

CASSVILLE ROAD TRACT

BARTOW COUNTY, GEORGIA

SITE RECONNAISSANCE FOR WETLANDS, STREAMS, AND STREAM BUFFERS
PREPARED OCTOBER 25, 2023 FOR: SOUTHLAND ENGINEERING, INC.

On October 24, 2023, NEI reviewed “Cassville Road Tract” to determine the extent of aquatic areas we believe would be jurisdictional under *Section 404 of the Clean Water Act* and to identify waters of the State where we believe the Georgia Department of Environmental Protection Division would regulate land disturbance in the “stream buffers”. The study area is approximately 34 acres in size and is located immediately northwest of the GA-293 and US-411 interchange in Cartersville, Bartow County, Georgia.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

STUDY AREA	34 AC
Wetland (a)(4)	~ 0.05 AC
Perennial Stream (a)(3)	0 LF
Intermittent Stream (a)(3)	~ 2,865 LF
Pond (a)(2)	~ 0.31 AC

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

At the time of on-site reconnaissance, the study area was being used for cattle farming. It was covered mostly by upland pasture. The topography of the property was consistent with the Southern Shale Valleys ecoregion with slopes ranging up to 6 percent. A residential subdivision was located to the northwest of the study area. A railroad bordered the south boundary of the study area.

ON-SITE AQUATIC RESOURCES

- **Wetlands** ((a)(4) waters) were identified next to the pond on the central portion of the study area and on the southeast portion of the study area. They were characterized by standing water, hydric soils, and vegetative communities dominated by American sycamore, tearthumb, common rush, and broadleaf cat tails.
- **Intermittent Streams** ((a)(3) waters) were identified on the central and south portions of the study area. One stream originated off-site to the north of the property and flowed generally south before forming a confluence with the intermittent stream to the south. A second intermittent stream originated on-site from the pond and flowed east before draining into the central intermittent stream. The third intermittent stream originated off-site to the west of the property and flowed southeast. It lost stream characteristics and transitioned into a linear wetland briefly before transitioning back into a stream and continued to flow southwest and off-site. The streams were up to approximately six feet wide, entrenched up to approximately six feet, and contained clay, sand, and gravel substrates. It was apparent that the streams on-site had been significantly disturbed due to the cattle farming activities.
- A **Pond** (a)(2) water) was identified on the central portion of the study area, west of the central intermittent streams.
- Aside from the above-mentioned resources, the rest of the study area appeared to be upland.

RESULTS OF SITE RECONNAISSANCE

- **Mapping:** As part of this site review, the accompanying mapping and illustrations were prepared: a location map; USGS quad map; aerial photograph; USDA NRCS soils map; USFWS wetlands map; FEMA floodplains map; USGS Stream Stats; and approximate photo locations.
- **GPS:** While onsite, Trimble DA2 GPS antennas equipped with Trimble Terra Flex Software were used to log the location of aquatic resources and other notable features as appropriate. The location and area(s) of aquatic resources reported herein is based partly on GPS data that was collected using Trimble antenna(s), post-processed with Trimble Terra Flex software, and alignments and measurements were accomplished in Google Earth. While the data shown herein is presumed to be accurate, actual stream alignments and aquatic resource boundaries found in the field can vary somewhat from that which is mapped. This mapping grade GPS data is known to be sub-meter accurate and suitable for acceptance by the regulatory agencies but can vary in precision depending upon several variables. If a greater level of precision for the aquatic resource location is required, please let us know.

SUMMARY OF OUR WORK ACTIVITY AND PERTINENT REGULATIONS

After reviewing available remote data including aerial photography, USGS topography, the National Wetlands Inventory mapping, the USDA soils survey, the FEMA floodplains mapping, USGS Stream Stats mapping, and other available data as appropriate, field reconnaissance was conducted to locate onsite aquatic resources. The typical field reconnaissance generally commences along the lower elevation areas of the study area, then works up-valley until no further evidence of aquatic resources is found.

Waters of the United States

Wetlands and waters of the US are under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE jurisdiction is established in *Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 328.3*, as published in the *Federal Register*, effective September 8, 2023. The USACE jurisdiction in the North Georgia region includes freshwater ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. The USACE would regulate the discharge of fill material into the streams, wetlands, and pond identified herein.

