re-vegetation occur during construction of facilities, roads, bridges, and right-of-ways. The purpose of establishing a protocol is to ensure that contractors, as well as park employees, have uniform standards to follow in the restoration of disturbed areas that maintain the integrity of the diverse vegetation communities found in CRNRA.

VEGETATION

To maintain the native landscape, it is crucial that native landscaping material is used to maintain the uniform aesthetic of the national park vegetation communities and, more importantly, to prevent the introduction of exotic invasive species. Native seed mixes, plant material and mulching material are required on all sites that have been disturbed or degraded and need to be restored to the natural state (see appendix for sources). Areas that have been disturbed for a prolonged period of time with no evidence of the prior natural state should be restored to resemble the surrounding plant communities.

INSPECTION AND CLEANING OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment inspection and cleaning are examples of sanitation actions. Sanitation is identified as an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) cultural control tool in the Department of the Interior's *Departmental Manual* 517 DM 1 (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2007). In addition, cultural control is an IPM tool requirement found in the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, Public Law 104-170, amendment to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. Further, Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species (Order) of February 3, 1999 requires

Federal agencies to “use relevant programs and authorities to: (i) prevent the introduction of invasive species.”

Executive Order 13112 also established the National Invasive Species Council, which developed the National Invasive Species Management Plan, 2008-2012 (National Invasive Species Council, 2008). The findings of the National Invasive Species Council and the National Invasive Species Management Plan included the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species to minimize the staggering costs of management and control of widespread invasions:

Prevention is the first-line of defense. It can be the most cost-effective approach because once a species becomes widespread; controlling it may require significant and sustained expenditures. Therefore, public investment in prevention tools, resources and infrastructure is indispensable in protecting human health, agriculture and natural resources.

Long-term success in prevention will reduce the rate of introduction, the rate of establishment and the damage from additional invasive species in the United States.

The use of this manual satisfies the National Invasive Species Management Plan performance element CM. 2.1.1., which calls for increased cleaning treatments to slow the spread of invasive species.

Limiting the spread of invasive species on work sites in CRNRA can be a significant challenge. Invasive species can be spread in numerous ways. For example, soil and mud that may accumulate on undersides of vehicles can carry seeds or viable fragments of exotic invasive plants. Lodged material from plants or animals is often not easily recognizable by casual inspection of equipment and vehicles. In addition, foreign material can become lodged in areas of limited sight and access. Also, the use of watercraft, pumps, in-water equipment, and even waders in waters infested with exotic plants and animals can easily become sources for spread of invasive species. Therefore, it is vital that personnel working in areas where invasive species are present have sufficient training in inspecting and cleaning equipment used in such areas.

Properly conducted inspection and cleaning of equipment prior to entry at a new location limits introduction of invasive species. Inspection of equipment is the primary tool for preventing the introduction of an invasive organism into an uninfested location.

Inspecting and Cleaning Equipment

- Generally, equipment of all types should be cleaned at the location of last use before being moved to a new location. If this is not possible, arrange for cleaning at a facility that is specifically designed for equipment cleaning.
- If equipment is used at a location known to be infested with an invasive species, the equipment should undergo a preinspection, followed by thorough cleaning, and a final inspection before being moved off the worksite.
- At the new location, the equipment should be inspected again, preferably by someone other than the original inspector before the equipment is placed into service.
- If, on reinspection, contamination is found on the equipment, do not allow the equipment entry on the new worksite, either return the equipment to the location of last use for additional cleaning or arrange for cleaning at a location that is specifically designed for equipment cleaning.

Equipment use might involve not only park equipment, but also rented equipment and equipment used by contractors and subcontractors. Equipment may be brought in from other areas of the United States and may be transferred to locations where new invasions may inadvertently accompany contaminated equipment. Park-owned, contractor, subcontractor, and rental equipment used at park worksites must be inspected, and cleaned if necessary, to ensure that equipment arrives and leaves clean to prevent introduction or spread of invasive species.

Tractors and mowers collect plant materials during operations in the field. Tracked vehicles pick up large amounts of soil, mud, and debris, making them more of a challenge to clean than smaller vehicles and other equipment. Similarly, drive train belly pans of bulldozers accumulate large amounts of soil and debris, which might require physical removal of foreign material before washing. Physical removal of accumulated material (pre-cleaning) before washing operations can help reduce water demand when cleaning certain equipment.

Watercraft, vehicles, earth-moving equipment, pumps, trailers, and other equipment are particularly troublesome avenues of spread. Clothing, shoes, and waders can become vectors of spread when personnel leave infested areas that contain soil or mud laden with seed or plant fragments. Invasive species can also be deposited on fuel tanks, wheel wells, and behind the bumpers of vehicles. Pathogens, insects, and other animals can be transported in the same manner.

CITATIONS

DiVittorio, J. et al. 2010. Inspection and Cleaning Manual for Equipment and Vehicles to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species, Technical Memorandum No. 86-68220-07-05, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation Denver, CO.

Appendix:

SEED MIXES

<u>Site</u>	<u>Seed Mix</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>	<u>Price 2010</u>	<u>Seeding/Planting Rate</u>
**SE Roadside Native Mix	187	Ernst Conservation Seeds	www.ernstseed.com	\$42.58/ lb	15 lb/acre
Steep Slopes	181	Ernst Conservation Seeds	www.ernstseed.com	\$13.75/lb	30 lb/acre or 1 lb/1,000 ft
Riparian	178	Ernst Conservation Seeds	www.ernstseed.com	\$36.16/lb	15lb/acre or 1/3-1/2 lb/1,000 ft
Flood Plain	154	Ernst Conservation Seeds	www.ernstseed.com	\$41.20/lb	15lb/acre or 1/3-1/2 lb/1,000 ft
Partially Shaded Roadside	140	Ernst Conservation Seeds	www.ernstseed.com	\$57.98/lb	15lb/acre or 1/3-1/2 lb/1,000 ft

**Default mix

PLANT MATERIAL

GPC Botanical Garden
Decatur Campus,
3251 Panthersville Rd.
Decatur, GA 30034
(678) 891-2668

Shooting Star Nursery
160 Soards Road
Georgetown KY 40324
(866)405-7979
(502)867-7979

Ecoaddendum
743 B3 East College Avenue
Decatur, GA. 30030

MULCH

For mulching purposes, weed-free pine straw is preferred as a natural alternative to wheat straw or pine bark mulch.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

December 3, 2010

RECEIVED

BY:
EDWARDS-PITMAN ENV.

Regulatory Division
SAS-2010-01087

Cobb County Department of Transportation
Attention: Mr. Michael Cates
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008

Dear Mr. Cates:

I refer to the Pre-construction Notification (PCN) submitted on November 8, 2010, requesting verification for use of Nationwide Permit (NWP) No.'s 14 and 33 for impacts to 0.036 acres of emergent wetland and 81 linear feet of perennial stream for construction of county roadway improvements. Proposed improvements include improved roadway drainage with curb and gutter, additional turn lanes, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian walkways along the project corridor. The project will incur 81 linear feet of impact to one perennial stream resulting from the extension of an existing culvert and channel armoring for outlet protection at Timber Ridge Road. Installation of curb and gutter, in addition to temporary construction access, will adversely impact an additional 0.036 acres of one emergent wetland at Willeo Road. Land disturbing activities within jurisdictional areas will occur in accordance with the "Mainline Plan" and the "Wetland Restoration Plan" (Drawing No.'s 13-27 and 30-01, respectively), prepared by Gresham, Smith and Partners, and as included within the November 8, 2010 PCN. The project site is located along approximately 2.9-miles of Lower Roswell Road extending from Davidson Road to Timber Ridge Road and Willeo Road, near the Fulton County line, within Cobb County, Georgia (latitude 33.992361° north, longitude -84.386560° west). The request was submitted on your behalf by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. This project has been assigned number SAS-2010-01087 and it is important that you refer to this number in all communication concerning this matter.

We have completed an expanded preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (JD) for the site pursuant to our March 4, 2009, Public Notice entitled, "Characterization of Jurisdictional Determinations: Purpose, Application and Documentation Requirements as Defined by the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)." I have enclosed a "JD Check Sheet," which summarizes the JD, delineation verification and appeals process.

The wetlands/other waters on the subject property may be waters of the United States and therefore within the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 United States Code 1344). The placement of dredged or fill material into any waterways and/or their adjacent wetlands or mechanized land clearing of those wetlands could require prior Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 404.

We have completed coordination with other federal and state agencies as described in Part C (27) (d) of our NWP Program, published in the March 12, 2007, Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 47, Pages 11092-11198 (72 FR). The NWPs and Savannah District's Regional Conditions for NWPs can be found on our web site at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/regulatory/regulatory.html>, (click on "Permitting" on the left side, and scroll down to 2007 NWP Regulation. You may select NWPs (March 12, 2007) and/or Regional Conditions for NWPs link). During our coordination procedure, no adverse comments regarding the proposed work were received.

