

Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Trudy McCarthy [TMcCarthy@SpaceCoastEDC.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:21 PM

To: Schaffer, Jeffrey

Cc: Howard.Tipton@brevardcounty.us

Subject: Your request for environmental research information

Dear Mr. Schaffer,

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 26, 2012 regarding a request for information on environmental issues associated with a proposed site for a National Cemetery in Brevard County, Florida.

We have reviewed your request and have no submission at this time, as the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast's research focuses on the manufacturing and high tech industry as it relates to job creation and business development. The organizations we would refer to you are currently listed on your attachment of agencies and organizations to whom your request has been mailed.

Thank you for your interest in Brevard County, Florida.

Regards,

Trudy McCarthy

Trudy McCarthy
Senior Director, Operations
*Economic Development Commission
of Florida's Space Coast*

321-638-2000

www.SpaceCoastEDC.org

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Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Blakely, Mary B [Mary.Blakely@brevardcounty.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:01 AM
To: Schaffer, Jeffrey
Subject: FW: Records Request
Attachments: RE Dicerandra @ Mims.msg

Hi Jeffrey

Please see the response to your records request below. I will forward the responses to you as I receive them.

Thanks

Mary Blakely

Natural Resources Management Office
321-633-2016X52432

From: Berry, Raleigh
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2012 9:00 AM
To: Blakely, Mary B
Cc: Gosselin, Sue; Elmore, Amanda T; Mcgee, Darcie A; Berry, Raleigh
Subject: RE: Records Request

Mary,

Attached is a short e-mail exchange that documents a rare plant sighting reported to this office in 2009. The plant in question, *Dicerandra thincicola*, is endemic to Brevard County, and is listed by the State of Florida as "Engandered." To my knowledge, it is not Federally-listed.

The sighting was approximately 2.5 miles south of proposed National Cemetery construction site. Although aeriels indicate that most—if not all—of the proposed National Cemetery site has been previously altered (presumably for agricultural use) agencies concerned with the proposed project may wish to remain mindful of this species while assessing the site.

Raleigh T. Berry III.
~ Environmental Land Manager ~
Natural Resources Management Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, A-219 • Viera, FL 32940

Phone: (321) 633-2016 ext 52423
Fax: (321) 633-2029
Cell: (321) 544-7383
E-mail: raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us

The comments and opinions expressed herein are those of the author of this message and may not reflect the policies of the Brevard County Board of Commissioners.

Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera Information: (321) 637-5521

4/24/2012

Website: <http://www.grissomwetlands.org>

From: Blakely, Mary B
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:42 PM
To: NATRES_Staff
Subject: Records Request

Please send me any information that this department may have on the attached request.
Thanks
Mary

Under Florida Law, email addresses are Public Records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to public record requests, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Suzanne Kennedy [sk321@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 11:24 AM
To: Berry, Raleigh
Cc: Coles, Deborah S
Subject: RE: Dicerandra @ Mims
Categories: 6 - Incoming

Thank you Raleigh,

I'll put this on my list to contact her this week. I need to visit the Titusville wellfield next week to check on D. thinicola seed plots so if she needs an inspection, I could do that in the same tri.

It is important to preserve the genetics in the northern extent of this extremely narrow endemic.

The one action item you may do is inform the new owners of the instant landscaping credits and preservation credits they would obtain by saving square areas of the scrub habitat containing the Dicerandra thinicola. It is in the landscape, land clearing and tree protection ordinance. Saving the area may count toward canopy cover also. Even if devoid of pines or oaks, ecologically, cover is the highest plant stratum (like we learned in the FDEP wetlands class) and if the D. thinicola and a mixture of grasses form a canopy, depending upon NRMO's interpretation, it could also count toward their canopy credits.

Suzanne Kennedy
 Ecological Scientist
 ISA Certified Arborist, FL-5511
 President
 Floravista, Inc.
 Office: 321.745.2468
 Cell: 321.427.6649
www.floravista.net

From: Berry, Raleigh [mailto:raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 7:59 AM
To: Suzanne Kennedy
Cc: Coles, Deborah S
Subject: RE: Dicerandra @ Mims

Suzanne,

Recent development: Dianne Allen (the same person who contacted me last year) has recently learned that the new property owners plan to "plant blueberries" on the site and will soon be removing whatever grasses and shrubs are present.

Debbie and I discussed this and since there's nothing that we can do as a Department, that you might—as the go-to authority on the subject—be interested and able to preserve the genetics.

So after clearing it with Dianne, here's her e-mail address: RSTLS@aol.com and phone: 321-890-4409. She is eager to provide introductions and help in any way she can.

Thanks.

Raleigh T. Berry III.
Environmental Land Manager
Natural Resources Management Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, A-219
Viera, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 633-2016 ext 52423
Fax: (321) 633-2029
Cell: (321) 544-7383
raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us

Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera Information: (321) 637-5521
Website: http://www.brevardcounty.us/environmental_management/VieraWetlands-Home.cfm

The comments and opinions expressed herein are those of the author of this message and may not reflect the policies of the Brevard County Board of Commissioners.

From: Suzanne Kennedy [mailto:sk321@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 12:04 PM
To: Berry, Raleigh
Subject: RE: Dicerandra @ Mims

Hi Raleigh:

That is encouraging news of a citizen interested in this species. I am glad you are following up on it.

Yes, the final report in NRMO on the *Dicerandra thinicola* survey should include all properties checked and the properties and owners (at the time) who had given written permission for our subcontractor (the Institute for Regional Conservation) to access the private property. The report should also include a table of properties found to have populations of the species and the approximate number of plants.

It would be good to voucher the plant at the location with permission and a DPI permit. If construction is to occur on the property, the owner should be informed of how s/he can receive extra landscaping preservation credits under the ordinance for preserving the endangered plants. Alternatively, if the plants are in the way of the proposed construction, with permission, an *ex situ* collection could be made with great caution following established methods by the Center for Plant Conservation. Bok Tower Historic Garden had collected wellfield cuttings several years ago and had success rooting them in their greenhouse but hurricanes in 2004 destroyed their greenhouse and the collection.

Another alternative is to harvest the seeds from the population during Nov-Jan and plant in a perimeter area of the private lot where the progeny can establish a population of the same genetics. We have to be careful of genetic pollution and alteration of natural selection that could occur from intermingling *D. thinicola* plants from far away with others and especially with their congeners in other counties. We see many insect visitors from Bombus bees to gulf frittalaries but do not know for sure if they are visitors of actually pollinators. Pollen dispersal distance, therefore, is still unknown, to my knowledge, unless someone has had success in pollination studies (FIT students were doing an experiment at one time but I think I was informed that the results were inconclusive). We do know that seed dispersal is very limited. Seeds disperse beneath the parent plant. Secondary seed dispersal appears to occur down hill from rain or small-scale disturbances to carry seeds a meter or so from the

parent plant.

Suzanne Kennedy
Ecologist
Floravista, Inc.
Office: 321.745.2468
www.floravista.net

From: Berry, Raleigh [mailto:raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 11:26 AM
To: Suzanne Kennedy
Subject: FW: Dicerandra @ Mims

Follow-up: I wasn't aware Sue (Gosselin) had your folders on this. All the details of the survey and properties in Mims are there.



Raleigh T. Berry III.
Environmental Land Manager
Natural Resources Management Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, A-219
Viera, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 633-2016 ext 52423
Fax: (321) 633-2029
Cell: (321) 544-7383
raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us

Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera Information: (321) 637-5521
Website: http://www.brevardcounty.us/environmental_management/VieraWetlands-Home.cfm

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From: Berry, Raleigh
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 9:25 AM
To: 'Suzanne Kennedy'
Cc: Gosselin, Sue; Coles, Deborah S
Subject: Dicerandra @ Mims

Suzanne,

I've been contacted by someone who rents from the Dunns on Orlando Avenue in Mims. She is concerned for the fate of some Titusville Mint on a property that is up for sale.

She says that in 2003 ("before the hurricanes"), she discovered some plants that her landlady ("Mrs. Dunn") suspected of being *Dicerandra thiniicola*; and that "a university" came out, verified their identity, and surveyed the plants.

Does any of this sound familiar to you?



Raleigh T. Berry III.
Environmental Land Manager
Natural Resources Management Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, A-219
Viera, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 633-2016 ext 52423
Fax: (321) 633-2029
Cell: (321) 544-7383
raleigh.berry@brevardcounty.us

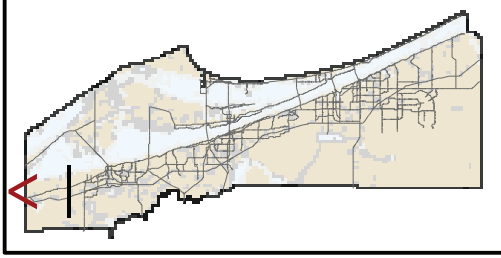
Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera Information: (321) 637-5521
Website: http://www.brevardcounty.us/environmental_management/VieraWetlands-Home.cfm

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Brevard County Adopted Future Land Use

SITE LOCATION:
T20G R34 S37

February 17, 2012



1 inch = 1,500 feet

This Map was compiled from recorded documents and does not reflect an actual survey. The Brevard County Board of County Commission does not assume responsibility for errors or omissions contained hereon.

Legend

Parcels Section Line

Subject Property

COMMERCIAL

Community Commercial

Neighborhood Commercial

RESIDENTIAL

Agricultural

Residential 1:2.5

Residential 1

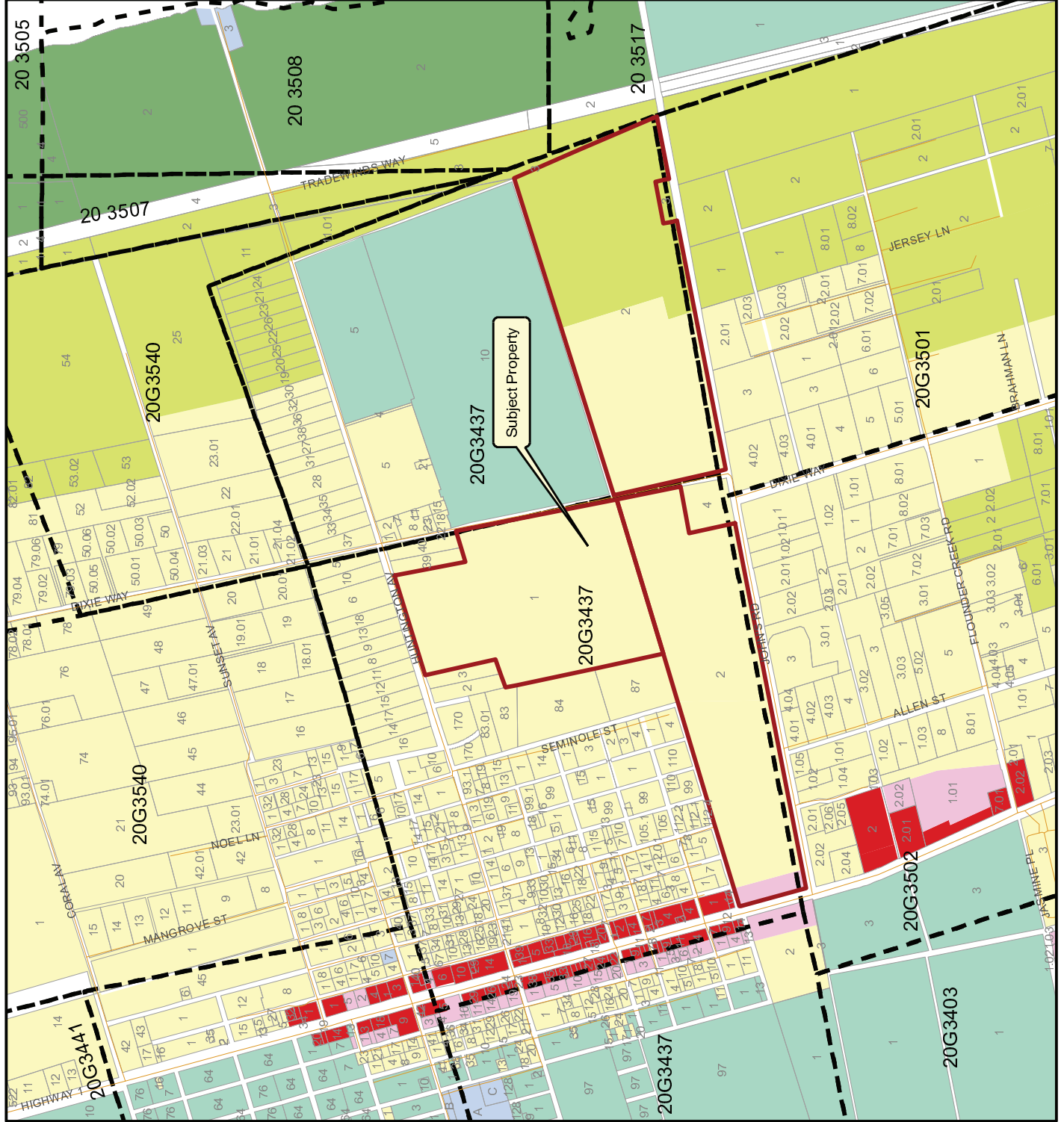
Recreation

Public Conservation

Planning & Zoning Office GIS

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

321-633-2069



Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Perry, Lindsay [Lindsay.Perry@brevardcounty.us]

Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:18 PM

To: Schaffer, Jeffrey

Subject: Natinal Cemetery, Public Records Request

Hi Jeffrey,

I am responding on behalf of the Brevard County Parks & Recreation Department to the Public Records Request #1942 that you made back in February. You requested any input from our department on the impacts that the proposed National Cemetery (southeast of Scottsmoor) would have on our Department. At this time, we respond by saying that the proposed property has no direct impact on any of our Parks or our surrounding Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL Program).

I apologize for the delay in responding. Let me know if you need any further info.

Thank you,

Lindsay Connor Perry
Admin. Asst. to Dept. Director
Parks & Recreation Dept.
321-633-2046 x52517

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Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Blakely, Mary B [Mary.Blakely@brevardcounty.us]

Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 9:04 AM

To: Schaffer, Jeffrey

Subject: FW: Records Request

Hi Jeffrey

Here is another response. If you need to see the studies you can call me to make an appointment.

Thanks

Mary Blakely

Natural Resources Management Office

321-633-2016X52432

From: Jones, Greg

Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 8:23 AM

To: Blakely, Mary B

Cc: Barker, Virginia H

Subject: RE: Records Request

This program completed a study of this area which suggested several water quality projects. These projects were completed in the late 90's. The study is available.

From: Blakely, Mary B

Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:42 PM

To: NATRES_Staff

Subject: Records Request

Please send me any information that this department may have on the attached request.

Thanks

Mary

Under Florida Law, email addresses are Public Records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to public record requests, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

BREVARD County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Utility Services Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way • Suite A213 • Viera, FL 32940-6602

Telephone: (321) 633-2091
Fax: (321) 633-2095

February 8, 2012

Mr. Jeffery Schaffer

RE: Public Records Request #1942

(Approximately 318-acre Site East of Hwy 1, North of Johns Rd. East and W of Dixie Way, South of Hunnington Ave, & West of the Florida E. Coast Railroad. Southeast of Scottsmoor. Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers; Federally or State listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one mile radius around the proposed site; Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues; Natural Resource Issues; Soils and geologic data, including lists of hydric soils; Prime and unique farmland (natural Resources Services (NRCS only) Traffic noise, or socioenomic concerns, Air Quality Concerns, and additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced site.)

In reference to the above public records request, the Brevard County Utility Services Department has no issues or comments pertaining to the subject property. We have no utilities or service in this area nor do we anticipate Brevard County providing water or sewer service to this area in the foreseeable future.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 321-633-2091.

Sincerely,

Ron Voll
Interim Director

RV:rl

Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Fowler, Richard [Richard.Fowler@dot.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 2:30 PM
To: 'jschaffer@weaverboos.com'
Cc: Stanger, Brian; Wynn, Jennifer; Fowler, Patricia
Subject: RE: Department of Veterans Affairs Proposed National Cemetery in Brevard County
Attachments: VA Resources Narrative.docx

Mr. Schaffer,

Per your request, please see the attached Word document narrative of resource issues in the vicinity of the proposed VA cemetery. I have also created a PowerPoint of exhibits of those resources but, unfortunately, the size of the PowerPoint is too large to attach to this e-mail. I have put these exhibits on our ftp site and it is labeled "VA Resource Exhibits". There is currently some technical problem with our file transfer appliance. I will continue to try to make these exhibits available to you. You should receive an auto-generated e-mail that contains directions and passwords to access this site once the system is back up.

From: Wynn, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 4:21 PM
To: 'jschaffer@weaverboos.com'
Cc: Stanger, Brian
Subject: Department of Veterans Affairs Proposed National Cemetery in Brevard County

The District Five Office of the Florida Department of Transportation just received your correspondence today regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs Proposed National Cemetery in Brevard County, and you requested information back to you by February 3. By copy of this email, I'm asking that Brian Stanger, our Project Development & Environmental office manager, have a staff member see how we can assist as soon as possible. Thanks.

Jennifer Wynn

Executive Assistant
Office of the District Five Secretary
719 S. Woodland Blvd.; DeLand, FL 32720
386-943-5475, Fax 386-740-2675

Proposed Veteran's Administration National Cemetery

Scottsmoor, FL.

The Veteran's Administration has asked the Department to review and provide comments on a proposed new National Cemetery to be located in the community of Scottsmoor, Florida. Scottsmoor is located on US 1 in northern Brevard County between the communities of Mims and Oak Hill.

US 1 in this location is a four lane divided rural facility and is not part of the Florida Intrastate Highway System nor is it part of Florida's Strategic Intrastate System. The Federal classification for this segment of US 1 is Rural Principle Arterial – Other. The FDOT Level of Service for this segment is B which would equate to 26,300 vehicles per day. The year 2010 traffic counts for this segment is 2,700 AADT. This segment of US 1 is operating at a LOS B at only 10.27% of its capacity. Traffic congestion is not an issue on this segment of US 1.

We have used the Environmental Screening Tool (EST) which is a GIS based application developed for implementing Florida's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process to investigate resources in the vicinity of the proposed cemetery. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation contains screen shots from the EST for various resources. Below is a brief summary of some of the more pertinent issues.

FUTURE LAND USE

Based on the GIS analysis of FDOT District 5 future land use at the ¼ mile buffer distance the vast majority of the land use is Very Low Residential with 900.6 acres which comprises 82.79% of the total land area. The remaining land uses in descending order are: Rural Residential 8.99%, Agricultural 5.42%, Commercial 1.74% and Low Density Residential 1.05%.

The proposed site is currently agricultural zoned land that is improved pasture and is intended to remain agricultural under the Future Land Use. Within a one mile buffer area the top five agricultural land uses as a percent of total area is: improved pastures (planted forage crops) 11.27%, citrus groves 9.06%, field crops 1.79%, sod farms 1.34% and horse farms at 0.9%.

PRIME FARMLANDS

At the one mile buffer distance Prime Farmland soils account for 57.1% of the total area. The project site does consist of Soils of Unique Importance. These soils are: Bradenton, Myakka Sand, Wabasso Sand, Copeland, Tavares fine sand and Rivera. However, as noted above, these soils currently support planted forage crops within the improved pastures. In addition to the soils of unique importance, the site also contains Anclote and Pompano soils. Note that Anclote, Pompano, Rivera and Copeland complex are considered hydric soils.

ARCAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL

The location of the project site has been included in an archaeological assessment of select areas within Brevard County. Based on the GIS analysis there is one potentially historic structure located in excess of ¼ mile away from the project site. This is the remnants of a homestead from the Florida boom times of 1921-1929. This site has been determined to not be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

SECTION 4(F) POTENTIAL

The project site is located west of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge but would not have any direct impacts to this Refuge. However, there is an “out parcel” of the MINWR that is immediately adjacent to the project site on the adjoining parcel. West of the project site is the Scottsmoor Flatwoods Sanctuary.

LISTED SPECIES

There was an earlier report of an observed protected Florida Scrub jay on the project site in 1981 with no observance of listed species on the project parcels since that date. There are numerous Bald Eagle nests in the greater vicinity but the project site is outside of all of their protection zones. There are no known listed species inhabiting the project site. However, the project site does fall within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ Consultation Areas for: Florida Scrub jay, Piping plover and Crested caracara. The project site is located just outside of the Snail kite Consultation area. However, for projects in Brevard County the USF&WS generally requires consultation for the above and for these additional species: Red cockaded woodpecker and the Wood stork. The project site is not within the Core Foraging Area of any Wood stork nesting colonies.

WETLANDS

Despite the presence of hydric soils within the project site, the National Wetland Inventory maps only indicate two small excavated ponds (PUBHx) as wetlands within the project site. The state’s St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) also has jurisdiction over wetlands in Florida and they classify wetlands in accordance with the Florida Land Use Cover and Classification System (FLUCCS). The SJRWMD data indicates 3 finger like areas classified as Mixed Scrub-Shrub Wetlands (FLUCCS code 6460). These areas appear to be drainage features.

FLOODPLAINS

The very eastern end of the parcel encroaches into the 100 year floodplain according to FEMA data.

CONTAMINATION

There are no known major contamination issues with the project site. The adjacent community of Scottsmoor has the standard septic tanks, underground storage tanks and a couple of locations with petroleum contamination monitoring. There is one Treater, Storer and Disposer of Hazardous Waste within ¼ mile of the project site.