WOTUS DESIGNATIONS

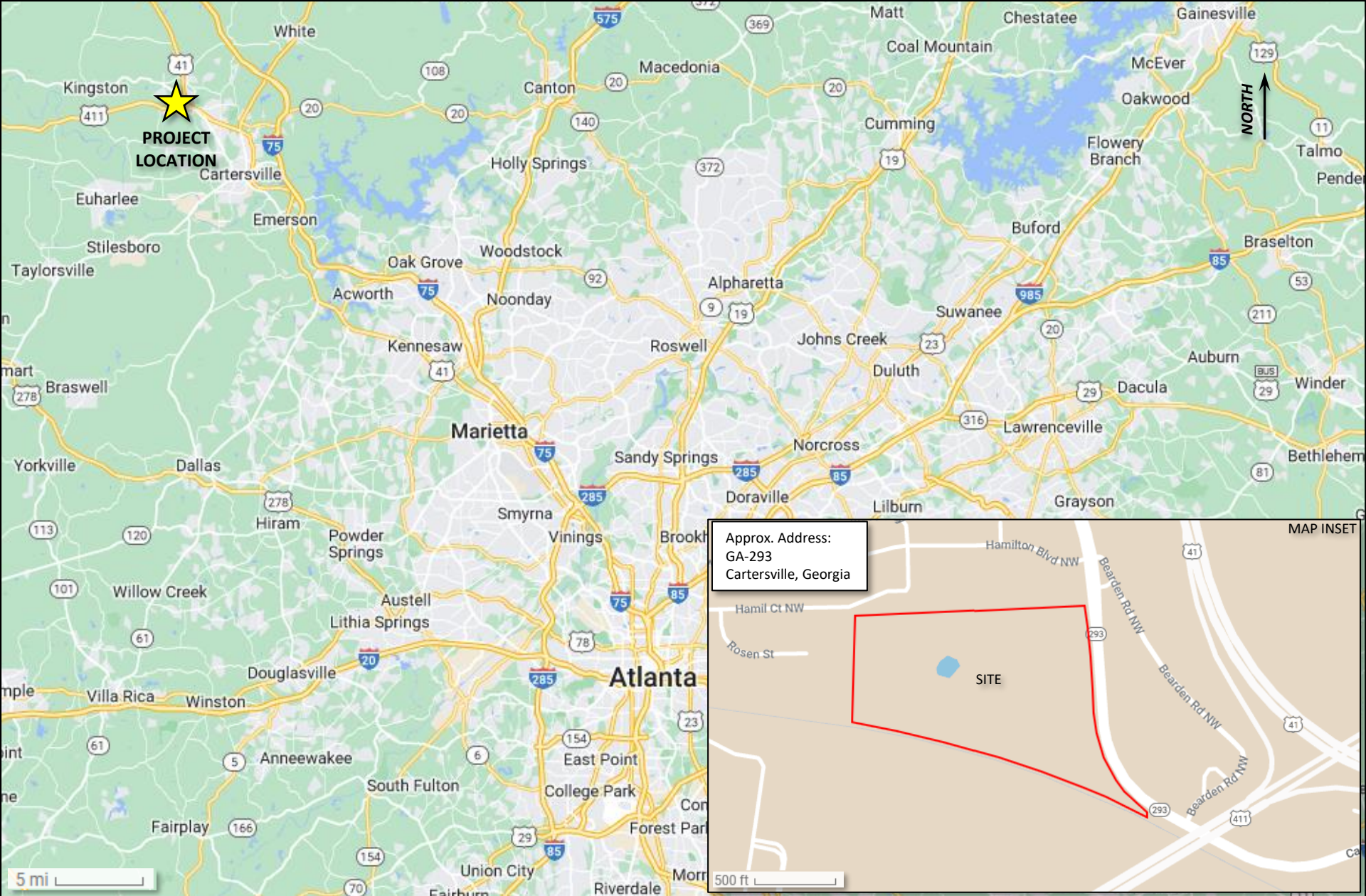
- **(a)(1)** – includes traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, and interstate waters.
- **(a)(2)** – includes impoundments of “waters of the United States.”
- **(a)(3)** – includes tributaries of traditionally navigable waters and impoundments of “waters of the United States” that are relatively permanent, standing, or continuously flowing bodies of water.
- **(a)(4)** – includes aquatic resources that meet the 2023 “waters of the United States” definition of “wetlands” and maintain a “continuous surface connection” to other jurisdictional waters.
- **(a)(5)** – includes intrastate lakes and ponds not identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(4) that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously, flowing bodies of water with a continuous surface connection to other jurisdictional waters.

