

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAVANNAH DISTRICT 100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

18 JUN 2018

Regulatory Branch SAS-2018-00371

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section I0 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of I899 (33 U.S.C. § 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344). A Nationwide Permit (33 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 330) authorizes certain aspects of the proposed work, as described below:

Application Number: SAS-2018-00371

- Applicant: Mr. Josh Campbell City of Suwanee 330 Town Center Avenue Suwanee, Georgia 30024
- Agent: Mr. Wade Gilbert Travis Pruitt and Associates, Inc. 4317 Park Drive, Suite 400 Norcross, Georgia 30093

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located at the intersection of Suwanee Dam Road and Buford Highway, across Main Street from Suwanee Town Hall, in Suwanee, Gwinnett County, Georgia (latitude: 34.0574, longitude: -84.0689). The site is located within the Upper Chattahoochee River watershed (8-Digit HUC: 03130001).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: To develop a 14-acre, master planned recreational park which would expand and extend the City of Suwanee's existing park system and provide an alternate event location for the Town Center on Main during its maintenance periods and increase the attendance capacity of events at the existing Town Center Park. The recreational park project would provide direct access from the Town Center and would provide multi-use walkways, volleyball courts, pavilions, an event lawn, art displays and food vending areas. The project would involve the construction of an elevated multi-use bridge to link the recreational park to the Town Center on Main and other greenway systems. The project site is approximately 25 acres with 18 acres of developable land. The project would require piping 341 linear feet of perennial stream channel and 294 linear feet of intermittent stream channel, and filling 0.09-acre of wetland area. Concurrent authorization for NWP 14 is under separate evaluation for the construction of a roadway through the project site (roadway has logical termini and would resolve safety and congestion concerns) and would be accomplished through separate funding by the City. The applicant has evaluated 8 alternative locations for this recreational project. Compensatory mitigation would be provided through the applicant's purchase of 2,129 stream credits and 0.57 wetland credits from the Wauka Mountain and Soque River Mitigation Banks, which service the project area.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 10 cents per page. All coastal projects are filed at our Brunswick office and will need to be requested from Mr. Bradley Smith at Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

<u>State-owned Property and Resources</u>: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

<u>Cultural Resources Assessment</u>: Based on their review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, the applicant indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

<u>Public Interest Review</u>: 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 benefit, 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 the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain 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.

<u>Consideration of Public Comments</u>: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on 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 and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. <u>Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines</u>: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

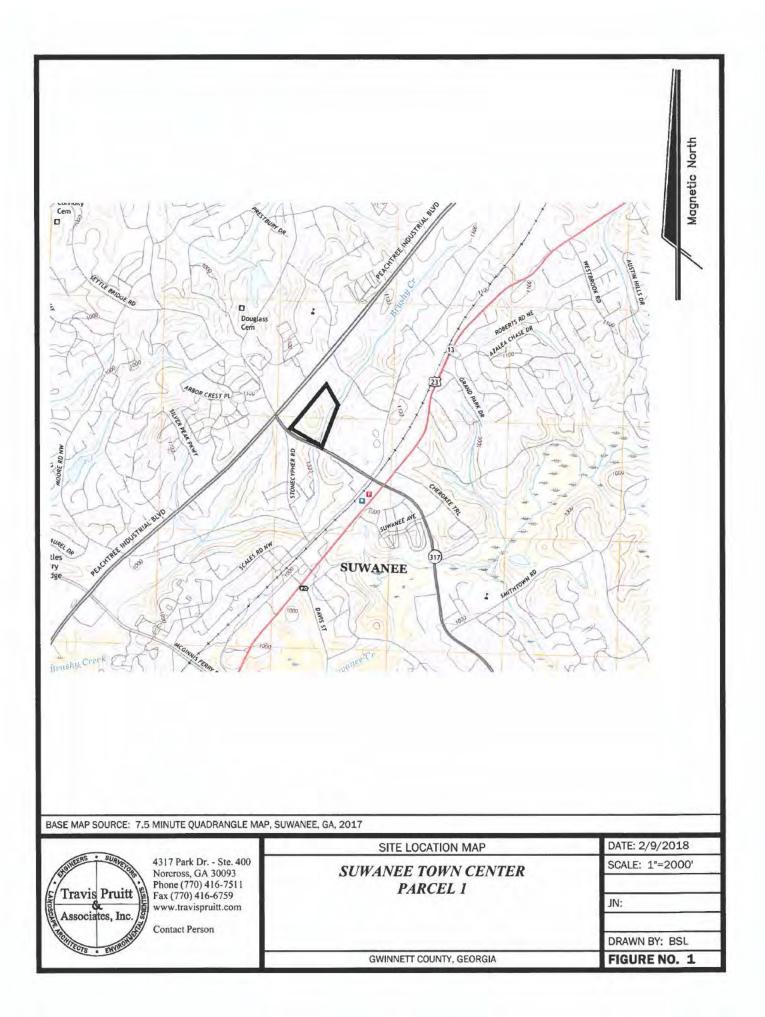
<u>Public Hearing</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

