

Information for File # 2015-02411-WAB

Applicant: Itasca County Land Department

Corps Contact: William Baer

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Phone: (651) 290-5338

Primary County: Itasca

Location S/T/R: Sections 26 & 27, T61N, R26W

Information Complete On: July 16, 2015

Posting Expires On: September 21, 2015

Authorization Type: LOP-05-MN

This application is being reviewed in accordance with current practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If an approved jurisdictional determination is completed as part of the review process for this application, a copy will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at the following link:

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

Project Purpose: The purpose of the Bigfork Riverwalk Trail Connection, County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 78 reconstruction, and CSAH 77 reconstruction project is to improve and expand pedestrian pathways in the City of Bigfork.

Project Description: The project would involve the construction of a 2.3 mile Riverwalk Trail pedestrian and bicycle trail in conjunction with the reconstruction of short segments of CSAH 77 and CSAH 78. The trail route would consist of a west trail near the Bigfork River, which would connect an existing trail bridge over the Rice River to the proposed trail project. The trail connection would follow along a portion of CSAH 78, and connect to the east trail loop and a spur connection to Pine Tree Drive. An off-road loop trail is proposed in City of Bigfork-owned open space. The off-road trail would provide access to natural area amenities, including users of the nearby health care campus.

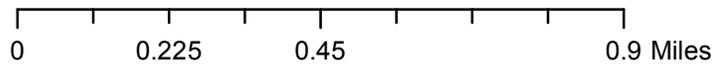
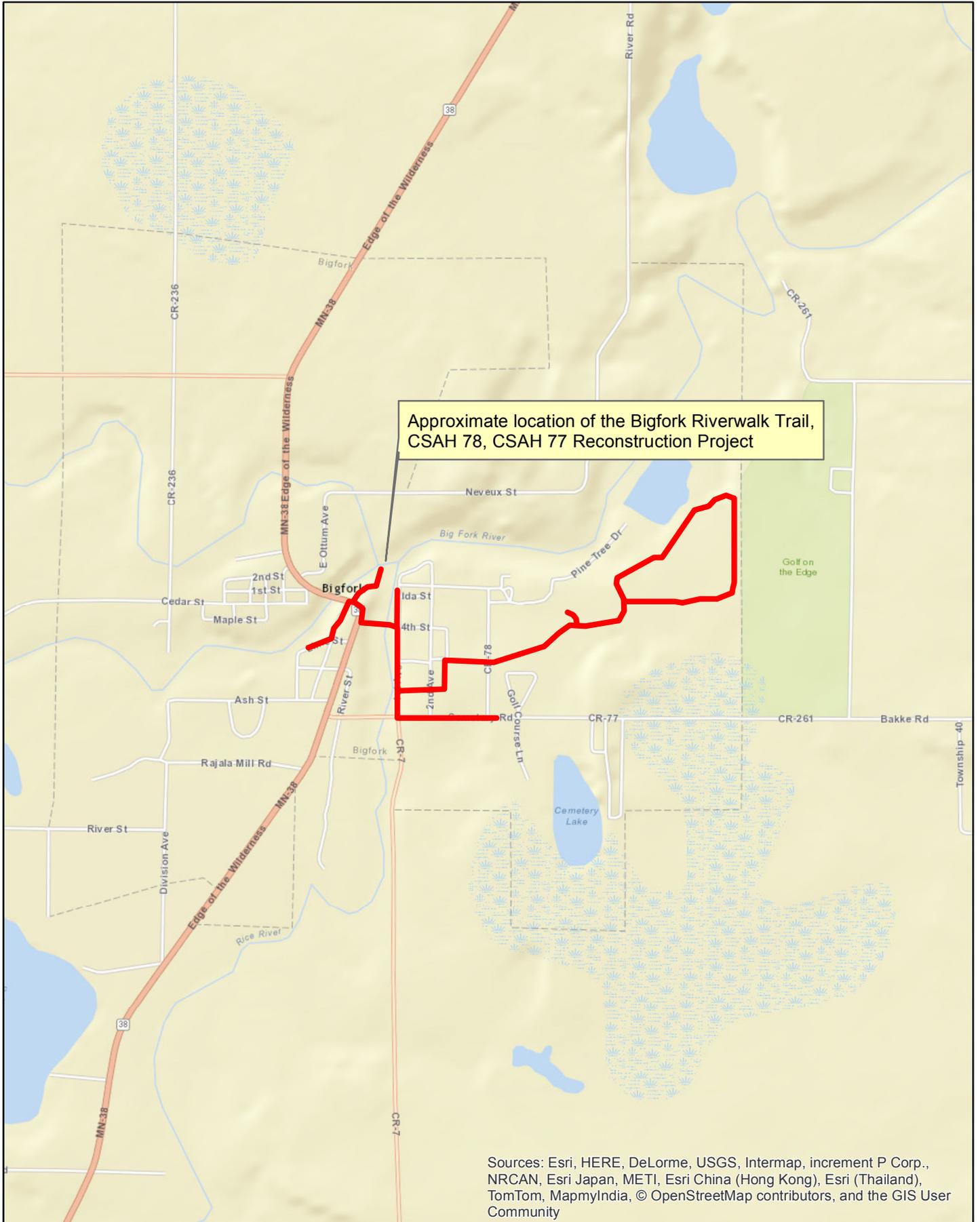
Name, Area and Types of waters (including wetlands) subject to loss: As proposed, the project would impact 11 wetlands at 15 discharge locations. The project is proposed to permanently impact 0.96 acres (41,881 square feet) of wetland, including 0.06 acres of floodplain forest, 0.04 acres of coniferous bog, 0.64 acres of shrub-carr, and 0.22 fresh wet meadow.