GAEPD BUFFERED STATE WATERS

Through the Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, the GAEPD regulates land disturbance in buffers extending horizontally from the point of wrested vegetation. Drainage from the site leads to Nancy Creek, which is in the Etowah watershed, USGS HUC 03150104. Based on the list of trout streams found in GADNR 391-3-6-.03, the streams in this area are not listed as “trout streams,” and therefore would be considered “warm water streams.” The streams identified herein would be considered “Buffered Waters of the State”, where GAEPD would regulate land disturbance in a 25-foot “stream buffer”. The pond did not appear to exhibit wrested vegetation from wave or tidal action, and therefore may not be considered a “Buffered Water of the State”.

CLOSING

The information and data provided herein is sufficient for planning purposes but is not necessarily sufficient for agency verification. Our field reconnaissance for wetlands and streams is based on our over 30+ years of experience, but please note that the USACE and GAEPD have the ultimate discretionary authority in the determination of their respective jurisdiction. If you would like for us to pursue official jurisdictional determination with the USACE and/or the GAEPD, please let us know.



VICINITY MAP

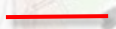
**FIELD RECONNAISSANCE FOR STREAMS AND WETLANDS
CASSVILLE ROAD TRACT
BARTOW COUNTY, GEORGIA**

EXHIBIT 1
PREPARED 10/25/2023 BY:
NELSON ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

PREPARED FOR:
 SOUTHLAND ENGINEERING, INC.

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APPROX. STUDY AREA 

USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

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Note: This exhibit was generated by overlaying field GPS data into Google Earth. Resulting feature locations are approximate

600 ft

STREAM (a)(3)	
WETLAND (a)(4)	
APPROX. STUDY AREA	

MAPSOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGE 8/28/2019

**AERIAL PHOTO W/
AQUATIC RESOURCE LOCATIONS**

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600 ft

APPROX. STUDY AREA

MAPSOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGE 10/23/2017

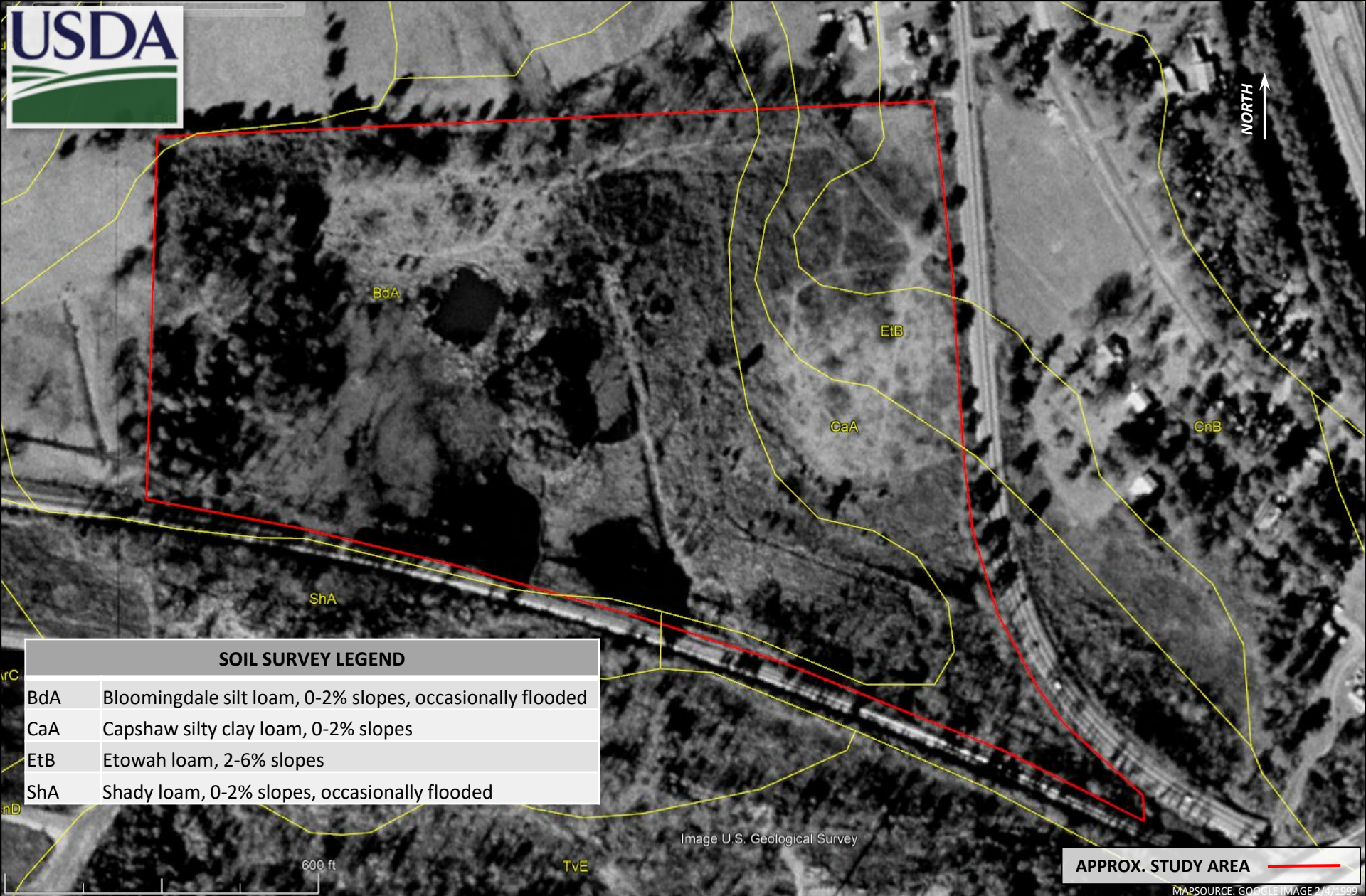
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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SOIL SURVEY LEGEND	
BdA	Bloomington silt loam, 0-2% slopes, occasionally flooded
CaA	Capshaw silty clay loam, 0-2% slopes
EtB	Etowah loam, 2-6% slopes
ShA	Shady loam, 0-2% slopes, occasionally flooded