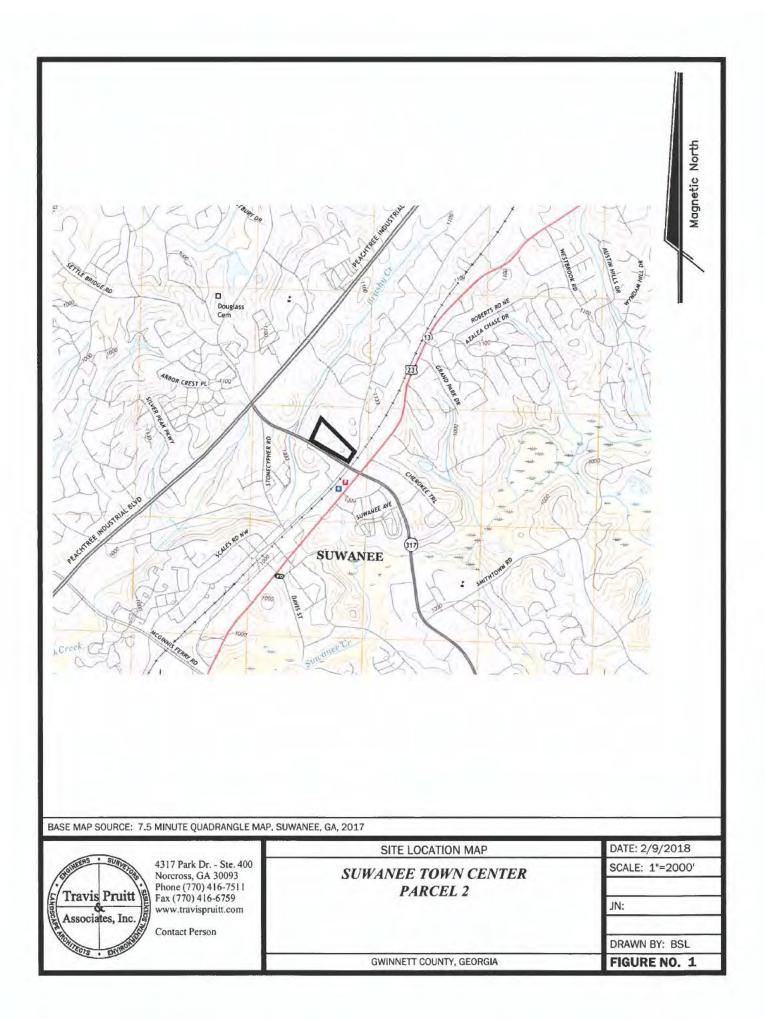
<u>Comment Period</u>: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Joseph N. Rivera, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