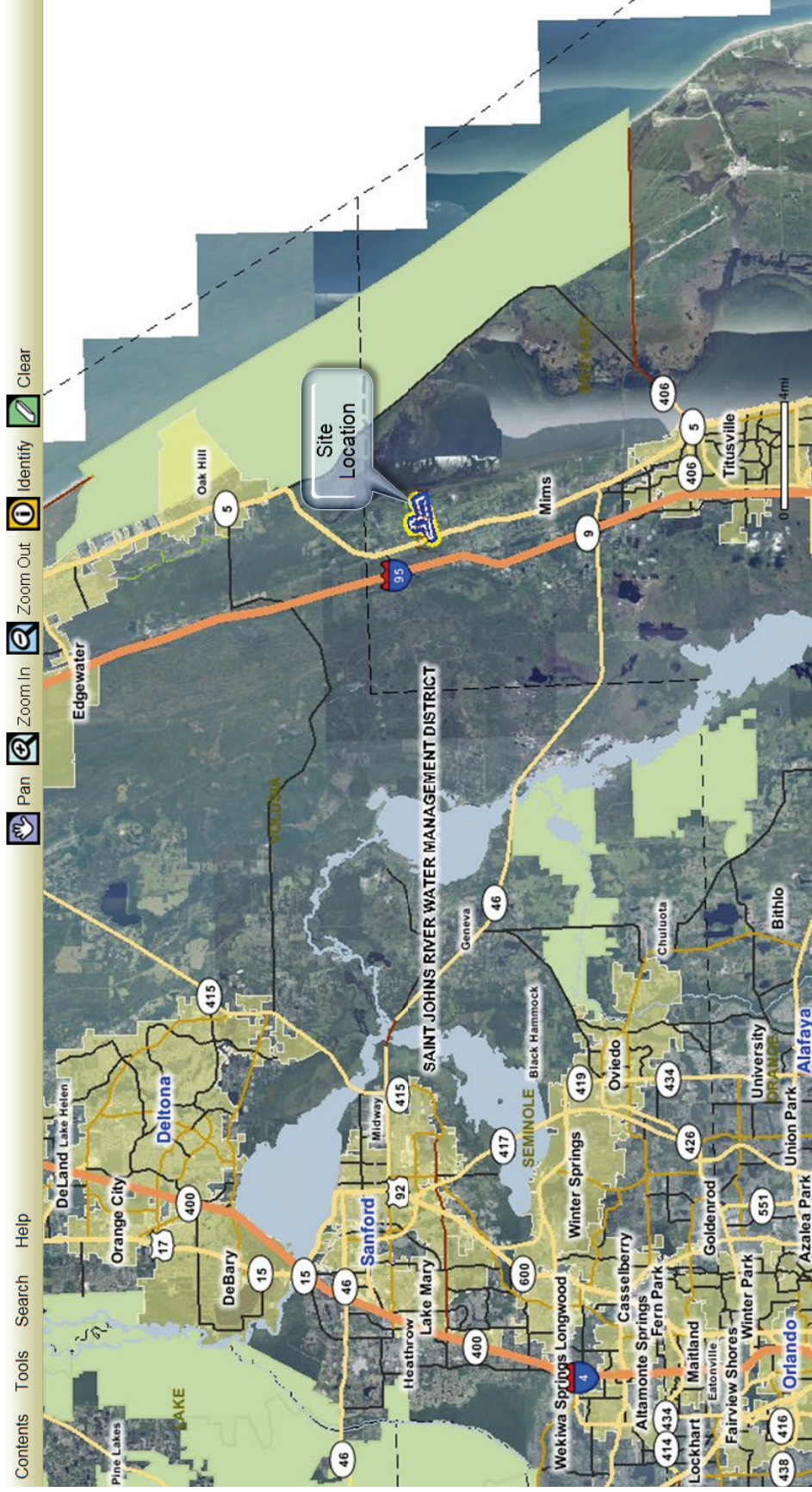
SOCIAL / COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Located within one mile of the project site is 1 school, 2 parks, 3 churches, 1 fire station, 1 group care facility, 2 solid waste facilities and 1 wastewater facility.

ECONOMICS / DEMOGRAPHICS

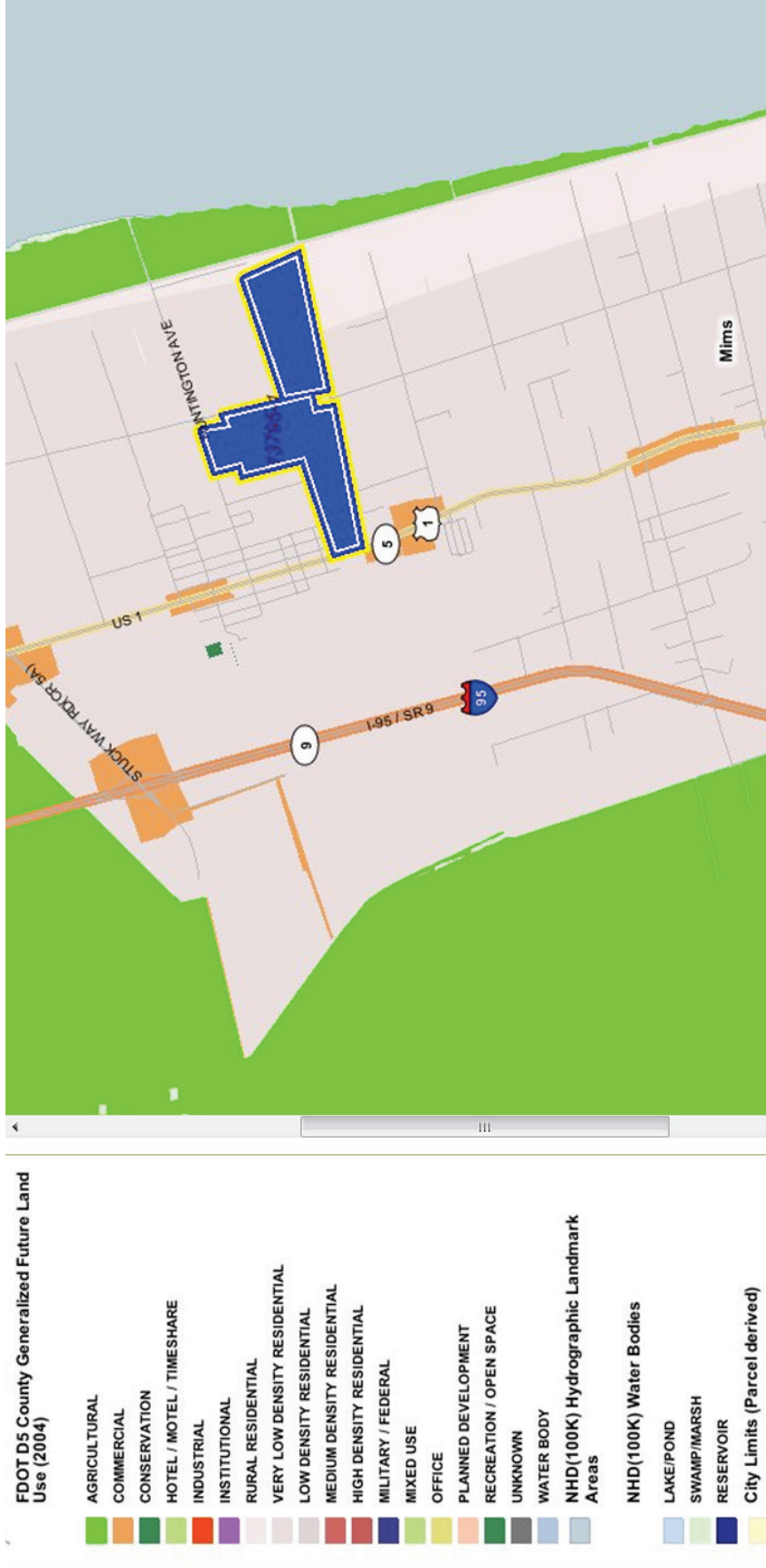
Within one mile of the project site there are four 2010 Census Block Groups. Within those Block Groups the minority populations are 4.0%, 4.5%, 5.7% and 8.1%. According to the 2010 American Community Survey Block Group Data there are 35 persons within the one mile buffer area that do not speak English well. Within the four Block Groups of the one mile buffer the average of the median family income for the four Block Groups is \$64,703. However, within those Block Groups there were 218 households below the poverty level within the past twelve months before the 2010 survey.