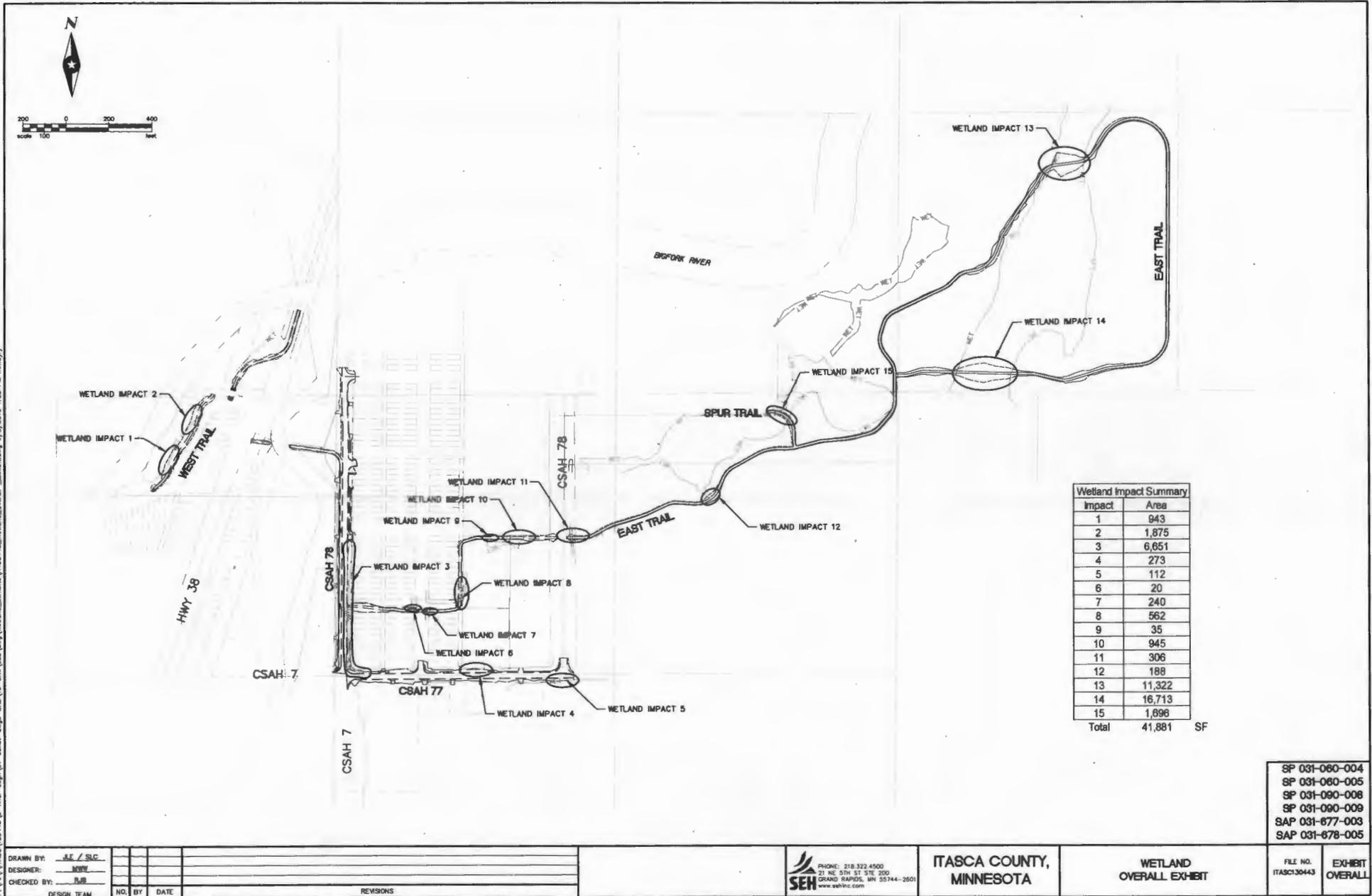
Alternatives considered: The applicant considered the no build alternative, which was dismissed because it did not meet the project purpose and need. The applicant considered a route alternative through school property to avoid impacts to basins 5 through 8, but this

