



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: October 20, 2005
Comment Deadline: November 21, 2005
Corps Action ID #: 200421295

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received a prospectus describing the establishment of an umbrella wetland, stream, watershed, and buffer compensatory mitigation bank for Federal and State permits as described below. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands.

Applicant: City of Greensboro Department of Water Resources
Stormwater Management Division
Attn: Messrs. Scott Bryant and David Phlegar
201 N. Greene Street
Greensboro, NC 27402

Agent (if applicable): Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc (Agent)
Attn: Mr. Todd St. John
Post Office Box 33068
Raleigh, NC 27636-3068

Authority

A Public Notice regarding proposed mitigation banks is recommended pursuant to Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use and Operation of Mitigation Banks (60 Federal Register Number 228).

Location

All mitigation sites that are part of the mitigation bank are located within the City of Greensboro. The initial proposal includes 32 separate project sites located in city parks throughout the City of Greensboro. Waterways affected by the proposed bank include North and South Buffalo Creek, Muddy Creek, Horsepen Creek, Ryan Creek, Mile Run Creek, and Jordan Branch. All waterways are located in the Cape Fear River Basin (USGS Hydrologic Unit (HU) 03030002) (see attached maps).

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The bank sponsor proposes to establish and operate an umbrella wetland, stream, watershed, and buffer compensatory mitigation bank for the purpose of replacing lost functions and acreage or linear footage of wetlands, streams, and buffers that are anticipated to be adversely affected by permitted activities separately authorized by Section 404/401 of the Clean Water Act.

Project Description

Thirty-two riparian buffer enhancement and preservation sites have been identified for inclusion in the proposed umbrella mitigation bank, and future plans are being developed to establish and maintain additional non-tidal emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetland communities, stream restoration sites, and riparian buffers on additional project sites located in Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina. For all future proposed bank sites, the City of Greensboro shall submit a Site-Specific Mitigation Plan for review and approval by the Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT).

The thirty-two buffer enhancement and preservation sites are proposed to initiate the mitigation bank. All of the sites are located on parcels currently owned by the City of Greensboro and maintained as city parks. The watershed for each of the parcels is highly urbanized and typically consists of residential and/or commercial areas containing buildings, roads and parking lots, mowed lawns, maintained areas, ball fields, walking trails, playgrounds, or other recreational areas. The riparian corridors adjacent to the streams in the enhancement areas were historically mowed by the City to the water's edge where possible, eliminating all streamside vegetation except grass. In 1999, the city initiated a no-mow policy along the targeted stream channels and has replanted all of the enhancement sites with trees. Each of the enhancement sites was photo-documented to establish pre-project conditions and has been monitored annually since inception.

Additionally, the City has identified existing forested riparian areas located adjacent to the enhancement sites that can be preserved. These areas have also been included in the proposed bank. Maintenance for the project sites will include continued monitoring (in accordance with the Stream Mitigation Guidelines, April 2003) and management for invasive species control. The enclosed maps show the approximate locations of the project sites. Detailed plans depicting each of the existing project sites may be obtained from the contact listed at the end of this notice.

Geographic Service Area

The geographic service area for the use of credits generated by this bank includes a portion of the upper Cape Fear Watershed (HU's 03030002 and 03030003) in North Carolina. The Bank is intended to provide mitigation only for City of Greensboro projects located within the jurisdictional limits of the City of Greensboro, NC. Where possible, the bank sponsor will attempt to mitigate within the same HU as the impact, but may on a case-by-case basis utilize credits anywhere within the jurisdictional limits of

Greensboro, with the exception of credits required to mitigate impacts to buffers in the Randleman sub-basin, which will be generated by projects located in the Randleman sub-basin.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps is not aware of the presence of species listed as threatened or endangered or their critical habitat formally designated pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) within the project area. A final determination on the effects of the proposed project will be made upon additional review of the project and completion of any necessary biological assessment and/or consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service.

Evaluation

This mitigation bank may be considered one of a number of practicable alternatives available to applicants to compensate for unavoidable wetland impacts associated with permits issued under the authority of Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act for projects located within the prescribed geographic service area.