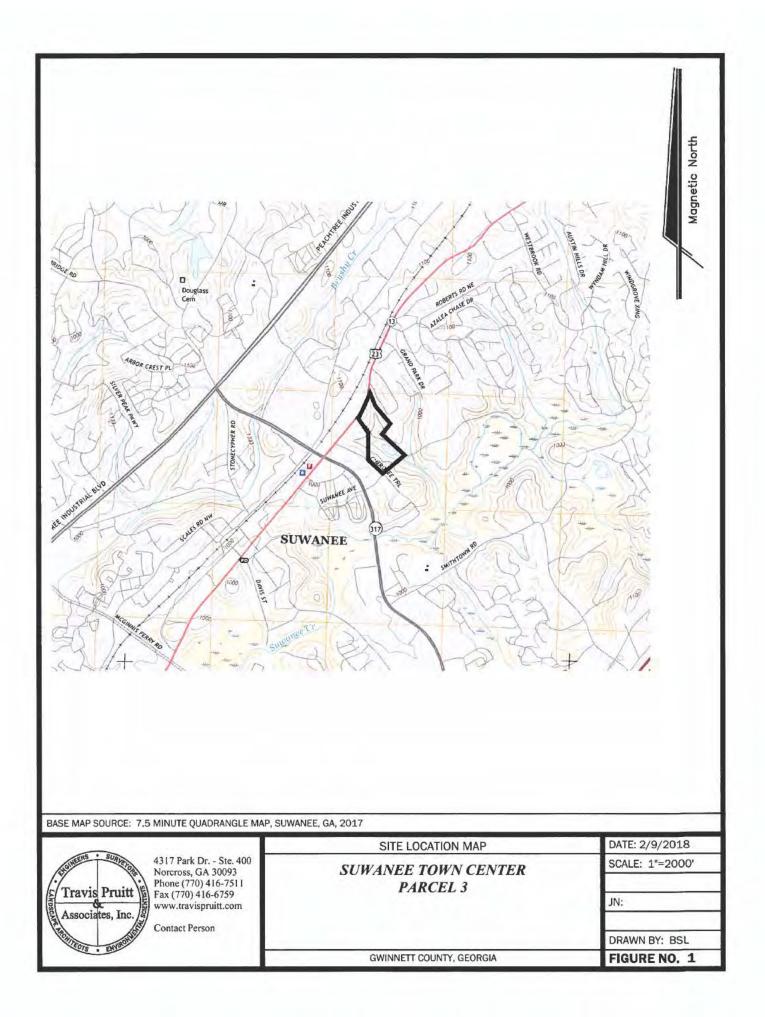
If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Rivera, Project Manager, of the Piedmont Section at (678) 422-2723.