alternative was deemed impractical due to a lack of right-of-way and the additional need to relocate multiple utilities. The applicant also evaluated the use of a 'dead-end' or small loop at the eastern off-road trail loop, potentially limiting basin 11 impacts to a single crossing. This alternative was dismissed because of a desire to include the loop design through the natural area and because the upland area east of wetland 11 was not considered large enough to establish a loop. The preferred route alternative was also desired because it would increase natural area viewing opportunities.

Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has proposed compensatory mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts in two ways. The applicant would purchase 0.8 wetland credits through a private wetland mitigation bank for impacts not associated with the CSAH 77 and CSAH 78 improvements. The wetland impacts associated with the roadway reconstruction would be compensated through the debit of 0.16 wetland credits from the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program mitigation bank.

Drawings: See attached.





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DESIGN TEAM	NO.	BY	DATE	REVISIONS

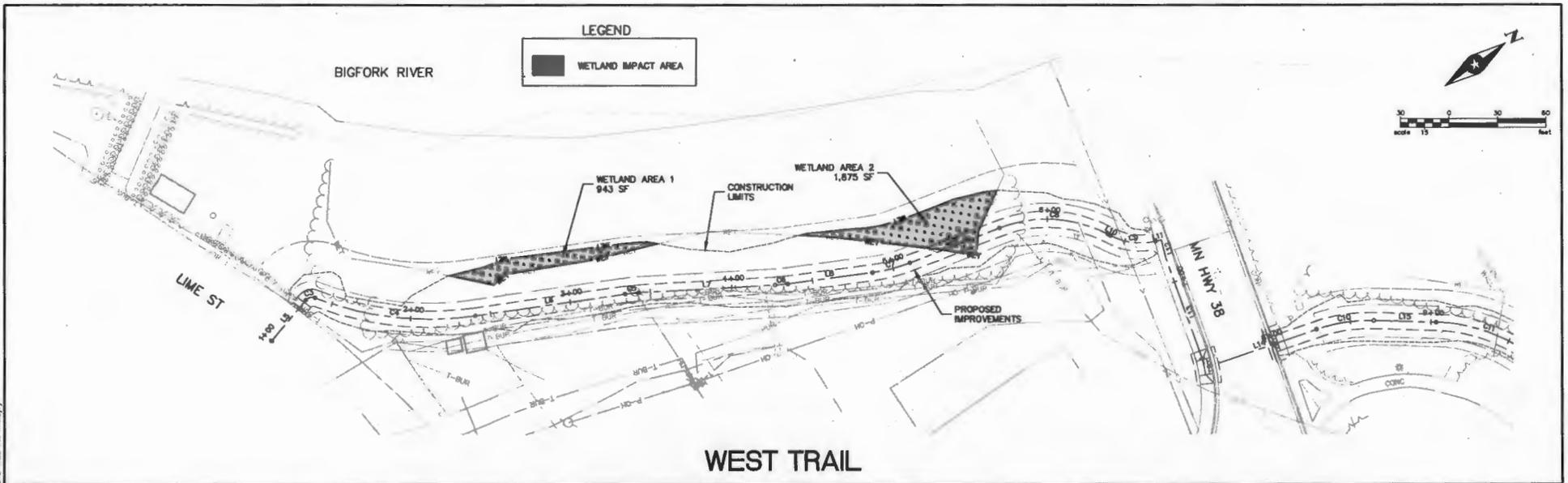
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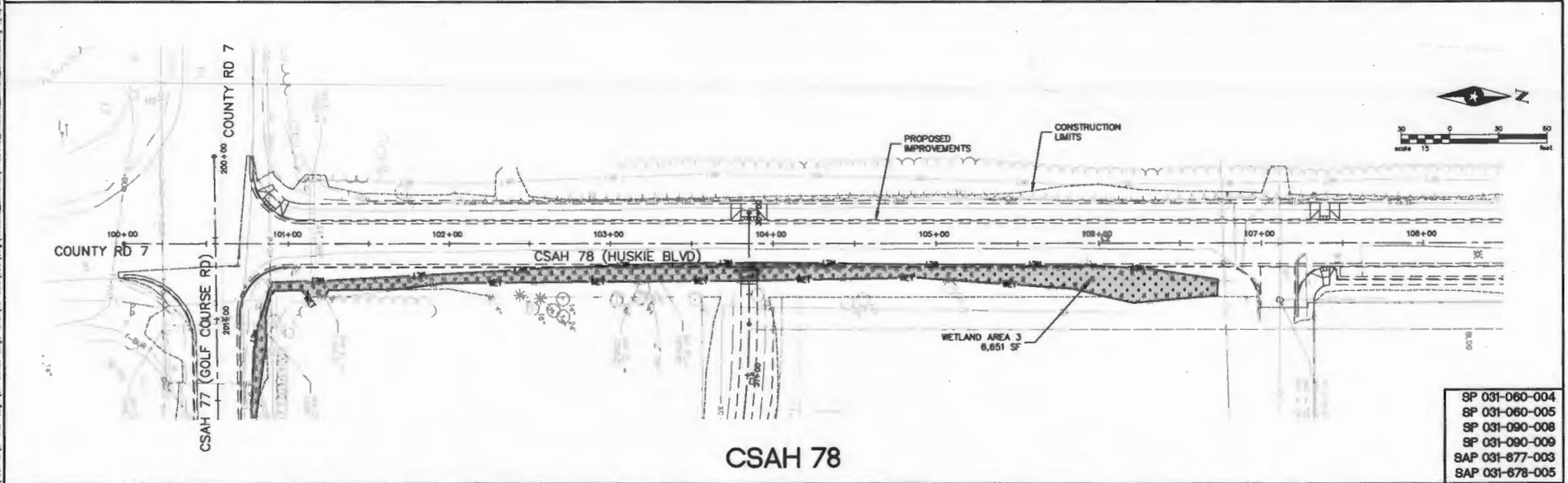
**WETLAND
OVERALL EXHIBIT**

SP 031-060-004
 SP 031-060-005
 SP 031-090-006
 SP 031-090-009
 SAP 031-677-003
 SAP 031-678-005

FILE NO. ITASC130443	EXHIBIT OVERALL
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WEST TRAIL



CSAH 78

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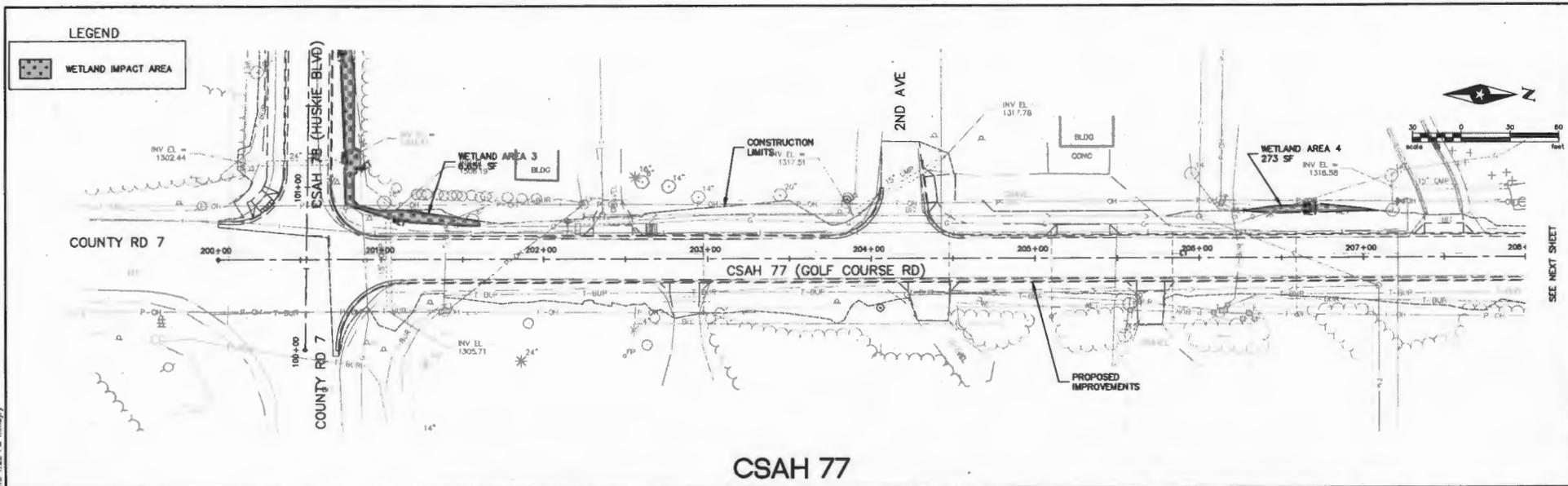
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WETLAND EXHIBIT
 WEST TRAIL AND CSAH 78

