



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
10117 PRINCESS PALM AVENUE, SUITE 120
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33610

November 4, 2019

Regulatory Division
West Branch
Tampa Permits Section
SAJ-2019-00578(NW-CMW)

Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources
Charlie Hunsicker
5502 33rd Avenue Drive West
Bradenton, FL 34209
Via Email: charlie.hunsicker@mymanatee.org

Dear Mr. Hunsicker:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) assigned your application for a Department of the Army permit, which the Corps received on 28 March 2019, the file number SAJ-2019-00578. A review of the information and drawings provided indicates that the proposed work would result in restoration of an existing borrow pit. The proposed project will progressively convert the excavated site into approximately 35.4 acres of upland habitat (planted with native trees and shrubs). The remaining 29.65 acres of wetlands will be improved by restoration and enhancement. The activities subject to this permit are authorized pursuant to authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344). The project is located at 605 39th Street East, in Sections 1 and 12, Township 34 South, Range 17 East, Palmetto, Manatee County, Florida.

Your project, as depicted on the enclosed drawings and restoration plan, is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) Number 27. In addition, project specific conditions have been enclosed. This verification is valid until **March 18, 2022**. 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 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. Please access the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Jacksonville District's Regulatory Internet page to access Internet links to view the Final Nationwide Permits, Federal Register Vol. 82, dated January 6, 2017, specifically pages 1983 to 2008, and the table of Regional Conditions. The Internet page address is as follows:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive and should be entered as it appears above. Once there you will need to click on "Source Book"; and, then click on "Nationwide Permits." These files contain the description of the Nationwide Permit authorization, the Nationwide Permit general conditions, and the regional conditions, which apply specifically to this verification for NWP 27. Enclosed is a list of the six General Conditions, which apply to all Department of the Army authorizations. You must comply with all of the special and general conditions and any project specific condition of this authorization or you may be subject to enforcement action. In the event you have not completed construction of your project within the specified time limit, a separate application or re-verification may be required.

The following special conditions are included with this verification:

1. Reporting Address: The Permittee shall submit all reports, notifications, documentation and correspondence required by the general and special conditions of this permit to either (not both) of the following addresses:

a. For electronic mail (preferred): SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil (not to exceed 15 MB).

b. For standard mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2019-00578(NW - CMW), on all submittals.

2. Commencement Notification: Within 10 days from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit the Permittee shall submit a completed "Commencement Notification" Form (Attachment 2).

3. As-Built Certification: Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall submit as-built drawings of the authorized work and a completed "As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer" form (Attachment 3) to the Corps. The as-built drawings shall be signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer and include the following:

- a. A plan view drawing of the location of the authorized work footprint, as shown on the permit drawings, with transparent overlay of the work as constructed in the same scale as the permit drawings on 8½-inch by 11-inch sheets. The plan view drawing should show all "earth disturbance," including wetland impacts and water management structures.

- b. A list of any deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. In the event that the completed work deviates, in any manner, from the authorized work, describe on the attached "As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer" form the deviations between the work authorized by this permit and the work as constructed. Clearly indicate on the as-built drawings any deviations that have been listed. Please note that the depiction and/or description of any deviations on the drawings and/or "As-Built Certification By Professional Engineer" form does not constitute approval of any deviations by the Corps.
- c. Include the Department of the Army permit number on all sheets submitted.

4. Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:

- a. No structure or work shall adversely affect impact or disturb properties listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP) or those eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.
- b. If during the ground disturbing activities and construction work within the permit area, there are archaeological/cultural materials encountered which were not the subject of a previous cultural resources assessment survey (and which shall include, but not be limited to: pottery, modified shell, flora, fauna, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement), the Permittee shall immediately stop all work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery and notify the Corps within the same business day (8 hours). The Corps shall then notify the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO(s)) to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions.
- c. Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries as referenced in accordance with the above Special Condition ; and if deemed necessary by the SHPO, THPO(s), or Corps, in accordance with 36 CFR 800 or 33 CFR 325, Appendix C (5). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume on non-federal lands without written authorization from the SHPO for finds under his or her jurisdiction, and from the Corps.

d. In the unlikely event that unmarked human remains are identified on non-federal lands, they will be treated in accordance with Section 872.05 Florida Statutes. All work and ground disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the unmarked human remains shall immediately cease and the Permittee shall immediately notify the medical examiner, Corps, and State Archeologist within the same business day (8-hours). The Corps shall then notify the appropriate SHPO and THPO(s). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the State Archeologist and from the Corps.

5. Erosion Control: Prior to the initiation of any work authorized by this permit, the Permittee shall install erosion control measures along the perimeter of all work areas to prevent the displacement of fill material outside the work area into waters of the United States. Immediately after completion of the final grading of the land surface, all slopes, land surfaces, and filled areas shall be stabilized using sod, degradable mats, barriers, or a combination of similar stabilizing materials to prevent erosion. The erosion control measures shall remain in place and be maintained until all authorized work is completed and the work areas are stabilized.

6. Fill Material: The Permittee shall use only clean fill material for this project. The fill material shall be free from items such as trash, debris, automotive parts, asphalt, construction materials, concrete block with exposed reinforcement bars, and soils contaminated with any toxic substance, in toxic amounts in accordance with Section 307 of the Clean Water Act.

7. Eastern Indigo Snake Protection Measures and Inspection: Permittee shall comply with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake" dated August 12, 2013, as provided in Attachment 4 of this permit. All gopher tortoise burrows, active or inactive, shall be evacuated prior to site manipulation in the vicinity of the burrow. If excavating potentially occupied burrows, active or inactive, individuals must first obtain state authorization via a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent permit. The excavation method selected shall minimize the potential for injury of an indigo snake. The Permittee shall follow the excavation guidance provided in the most current FWC Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines found at <http://myfwc.com/gophertortoise>. If an indigo snake is encountered, the snake must be allowed to vacate the area prior to additional site manipulation in the vicinity. Holes, cavities, and snake refugia other than gopher tortoise burrows shall be inspected each morning before planned site manipulation of a particular area, and if occupied by an indigo snake, no work shall commence until the snake has vacated the vicinity of the proposed work.

8. Restoration Reports: The Permittee will submit a brief report upon completion of the proposed restoration project (baseline). One additional update should be submitted at year five to document restoration progress.

This letter of authorization does not give absolute Federal authority to perform the work as specified on your application. The proposed work may be subject to local building restrictions mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program. You should contact your local office that issues building permits to determine if your site is located in a flood-prone area, and if you must comply with the local building requirements mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program.

If you are unable to access the internet or require a hardcopy of any of the conditions, limitations, or expiration date for the above referenced NWP, please contact me by telephone at 813-769-7064.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our environment. We invite you to complete our automated Customer Service Survey at http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey. Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive; and, you will need to enter it exactly as it appears above. Your input is appreciated – favorable or otherwise.

Sincerely,



Candice Wheelahan
Project Manager

Enclosures

cc:
Liz Eardley, Stantec
CESAJ-RD-PE

GENERAL CONDITIONS
33 CFR PART 320-330

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **March 18, 2022**.
2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
4. If you sell the property associated with this permit you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
6. You must allow a representative from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST

PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2019-00578(NW-CMW)

When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. Although the construction period for works authorized by Department of the Army permits is finite, the permit itself, with its limitations, does not expire.

To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated responsibilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below and mail to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019 or electronic mail at saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil.

(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)

(SUBDIVISION)

(DATE)

(LOT)

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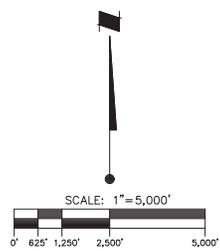
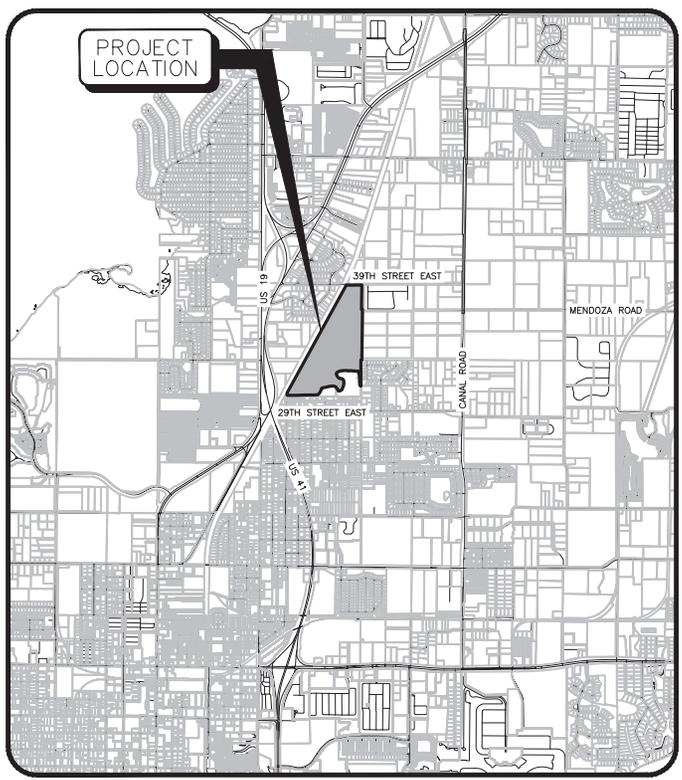
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(MAILING ADDRESS)

(CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)

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SITE MAP

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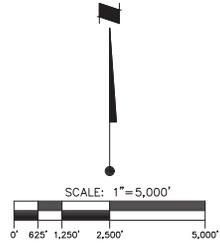
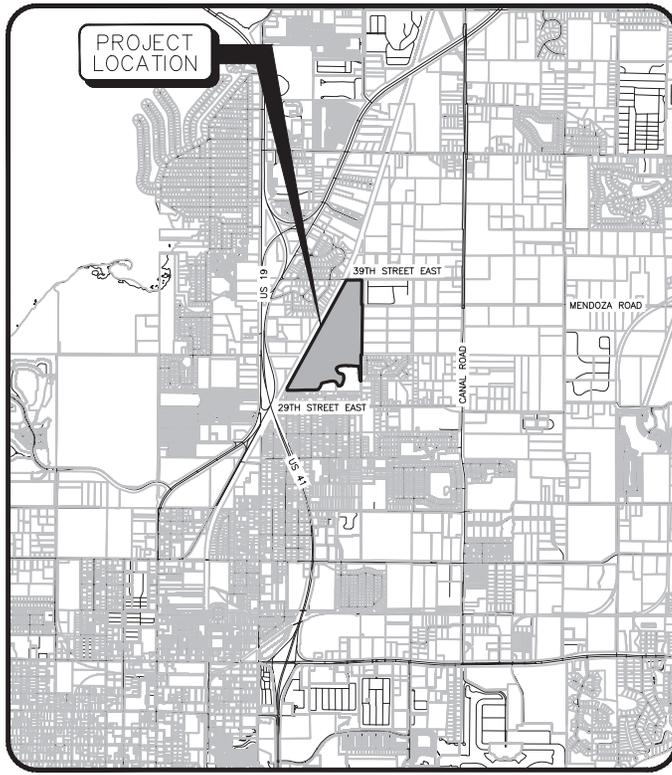