As a result of our evaluation of your project, we have determined that the proposed activity is authorized under NWP No. 14 and NWP No. 33, as described in Part B of the NWP Program. Your use of these NWPs is valid only if:

- a. The activity is conducted in accordance with the information submitted and meets the conditions applicable to the NWP, as described at Part C of the NWP Program and the Savannah District NWP Regional Conditions.
- b. All work conducted under this permit shall be located, outlined, designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the minimal requirements as contained in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended. Utilization of plans and specifications as contained in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control, First Edition, 2002," published by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission or their equivalent, will aid in achieving compliance with the aforementioned minimal requirements.
- c. The permittee shall minimize bank erosion and sedimentation in construction areas by utilizing Best Management Practices for stream corridors, installing and maintaining significant erosion and sediment control measures, and providing daily reviews of construction and stream protection methods. Check dams and riprap placed in streams and wetlands as erosion control measures are considered a fill and not authorized under this permit unless they were specifically authorized by this permit. Materials utilized for streambank stabilization must be of sufficient composition to reasonably prevent migration into adjacent streams and/or wetlands.
- d. You shall obtain and comply with all appropriate federal, state, and local authorizations required for this type of activity. A stream buffer variance may be required. Variances are issued by the Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (Georgia EPD), as defined in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended. It is our understanding that you may obtain information concerning variances at the Georgia EPD's web site at www.gaepd.org or by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at (404) 675-6240.
- e. You fill out and sign the enclosed certification and return it to our office within 30 days of completion of the activity authorized by this permit.

This proposal was reviewed in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information we have available, we have determined that the project would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species nor any critical habitat for such species. Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of threatened or endangered species. In the absence of separate authorization, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the Endangered Species Act. See Part (C) of 72 FR for more information.

This verification is valid until the NWP is modified, reissued, or revoked. All of the existing NWPs are scheduled to be modified, reissued or revoked prior to March 18, 2012. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of changes to the NWPs. We will issue a public notice when the NWPs are reissued. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant nationwide permit is modified or revoked, you will have twelve (12) months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this nationwide permit.

This authorization should not be construed to mean that any future projects requiring Department of the Army authorization would necessarily be authorized. Any new proposal, whether associated with this project or not, would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any prior approvals would not be a determining factor in making a decision on any future request.

Revisions to your proposal may invalidate this authorization. In the event changes to this project are contemplated, I recommend that you coordinate with us prior to proceeding with the work.

This communication does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other laws or regulations of other federal, state or local authorities. It does not affect your liability for any damages or claims that may arise as a result of the work. It does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges. It also does not affect your liability for any interference with existing or proposed federal projects. If the information you have submitted and on which the US Army Corps of Engineers bases its determination/decision of authorization under the NWP is later found to be in error, this determination may be subject to modification, suspension or revocation.

A copy of this letter is also being provided to: Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.,
Attention: Ms. Heidi Schneider, 1250 Winchester Parkway, Suite 200, Smyrna, Georgia 30080.

Thank you in advance for completing our Customer Survey Form. This can be accomplished by visiting our web site at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>, and completing the survey on-line. We value your comments and appreciate your taking the time to complete a survey each time you interact with our office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Adam F. White, Regulatory Specialist, Piedmont Branch, at 678-422-2730.

Sincerely,



Alan J. Miller
Chief, Permits Section
Piedmont Branch

Enclosures

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, Suite 1152 East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Mark Williams, Commissioner

F. Allen Barnes, Director

Environmental Protection Division

(404) 656-4713

April 5, 2011

Mr. Michael Cates
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Road
Marietta, Georgia 30080

Re: Request for Variance under
Provisions of O.C.G.A. 12-7-6(b)(15)
Lower Roswell Road Improvements
Cobb County

Dear Mr. Cates:

Your stream buffer variance request for the above referenced project has been reviewed by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Protection Branch. The review was conducted to consider the potential impact of the proposed project's encroachment on State waters within the context of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act. Pursuant to DNR Rule 391-3-7.05(2)(a), authorization is hereby granted to encroach within the 25-foot buffer adjacent to State waters for the above referenced project subject to the following conditions:

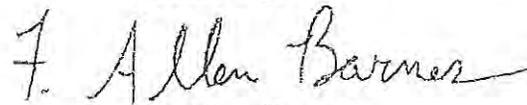
1. As per your application dated November 10, 2010;
2. All graded slopes 3:1 or greater must be hydroseeded and covered with Georgia DOT approved wood fiber matting or coconut fiber matting. If not hydroseeded, Georgia DOT approved matting that has been incorporated with seed and fertilizer must be used. All slopes must be properly protected until a permanent vegetative stand is established;
3. The amount of land cleared during construction must be kept to a minimum;
4. All disturbed areas must be seeded, fertilized and mulched as soon as the final grade is achieved. Also, these disturbed areas must be protected until permanent vegetation is established; and
5. A double row of Georgia DOT type "C" silt fence or an approved high performance silt fence must be installed between the land disturbing activities and State Waters.

Mr. Michael Cates
Page 2
April 5, 2011

The granting of this approval does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other law or regulations of any federal, local or additional State authority, nor does it obligate any of the aforementioned to permit this project if they do not concur with its concept of development/control.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Jean Brown, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, NonPoint Source Program, at (404) 675-6240.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. Allen Barnes".

F. Allen Barnes
Director

FAB:jsb

cc: Honorable Tim Lee
Heidi Schneider
Bert Langley
Wayne Probst
Russell Tanning
Catherine Samay

File: BV-033-10-12

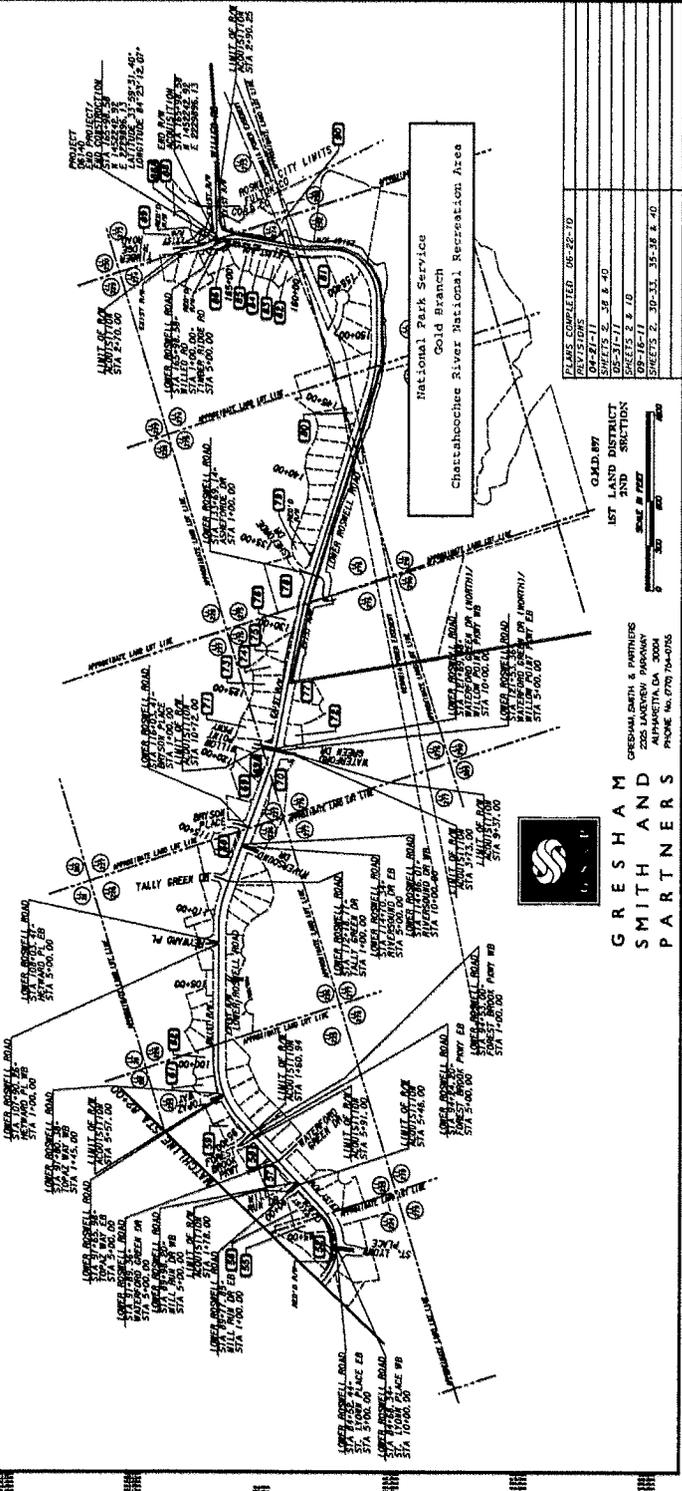
***APPENDIX C–
LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION***

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Gold Branch

Multi-Use Trail &
Entrance Improvements

COBB COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RIGHT OF WAY OF PROPOSED
LOWER ROSWELL ROAD EAST
FROM DAVIDSON ROAD TO TIMBER RIDGE ROAD
PROJECT • D6140