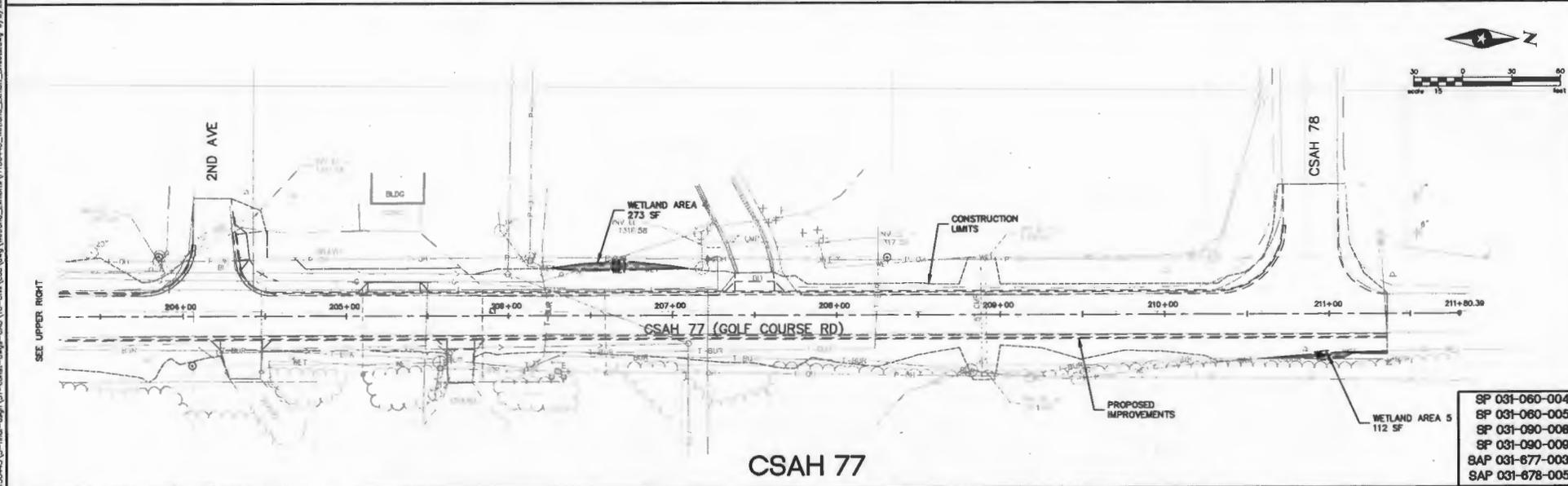
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- SP 031-090-009
- SAP 031-677-003
- SAP 031-678-005