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CLIENT:	MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT:	WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE:	MARCH 2019	TITLE:	SITE LOCATION MAP
HORIZONTAL SCALE:		CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:	
VERTICAL SCALE:		PROJECT NUMBER:	177310993
SEC: TWP: RGE:		SHEET NUMBER:	2 of 21

INDEX NUMBER:	
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SITE MAP

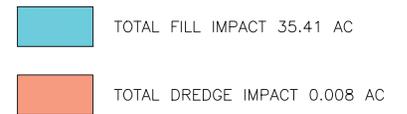
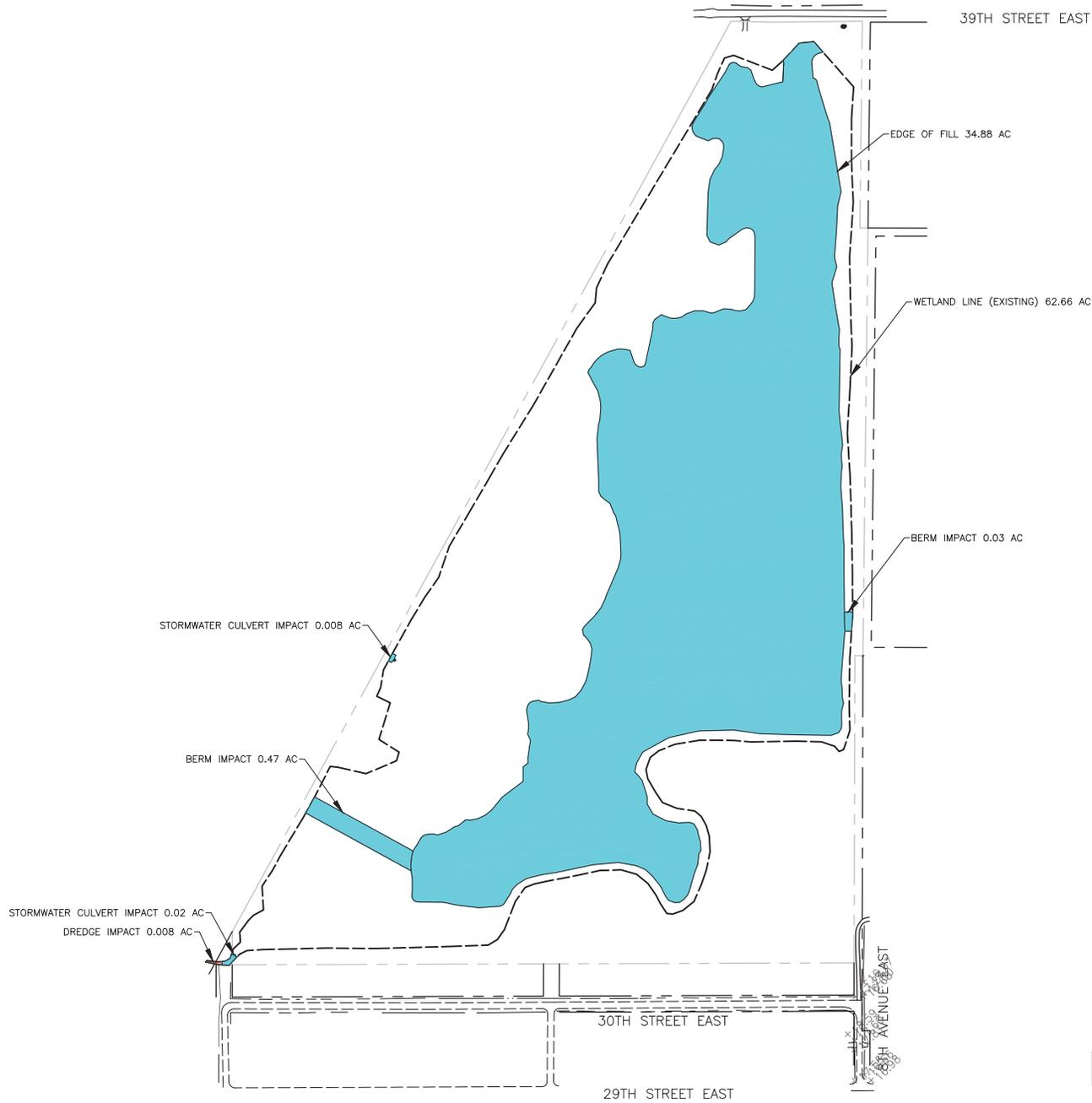
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DATE:	MARCH 2019	TITLE:	SITE LOCATION MAP
HORIZONTAL SCALE:		CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:	
VERTICAL SCALE:		PROJECT NUMBER:	177310993
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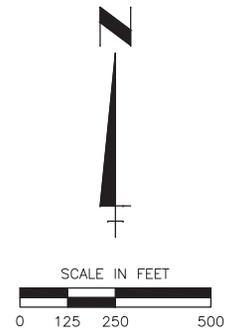
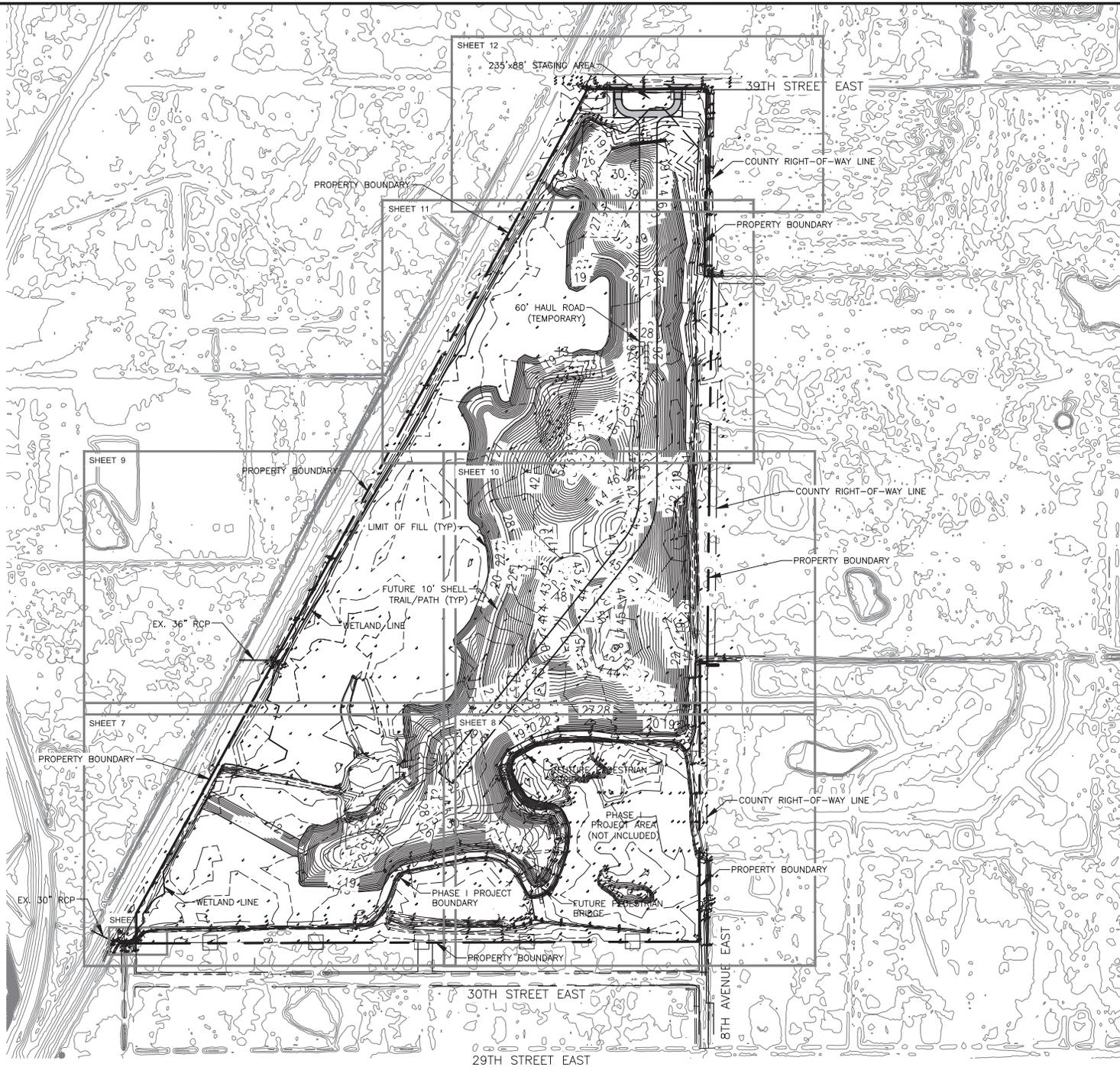
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PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE: MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:
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TITLE: WETLAND IMPACT MAP
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PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

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TITLE: GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN KEY SHEET