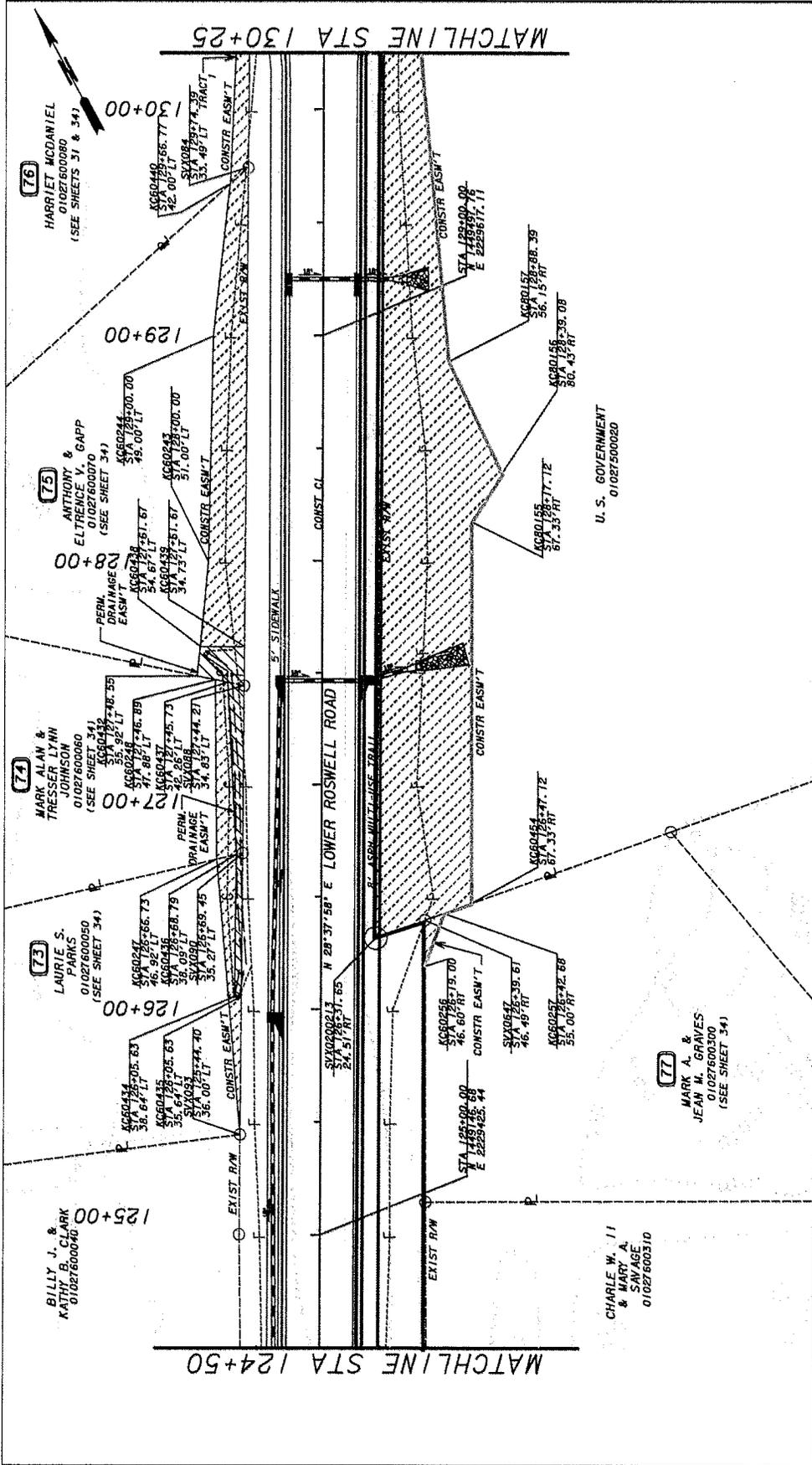


Legend

— Park Boundary

Figure 3A
Limits of Construction

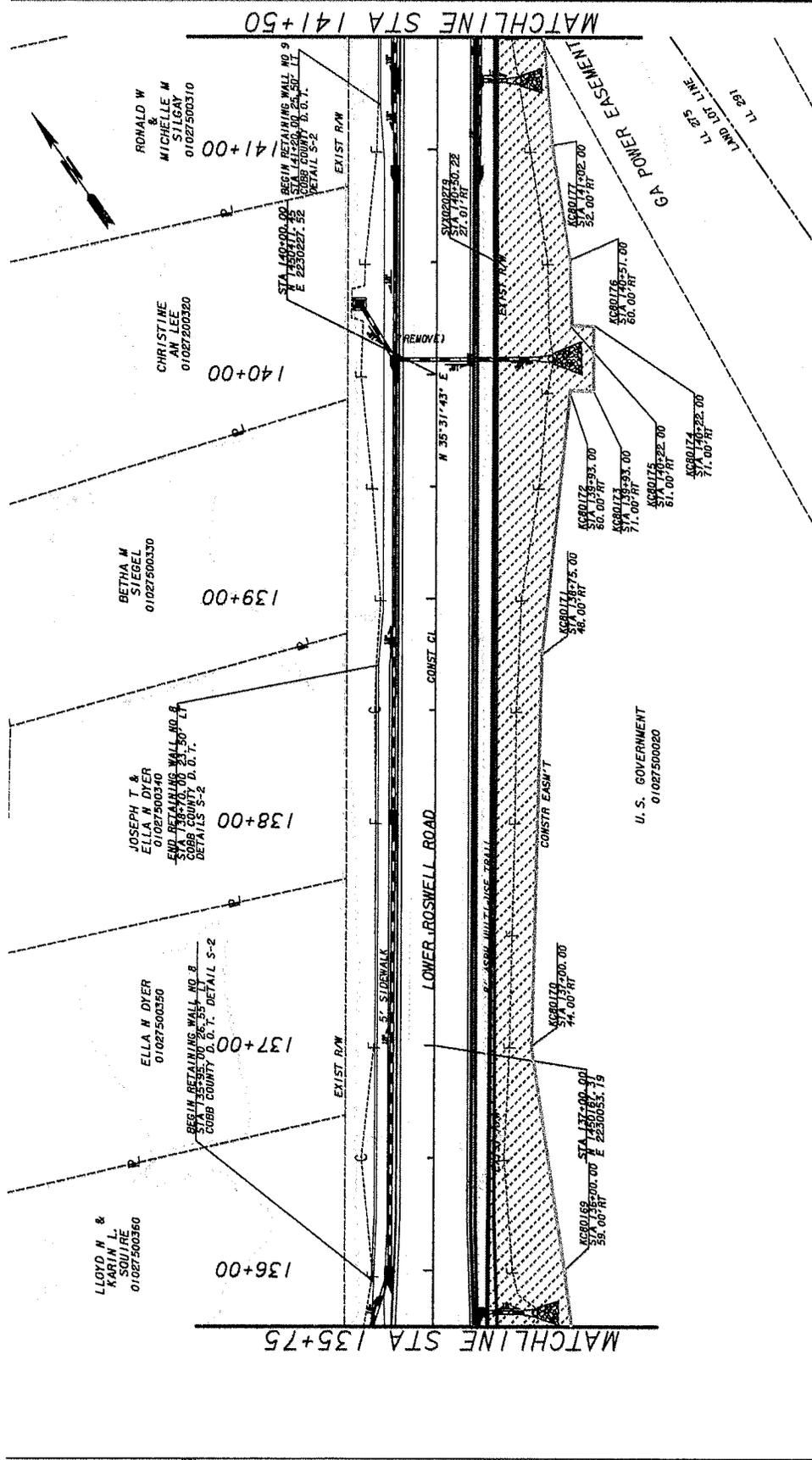
Source: Gresham,
Smith and Partners
Not to Scale



Source: Gresham,
Smith and Partners
Not to Scale

Figure 3B
Limits of Construction

Legend	
	Construction Limits
	Park Boundary/ Existing Right-of-Way
	Multi-use Trail
	Edge of Pavement