APPROX. STUDY AREA

USDA SOILS SURVEY

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ACCORDING TO FWS NWI DATA, AQUATIC RESOURCES ARE MAPPED IN THE STUDY AREA.

600 ft

APPROX. STUDY AREA 

MAPSOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGE 8/28/2019

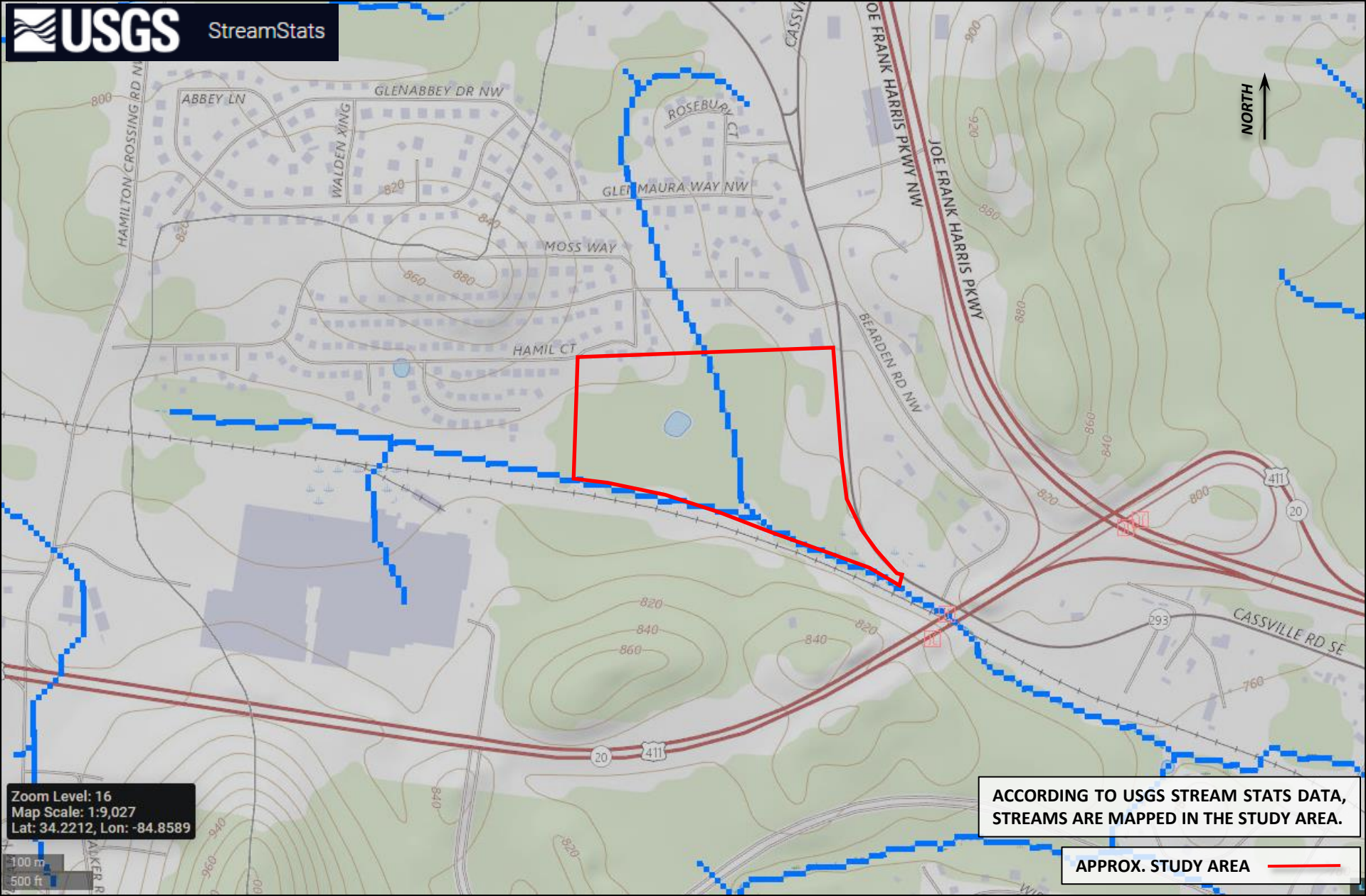
USFWS NWI MAP

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EXHIBIT 6
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ACCORDING TO USGS STREAM STATS DATA,
STREAMS ARE MAPPED IN THE STUDY AREA.

APPROX. STUDY AREA ———

USGS STREAM STATS MAP

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ACCORDING TO FEMA FLOOD HAZARD DATA, FLOOD HAZARD AREAS ARE NOT MAPPED IN THE STUDY AREA.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Regulatory Floodway