Project Location

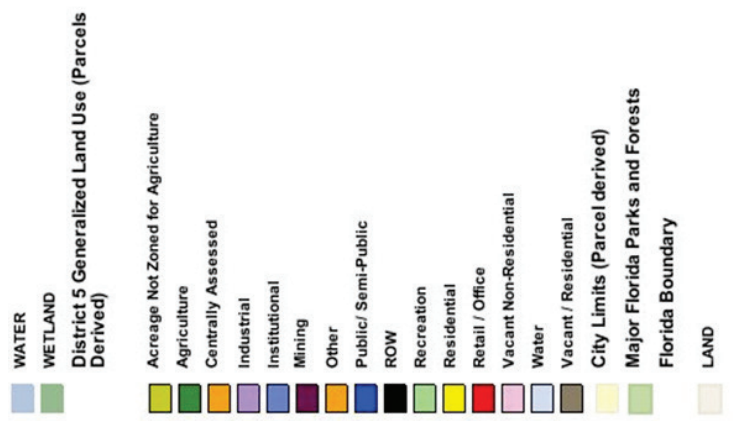


Generalized Future Land Use

Majority of Area is Very Low Density Residential

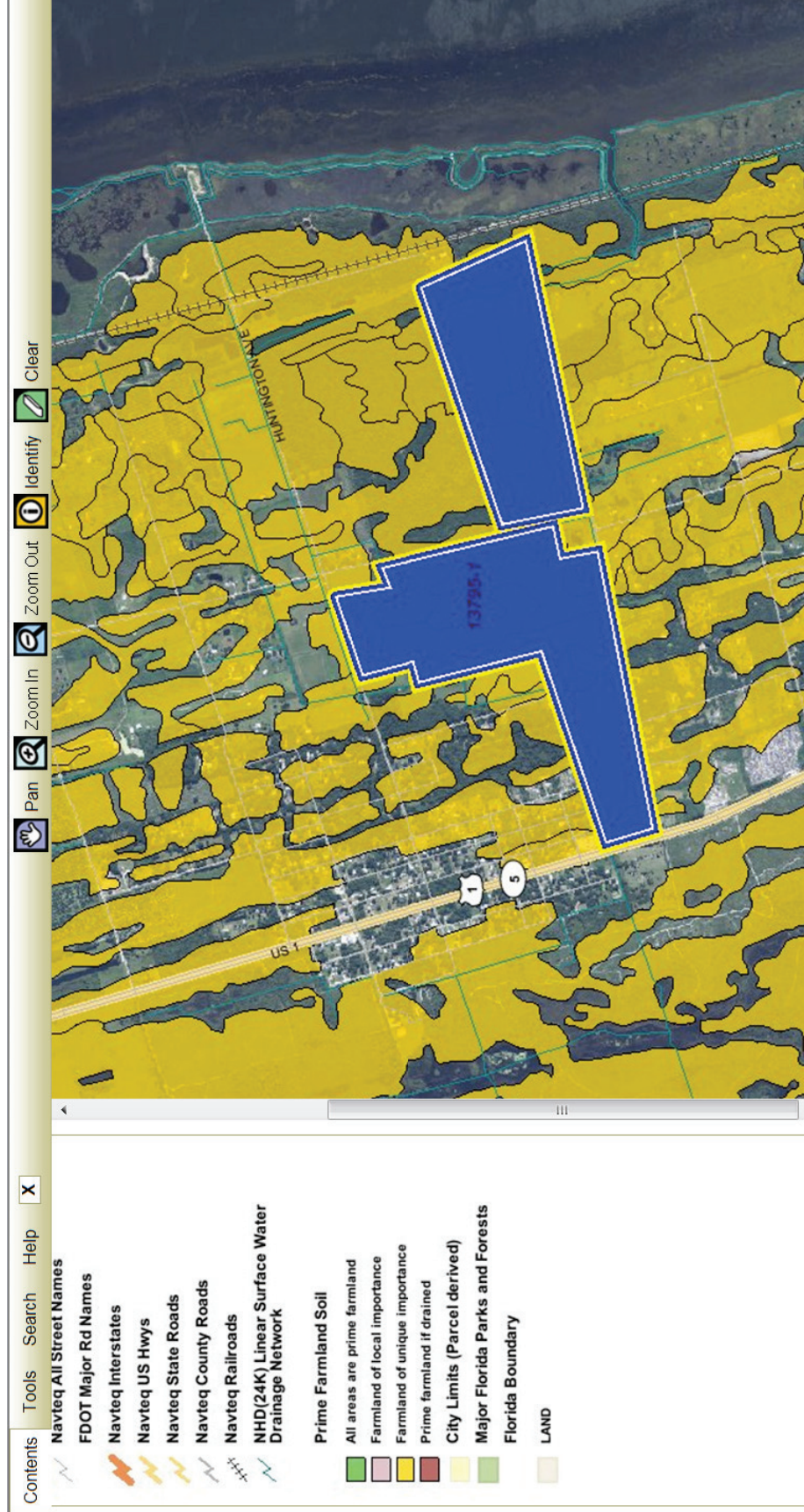


Existing Parcel is Agricultural



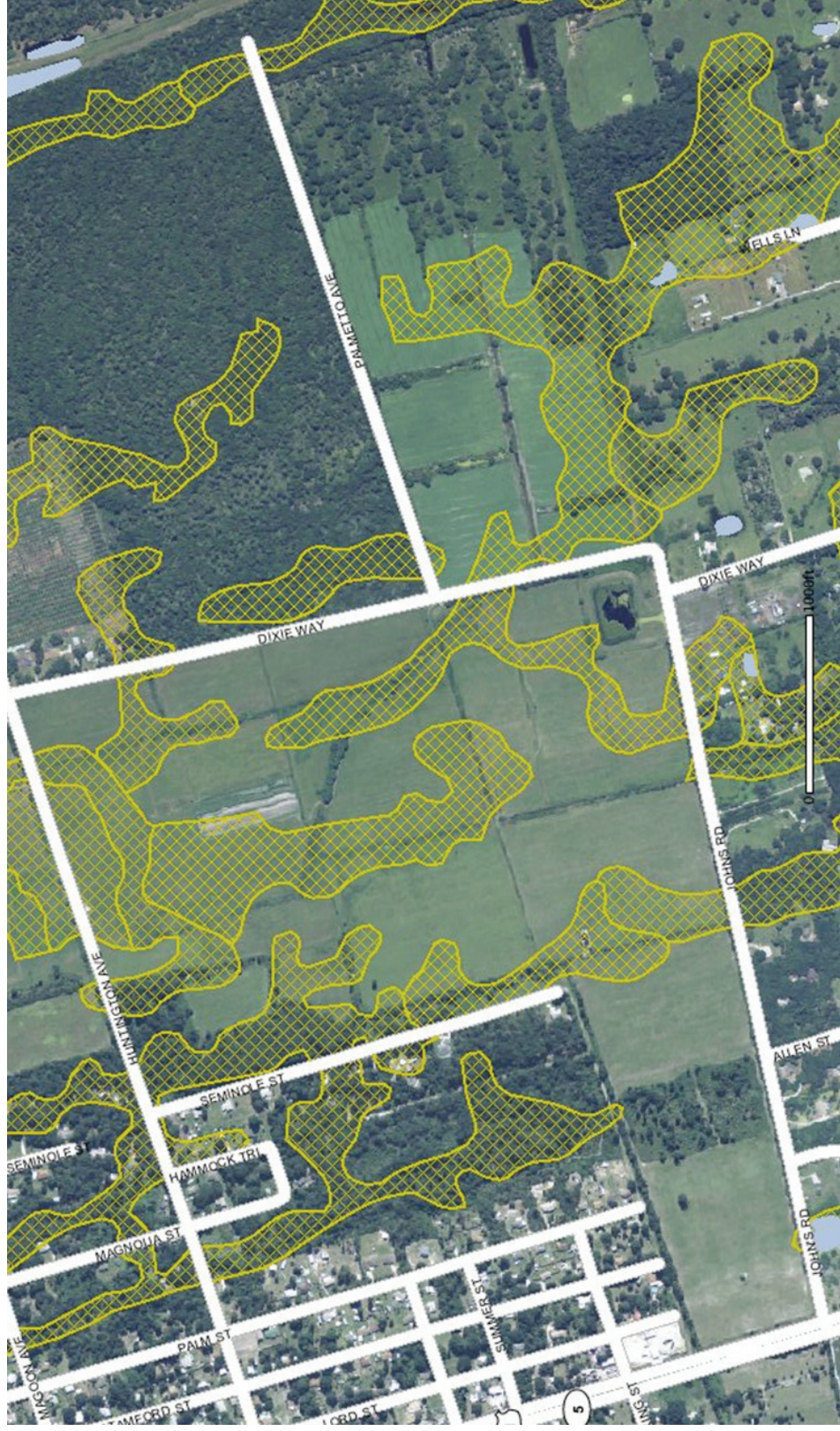
Prime Farmland Soils

Soils of Unique Importance

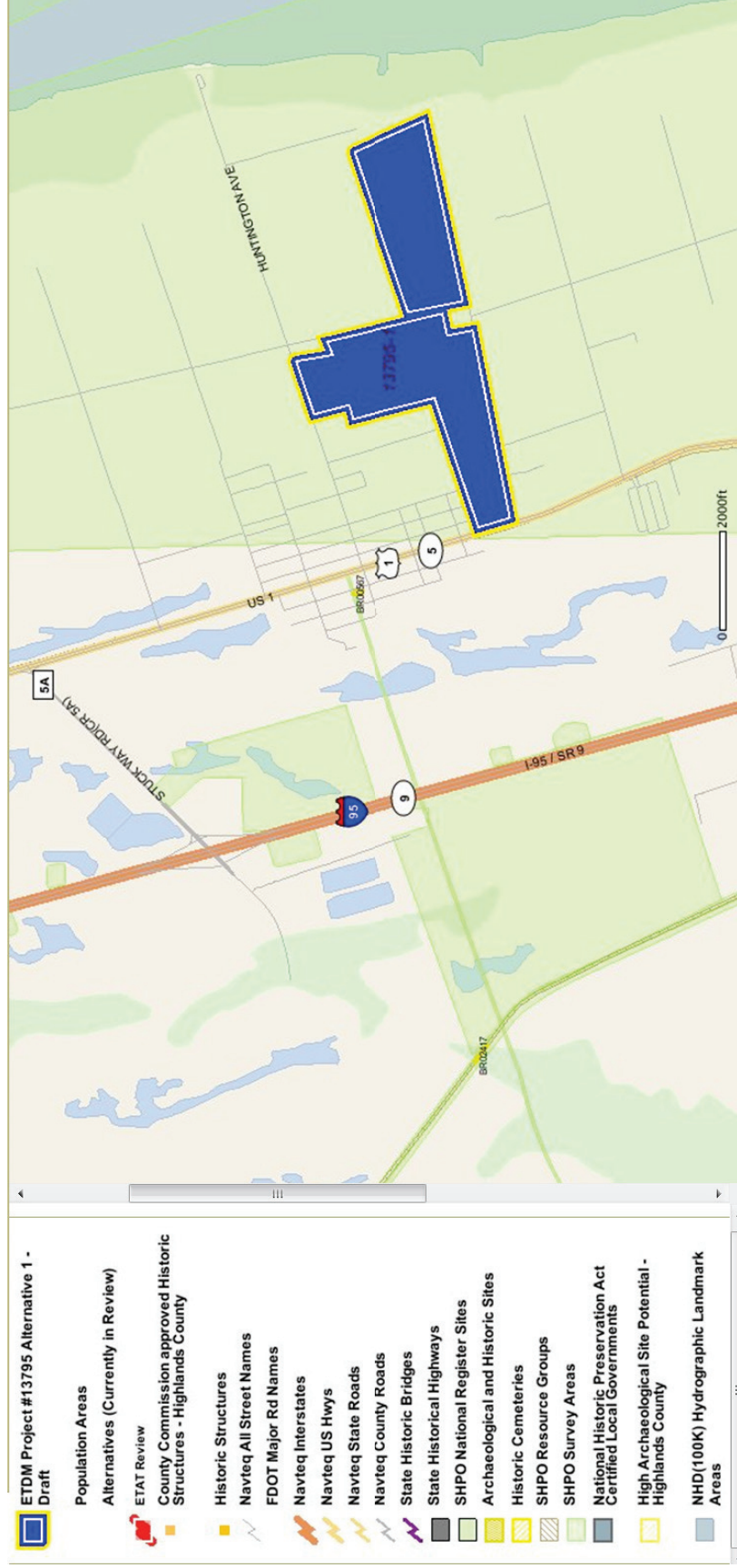


Hydric Soils

Copeland, Rivera, Ancloste & Pompano



Historic Resources



Section 4(f) Potential

No Historic Structures or Archaeological Sites within Project Area



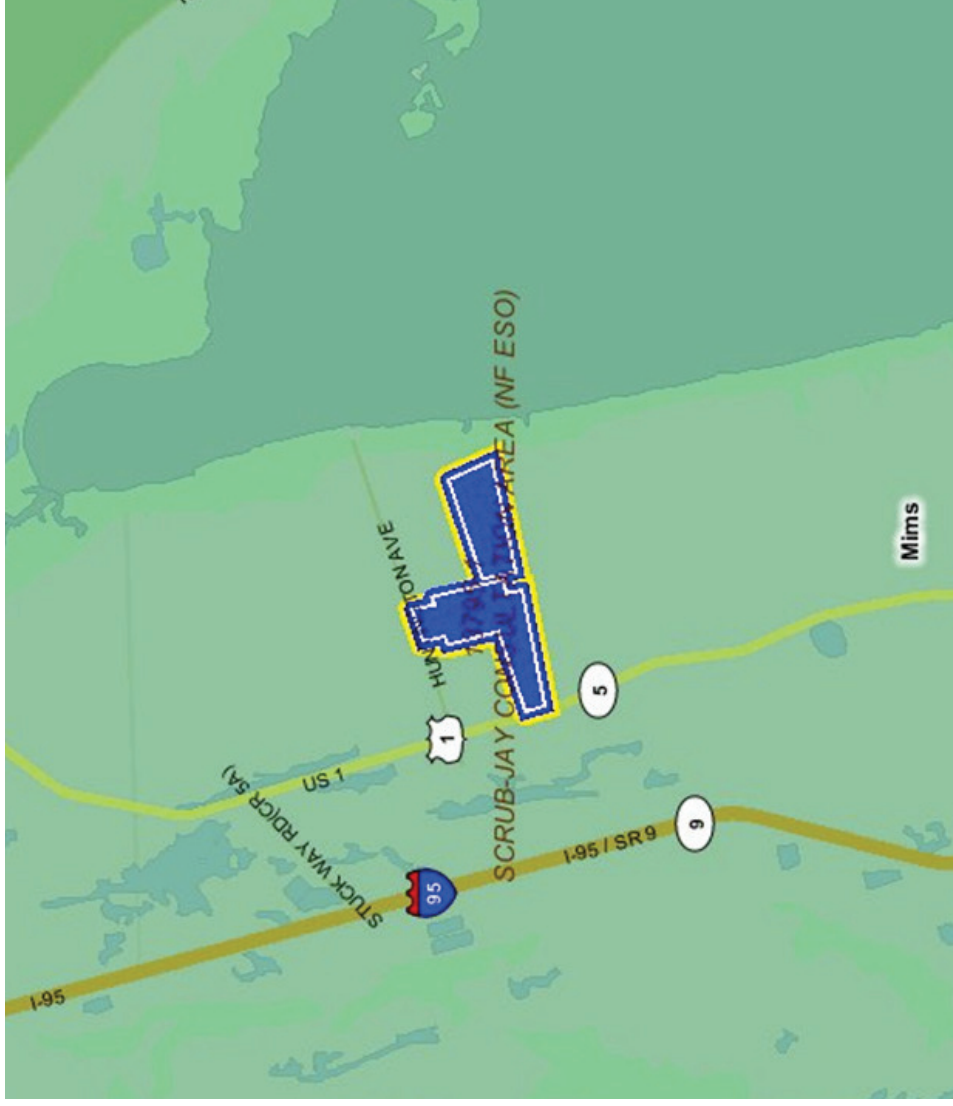