FILE NO.
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EXHIBIT
 1



CSAH 77



CSAH 77

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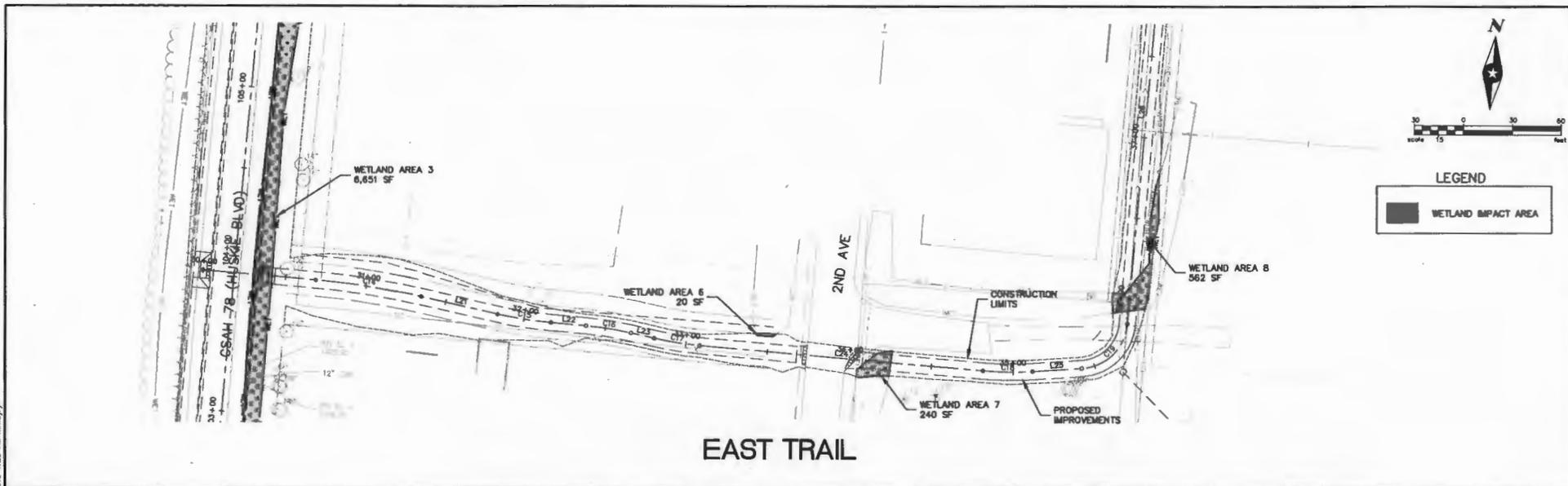
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WETLAND EXHIBIT
 CSAH 77

- SP 031-060-004
- SP 031-080-005
- SP 031-090-008
- SP 031-090-009
- SAP 031-677-003
- SAP 031-678-005

FILE NO. ITASCI30443	EXHIBIT 2
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EAST TRAIL