APPROX. STUDY AREA 

2000 ft

MAPSOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGE 8/28/2019

FEMA FLOOD HAZARD MAP

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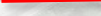
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PHOTO LOCATIONS

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STREAM (a)(3) 
 WETLAND (a)(4) 
 APPROX. STUDY AREA 

MAPSOURCE: GOOGLE IMAGE 8/28/2019

EXHIBIT 9

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PHOTO 1: INTERMITTENT STREAM



PHOTO 2: WETLAND AND POND

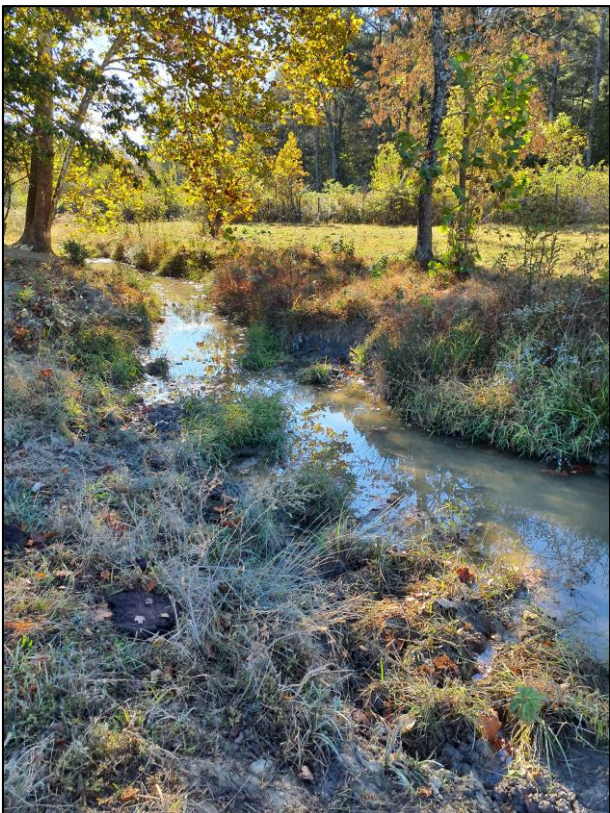


PHOTO 3: INTERMITTENT STREAM

SEE PRECEDING EXHIBIT FOR PHOTO LOCATIONS

PHOTOS TAKEN: 10/24/2023

SITE PHOTOS

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