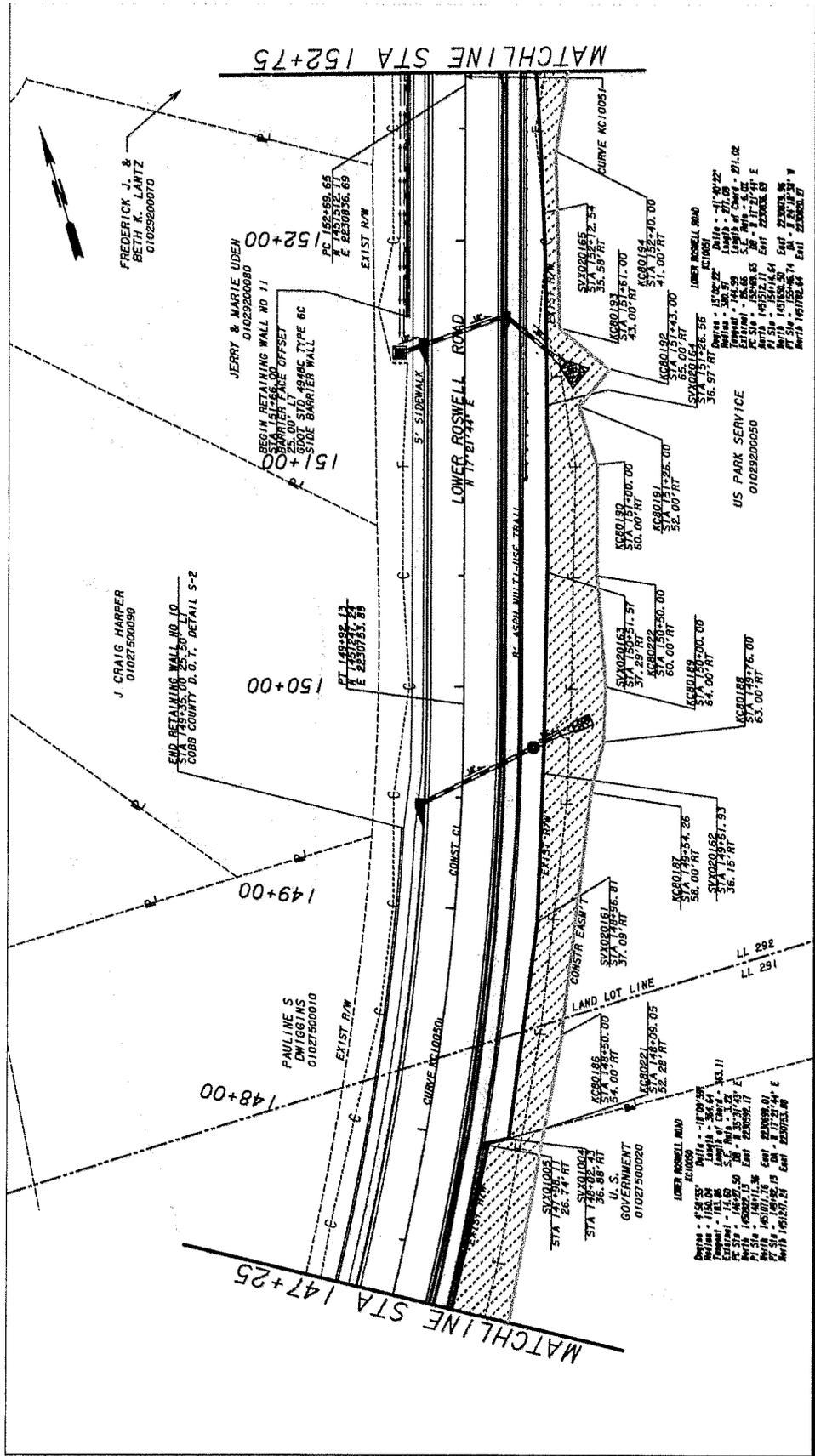


Legend

	Construction Limits
	Park Boundary/ Existing Right-of-Way
	Multi-use Trail
	Edge of Pavement

Figure 3D
Limits of Construction

Source: Gresham,
Smith and Partners
Not to Scale

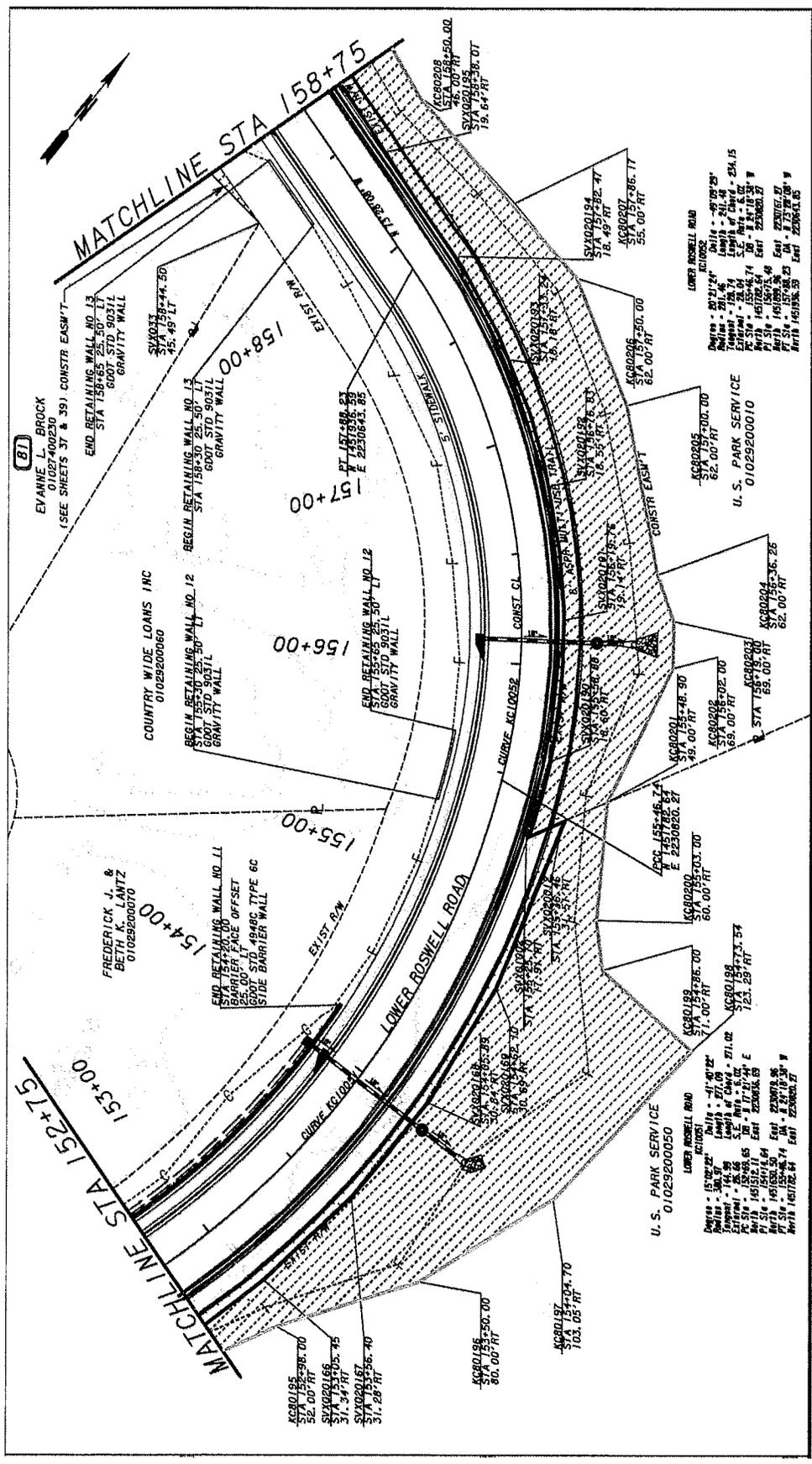


Legend

[Symbol]	Construction Limits
[Symbol]	Park Boundary/ Existing Right-of-Way
[Symbol]	Multi-use Trail
[Symbol]	Edge of Pavement

Figure 3F
Limits of Construction

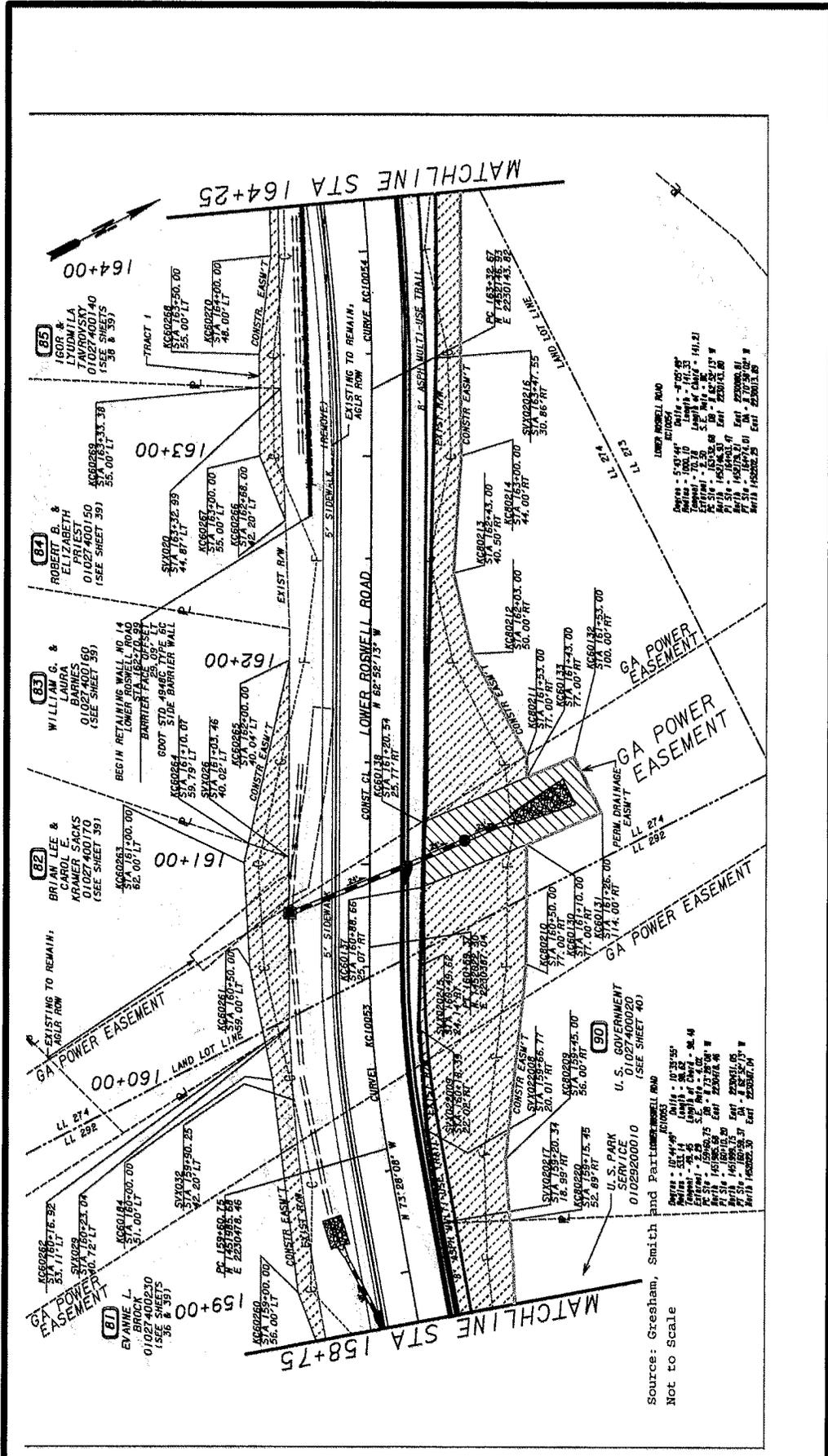
Source: Gresham, Smith and Partners
Not to Scale



