

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Applicant: Avery Roberts 301 Capital Partners, LLC P.O. Box 238 Lake Butler, Florida 32054 Published: July 1, 2025 Expires: July 21, 2025

Jacksonville District Permit Application No. SAJ-2025-00574

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

If you are interested in receiving additional project drawings associated with this public notice, please send an e-mail to the project manager by electronic mail at <u>Tracy.d.sanders@usace.army.mil</u>.

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WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project site is located west of U.S. Highway 301 between Fiftone Road W and Fiftone Road in Sections 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, Township 3 South, Range 23 East in Duval County, Florida at latitude 30.244678° and longitude -81.998433°. The project would affect aquatic resources associated with Deep Creek.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The proposed project area is approximately 2,300 acres in size. The project review area is currently undeveloped and consist of the following twelve (12) FLCCS land use types/vegetative communities within its boundaries: Mesic Flatwoods (FLCCS 1311), Coniferous Plantation (FLCCS 183332), Sod Farm (FLCCS 183342), Roads (FLCCS 1841), Rural Open (FLCCS 1831), Wet Flatwoods (FLCCS 2221), Mixed Hardwood-Coniferous Swamps (FLCCS 2240), Grazed Wetlands (FLCCS 2430), Artificial/Farm Pond (FLCCS 3210), Bottomland Forest (FLCCS 22331), Wet Coniferous (FLCCS 1833321), and Ditch (FLCCS 4220).

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The basic project purpose is to provide housing.

Overall: The overall project purpose is to construct a residential development in southwestern Duval County.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant seeks authorization to discharge approximately 319,000 cubic yards of permanent fill material in approximately 65.74 acres of freshwater forested and emergent wetlands for the construction of a residential development that includes roads, stormwater management facilities, and associated infrastructure.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

The project has been designed to avoid impacts to the high-quality wetlands associated with Deep Creek as much as feasible. Impacts to these areas a minimal and consist of primarily outfall structures. The majority of impacts proposed will occur to low quality wetlands within active sod farms that have been impacted by agricultural practices over the past decades. Subsequent impacts will occur within wet pine plantation that also has been impacted by years of active silviculture. Modification of the site plan to avoid these impacts further are not feasible due to the Applicant's development needs. The Applicant will provide compensatory mitigation in the form of purchasing wetland mitigation bank credits from a regionally significant bank.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

The applicant proposed to WRAP credits from Longleaf Mitigation Bank.

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The Corps evaluated the undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) utilizing its existing program-specific regulations and procedures along with 36 CFR Part 800. The Corps' program-specific procedures include 33 CFR 325, Appendix C, and revised interim guidance issued in 2005 and 2007, respectively. The District Engineer consulted district files and records and the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and initially determines that:

No historic properties (i.e., properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places) are present within the Corps' permit area; therefore, there will be <u>no historic properties affected</u>. The Corps subsequently requests concurrence from the SHPO and/or THPO.

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, through the use of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 Mapper, and the NMFS Critical Habitat Mapper to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project may affect species and critical habitat listed below. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

The Corps has determined the proposed would have no effect on Eastern Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), black creek crayfish (*Procambus pictus*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Dryobates borealis*) and Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

The Corps has determined the proposed project *may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect* the Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon couperi*) and Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). The Corps will request U.S. Fish and Wildlife concurrence with this determination pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by the Corps.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information.

The Corps has determined the proposal would have no effect on any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed project would occur in freshwater wetlands inland of tidal waters and EFH. Therefore, no consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service on EFH as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996 is required.

Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Saint Johns River Water Management District.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY: Coastal Zone Consistency Concurrence is required from Saint Johns River Water Management District. In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

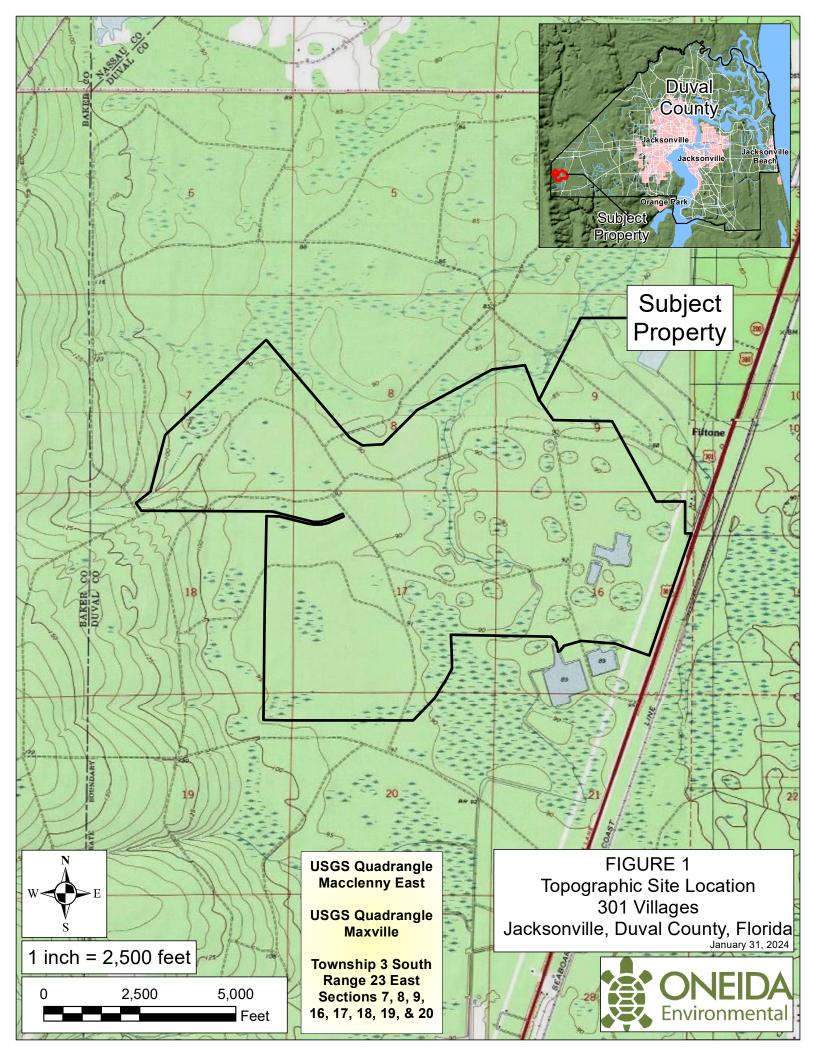
EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