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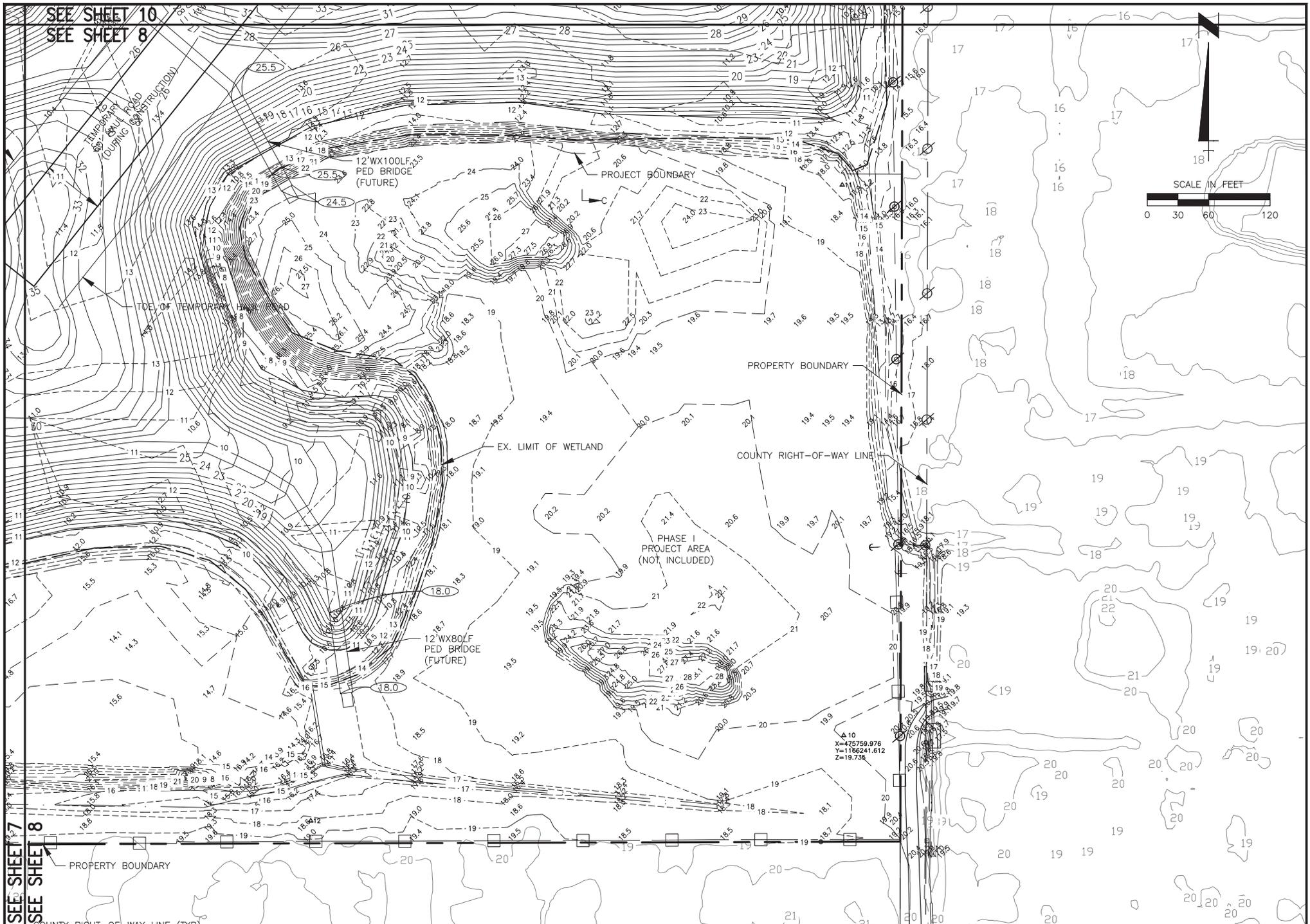
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 PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE: MARCH 2019
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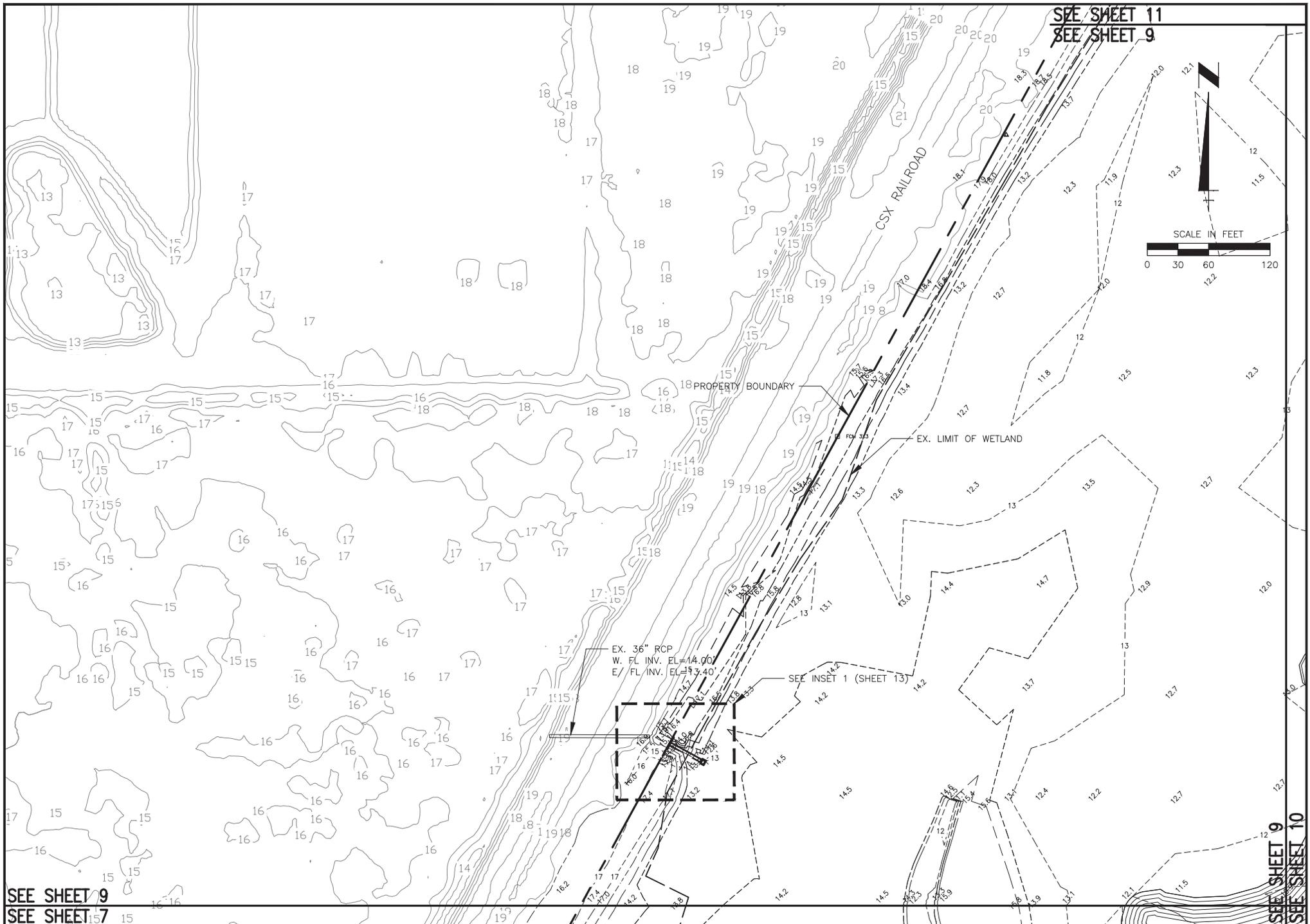
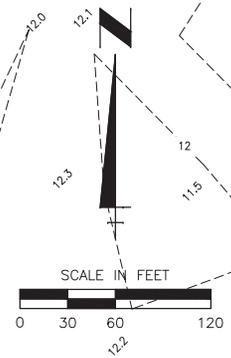
CLIENT: MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE: MARCH 2019
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TITLE: GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN
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PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE: MARCH 2019
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TITLE: GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN

SEC. TWP. RGE: CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:

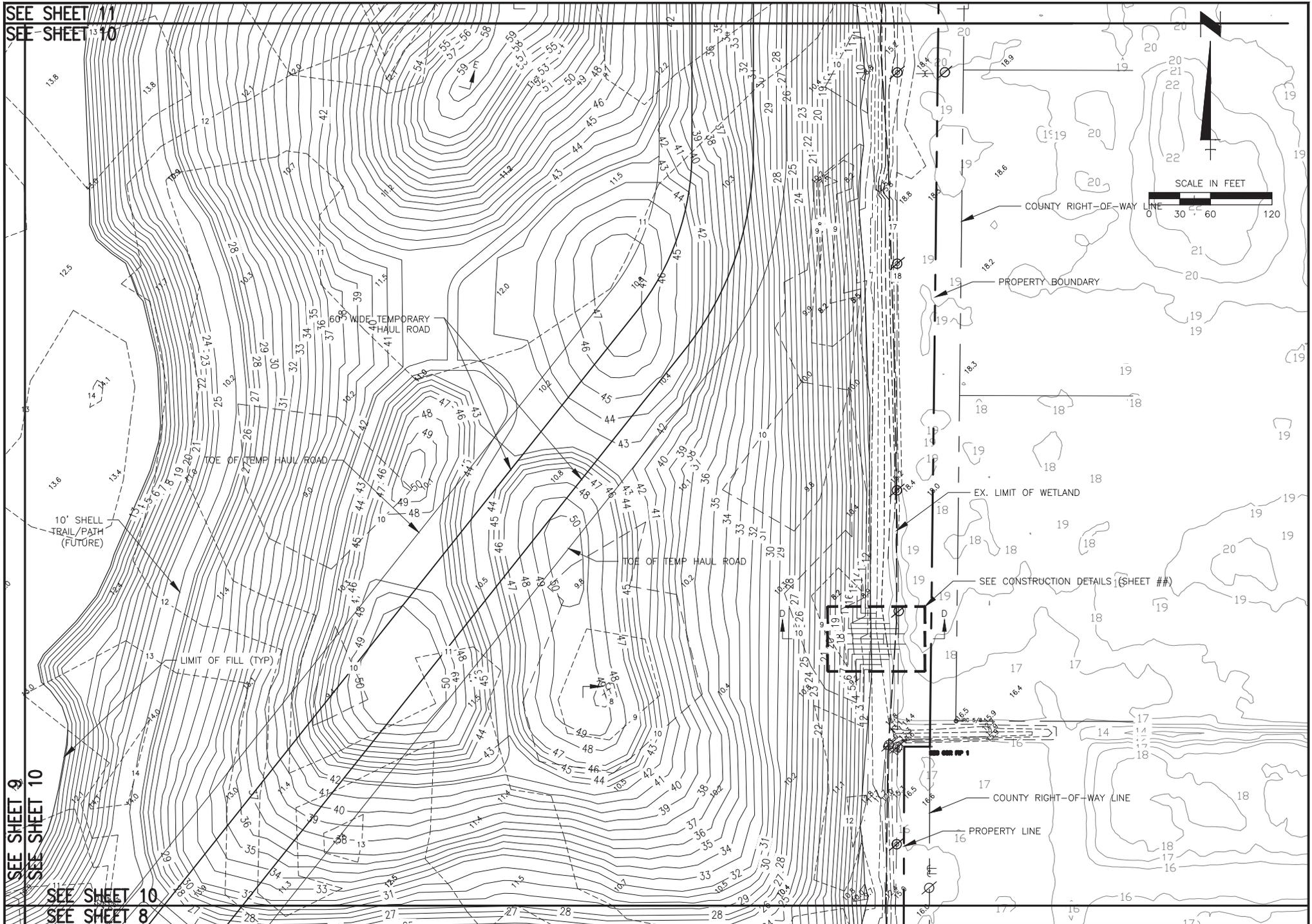
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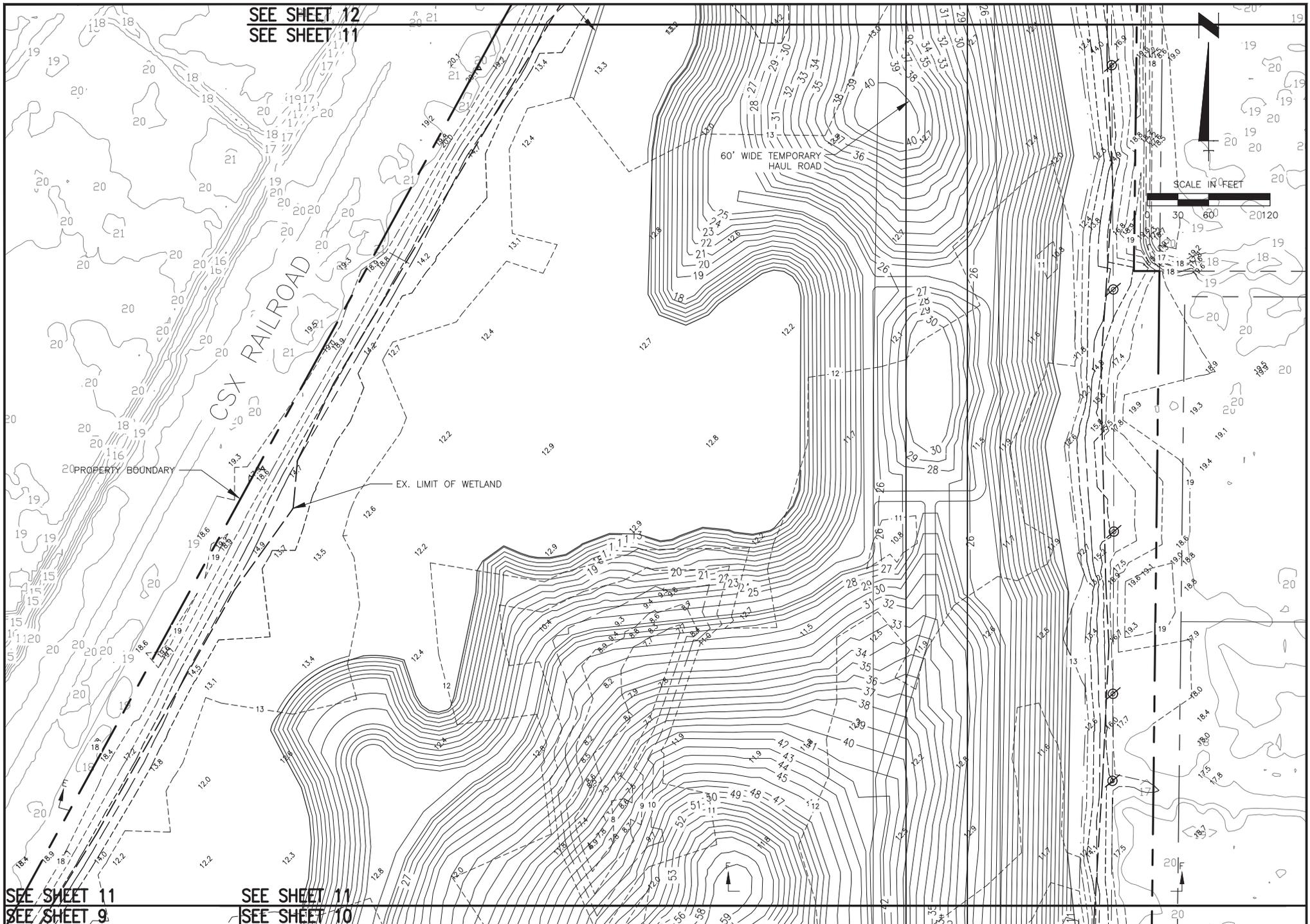
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PROJECT:	WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE:	MARCH 2019	TITLE:	GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN
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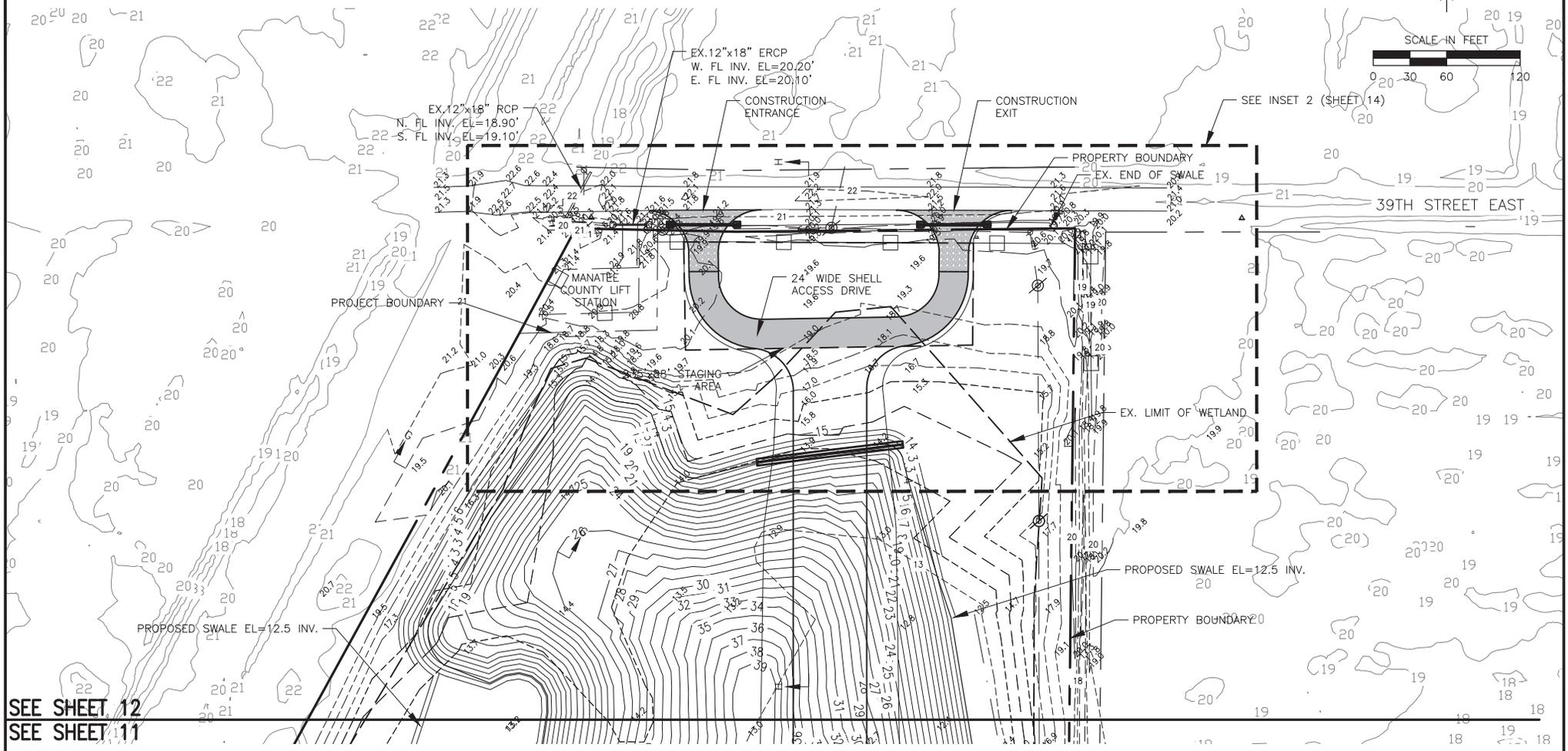
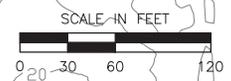
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TITLE:	GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN
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PROJECT NUMBER:	177310993
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CLIENT: **MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

PROJECT: **WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION**

DATE: **MARCH 2019**

HORIZONTAL SCALE:

VERTICAL SCALE:

TITLE: **GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN**

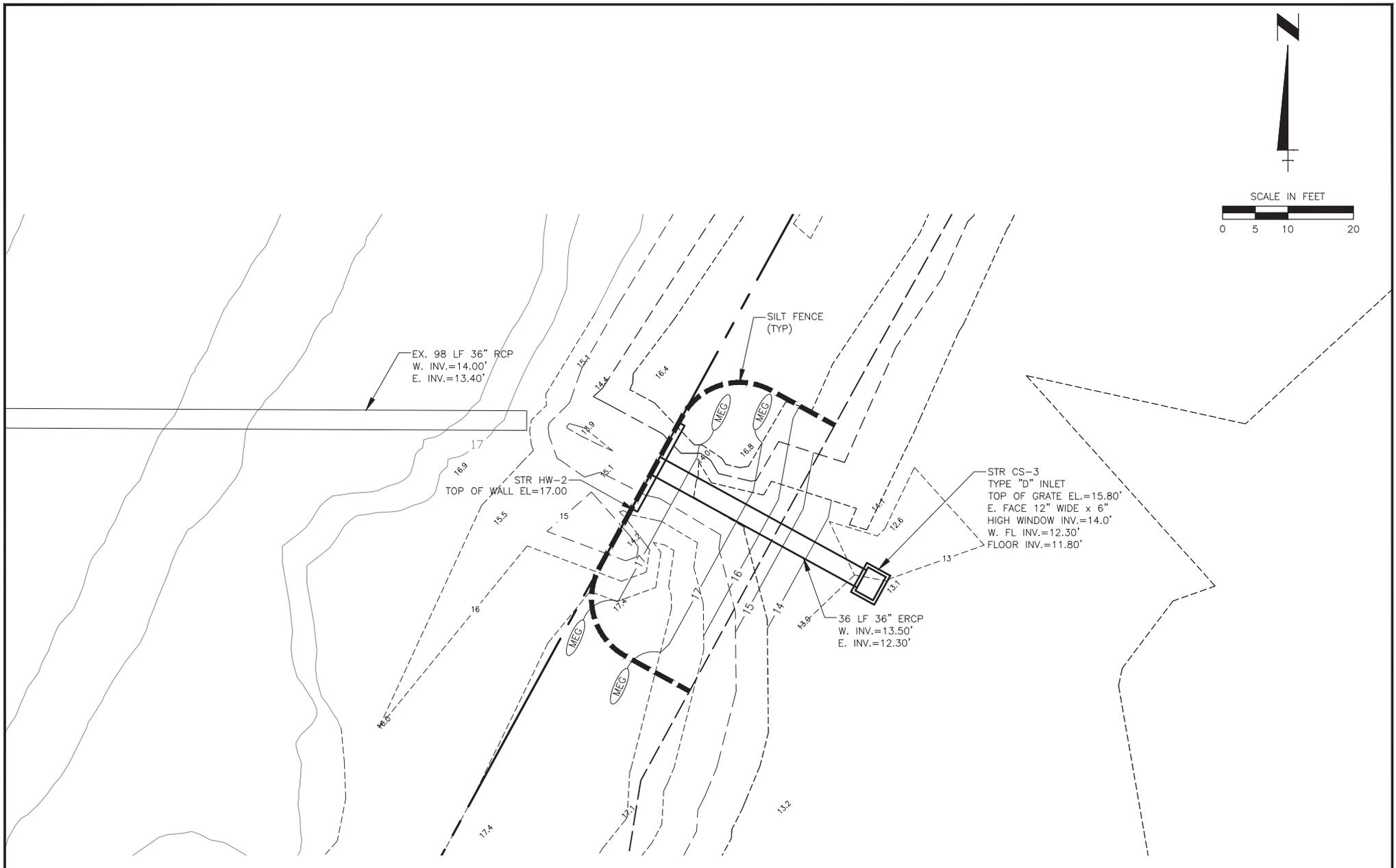
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PROJECT NUMBER: **177310993**

INDEX NUMBER:

SHEET NUMBER: **12 of 21**

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INSET 1

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CLIENT:	MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT:	WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE:	MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:	
VERTICAL SCALE:	
SEC. TWP. RGE:	

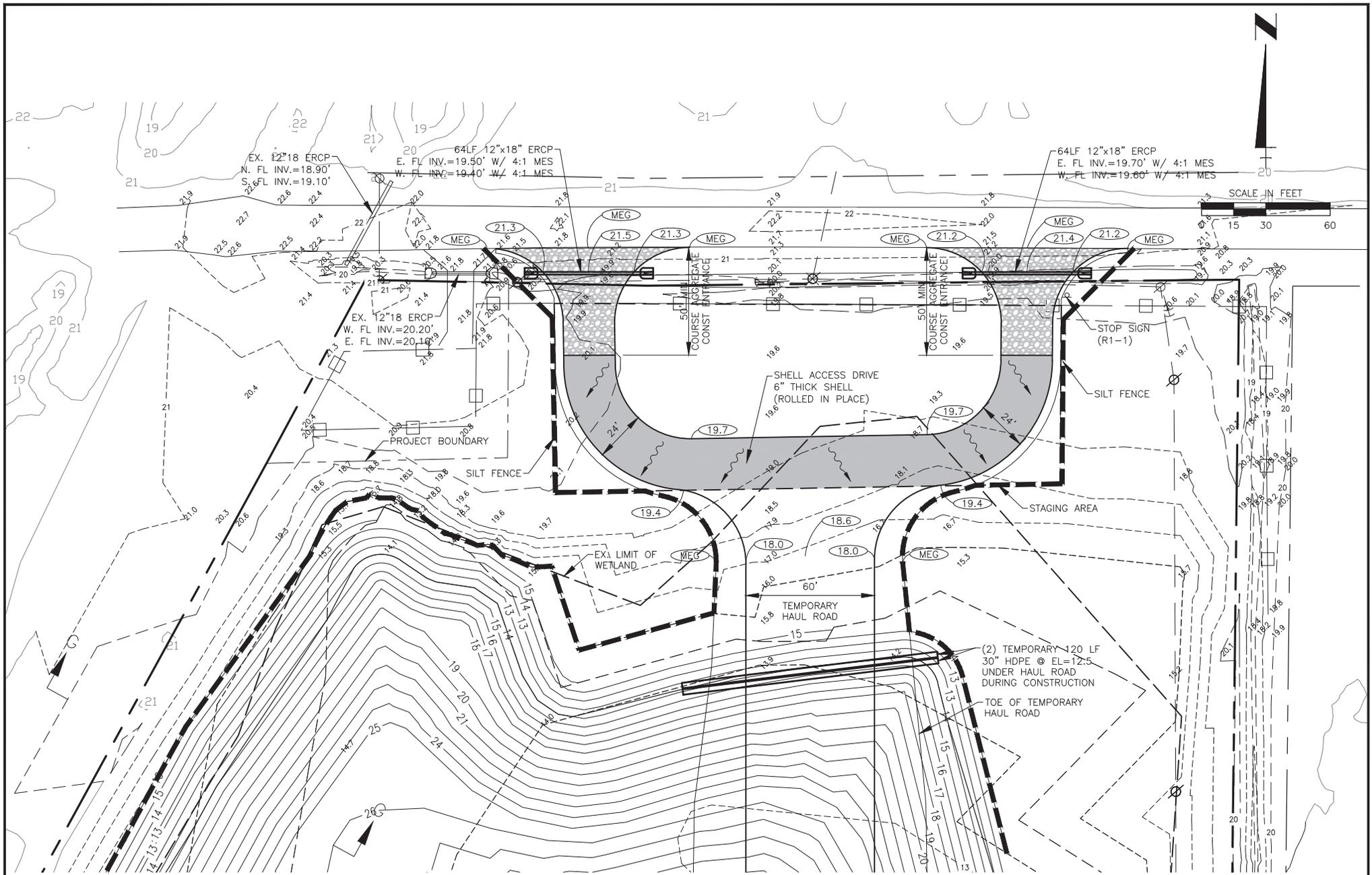
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CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:	

PROJECT NUMBER:	177310993
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INDEX NUMBER:	
SHEET NUMBER:	13 of 21

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INSET 2

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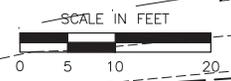
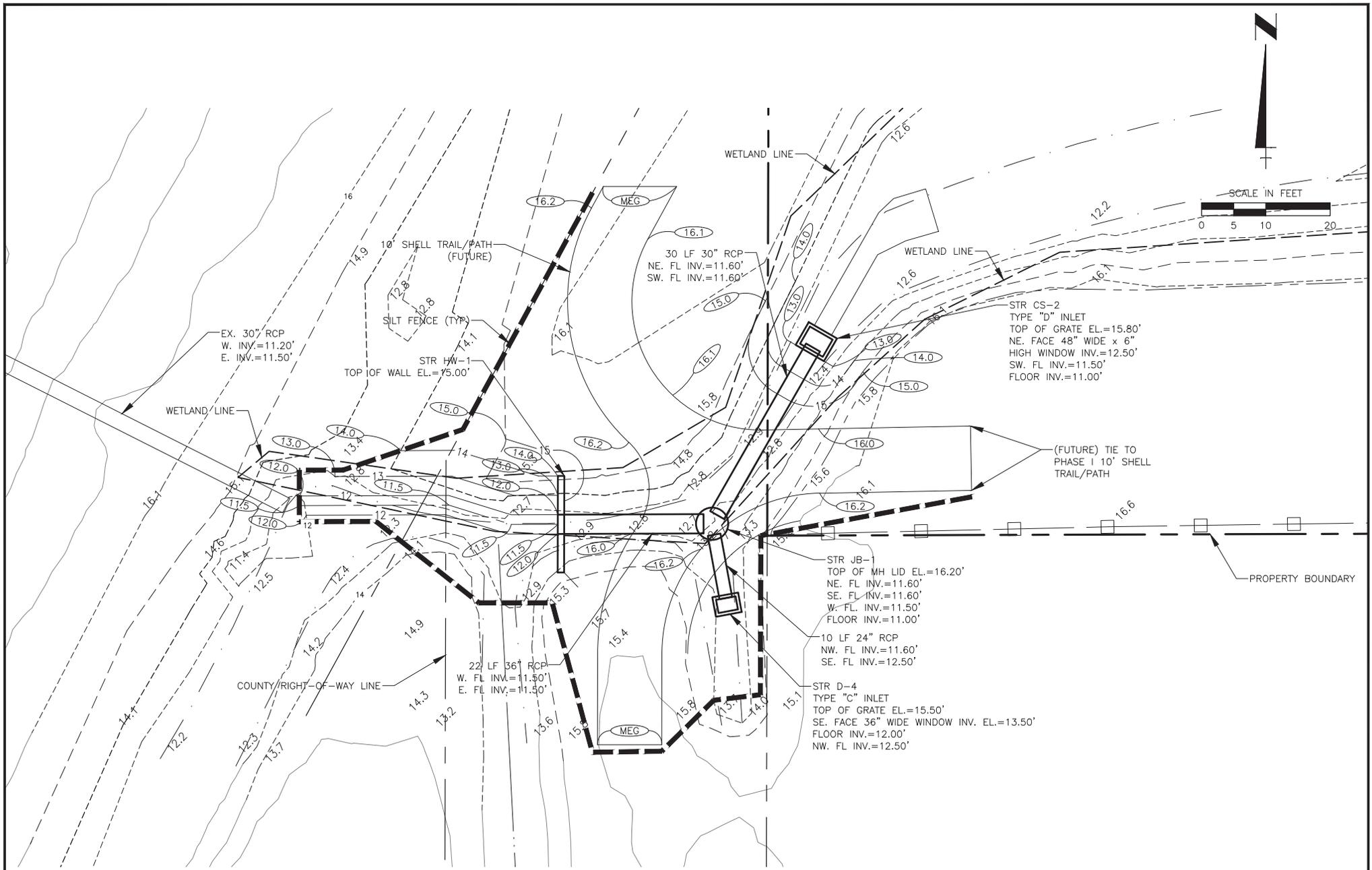
CLIENT:	MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT:	WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE:	MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:	
VERTICAL SCALE:	
SEC. TWP. RGE:	