- Legend**
- Construction Limits
 - Park Boundary/ Existing Right-of-Way
 - Multi-use Trail
 - Edge of Pavement

Figure 3G
Limits of Construction

Source: Gresham,
Smith and Partners
Not to Scale

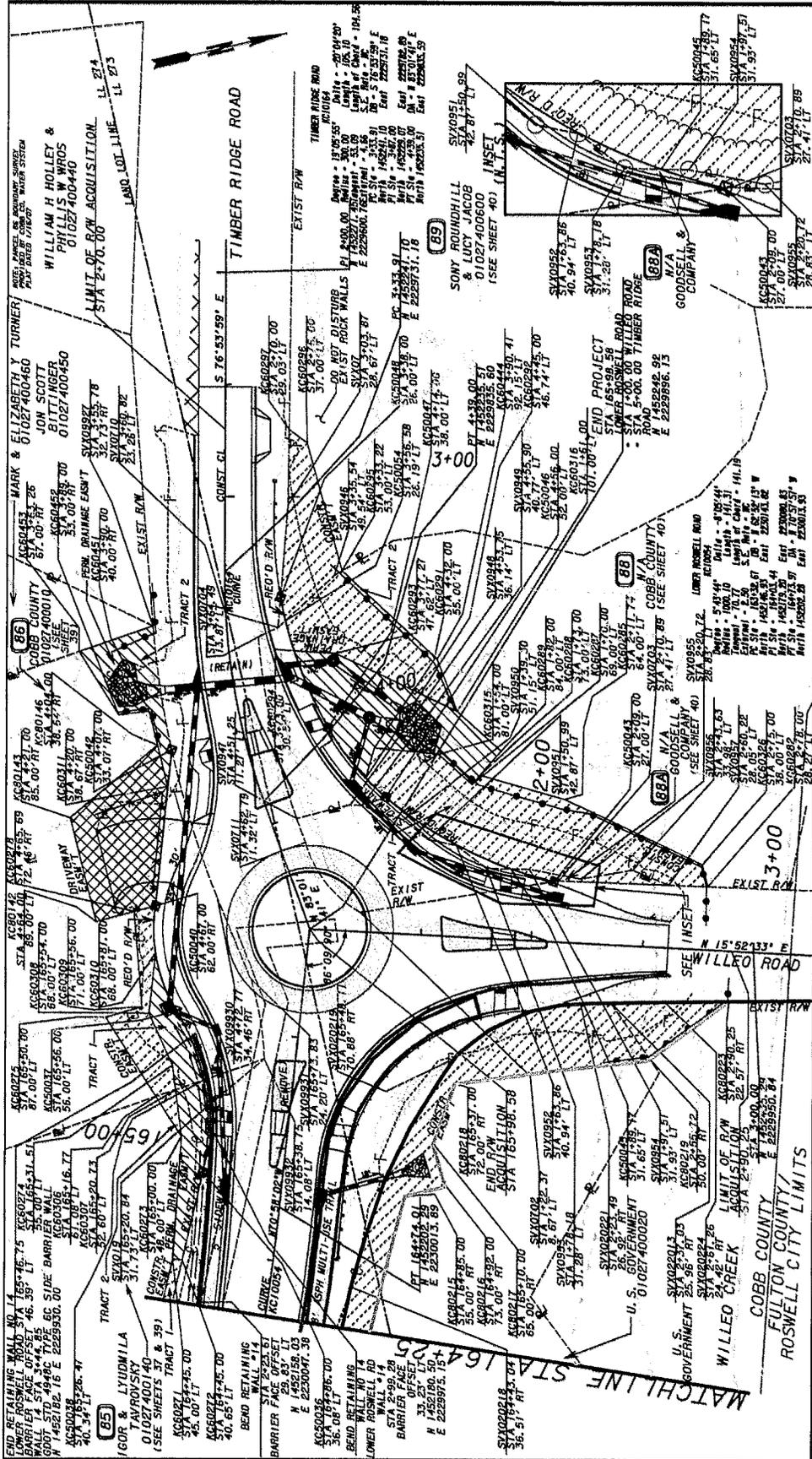


Legend

	Construction Limits
	Park Boundary/ Existing Right-of-Way
	Multi-use Trail
	Edge of Pavement

Figure 3H
Limits of Construction

Source: Gresham, Smith and Partners
Not to Scale



- Legend**
- Construction Limits
 - Park Boundary/
 - Existing Right-of-Way
 - Multi-use Trail
 - Edge of Pavement

Figure 31

Limits of Construction

Source: Gresham,
Smith and Partners

Not to Scale

***APPENDIX D–
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS FOR EO 11988
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT***

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Gold Branch

Multi-Use Trail &
Entrance Improvements

FLOODPLAINS STATEMENT OF FINDINGS



Lower Roswell Road Improvements: Multi-Use Trail and Entrance Improvements Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area – Gold Branch Unit

March 2012

Recommended:

Patricia Wissinger, Superintendent
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Date

Certified for Technical Accuracy and Servicewide Consistency:

Chief, Water Resources Division

Date

Approved:

David Vela, Southeast Regional Director

Date

1. INTRODUCTION

Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplain Management*, requires the National Park Service (NPS) and other agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of actions in floodplains. This Statement of Findings (SOF) for Floodplains has been prepared in compliance with EO 11988, and in accordance with the outline presented in the *National Park Service Procedural Manual 77-2: Floodplain Management* (NPS 2011).

1.1 Description of the Proposed Action

The Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) would undertake a federal action in issuing a Special-Use Permit to Cobb County, Georgia to construct a non-motorized recreational access route along Lower Roswell Road on park property and replace the existing Unit entrance in the park's Gold Branch Unit (see Figure 1). The purpose of the proposed project is the expansion of non-motorized public access and recreational opportunities within the jurisdiction of the CRNRA and Cobb County, Georgia to enhance visitor use and safety. Specifically, the objective of the proposed project is to provide connectivity within the greater Chattahoochee River corridor between the Cobb County trail system and a separately proposed trail for Willeo Road that would begin at the Fulton County line. This objective is consistent with authorizing legislation for the CRNRA which authorizes the park to work cooperatively with state, local, and private entities "to establish a series of linear corridors linking existing units of the recreation area and to protect other open spaces of the Chattahoochee River corridor" (U.S. Public Law 106-154 of 1999). The proposed project represents a key opportunity to advance linkage among CRNRA and multiple municipally owned landholdings in support of a regional system of continuous trails, parks and green spaces in the north Metro Atlanta area.

The proposed project would address several goals in the "Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement" (September 2009) including:

- Expand use of the CRNRA facilities to visitors,
- Increase connectivity to neighboring communities through trail linkages, and
- Increase cooperative efforts with local agencies to enhance the level of connectivity.