Species Occurrence

Eagle Nests beyond Protection Zone



USF&WS Consultation Area

Project is within Scrub-jay Consultation Area



USF&WS Consultation Area

Project is within Piping Plover Consultation Area



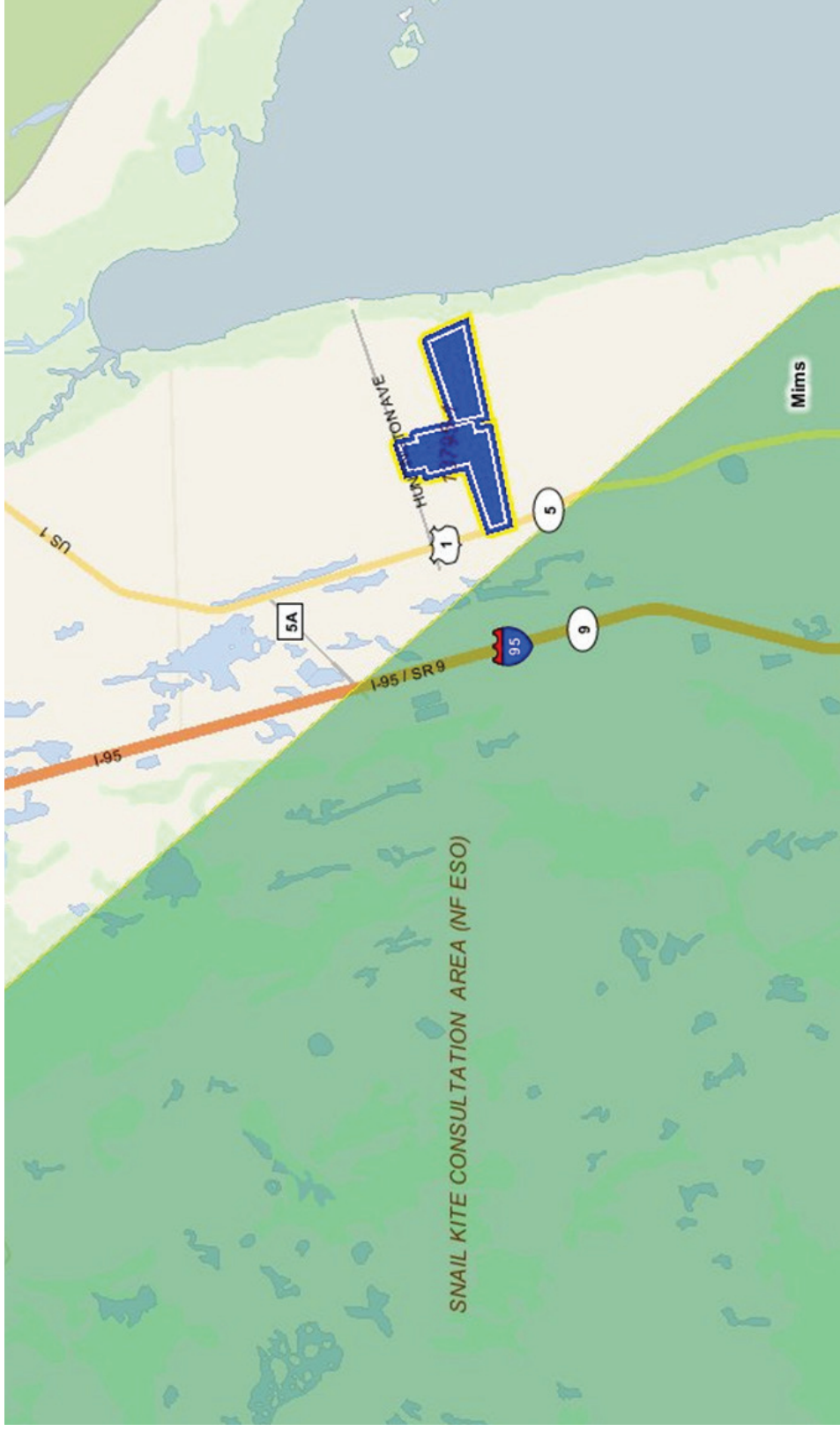
USF&WS Consultation Area

Project is within Crested Caracara Consultation Area



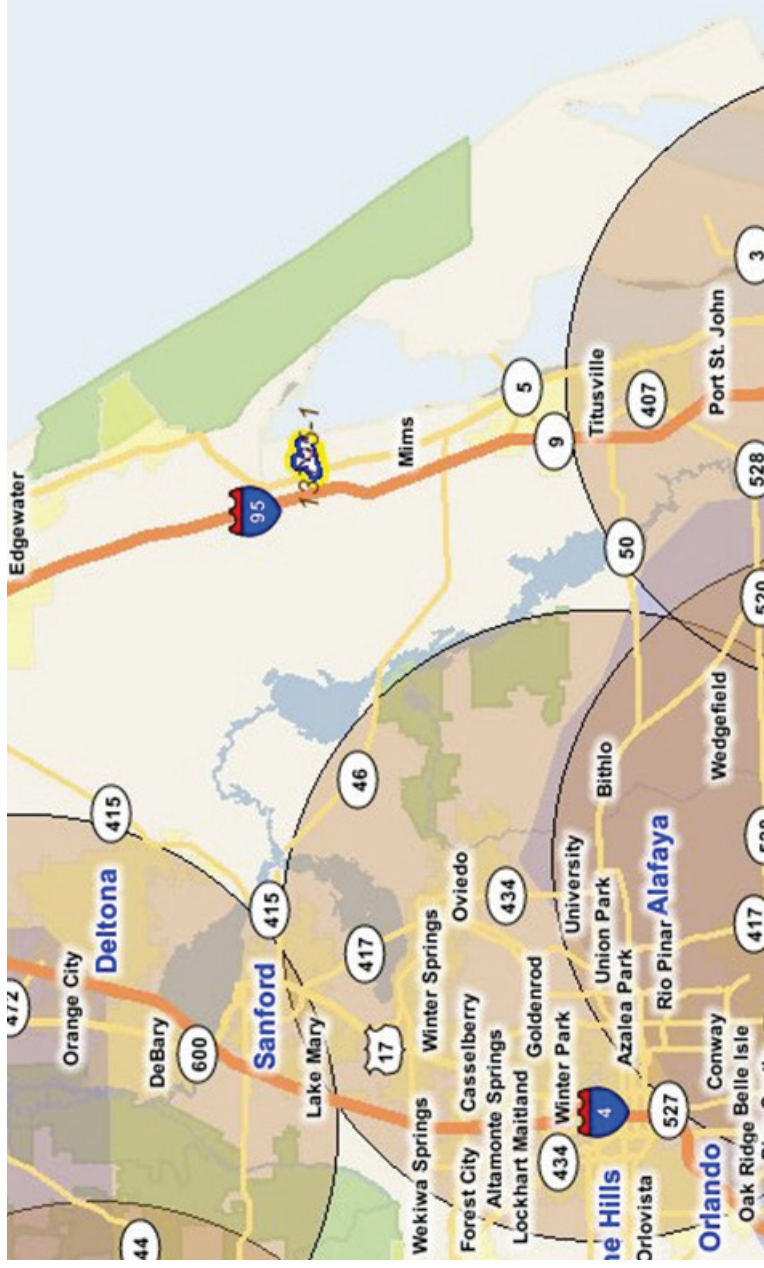
USF&WS Consultation Area

Project is just outside of Snail Kite Consultation Area



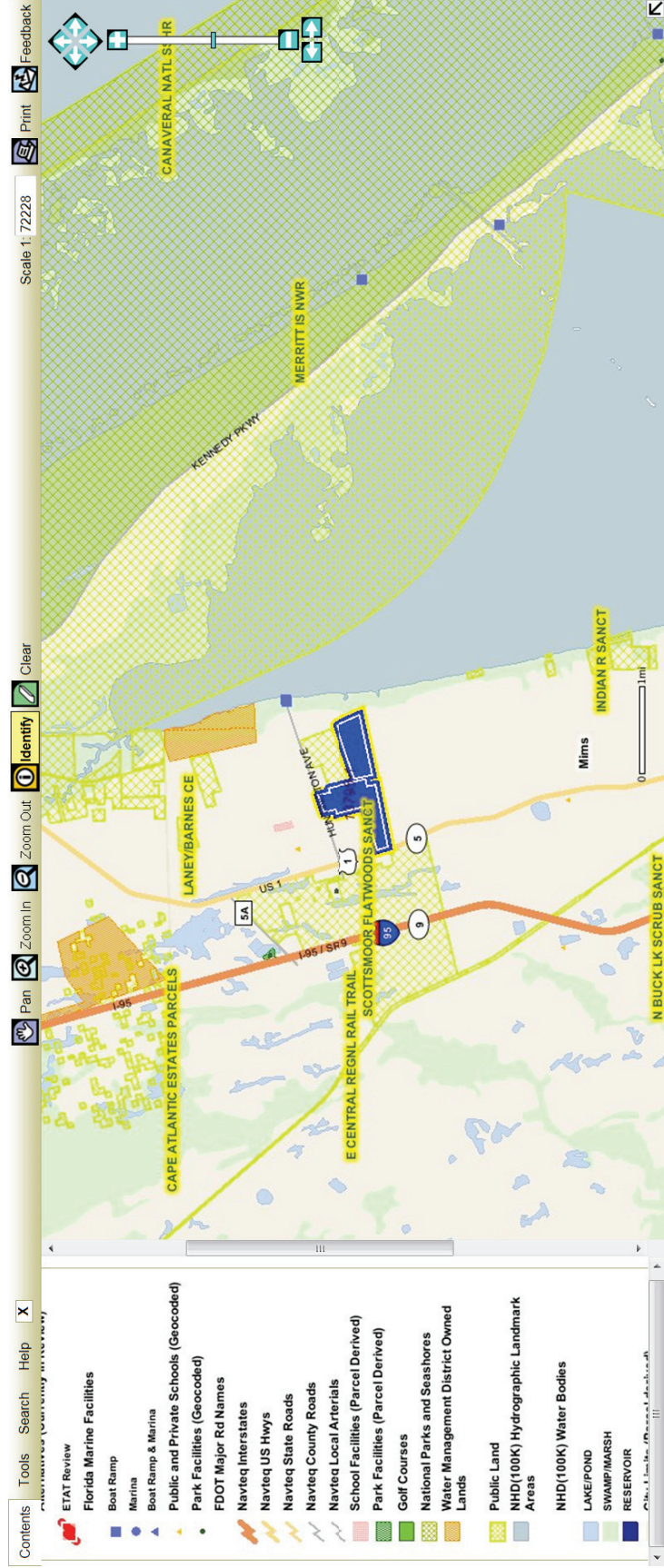
Wood Stork Nesting Colonies Core Forage Areas