TITLE:	GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN
CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:	
PROJECT NUMBER:	177310993

INDEX NUMBER:	
SHEET NUMBER:	14 of 21

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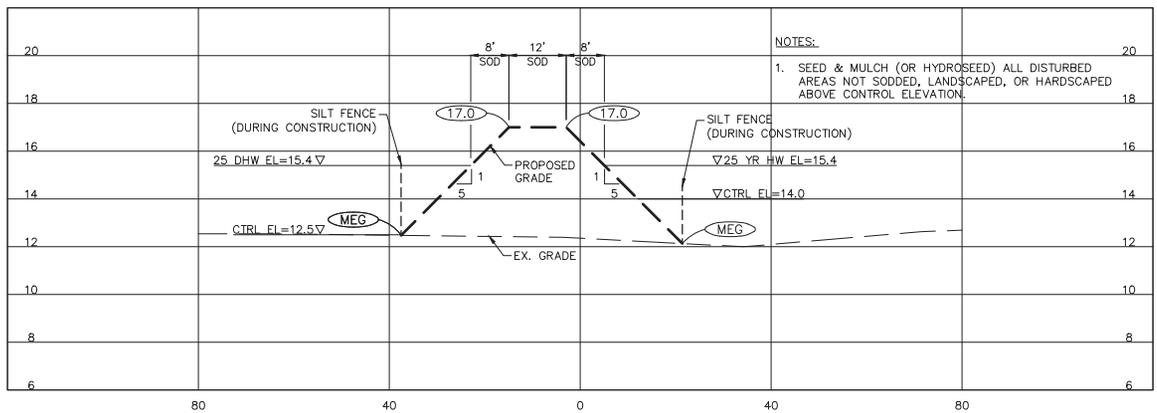

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CLIENT:	MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT:	WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

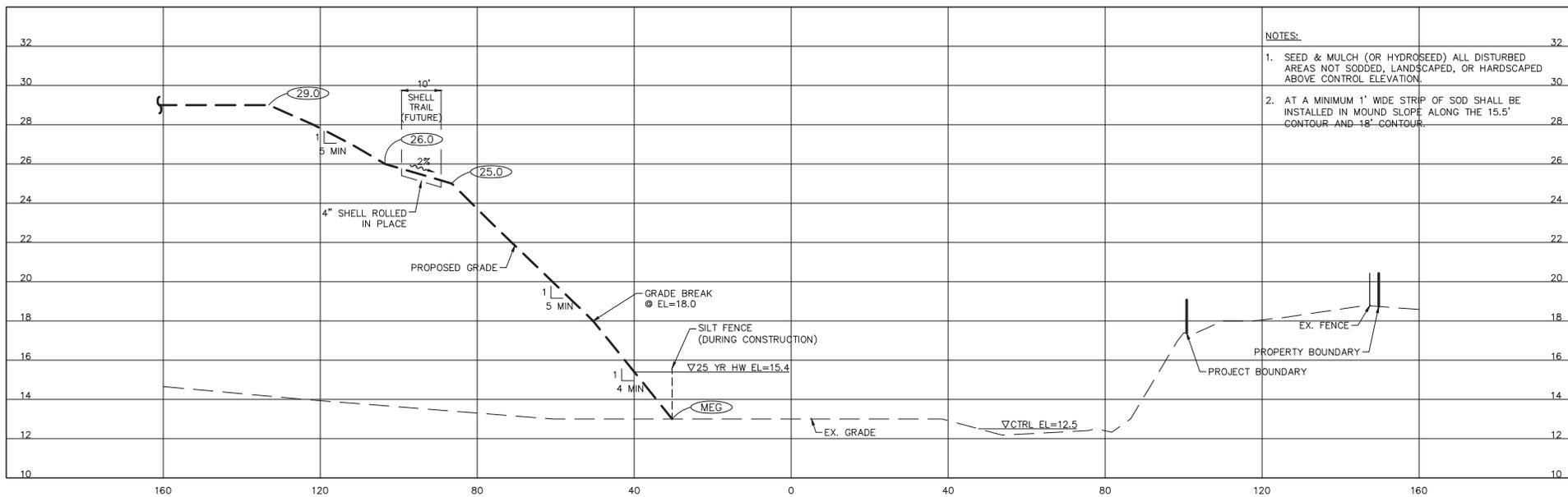
DATE:	MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:	
VERTICAL SCALE:	
SEC. TWP. RGE:	
CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:	

TITLE:	GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN
PROJECT NUMBER:	177310993
INDEX NUMBER:	
SHEET NUMBER:	15 of 21



SECTION A-A

1"=40' (HORIZ.)
1"=8' (VERT.)



SECTION B-B

1"=40' (HORIZ.)
1"=8' (VERT.)

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CLIENT: **MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

PROJECT: **WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION**

DATE: **MARCH 2019**

HORIZONTAL SCALE:

VERTICAL SCALE:

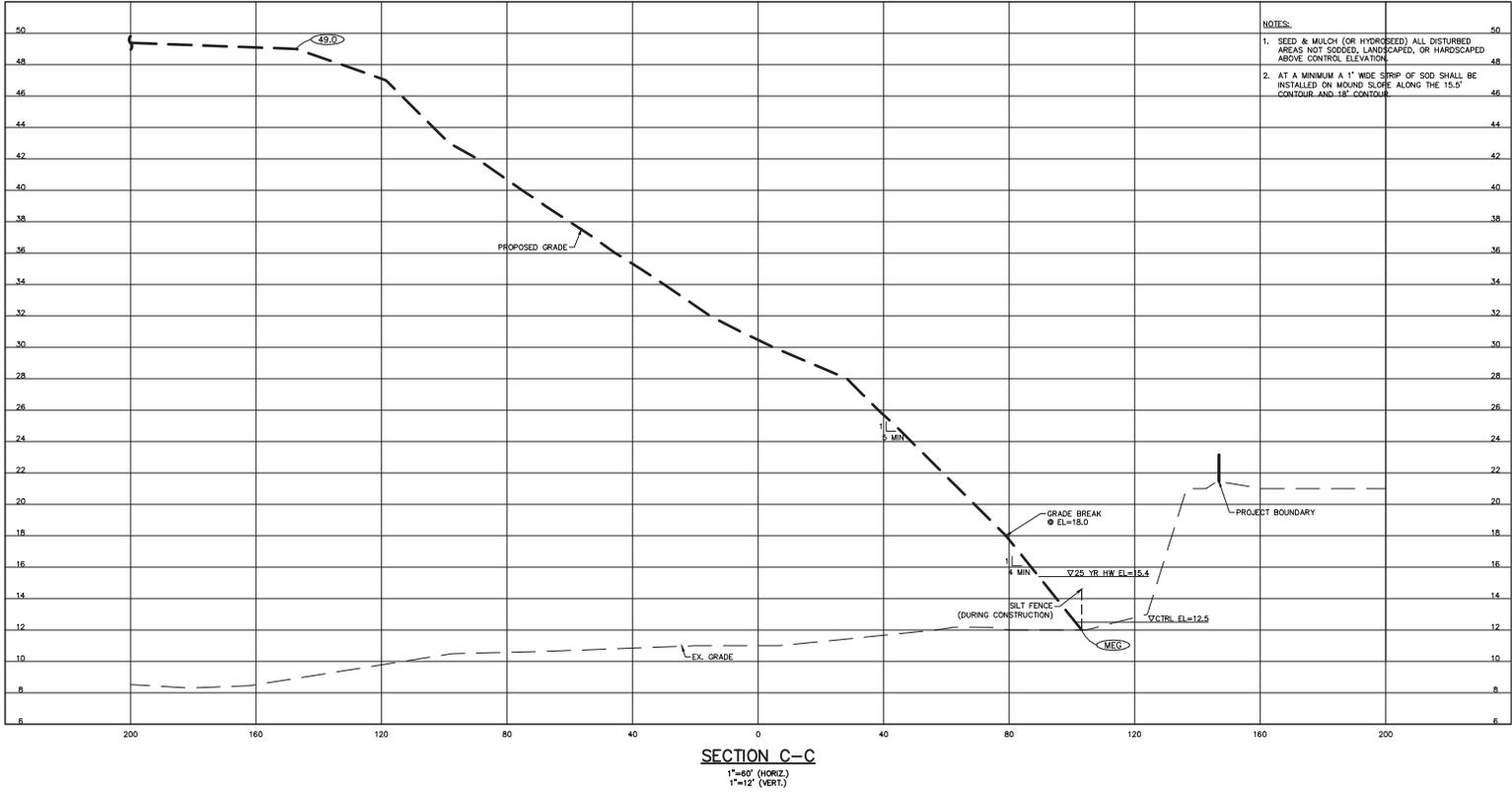
TITLE: **GRADING CROSS SECTIONS**

SEC: TWP: RGE: CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:

PROJECT NUMBER: **177310993**

INDEX NUMBER:

SHEET NUMBER: **16 of 21**



SECTION C-C

1"=60' (HORIZ.)
1"=12' (VERT.)