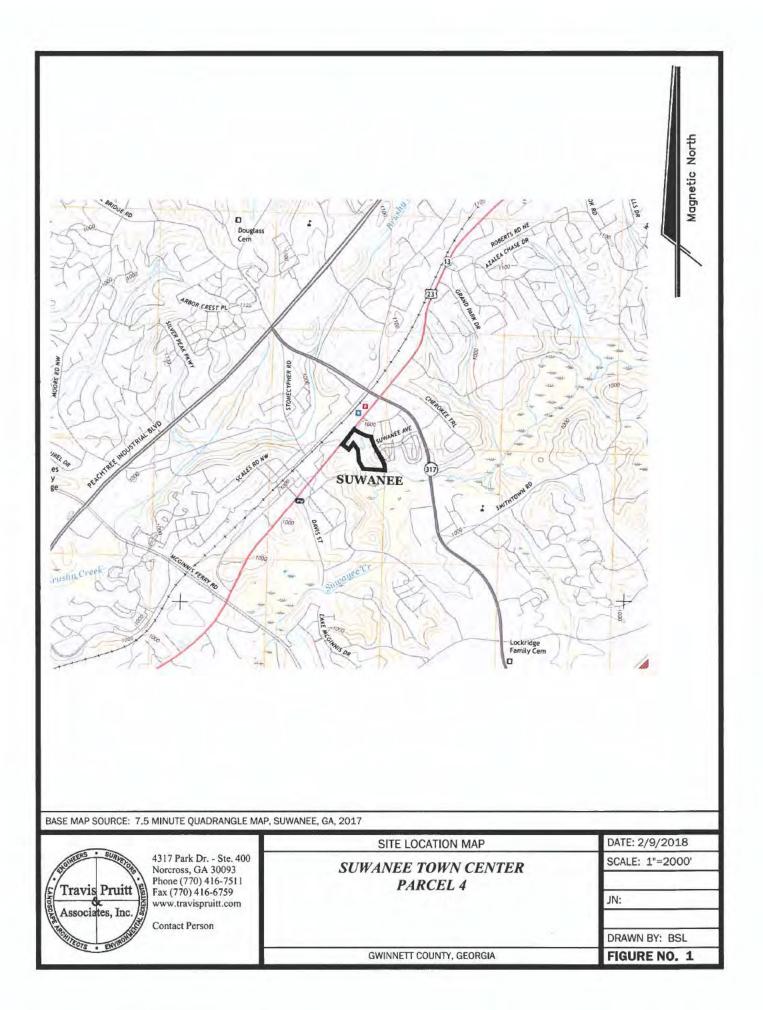
Enclosures

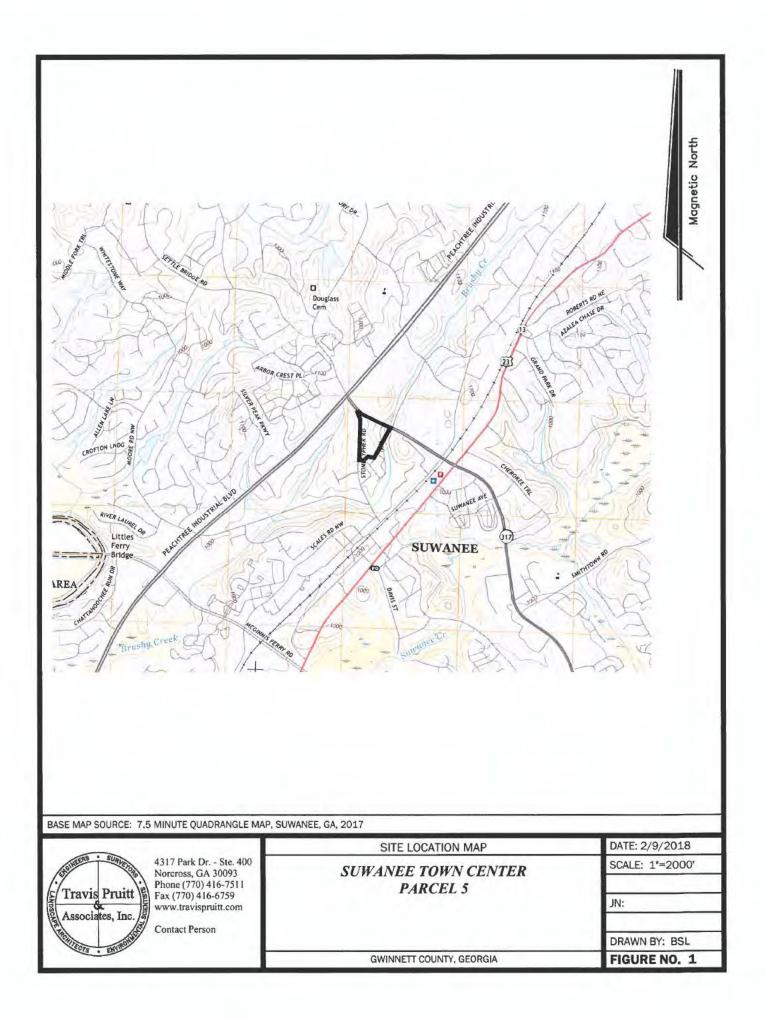
- 1. Alternative Site Location Maps (7 Figures)
- 2. Applicant's Preferred Alternative Site Maps (5 Figures)
- 3. Proposed Impact Maps (2 Figures)