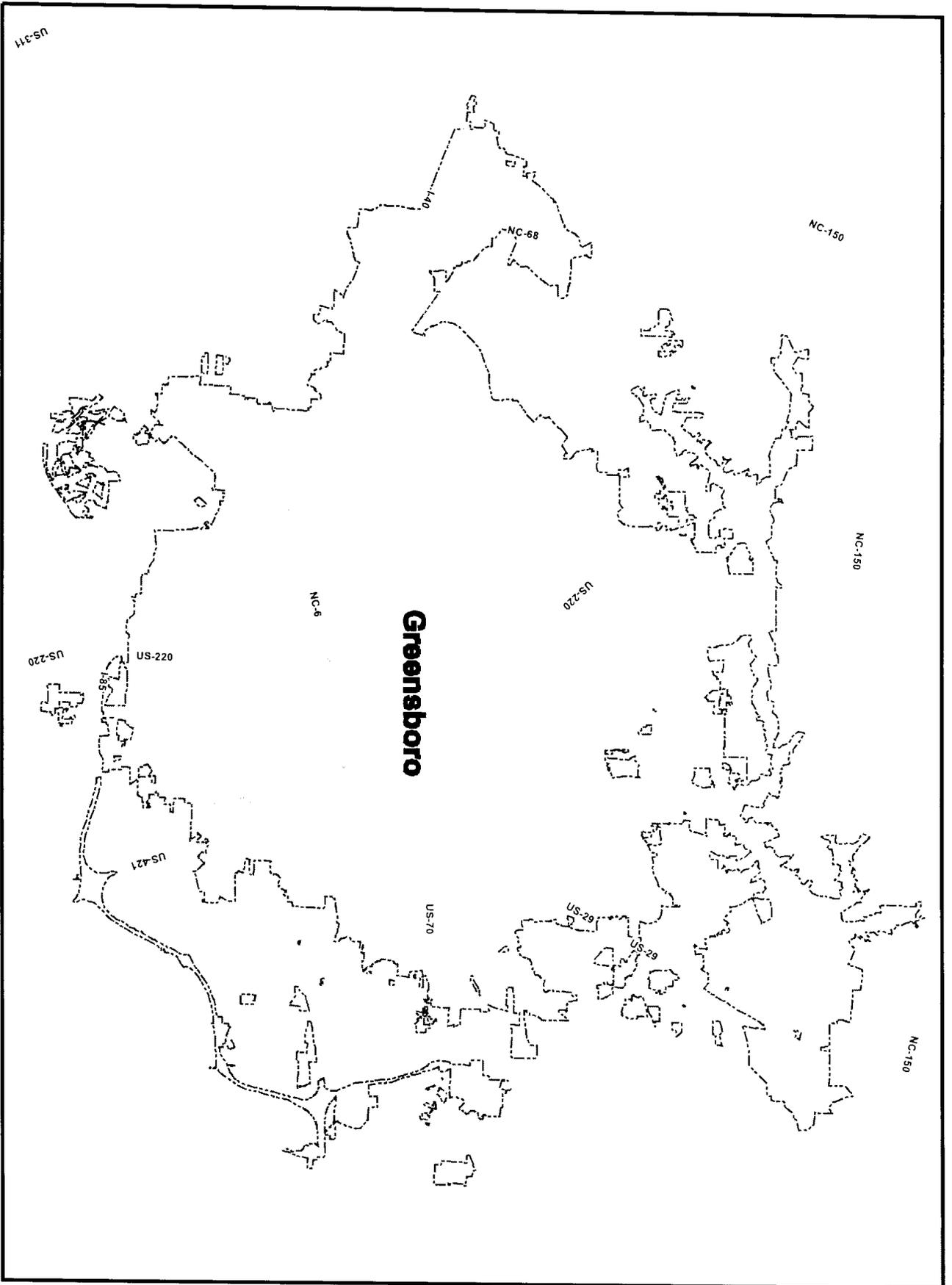
Oversight of this stream, wetland, watershed, and buffer compensatory umbrella mitigation bank will be by a group of Federal and State agency representatives collectively referred to as the Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT). The MBRT shall be chaired by the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, N.C. Division of Water Quality, and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

The actual approval of the use of this mitigation bank for a specific project is the decision of the Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps provides no guarantee that any particular individual or general permit will be granted authorization to use this compensatory umbrella mitigation bank to compensate for unavoidable impacts associated with a proposed permit, even though mitigation from this bank may be available.

Commenting Information

The Corps of Engineers 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 this proposed mitigation bank. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in evaluating this proposal. Comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards and flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shore 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.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, November 21, 2005. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Todd Tugwell, Raleigh Regulatory Field Office, 6508 Falls of the Neuse Road, Suite 120, Raleigh, NC 27615.