Project is NOT within a Wood Stork CFA

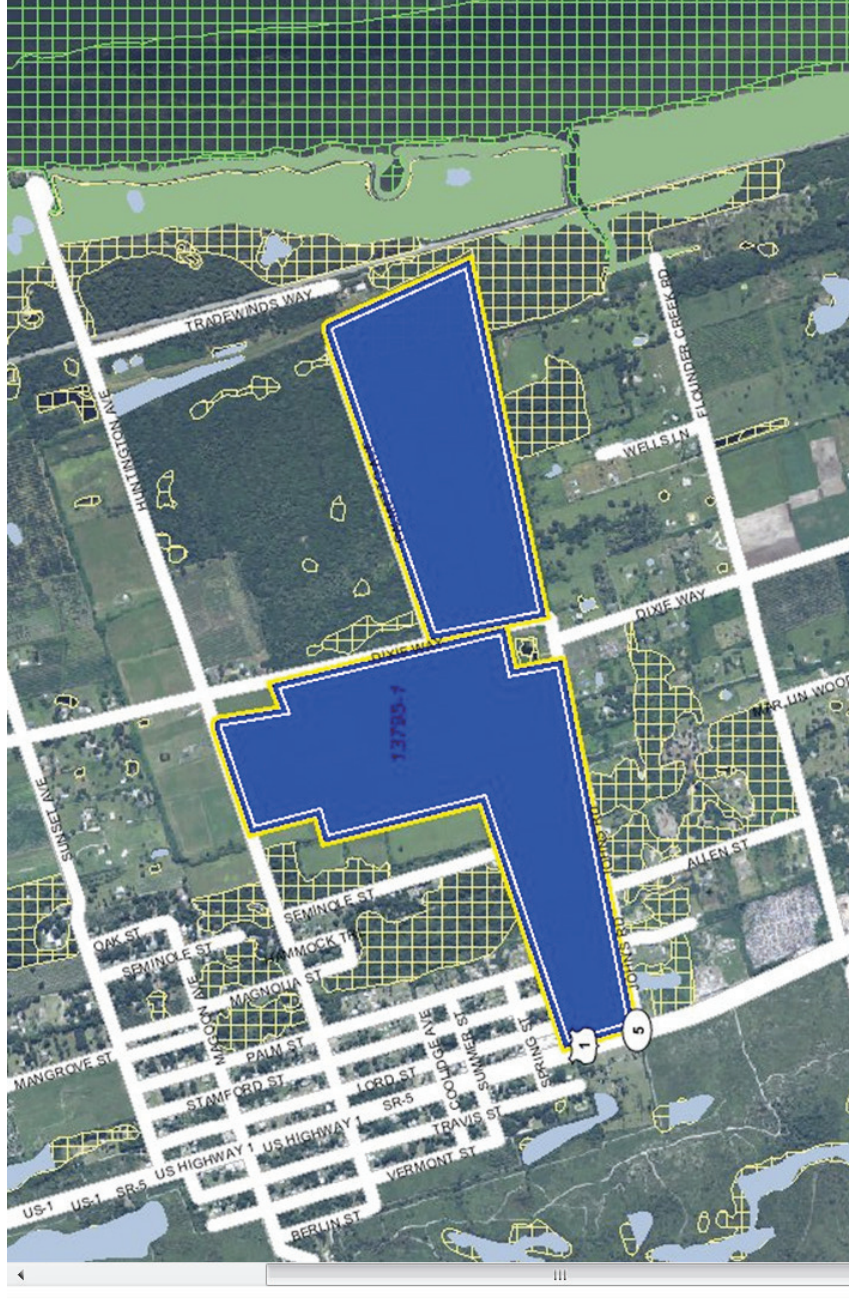


Recreational Issues

Public Lands



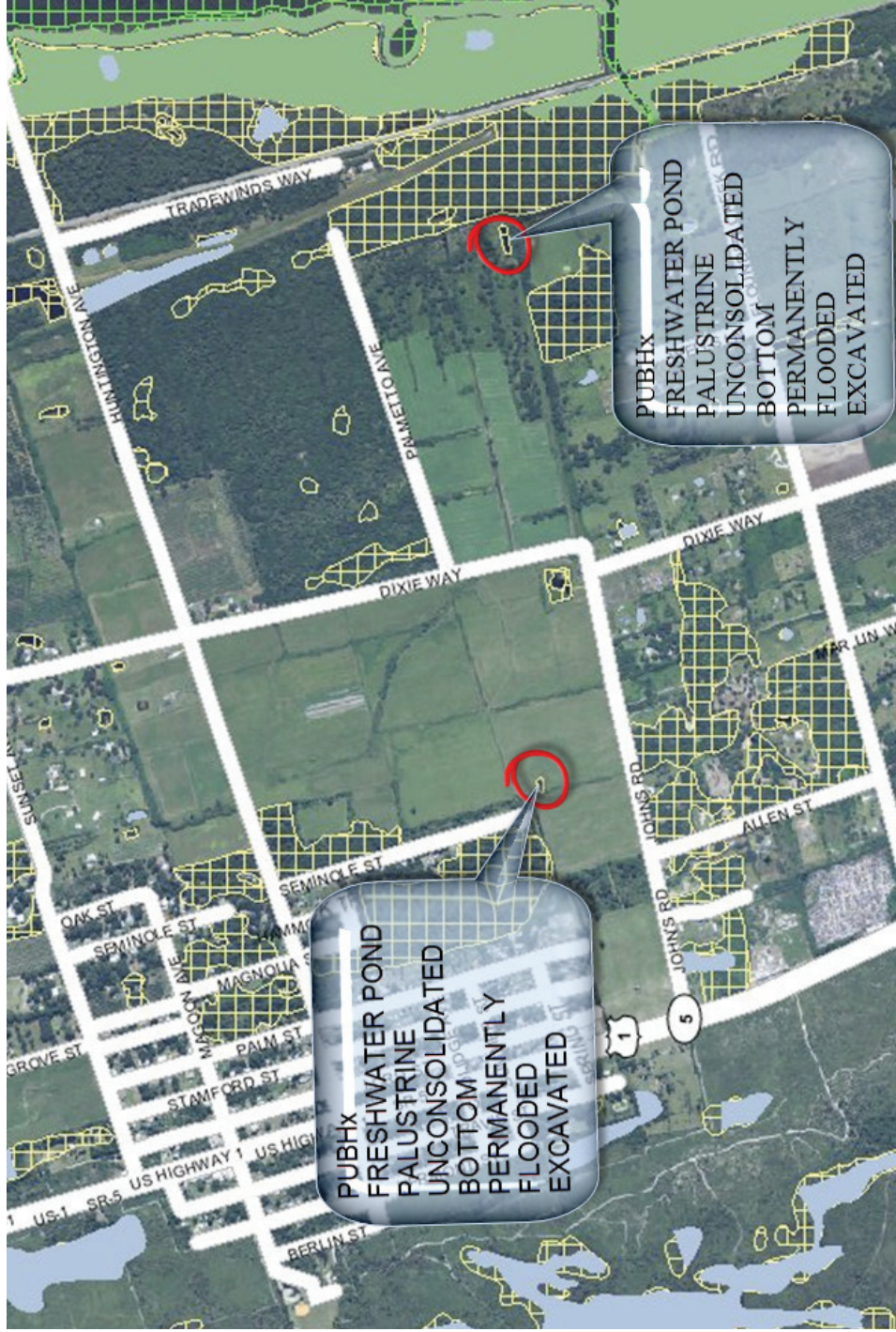
National Wetland Inventory



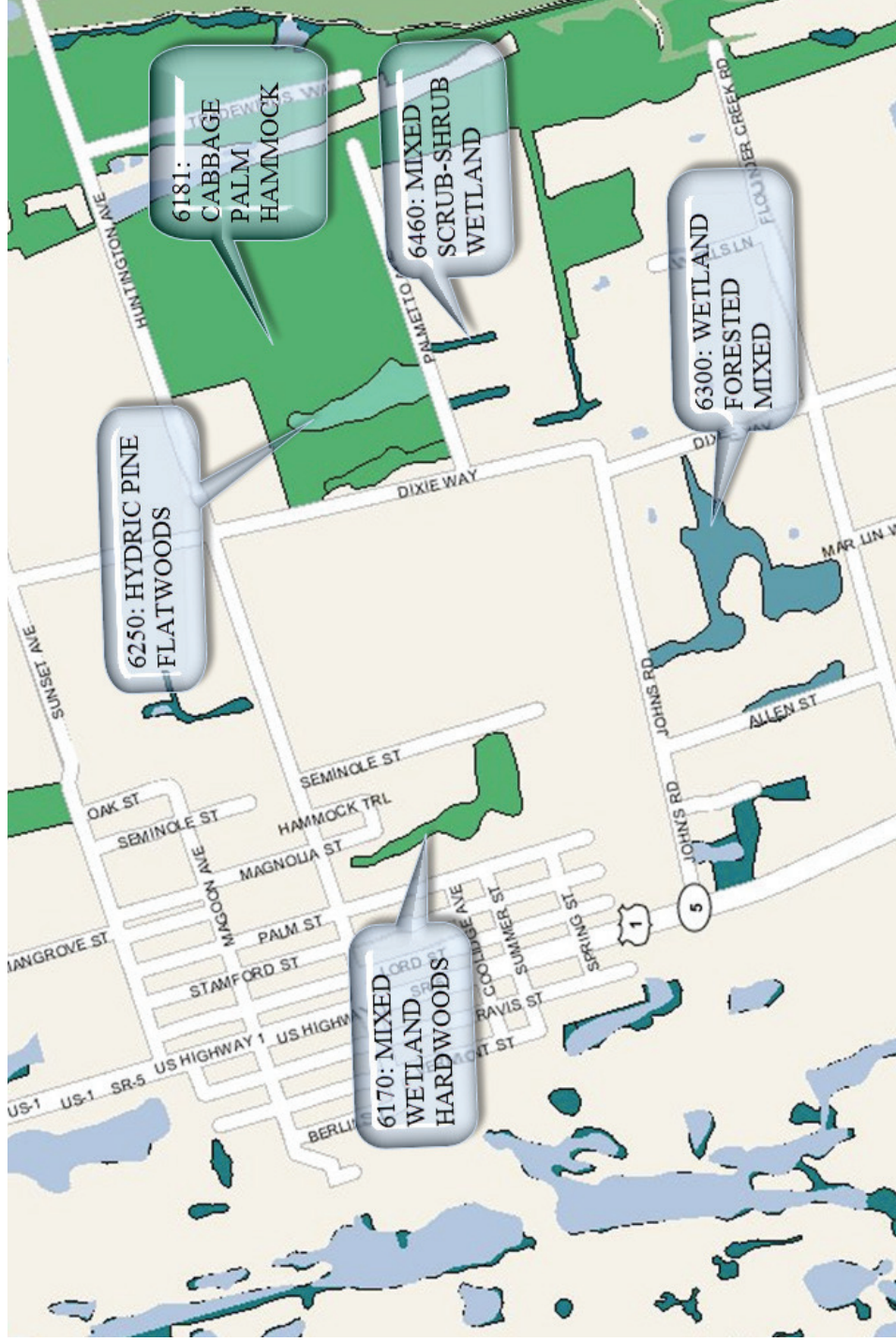
- Alternatives (Currently in Review)
 - ETAT Review
 - Navteq All Street Names
 - Navteq Interstates
 - Navteq US Hwys
 - Navteq State Roads
 - Navteq County Roads
 - NHD(24K) Water Bodies
- FLAT
- SHOAL
- STRUCTURE
- WATER
- WETLAND
- National Wetlands Inventory Areas
 - ESTUARINE
 - LACUSTRINE
 - MARINE
 - PALUSTRINE
 - RIVERINE
- Major Florida Parks and Forests

NWI

On Site Wetlands



St. Johns River Water Management District Wetlands
Florida Land Use Cover and Classification System
(FLUCCS)



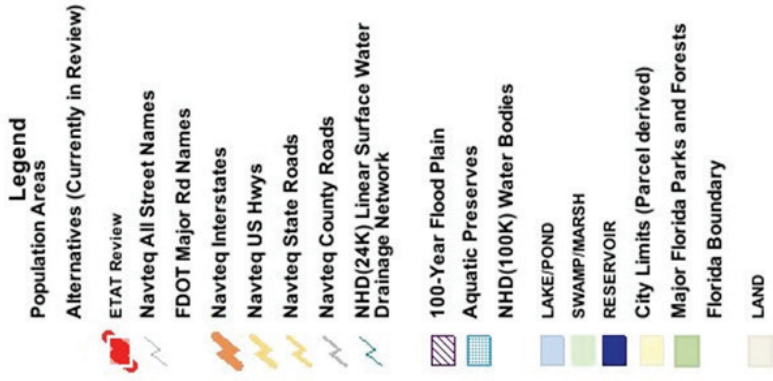
FEMA 100 Yr. Floodplain



- FDOT Major Rd Names
- Navteq Interstates
- Navteq US Hwys
- Navteq State Roads
- Navteq County Roads
- NHD(24K) Linear Surface Water Drainage Network
- 100-Year Flood Plain
- Aquatic Preserves
- NHD(100K) Water Bodies
- LAKE/POND
- SWAMP/MARSH
- RESERVOIR
- City Limits (Parcel derived)
- Major Florida Parks and Forests
- Florida Boundary
- LAND