EAST TRAIL

- SP 031-060-004
- SP 031-060-005
- SP 031-090-008
- SP 031-090-009
- SAP 031-677-003
- SAP 031-678-005

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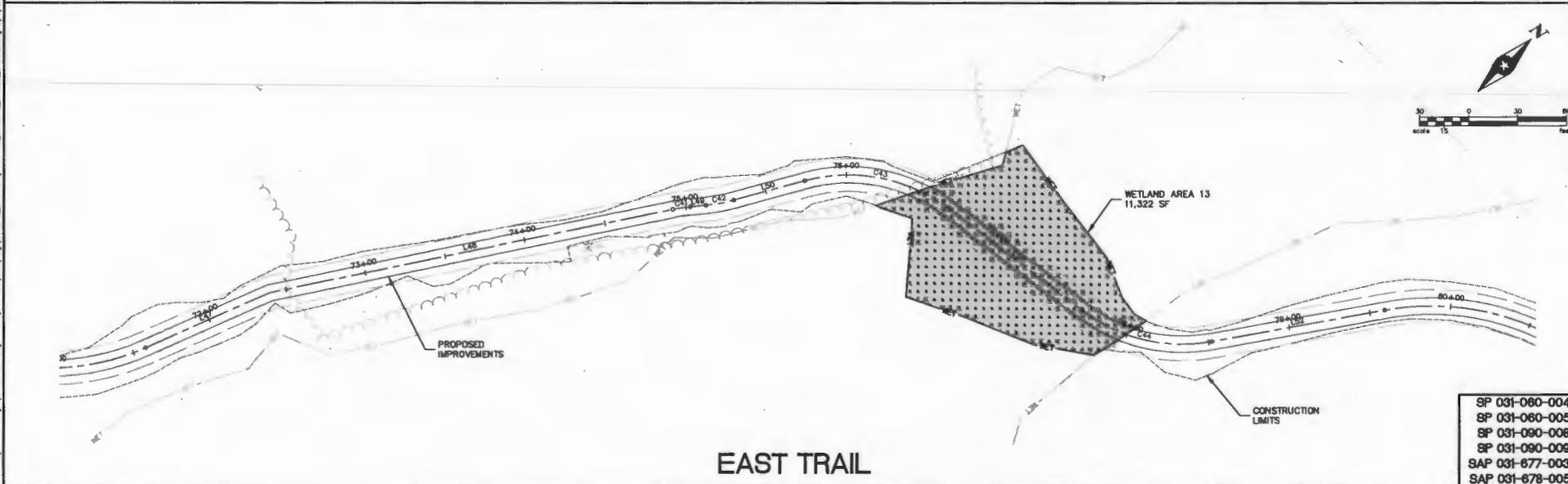
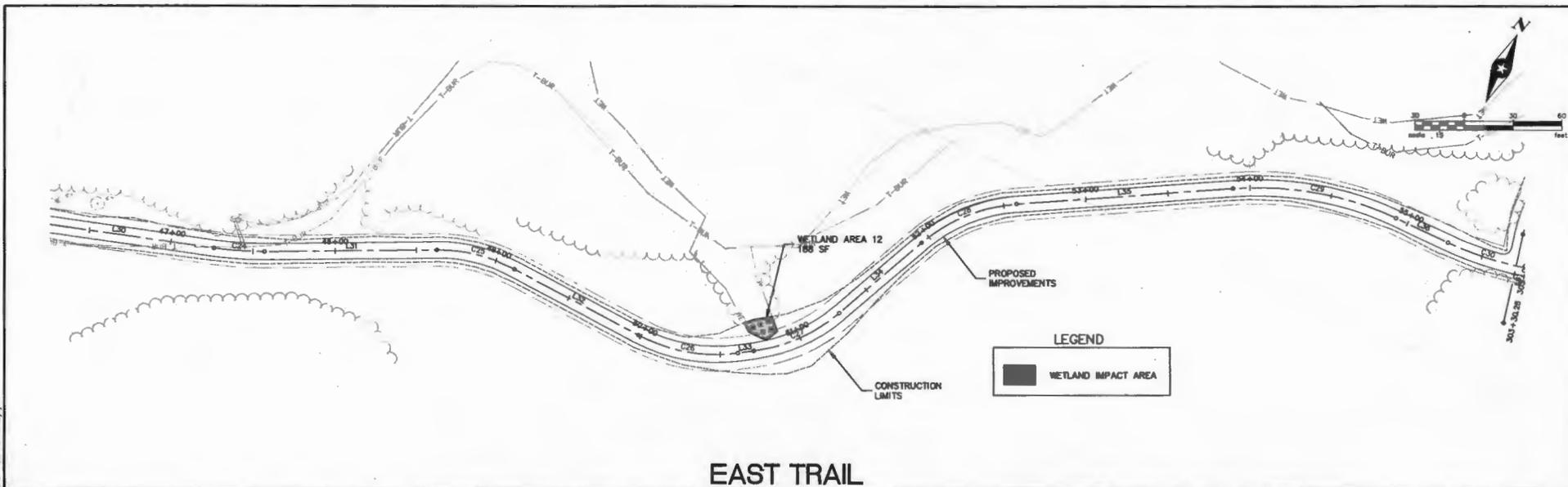

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WETLAND EXHIBIT
EAST TRAIL

FILE NO. ITASC130443	EXHIBIT 3
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- SF 031-060-004
- SF 031-060-005
- SF 031-090-008
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- SAP 031-677-003
- SAP 031-678-005