The preferred action alternative would construct an eight-foot wide multi-use trail on the east side of Lower Roswell Road on park property and a five-foot wide sidewalk on the west side of Lower Roswell Road on Cobb County property. The limits of the project would be from Davidson Road to the intersection with Timber Ridge Road and Willeo Road. In addition to the trail and sidewalk, four-foot bike lanes would be constructed adjacent to the roadway travel lanes. The trail and sidewalk would be separated from the traveled roadway and bike lanes by two-foot wide curb and gutter and a 1.5-foot wide grass strip. A new vehicle entrance would be constructed approximately 200 feet north of the existing location, across from Asheforde Drive. A southbound left turn lane would be placed on Lower Roswell Road, opposing the northbound Asheforde Drive left turn lane, in order to provide turning motorists refuge from through traffic. Turning radii would also be increased to 24 feet, allowing for safer turns into and out of the relocated paved driveway lined by two-foot grass shoulders. To improve the operational efficiency of the intersection of Lower Roswell Road, Timber Ridge Road, and Willeo Road a roundabout is proposed.

Approximately 0.75 mile of the trail would be constructed along Unit's boundary. Total impacts to Gold Branch Unit from construction activities and the final trail footprint would be 3.44 acres, 0.17 acre of which would be the hard surface of the trail. Construction of the multi-use trail and entrance would

require clearing of approximately 1.57 acre of woody vegetation. There are no floodplains or wetlands within the area of construction for either the multi-use trail or entrance improvements. The trail and entrance would not impact floodplains or wetlands.

Construction of the roundabout at the terminus of the proposed project would require approximately 1,540 square feet of fill material, of which 746 square feet will go into the 100-year floodplain of Willeo Creek within the Gold Branch Unit. The impact to the floodplain is necessary to construct sufficient road shoulders to install safety guardrail for motorists.

1.2 Site Description

Gold Branch Unit is located in northern Cobb County, Georgia on the Chattahoochee River. The river flows along the eastern and southern boundaries, Lower Roswell Road makes up the western boundary, and Willeo Creek delineates the northern side. Surrounding land use is residential. Gold Branch Unit consists of several miles of unpaved hiking trails. The park is heavily wooded mixed hardwood/pine forest, with minimal facilities including hiking trails, an access driveway from Lower Roswell Road, and a pervious-surface parking lot. Wetlands and floodplains areas are located on the northern side of the Unit adjacent to the proposed trail terminus and roundabout. No trails or other park facilities are in the area adjacent to the roundabout.

The multi-use trail would be constructed along the road shoulder of Lower Roswell Road. The entrance realignment would be constructed at Lower Roswell Road, and is designed to minimize impacts to the forested environment. There are no wetlands within the construction limits of either the trail or the entrance improvements. The trail and entrance would be constructed outside the limits of the floodplain of the Chattahoochee River.

Willeo Creek flows under Willeo Road, and is located north of the construction limits of the trail and roundabout. The creek flows easterly approximately 800 feet into the Chattahoochee River. Two wetlands, one on each side of Willeo Road, are located in the floodplain of Willeo Creek. Fill would be required within the floodplain of Willeo Creek and one of the wetlands for the roundabout construction to stabilize road shoulders, reduce erosion potential, and provide stability for safety the guardrail. The Chattahoochee River floodplain would not be impacted by the roundabout. Figure 2 shows the trail and roundabout construction in relationship to stream and wetland features.

Floodplains

Floodplains have numerous values, some of which include flood storage and retention, groundwater recharge, nutrient removal, and wildlife habitat. The Chattahoochee River within the CRNRA flows along the Brevard Fault Zone within the Gainesville Ridges District. This district is characterized by a series of northeast-trending, low, linear, parallel ridges separated by narrow valleys, which drives the localized surface water hydrology of the Chattahoochee River watershed.

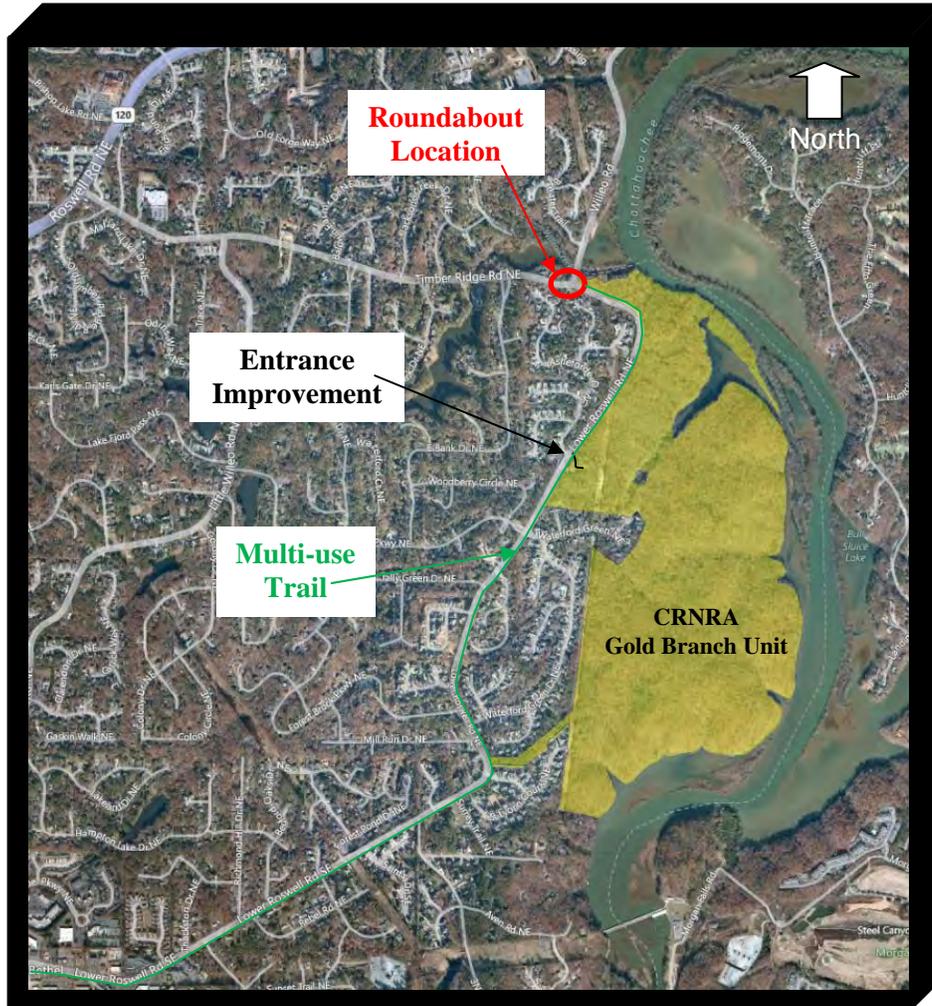


Figure 1. Gold Branch Unit Vicinity Map

The narrow floodplains along the Chattahoochee River and its tributaries are a result of the local geology. Urban sprawl has increased the expanse of impervious surfaces in the watershed, thus increasing the frequency and height of floodplain overflows. However, even with the loss of riverine system floodplain buffers, the remaining floodplain still supports the overall flood-control for the area and provides many other valuable functions.

The amount of natural vegetation cover present within a floodplain determines the degree of retention or effective function a floodplain can provide. The more vegetation that is present within the floodplain, the better the floodplain can protect the surrounding area from soil erosion, floodwater expanse, and strong water movements. The ecological value of a heavily vegetative floodplain also increases because it provides more suitable habitat for wildlife (NPS 2005). The area of the Unit associated with the floodplain of Willeo Creek is characterized by a diverse assemblage of plant species including River birch (*Betula nigra*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), blackgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and water oak (*Quercus nigra*).

The diverse assemblage of mesic-hardwood floodplain, bottomland forested wetlands, saturated wetlands, and mudflats in the immediate vicinity of the roundabout potentially support wildlife, which could attract more visitors to the Gold Branch Unit. The natural sinuosity of the river, the expanse of Bull Sluice Lake and the large mudflat areas have the potential to contain large quantities of water during flooding events, thus impeding potential flooding.

Elevation of Lower Roswell Road generally decreases as one travels from the Unit entrance north to the intersection with Timber Ridge Road and Willeo Road, as the road approaches Willeo Creek. The Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map for Cobb County, Georgia (Panel No. 13067C0132G), dated December 16, 2008, shows that the project area is within floodplain Zone AE (see Figure 3), which is an area inundated by 100-year flooding, and for which Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) have been determined.