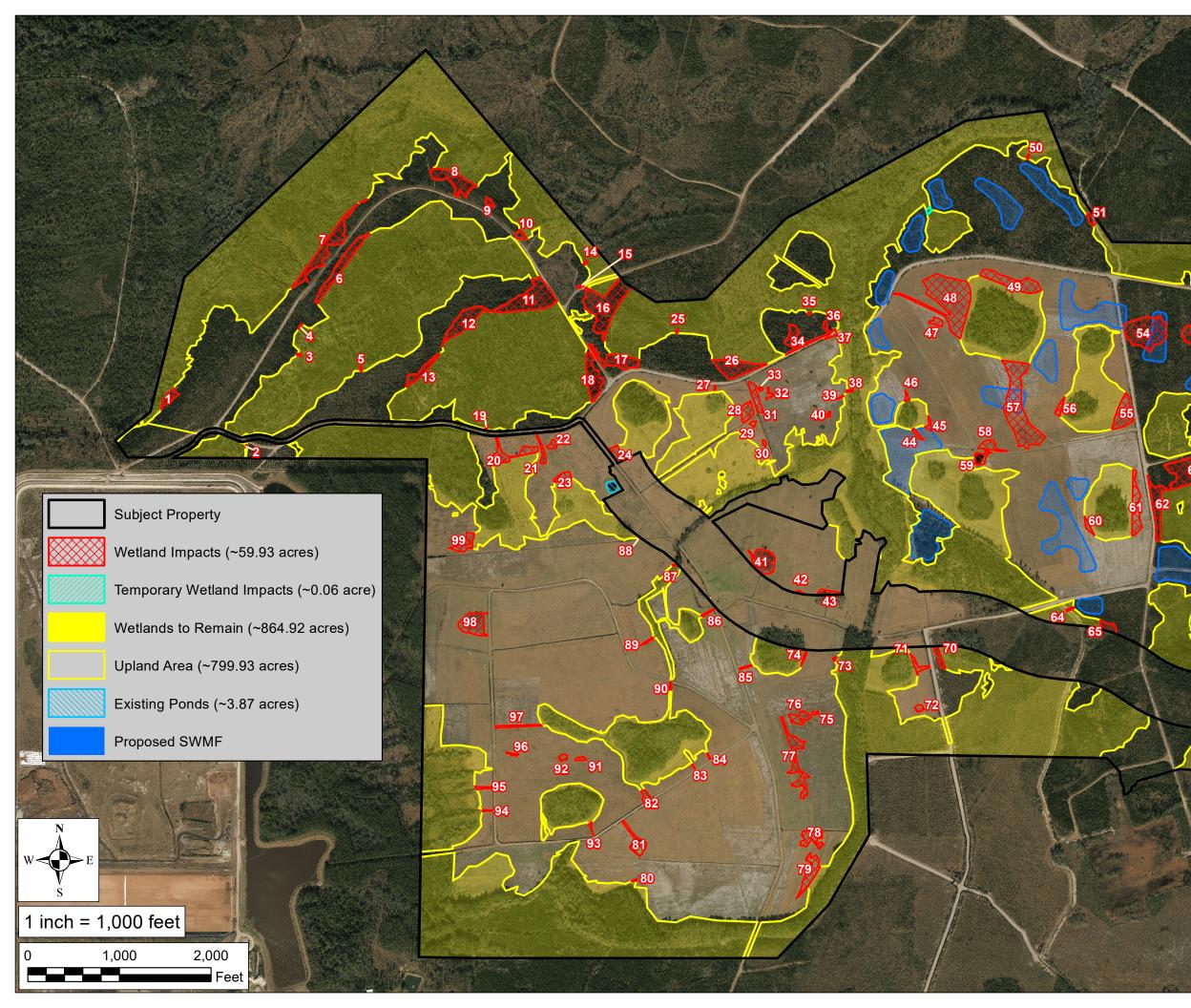
COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will

be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Jacksonville District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until July 21, 2025. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs or to Tracy Sanders at Tracy.d.sanders@usace.armymil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Attention: Tracy Sanders, 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.





Wetland Impacts Mass Grading Greenpoint Villages Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida May 22, 2025

Environmental

2023 True Color Orthophotos From Florida DOT

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