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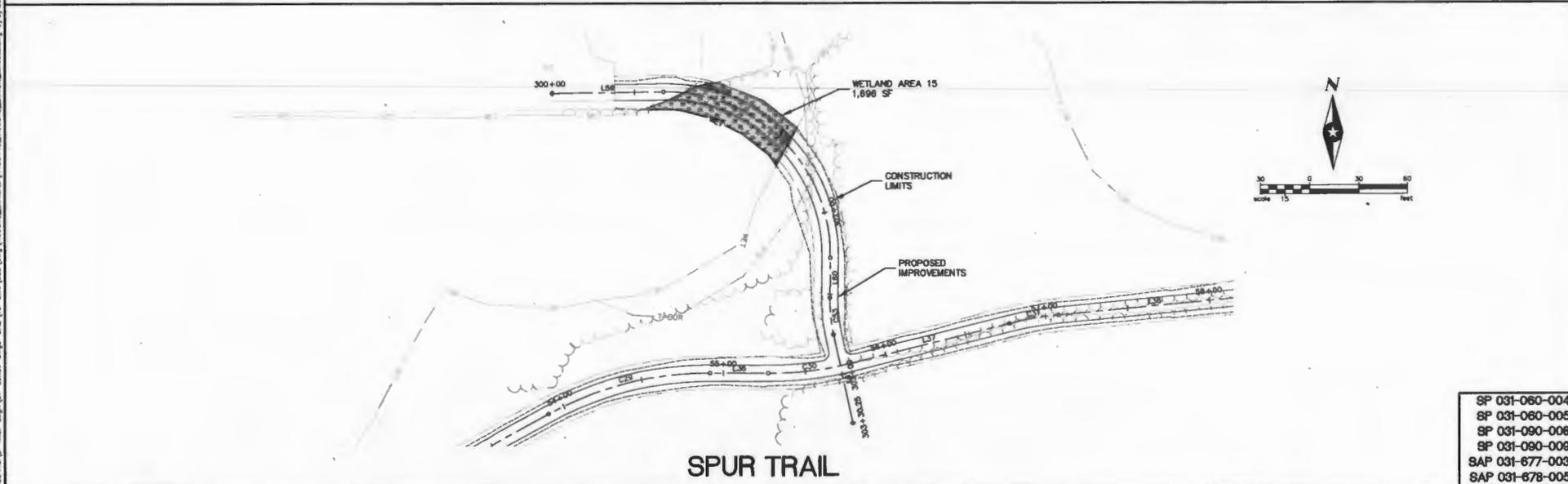
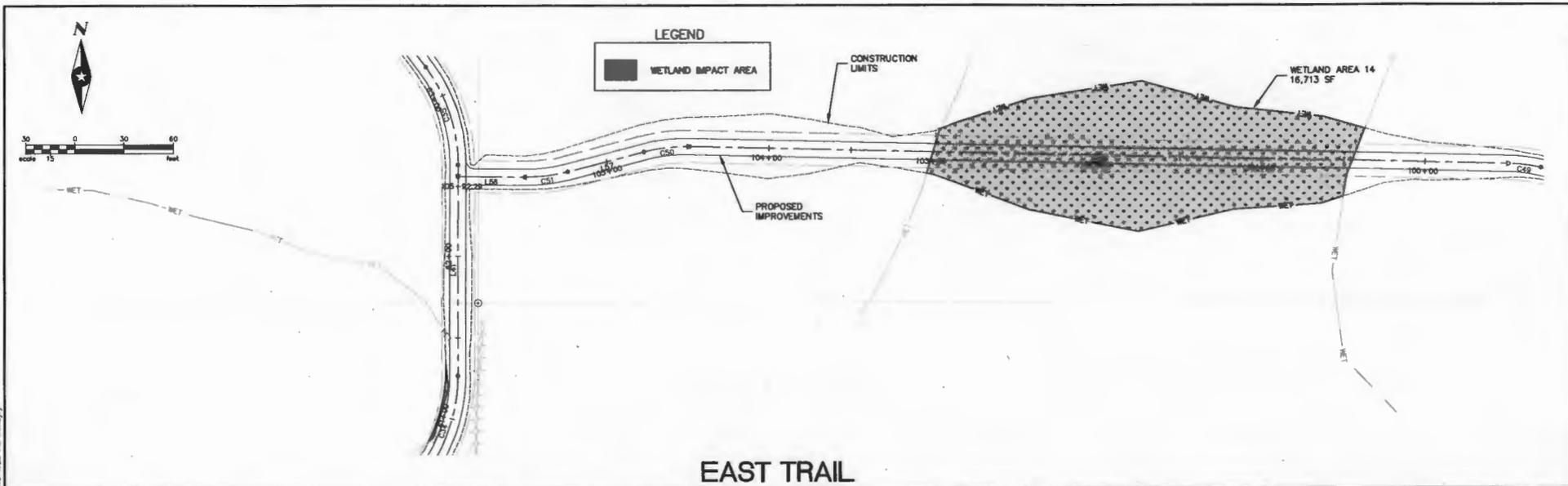
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WETLAND EXHIBIT
WEST TRAIL

FILE NO.
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EXHIBIT
4



- SP 031-060-004
- SP 031-060-005
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WETLAND EXHIBIT
EAST TRAIL AND SPUR TRAIL

FILE NO. ITASCT30443	EXHIBIT 5
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