FEMA 100 Yr. Floodplain

far eastern end of parcel is in the floodplain



Contamination

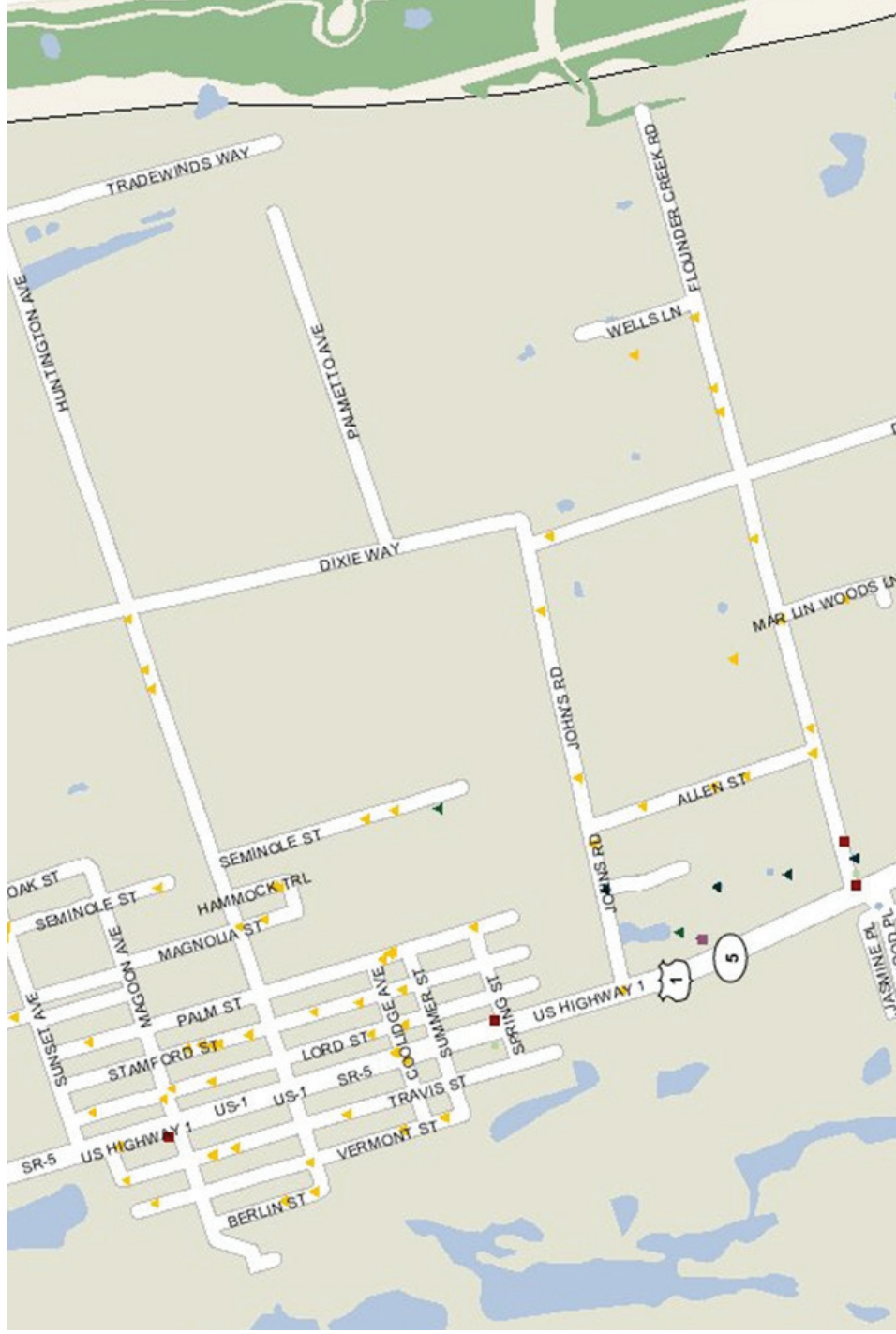
septic tanks, petroleum storage and monitoring, petroleum contamination



- + FDEP Wastewater Facilities
- FDEP Treaters, Storers, and Disposers of Hazardous Waste
- FDEP Storage Tank Contamination Monitoring
- FDEP Petroleum Contamination Monitoring Sites
- * FDEP Large Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste
- * FDEP Dry Cleaning Program Sites
- ▲ FDEP Compliance and Enforcement Tracking Facilities
- ▲ FDEP Hazardous Waste Facilities
- ▲ Solid Waste Facilities
- USEPA Toxic Release Inventory
- USEPA Superfund Sites
- ★ FDEP Off Site Contamination Notices
- USEPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- USEPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Regulated Facility
- USEPA Regulated Air Emissions Facilities
- ▲ FDOH Biomedical Waste
- ▲ FDOH Onsite Sewage

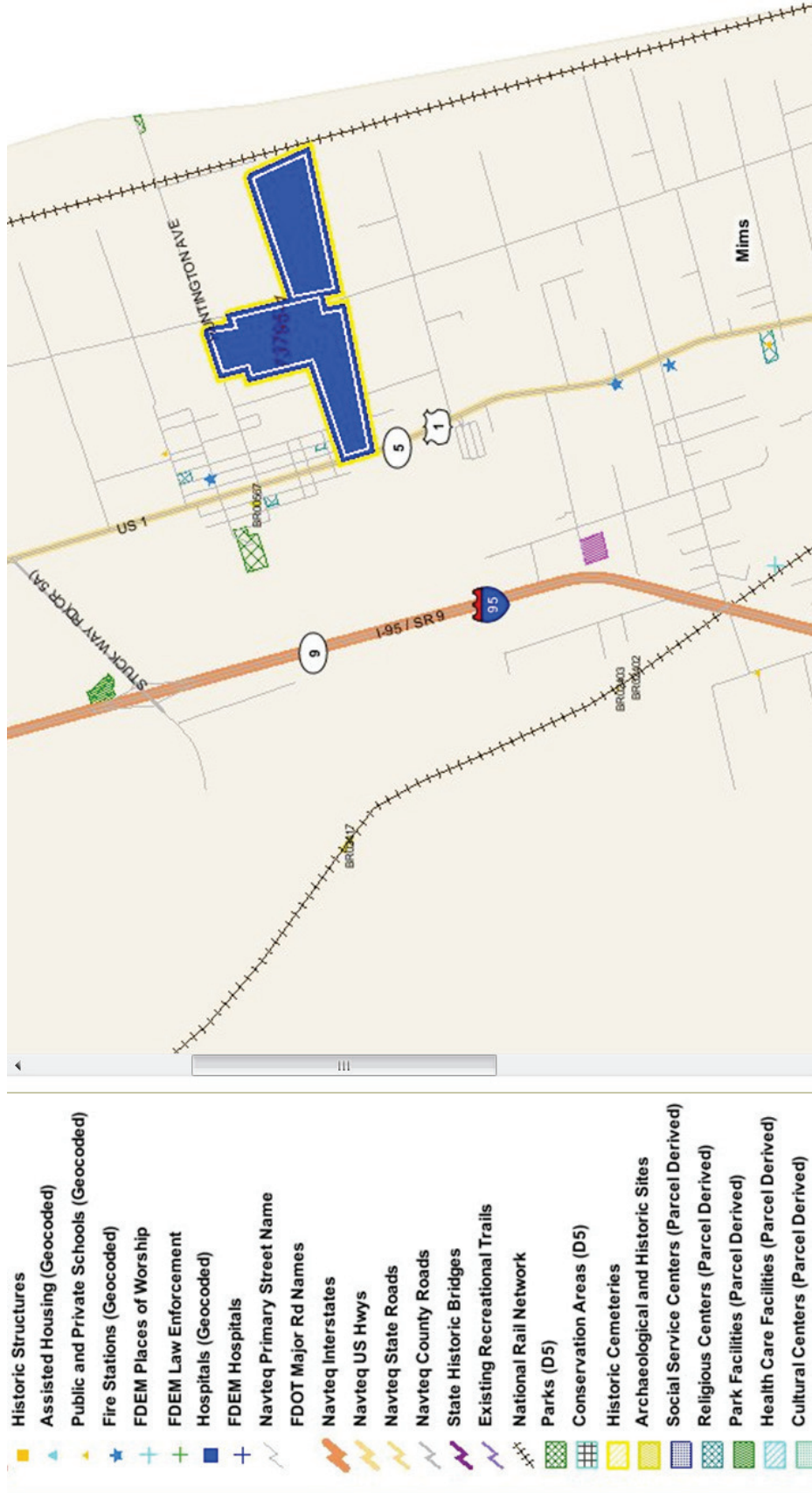
Contamination

Non On-Site



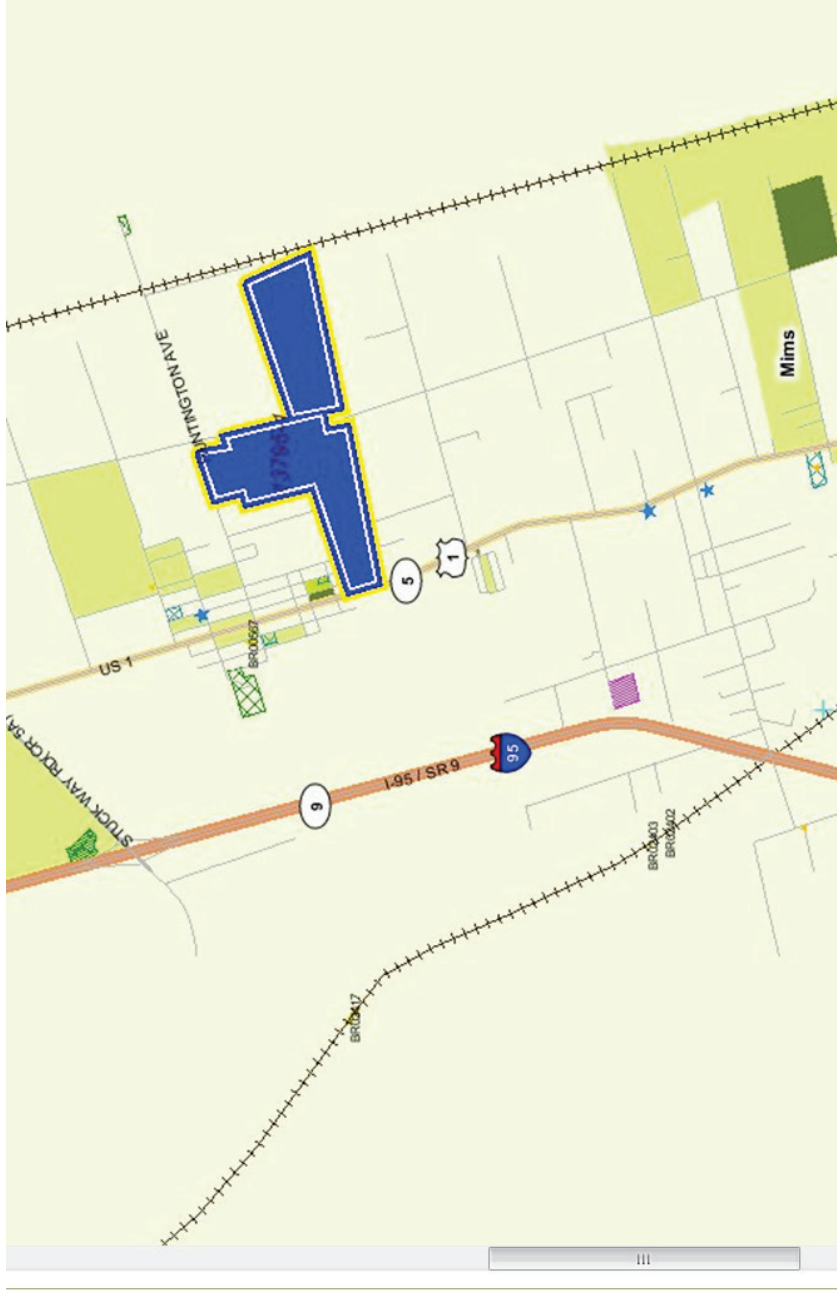
Community Facilities

Within Immediate Vicinity are 3 Churches, a private school and a volunteer fire station