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PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

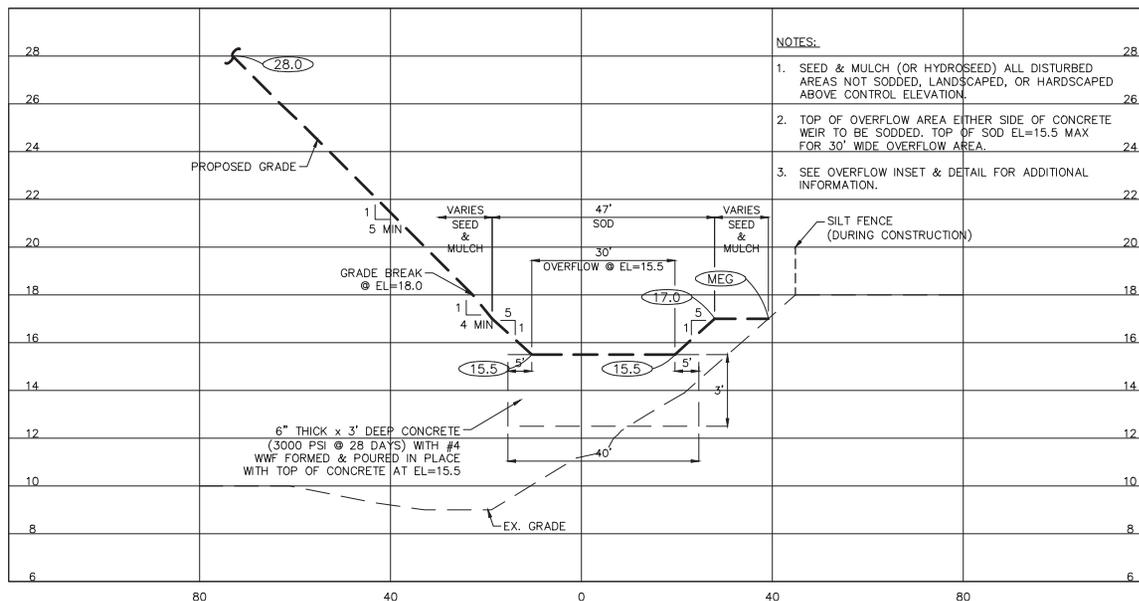
DATE: MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:
VERTICAL SCALE:

TITLE: GRADING CROSS SECTIONS
SEC: TWP: RGE: CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.: PROJECT NUMBER: 177310993

REV. NO.	REVISION	DATE	DRAWN BY / EMP. NO.	CHECKED BY / EMP. NO.

INDEX NUMBER:
SHEET NUMBER: 17 of 21

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- NOTES:**
- SEED & MULCH (OR HYDROSEED) ALL DISTURBED AREAS NOT SODDED, LANDSCAPED, OR HARDSCAPED ABOVE CONTROL ELEVATION.
 - TOP OF OVERFLOW AREA EITHER SIDE OF CONCRETE WEIR TO BE SODDED. TOP OF SOD EL=15.5 MAX FOR 30' WIDE OVERFLOW AREA.
 - SEE OVERFLOW INSET & DETAIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

D-D SECTION

1"=40' (HORIZ.)
1"=8' (VERT.)



The Contractor shall verify and be responsible for all dimensions. DO NOT scale the drawing - any errors or omissions shall be reported to Stantec without delay. The Copyrights to all designs and drawings are the property of Stantec. Reproduction or use for any purpose other than that authorized by Stantec is forbidden.

CLIENT: MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE: MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:
VERTICAL SCALE:

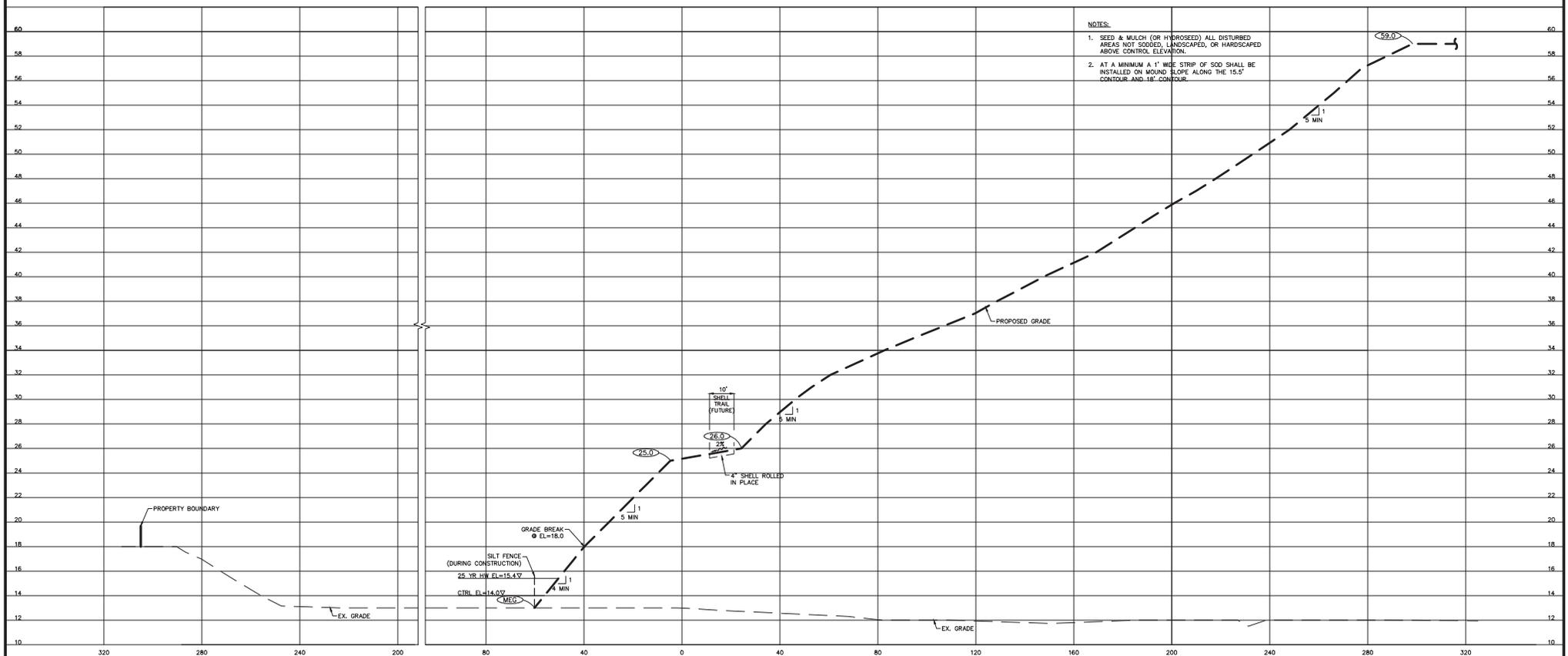
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SEC: TWP: RGE: CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.: PROJECT NUMBER: 177310993

INDEX NUMBER:
SHEET NUMBER: 18 of 21

REV. NO.	REVISION	DATE	DRAWN BY / EMP. NO.	CHECKED BY / EMP. NO.

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- NOTES:**
1. SEED & MULCH (OR HYDROSEED) ALL DISTURBED AREAS NOT SOGGED, LANDSCAPED, OR HARDSCAPED ABOVE CONTROL ELEVATION.
 2. AT A MINIMUM A 1' WIDE STRIP OF SOD SHALL BE INSTALLED ON MOUND SLOPE ALONG THE 15.5' CONTOUR AND 18' CONTOUR.

SECTION E-E
 1"=60' (HORIZ)
 1"=12' (VERT.)

REV NO.	REVISION	DATE	DRAWN BY / EMP. NO.	CHECKED BY / EMP. NO.

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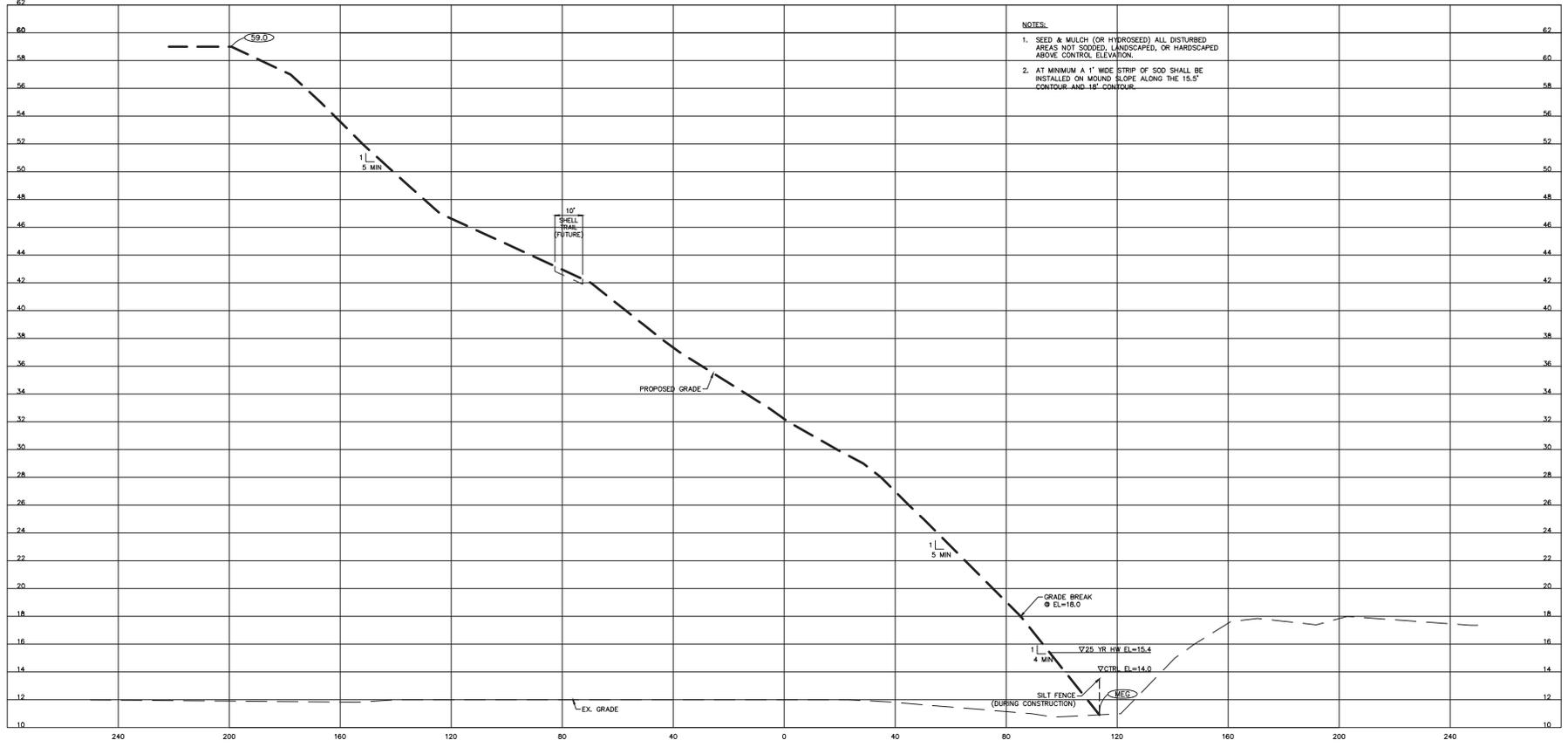
CLIENT: MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PROJECT: WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION

DATE: MARCH 2019
HORIZONTAL SCALE:
VERTICAL SCALE:

TITLE: GRADING CROSS SECTIONS
SEC. TWP. RGE: CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.: PROJECT NUMBER: 177310993

INDEX NUMBER:
SHEET NUMBER: 19 of 21

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- NOTES:
1. SEED & MULCH (OR HYDROSEED) ALL DISTURBED AREAS NOT SOODED, LANDSCAPED, OR HARDSCAPED ABOVE CONTROL ELEVATION.
 2. AT MINIMUM A 1" WIDE STRIP OF SOD SHALL BE INSTALLED ON MOUND SLOPE ALONG THE 15.5' CONTOUR AND 18' CONTOUR.