Legend

 City Limits

0 7,000 14,000 28,000 42,000 56,000 Feet

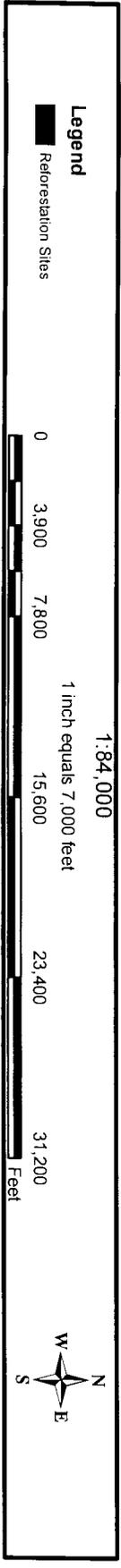
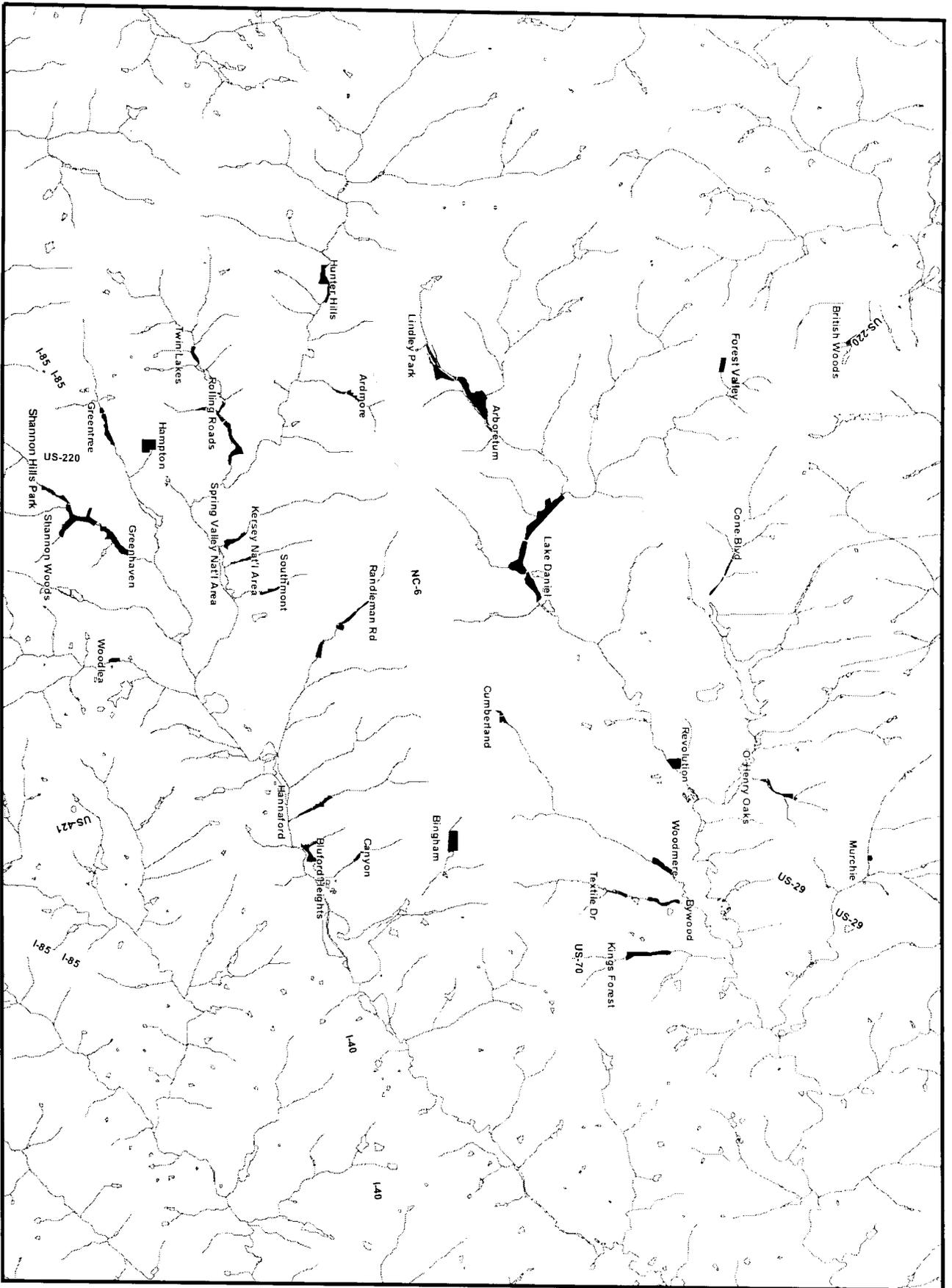
1:150,000
1 inch equals 12,500 feet



Service Area

Mapping Done By
Stormwater Management Division
Department of Water Resources
291 North Green Street
Post Office Box 1130
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402

1062



Stream Corridor Reforestation Project

Mapping Done By
 Stormwater Management Division
 Department of Water Resources
 201 North Greene Street
 Post Office Box 3130
 Greensboro, North Carolina 27402

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