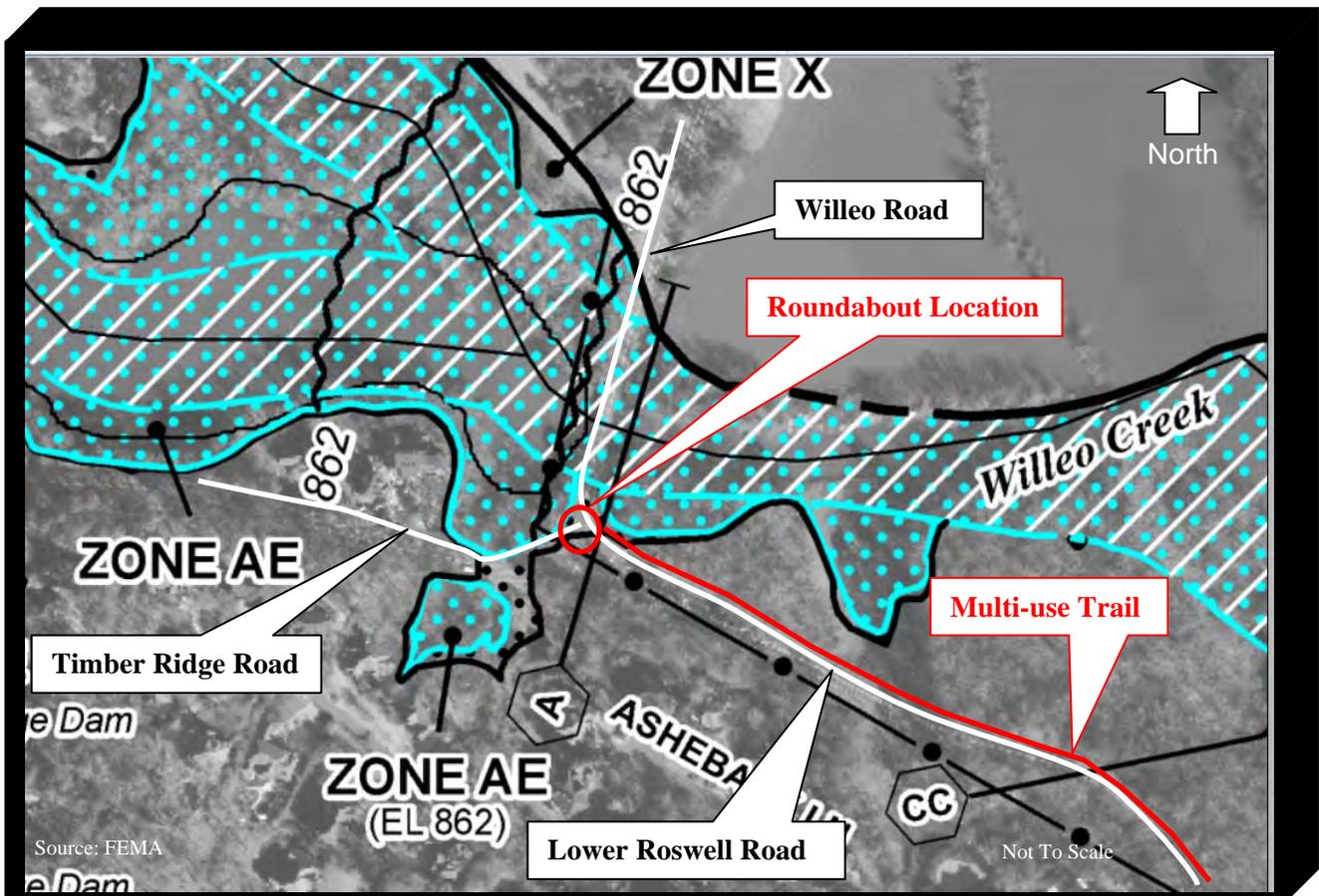


Figure 3 – FEMA Map Zone Map

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF THE FLOODPLAIN

The purpose of the proposed project is the expansion of non-motorized public access and recreational opportunities within the jurisdiction of the CRNRA and Cobb County, Georgia to enhance visitor use and safety. The project would be constructed along the previously disturbed shoulder of Lower Roswell Road, confining construction along the road shoulder and minimizing the amount of impacts to resources.

Aligning the project along Lower Roswell Road avoids fragmentation and disturbance of the Unit, while providing easier and safer access and connectivity for alternative means of transportation. The proposed route lies on upland forested land until its terminus at the intersection with Willeo and Timber Ridge Roads at the proposed roundabout site. Willeo Creek and its associated wetlands and floodplains are located at this section of the project. No wetlands exist in the upland sections of the proposed route and construction limits. As shown on Figure 2, the proposed route ends approximately 80 to 90 feet from a bridge over Willeo Creek.

The entrance improvements and new driveway would be constructed at the periphery of the Unit along Lower Roswell Road. The entrance lies in the upland mixed hardwood/pine forested area.

The proposed route follows Lower Roswell Road to the intersection with Willeo and Timber Ridge Roads where a bridge is located over Willeo Creek. This alignment provides the most practicable situation for the location of a multi-use trail as it lies mostly within the shoulder of Lower Roswell Road, following the road to a pre-existing bridge at Willeo Creek. This path minimizes environmental impacts to the Gold Branch Unit, but takes the route through the wetlands and floodplains associated with Willeo Creek. The placement of fill in the wetland and floodplain areas is unavoidable for the creation of a safe roundabout to accommodate traffic at the intersection of these three roads. Because the amount of fill placed in the wetland on the western side of Willeo Road is less than 0.01 acres and is specifically for safety measures, no formal Wetland statement of findings or wetland mitigation is required under NPS policy. The amount of fill that would be placed in the floodplain does not reduce or limit flood storage capacity in this area; therefore, no floodplain mitigation is required.

The proposed approach curvature on Lower Roswell Road would deflect the roadway further away from the Gold Branch Unit than the present alignment, avoiding impacts to the park. Impacts to the floodplain of Willeo Creek are a result of tying the roundabout into the current alignment of Willeo Road at a point before the bridge that crosses over Willeo Creek. This design would allow avoidance of bridge replacement and the associated increase in floodplain impact as compared with the current proposed design. Floodplain impact would result from placement of fill soils, and not the impervious road surface. The fill soil is required to stabilize road shoulders, reduce erosion potential, and provide stability for the safety guardrail required due to the proximity of the road to the bridge.

2.1 Investigation of Alternative Sites

Several alternatives were considered for the project. These alternatives include:

- Construction of the multi-use trail entirely within the boundary of Gold Branch Unit, adjacent to the Chattahoochee River - The CRNRA Management Plan designates the Gold Branch Unit as a “Natural Zone,” precluding off-road cycling and hardened trails. This alternative would severely compromise the stated management policy and zone designation allowances of the CRNRA.
- Construction of sidewalks on both sides of the road, and relocation of the Unit’s entrance – Sidewalks would provide less variety of opportunities for non-motorized access to the Unit.
- Constructing the multi-use trail on the west side of Lower Roswell Road, across from Gold Branch Unit - The available area to construct an eight-foot wide trail is constrained by the existing road alignment, residential development, and a large rock outcrop on the west side of Lower Roswell Road at the north end of the project. This alternative would also result in safety concerns for pedestrians accessing the Unit. Because the access trail would be across the road from the Unit, a pedestrian crossing would be required at the Unit entrance. Line-of-sight

limitations along Lower Roswell Road in this area would make it difficult for motorists to see pedestrians crossing the road.

- Improvement of the entrance at its current location, or relocating the entrance further to the south– Improving the entrance at its current location would not resolve sight distance concerns currently experienced on Lower Roswell Road. A dedicated left turn lane for southbound traffic would not be constructed, as a left turn lane into the Unit would conflict with the existing turn lane onto Asheforde Drive. Relocating the entrance further to the south would require a larger footprint for construction of the dedicated left turn lane, requiring more impacts within the Unit than locating the entrance further north.
- Installation of a traffic signal – Installation of a traffic signal would not require alteration of the intersection or any approach legs to the intersection and would allow for easier pedestrian crossing. However, the number of conflicting vehicle movements will not be reduced, the undesirable horizontal curve between Lower Roswell Road and Willeo Road would not be improved to AASHTO guidelines for the posted speed, and motorists turning from Timber Ridge Road would still have poor intersection sight distance. Therefore this alternative does not meet one of the project needs to improve operational efficiency and potentially reduce the number of crashes at the intersection.
- Construction of a tee-intersection with stop control on the stem leg– Reconfiguring Lower Roswell Road through the tee-intersection to tie into Willeo Road on a horizontal curve that complied with AASHTO guidelines for the 35 mph posted speed to improve operational efficiency and potentially reduce the number of crashes would require a major realignment of Lower Roswell Road and increased impacts to resources. Straightening the alignment of Lower Roswell Road with Timber Ridge Road would impact three residences south of the intersection, resulting in a displacement of these properties. Further, the number of conflicting vehicle movements will not be reduced at the intersection and it would be more difficult for pedestrians to cross Lower Roswell Road and Willeo Road to access the multi-use trail.
- Reconfiguring Willeo Road through the tee-intersection to tie into Lower Roswell Road on a horizontal curve that complied with AASHTO guidelines for the 35 mph posted speed would place the road within the boundary of Gold Branch Unit. It would also require a new bridge on Willeo Road over Willeo Creek, increased impacts to the floodplains, and stream impacts. As in the previous alternative, the number of conflicting vehicle movements will not be reduced at the intersection and it would be more difficult for pedestrians to cross Lower Roswell Road and Willeo Road to access the multi-use trail.
- Reconfiguring Timber Ridge Road through the tee-intersection to tie into Lower Roswell Road as the through movement with Willeo Road becoming the stop controlled stem would worsen the intersection’s efficiency as the majority of traffic through the intersection passes from Lower Roswell Road to Willeo Road (this would also apply if all three legs were stop controlled). The number of conflicting vehicle movements will still not be reduced at the intersection and it would be more difficult for pedestrians to cross Lower Roswell Road and Willeo Road to access the multi-use trail.