SECTION F-F
 1"=60' (HORIZ.)
 1"=12' (VERT.)

REV. NO.	REVISION	DATE	DRAWN BY / EMP. NO.	CHECKED BY / EMP. NO.

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CLIENT: **MANATEE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

PROJECT: **WASHINGTON PARK PRESERVE PHASE II RESTORATION**

DATE: **MARCH 2019**

HORIZONTAL SCALE:

VERTICAL SCALE:

SEC: TWP: RGE:

TITLE: **GRADING CROSS SECTIONS**

CROSS REFERENCE FILE NO.:

PROJECT NUMBER: **177310993**

INDEX NUMBER:

SHEET NUMBER: **20 of 21**

COMMENCEMENT NOTIFICATION

*Within ten (10) days of initiating the authorized work, submit this form via electronic mail to saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil (preferred, not to exceed 15 MB) **or** by standard mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.*

1. **Department of the Army Permit Number:** SAJ-2019-00578(NW-CMW)

2. **Permittee Information:**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

3. **Construction Start Date:** _____

4. **Contact to Schedule Inspection:**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Signature of Permittee

Printed Name of Permittee

Date

AS-BUILT CERTIFICATION BY PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

*Within sixty (60) days of completion of the authorized work, submit this form and one set of as-built engineering drawings via electronic mail to saj-rd-enforcement@usace.army.mil (preferred, but not to exceed 15 MB) **or** by standard mail to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019. If you have questions regarding this requirement, please contact the Enforcement Branch at 904-232-3131.*

1. Department of the Army Permit Number: SAJ-2019-00578(NW-CMW)

2. Permittee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

3. Project Site Identification (physical location/address):

4. As-Built Certification: I hereby certify that the authorized work, including any mitigation required by Special Conditions to the permit, has been accomplished in accordance with the Department of the Army permit with any deviations noted below. This determination is based upon on-site observation, scheduled and conducted by me or by a project representative under my direct supervision. I have enclosed one set of as-built engineering drawings.

Signature of Engineer

Name (*Please type*)

(FL, PR, or VI) Reg. Number

Company Name

City

State

ZIP

(Affix Seal)

STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
August 12, 2013

The eastern indigo snake protection/education plan (Plan) below has been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Florida for use by applicants and their construction personnel. At least **30 days prior** to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall notify the appropriate USFWS Field Office via e-mail that the Plan will be implemented as described below (North Florida Field Office: jaxregs@fws.gov; South Florida Field Office: verobeach@fws.gov; Panama City Field Office: panamacity@fws.gov). As long as the signatory of the e-mail certifies compliance with the below Plan (including use of the attached poster and brochure), no further written confirmation or “approval” from the USFWS is needed and the applicant may move forward with the project.

If the applicant decides to use an eastern indigo snake protection/education plan other than the approved Plan below, written confirmation or “approval” from the USFWS that the plan is adequate must be obtained. At least 30 days prior to any clearing/land alteration activities, the applicant shall submit their unique plan for review and approval. The USFWS will respond via e-mail, typically within 30 days of receiving the plan, either concurring that the plan is adequate or requesting additional information. A concurrence e-mail from the appropriate USFWS Field Office will fulfill approval requirements.

The Plan materials should consist of: 1) a combination of posters and pamphlets (see **Poster Information** section below); and 2) verbal educational instructions to construction personnel by supervisory or management personnel before any clearing/land alteration activities are initiated (see **Pre-Construction Activities** and **During Construction Activities** sections below).

POSTER INFORMATION

Posters with the following information shall be placed at strategic locations on the construction site and along any proposed access roads (a final poster for Plan compliance, to be printed on 11” x 17” or larger paper and laminated, is attached):

DESCRIPTION: The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

SIMILAR SNAKES: The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

LIFE HISTORY: The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands

and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

PROTECTION UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW: The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. “Taking” of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. “Take” is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.

IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:

- Cease clearing activities and allow the live eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference;
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant’s designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant’s designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

Telephone numbers of USFWS Florida Field Offices to be contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:

North Florida Field Office – (904) 731-3336
Panama City Field Office – (850) 769-0552
South Florida Field Office – (772) 562-3909

PRE-CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

1. The applicant or designated agent will post educational posters in the construction office and throughout the construction site, including any access roads. The posters must be clearly visible to all construction staff. A sample poster is attached.
2. Prior to the onset of construction activities, the applicant/designated agent will conduct a meeting with all construction staff (annually for multi-year projects) to discuss identification of the snake, its protected status, what to do if a snake is observed within the project area, and applicable penalties that may be imposed if state and/or federal regulations are violated. An educational brochure including color photographs of the snake will be given to each staff member in attendance and additional copies will be provided to the construction superintendent to make available in the onsite construction office (a final brochure for Plan compliance, to be printed double-sided on 8.5" x 11" paper and then properly folded, is attached). Photos of eastern indigo snakes may be accessed on USFWS and/or FWC websites.
3. Construction staff will be informed that in the event that an eastern indigo snake (live or dead) is observed on the project site during construction activities, all such activities are to cease until the established procedures are implemented according to the Plan, which includes notification of the appropriate USFWS Field Office. The contact information for the USFWS is provided on the referenced posters and brochures.

DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

1. During initial site clearing activities, an onsite observer may be utilized to determine whether habitat conditions suggest a reasonable probability of an eastern indigo snake sighting (example: discovery of snake sheds, tracks, lots of refugia and cavities present in the area of clearing activities, and presence of gopher tortoises and burrows).
2. If an eastern indigo snake is discovered during gopher tortoise relocation activities (i.e. burrow excavation), the USFWS shall be contacted within one business day to obtain further guidance which may result in further project consultation.
3. Periodically during construction activities, the applicant's designated agent should visit the project area to observe the condition of the posters and Plan materials, and replace them as needed. Construction personnel should be reminded of the instructions (above) as to what is expected if any eastern indigo snakes are seen.

POST CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

Whether or not eastern indigo snakes are observed during construction activities, a monitoring report should be submitted to the appropriate USFWS Field Office within 60 days of project completion. The report can be sent electronically to the appropriate USFWS e-mail address listed on page one of this Plan.

**IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN
INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and allow the eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference.
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

**IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN
INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:**

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

**USFWS Florida Field Offices to be
contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo
snake is encountered:**

North Florida ES Office – (904) 731-3336
Panama City ES Office – (850) 769-0552
South Florida ES Office – (772) 562-3909

DESCRIPTION: The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

SIMILAR SNAKES: The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

LIFE HISTORY: The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

Killing, harming, or harassing indigo snakes is strictly prohibited and punishable under State and Federal Law.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.

LEGAL STATUS: The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. “Taking” of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. “Take” is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.



August 12, 2013

ATTENTION:
THREATENED EASTERN INDIGO
SNAKES MAY BE PRESENT ON
THIS SITE!!!



Please read the following information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become familiar with standard protection measures for the eastern indigo snake.



ATTENTION:

THREATENED EASTERN INDIGO SNAKES MAY BE PRESENT ON THIS SITE!!!

IF YOU SEE A LIVE EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:

- Cease clearing activities and allow the eastern indigo snake sufficient time to move away from the site without interference.
- Personnel must NOT attempt to touch or handle snake due to protected status.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- If the snake is located in a vicinity where continuation of the clearing or construction activities will cause harm to the snake, the activities must halt until such time that a representative of the USFWS returns the call (within one day) with further guidance as to when activities may resume.

IF YOU SEE A DEAD EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE ON THE SITE:

- Cease clearing activities and immediately notify supervisor or the applicant's designated agent, **and** the appropriate USFWS office, with the location information and condition of the snake.
- Take photographs of the snake, if possible, for identification and documentation purposes.
- Thoroughly soak the dead snake in water and then freeze the specimen. The appropriate wildlife agency will retrieve the dead snake.

USFWS Florida Field Offices to be contacted if a live or dead eastern indigo snake is encountered:

North Florida Field Office – (904) 731-3336

Panama City Field Office – (850) 769-0552

South Florida Field Office – (772) 562-3909

Killing, harming, or harassing indigo snakes is strictly prohibited and punishable under State and Federal Law.

DESCRIPTION: The eastern indigo snake is one of the largest non-venomous snakes in North America, with individuals often reaching up to 8 feet in length. They derive their name from the glossy, blue-black color of their scales above and uniformly slate blue below. Frequently, they have orange to coral reddish coloration in the throat area, yet some specimens have been reported to only have cream coloration on the throat. These snakes are not typically aggressive and will attempt to crawl away when disturbed. Though indigo snakes rarely bite, they should NOT be handled.

SIMILAR SNAKES: The black racer is the only other solid black snake resembling the eastern indigo snake. However, black racers have a white or cream chin, thinner bodies, and WILL BITE if handled.

LIFE HISTORY: The eastern indigo snake occurs in a wide variety of terrestrial habitat types throughout Florida. Although they have a preference for uplands, they also utilize some wetlands and agricultural areas. Eastern indigo snakes will often seek shelter inside gopher tortoise burrows and other below- and above-ground refugia, such as other animal burrows, stumps, roots, and debris piles. Females may lay from 4 - 12 white eggs as early as April through June, with young hatching in late July through October.

PROTECTION: The eastern indigo snake is classified as a Threatened species by both the USFWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "Taking" of eastern indigo snakes is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act without a permit. "Take" is defined by the USFWS as an attempt to kill, harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect, or engage in any such conduct. Penalties include a maximum fine of \$25,000 for civil violations and up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for criminal offenses, if convicted.

Only individuals currently authorized through an issued Incidental Take Statement in association with a USFWS Biological Opinion, or by a Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit issued by the USFWS, to handle an eastern indigo snake are allowed to do so.