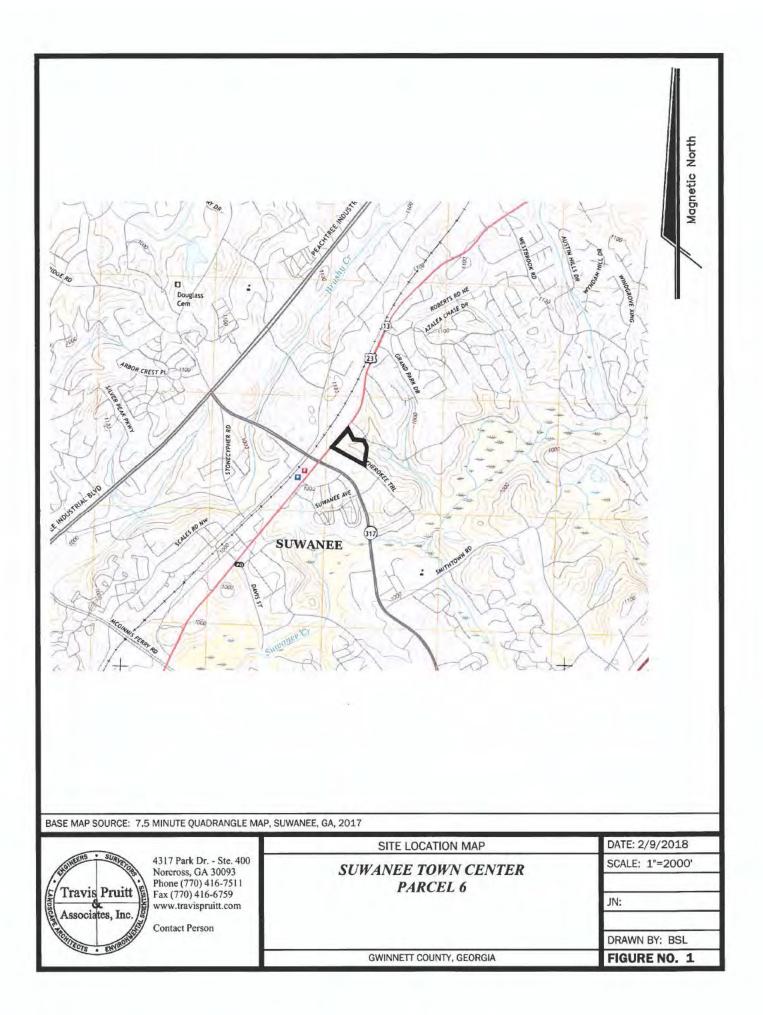


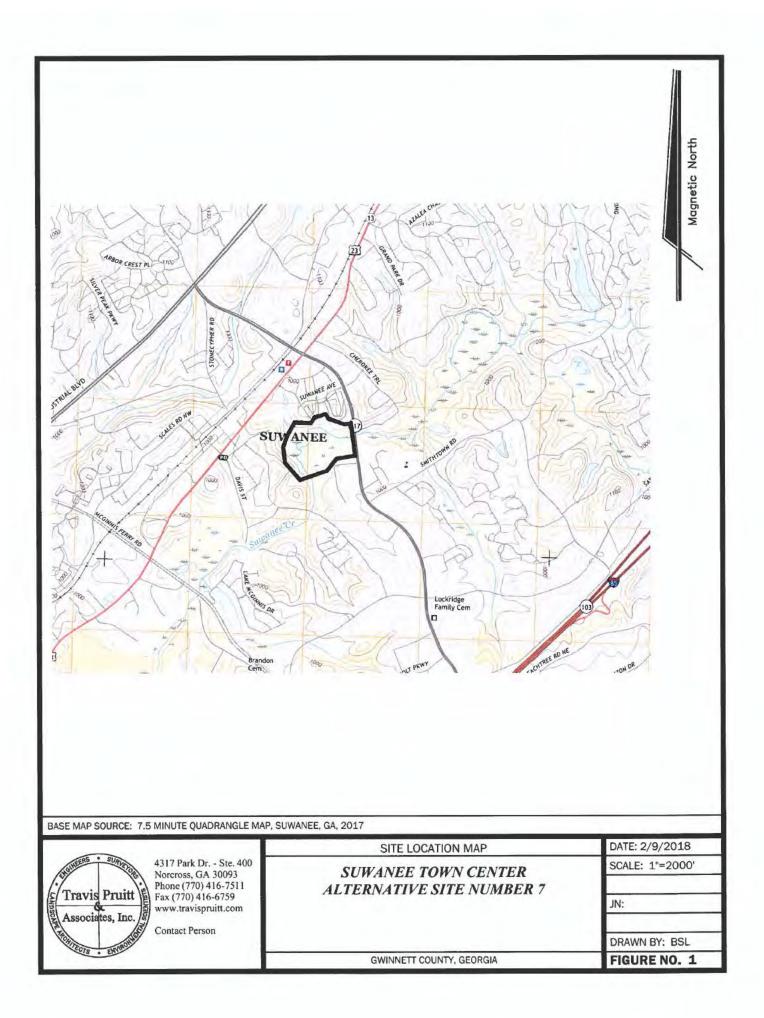




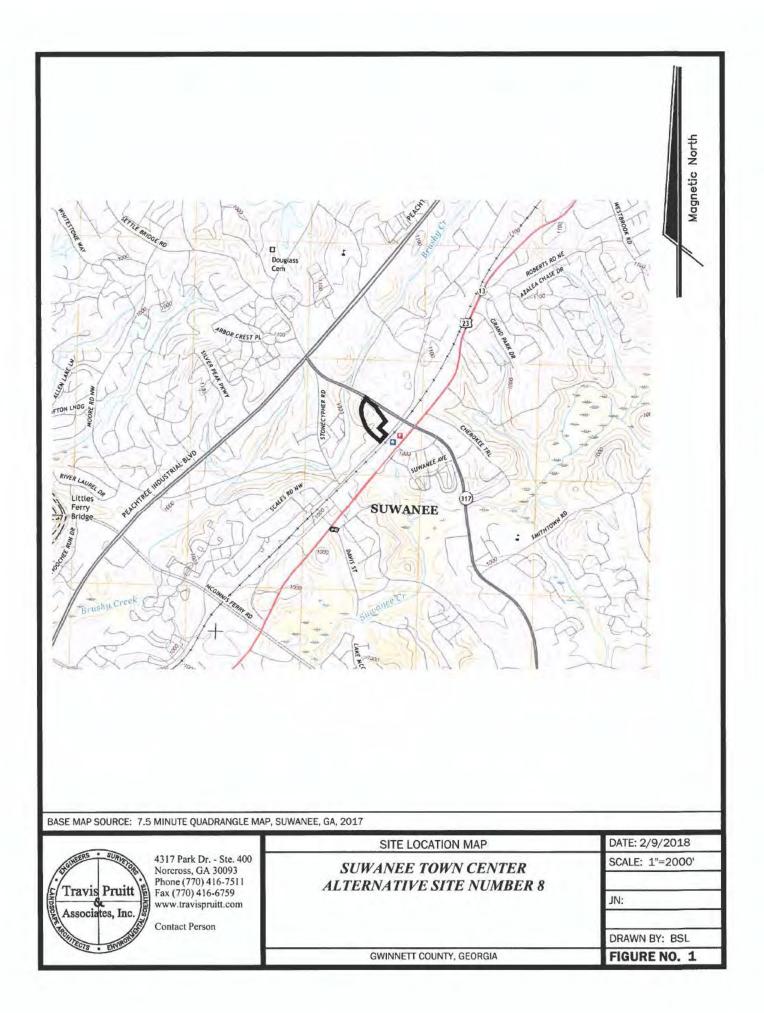


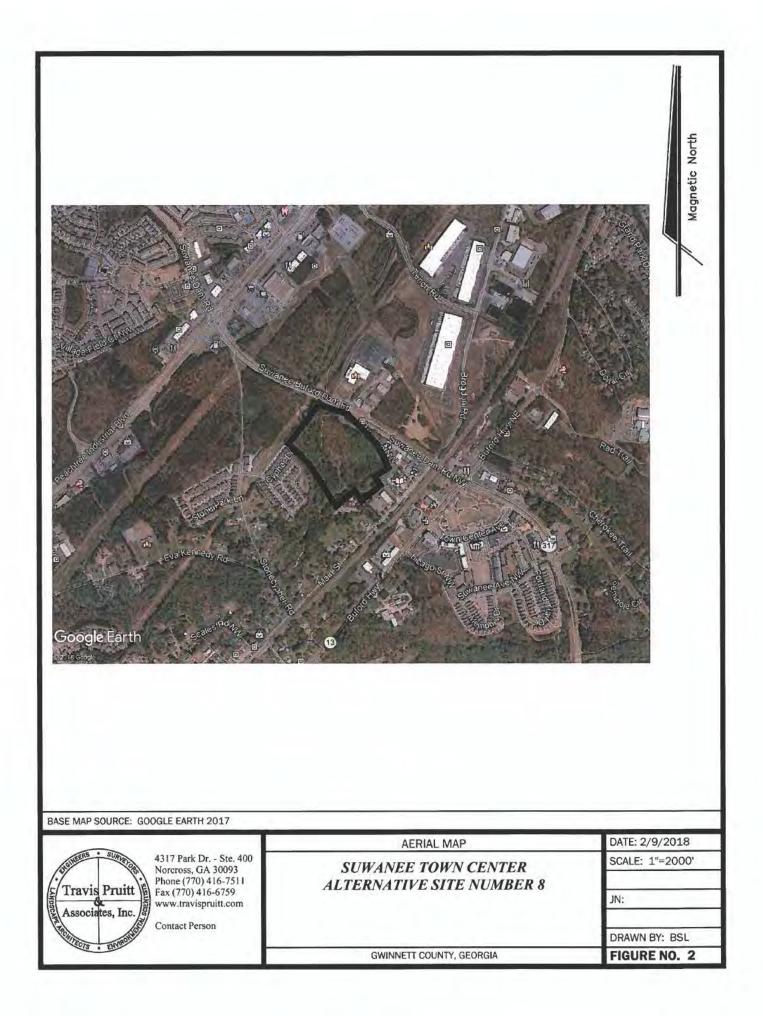






Preferred Site - Site Location, Aerial, Soils Map, Wetlands Impact, FEMA Maps









U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **National Wetlands Inventory**

Suwanee Town Ce







Estuarine and Marine Deepwater Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

base data sł be used in a Wetlands Ma

Freshwater Pond





Impact Maps