3. FLOOD RISKS

3.1 Nature of Flooding in the Area

Flood potential in the Chattahoochee River is influenced by several factors. These include urban and suburban stormwater runoff, large localized storm events, and hydropower releases of water from Buford Dam by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District. The area of the proposed project is downstream of Buford Dam. Hydropower releases result in water level increases of up to 8 feet above average immediately below Buford Dam. Downstream of Buford Dam, the height of water level change decreases, especially along wider sections of the Chattahoochee River. Although effects of water discharge from Buford Dam are felt throughout the entire 48-mile river stretch of the CRNRA and tributaries, the further away from the dam, the slower the water flow is. Willeo Creek at the Chattahoochee River is approximately 21 miles south-southwest of Buford Dam.

Closer to the project area, the dam at Morgan Falls is located approximately 2.2 miles downstream. Operated by the Georgia Power Company, Morgan Falls Dam is operated in a modified run-of-river mode to generate power and re-regulate peaking flows from Buford Dam.

Releases from Buford Dam coupled with heavy rain events can cause the pool behind the Morgan Falls Dam to increase, resulting in flooding upstream. This backflow may cause flooding up into tributaries like Willeo Creek.

3.2 Hydraulics of Flooding at the Site

Morgan Falls Dam should have limited impact on the floodplain at Willeo Creek. Willeo Creek is approximately 12,000 feet upstream from Morgan Falls. Impact should disappear approximately 4,700 feet upstream from Morgan Falls, based on the Cobb County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) (June 18, 2010). There is no indication from the flood profiles that Bull Sluice Lake would have any significant impact on the floodplain on Willeo Creek. The floodplain at Willeo Creek, according to flood profiles is influenced by the tailwater from the Chattahoochee River. The 100-year flood plain elevation at the bridge at Willeo Creek has an elevation of 861.8, while the elevation at the Morgan Falls Dam is 854.2, according to the current FIS.

Flows would expand at a ratio approximately 2:1 as they exit the Willeo Road bridge on the downstream (nearer the Chattahoochee River). According to the USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center – River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) Technical Manual (2008), all flows outside of the 2:1 slope ratio are considered ineffective flow areas and should therefore not impact the flood elevations in those areas. This can be better seen during high flood flows as eddies will appear in those areas as returning flow back into the main channel and flow is very slow or stagnant.

3.3 Time Required for Flooding to Occur (Amount of Warning Time Possible)

Given the distance from Buford Dam, dam release is not likely to be the primary cause of flooding for Willeo Creek. The approximate time for the river to rise at Azalea Park after release from Buford Dam is approximately 10.5 hours (CRNRA website). Azalea Park is approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the Gold Branch Unit.

The primary flood risk would be from flooding caused by storm water runoff during major rain events. The bridge on Willeo Road is high enough so that 100 year floods will not overtop the road, or close the intersection. However, flash flooding could occur and overtop the road, due to the high amount of

impervious surfaces associated with development in the area. Impervious surfaces result in rapid runoff during storm events.

3.4 Geomorphic Considerations (Erosion, Sediment Deposition, and Channel Adjustments)

During construction activities, the project route would be prone to erosion from storm events. The use of erosion control devices would be used to limit erosion during construction activities.

As stated in Section 3.1, based on flow expansion modeling in the HEC-RAS all flows outside of the 2:1 slope ratio are considered ineffective flow areas.

The stream banks on the south side of Willeo Creek would be rehabilitated with natural vegetation. The rehabilitated stream bank areas would help minimize erosion and stabilize the stream bank, reducing the potential for sediment deposition.

Placement of fill within the 100-year floodplain of Willeo Creek for construction of the roundabout would have minimal localized effects on current patterns, and the sinuosity of the stream is not expected to change.

4. MINIMIZATION

The footprint of Willeo Road between the proposed roundabout and existing bridge over Willeo Creek was minimized as much as possible. The use of 11-foot travel lanes versus the standard 12-foot width is proposed on Willeo Road to minimize the project's footprint. Further, the 8-foot multi-use trail in the northeast corner of Willeo Road and Lower Roswell Road ends immediately after roundabout's northern crosswalk. This reduces the shoulder on the east side of Willeo Road within the floodplain from 15 feet to 4.5 feet. Slopes would be at 2:1 ratio and Georgia Department of Transportation W-beam guardrail are proposed on the east side of Willeo Road between the roundabout and existing bridge to minimize impacts within the floodplain while not posing a travel hazard to motorists. The fill would be seeded with a native seed mix to minimize erosion and sedimentation from the newly created slopes.

Placement of OBF would be installed to demarcate limits of construction. No construction, staging of equipment, or other work would be allowed beyond the OBF. It would be installed by hand by driving steel rebar stakes for support. Erosion control devices would also be installed by hand, minimizing impacts to floodplain and wetlands.

The OBF and erosion control devices on the east side of Willeo Road would be installed from the road shoulder and outside the limits of the wetland to avoid impacts. On the west side of Willeo Road, a section of the OBF and erosion control would be within the wetland. Installation and removal of the OBF and erosion control by hand would minimize impacts.

5. MITIGATION

The proposed fill in the floodplain would not affect flood storage capacity. No mitigation is required.

6. COMPLIANCE

The amount of fill to be placed within the floodplain would not be within the regulatory floodway of Little Willeo Creek. Coordination with FEMA is not required for a rise/no rise determination. The

project is designed such that the fill would have no significant encroachment on this floodplain. The project would not represent a significant risk to life or property and would not have a significant impact on natural and beneficial floodplain values. The structures associated with the proposed project would meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (44 CFR Part 60).

The project is anticipated to be in compliance with the Metropolitan Rivers Protection Act (1973) (MRPA). Cobb County Water Authority is the local agency ensuring projects comply with the MRPA. Confirmation from Cobb County Water Authority is being obtained by Cobb County Department of Transportation.

7. SUMMARY

The proposed alternative to construct a multi-use trail, and entrance improvements would address several goals in the “Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement” (September 2009) including:

- Expand use of the CRNRA facilities to visitors,
- Increase connectivity to neighboring communities through trail linkages, and
- Increase cooperative efforts with local agencies to enhance the level of connectivity.

The trail terminus at the roundabout expands a non-motorized opportunity for access to the Gold Branch Unit to the larger surrounding community. Neighborhoods along Timber Ridge Road and Willeo Road would be provided a safe option to driving to the Unit. Improvements to the entrance and the intersection at Lower Roswell Road would provide a safer access for visitors. Coordination between Cobb County and the CRNRA for construction of the multi-use trail result in expanded access to Gold Branch Unit while addressing operational efficiency concerns for Cobb County at the intersection. Construction of the trail is also included as a component for Cobb Counties larger master trail plan.

The proposed trail and entrance would not impact floodplains or wetlands.

The proposed roundabout located at the terminus of the trail would require placement of approximately 746 square feet of fill within the 100-year floodplain of Willeo Creek located within the boundary of the Gold Branch Unit. The fill is necessary to stabilize road slopes, and provide sufficient shoulders for installation of safety guardrail. The proposed roundabout design would minimize impacts to other natural resources and adjacent land owners.

The quantity of fill in the floodplain downstream from the Willeo Road bridge would not contribute to hazardous conditions associated with flooding in Willeo Creek. Flooding events would most likely be associated with runoff from impervious surfaces of the surrounding area during rainfall events.

Permits with other state and federal agencies have been obtained by Cobb County for construction of the roundabout. No permitting is required for placement of the fill amount within the floodplain.

8. REFERENCES

Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplain Management*, (1977).

EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, (1977).

National Park Service (NPS) Procedural Manual 77-2 *Floodplain Management*, (2011).

NPS Director's Order 77-1 *Wetland Protection*, (2002).

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NPS CRNRA *Environmental Assessment for the Upgrading and Construction of River Access Facilities*, (2005).

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map, Cobb County, Georgia, Panel 132 of 252, Map Number 13067CO132G, (2008).

United States Army Corps of Engineers, *Wetlands Delineation Manual*, (1987).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe, (1979).

USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center – River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) Technical Manual (2008)

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program, (44 CFR Part 60), *Criteria for Land Management Use*, (1979)

Cobb County Flood Insurance Study (2010)

***APPENDIX E–
ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT LANDSCAPE
PLAN & PLANT LIST***

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Gold Branch

Multi-Use Trail &
Entrance Improvements

List of Minimum Plantings for Gold Branch Entrance Restoration

QUANTITY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
LARGE TREES		
1	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
2	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Poplar
1	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
2	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	So. Red Oak
SMALL/UNDERSTORY TREES		
3	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry
6	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud
3	<i>Chionanthus virginica</i>	Fringe Tree
3	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood
2	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Dogwood
SHRUBS		
3	<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	Flame Azalea
3	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	American Beautyberry
3	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	Strawberry Bush
3	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Sweet shrub
3	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye
5	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea
BOG PLANTS		
25	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass
25	<i>Juncus effuses</i>	Soft Rush
25	<i>Lobelia</i>	Blue Lobelia
25	<i>Aster nova</i>	Aster
25	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Blackeyed Susan