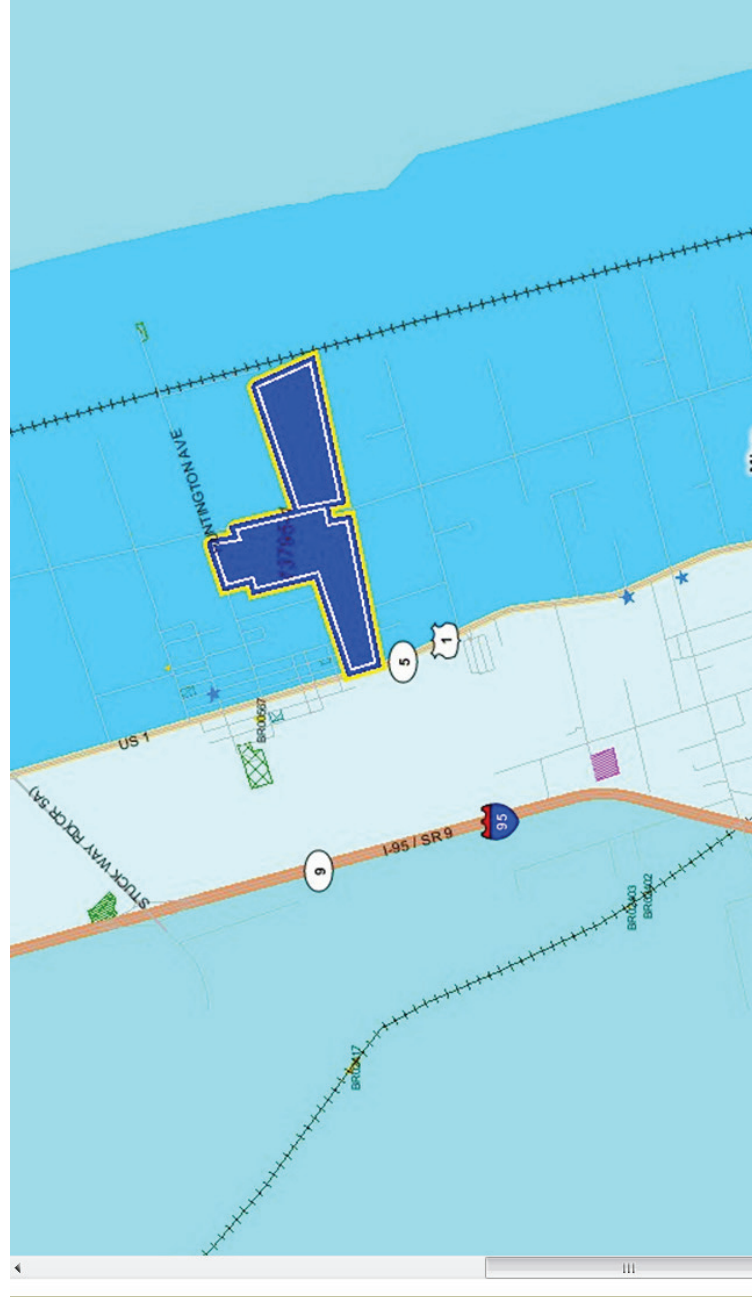
Demographics

Percent Minority Population



Demographics

Median Family Income





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MyFWC.com

February 6, 2012

Weever Boos Consultants
Attn: Mr. Jeffrey Schaffer, Senior Project Manager
365 Citrus Tower Boulevard, Suite 110
Clermont, FL 34711
jschaffer@weaverboos.com

RE: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning for the Department of Veterans Affairs Proposed National Cemetery, Scottsmeer, Brevard County, Florida Site

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

In response to your January 26, 2012 letter requesting coordination on listed species and potential environmental impacts associated with a proposed National Cemetery site located southeast of Scottsmeer, Florida, the Conservation Planning Services Section of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has coordinated our agency's review of the project proposal and provides the following comments.

The proposed site is approximately 318 acres located east of U.S. Highway 1, north of Johns Road, east and west of Dixie Way, south of Huntington Avenue, and west of the Florida East Coast Railroad, situated southeast of Scottsmeer in Brevard County. Based upon our preliminary GIS (geographic information system) analysis of the site and existing land covers and vegetative communities, the following listed wildlife species have the potential to occur on or near the site:

- Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), State-listed Threatened
- Florida pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*), State-listed Species of Special Concern
- American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), Federally Listed Threatened, due to similarity of appearance to the Threatened American crocodile
- Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), Federally Listed Threatened
- Sherman's fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger shermani*), State-listed Species of Special Concern
- Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*), State-listed Threatened

We recommend that species-specific wildlife surveys be conducted for both alternative project areas. Species-specific wildlife surveys are time sensitive, and FWC recommends that all wildlife surveys follow the survey protocols established by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the FWC, as appropriate. Surveys should also be conducted by qualified individuals with recent documented experience for each potential species. Basic guidance for conducting wildlife surveys may be found in the Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide (<http://myfwc.com/conservation/value/fwcg/>). We recommend that the applicant coordinate with the USFWS regarding those federally listed species that may occur onsite.

Specific information about gopher tortoises, including survey methodology and permitting guidance, can be referenced on the FWC Gopher Tortoise homepage (<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/gopher-tortoise/>).

We appreciate the opportunity to provide technical assistance for this project. If your staff or those of the Department of Veterans Affairs would like to coordinate further on this review, please contact our office at FWCConservationPlanningServices@myfwc.com or 850-410-5367. If there are specific questions regarding the content of this letter, I encourage your staff or the applicant's representatives to contact Laura DiGruttolo at 386-758-0525 or by email at laura.digruttolo@myfwc.com.

Sincerely,



Scott Sanders, Section Leader
Conservation Planning Services

ss/ld

ENV 1

National Cemetery_15868_020612

cc: Lauren P. Milligan, Environmental Manager
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
lauren.milligan@dep.state.fl.us

Planning & Development Department
Brevard County
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
North Florida Ecological Services Office
7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200
Jacksonville, FL 32256-7517

Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Jaime Zsiros [JZsiros@sjrwmd.com]
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 7:19 AM
To: Schaffer, Jeffrey
Cc: Janice Unger
Subject: Department of Veterans Affairs Proposed National Cemetery (item#1183728)

Mr. Schaffer,

The District has received your letter dated January 26, 2012 requesting information regarding environmental concerns either at or in the vicinity of the above referenced site. The District has a GIS image viewer (<http://webapub.sjrwmd.com/agws10/imageviewer/>) accessible to the public, which allows you to view an aerial image of your project area and download environmental data layers such as wetland vegetation, hydric soils, District conservation easements, land use, permitted boundaries, and quad maps, etc. Please be aware that the image viewer is a tool to help assist with site conditions and is not intended to replace a field reconnaissance of the site.

Once construction details of the site are known and an application submittal is nearing completion, staff would be happy to schedule a pre-application meeting to discuss any permitting concerns you may have.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jaime Zsiros, Regulatory Scientist
St. Johns River Water Management District
525 Community College Parkway
Palm Bay, FL 32909
(v) 321-676-6627
(m) 321-231-0248

Schaffer, Jeffrey

From: Zakia_Williams@fws.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 10:04 AM
To: Schaffer, Jeffrey
Subject: Technical Assistance - Proposed VA National Cemetery
Attachments: 20120223_ltr_VA Proposed National Cemetery_correspondence.pdf

Mr. Schaffer,

On behalf of Jane Monaghan I am sending this email. Please see the attached letter regarding the proposed site for the VA National Cemetery. The hard copy is being sent to your office today.

(See attached file: 20120223_ltr_VA Proposed National Cemetery_correspondence.pdf)

Thank you,
Zakia Williams
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(o) 904-731-3326



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

7915 BAYMEADOWS WAY, SUITE 200
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32256-7517

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS Log No. 41910-2012-TA-0106

April 12, 2012

Mr. Jeffrey Schaffer
Senior Project Manager
Weaver Boos Consultants
365 Citrus Tower Boulevard Suite 110
Clermont, FL 34711

RE: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Proposed National Cemetery
Brevard County, Florida

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 26, 2012 regarding a proposed site location for a National Cemetery, Brevard County, Florida. You have requested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provide information regarding all Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species that are located within the proposed site location. The federally threatened eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), the federally endangered wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and the federally threatened Audubon's crested caracara (*Polyborus plancus audubonii*) are the listed species that may occur in the action area. This response is provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712 *et seq.*) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*).

The purpose of the proposal is to prepare environmental documentation to assist in the Federal decision making process concerning the selection of a site for the future proposed construction and operation of a National Cemetery southeast of Scottsmeer, Brevard County, Florida. The proposed site is approximately 318 acres and is located East of Highway 1, North of St. Johns Road, East and West of Dixie Way, South of Huntington Avenue, and West of the Florida East Coast Railroad Southeast of Scottsmeer, Brevard County, Florida. The northern boundary is located approximately at latitude 28.754278N and longitude -80.873653W.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Audubon's caracara: Brevard County conducted a caracara survey and nest site study in 2006 (Koeppel Final Report, 2007). Based on the results of that survey it appears that nests were found approximately fifteen miles to the South of the proposed cemetery site. The Service recommends an updated survey for Brevard County within two years prior to the start of

construction. Suitable habitat is found onsite and adjacent to the location in nearby agricultural lands and this species range is expanding to the North and West. Conservation guidelines for this species can be found on the website for the South Florida Field Office in Vero Beach, FL. (<http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/>)

Eastern indigo snake: The project occurs within the geographic range of the threatened eastern indigo snake (EIS). Sightings of this snake have been documented on several wildlife conservation areas and on private lands within ten miles of the action area (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, unpublished data, 2010). It is very likely that this species occurs in the agricultural lands, ditches, wetlands, and rural within the action area. Implementing the standard construction conditions for EIS will reduce the direct risks to snakes during the construction phase.

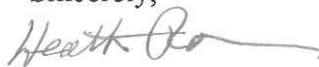
Wood Stork: Wood storks are birds of freshwater and estuarine wetlands, primarily nesting in cypress or mangrove swamps. Particularly attractive feeding sites are depressions in marshes or swamps where fish become concentrated during periods of falling water levels. The wetlands and roadside ditches found within the action area can be utilized by wood storks for foraging. Currently, there is not an active wood stork colony within 15 miles (core foraging distance) of the proposed site. The service recommends that the wood stork colony database be checked for any new rookeries prior to the start of construction. The database can be found on our office website: www.northflorida.fws.gov

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: It is the policy of the Service to avoid wetland impacts. If wetland impacts are unavoidable they should be minimized and hydrologic connectivity and function should be maintained. Compensation should be achieved at a Service-approved wetland mitigation bank.

After the initial disturbance caused by the construction and noise, the overall use of the site is compatible with many species of wildlife. Cemeteries are known as good birding areas and can be enhanced to attract migratory birds. Eastern indigo snakes, wood storks and many other wildlife species could utilize this area post-construction.

Further consultation with the Service will be needed if this proposal moves forward. Thank you for coordinating with us and helping to conserve threatened and endangered species. If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Jane Monaghan at (904)731-3319.

Sincerely,



for David L. Hankla
Field Supervisor