



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT**  
**1104 NORTH WESTOVER BOULEVARD, UNIT 9**  
**ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707**

April 16, 2020

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2010-01205

**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 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2010-01205

Applicant: Mr. Paul Brooksher, Superintendent  
Bryan County Schools  
8810 Highway 280 East  
Black Creek, Georgia 31308

Agent: Mr. Troy Smith  
Resource and Land Consultants  
41 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 101  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Location of Proposed Work: The 176.7-acre project site is located along Belfast Keller Road, near its intersection with Belfast River Road, south of Richmond Hill, in Bryan County, Georgia. (Latitude 31.8457, Longitude -81.3185).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
The applicant is proposing the construction of a new high school campus and maintenance facility. The school campus would accommodate approximately 3,500 9th-12th grade students and the maintenance facility would service not only the high school but all South Bryan County Schools in a support capacity.

The project would include construction of an 554,882 square foot academic and administrative building that would serve as the new Richmond Hill High School (RHHS). This facility would be supported by 2.2 acres of additional academic area (outdoor classroom & outbuildings), 3.9 acres of recreational area, 40.7 acres of athletic facilities (fields/courts, seating, common areas & buildings), 16.2 acres of parking & bus court, 13.2 acres of roads and other impervious areas and 7.9 acres of stormwater management ponds. The applicant is also proposing the construction of a 26,000

square foot (0.5-ac) maintenance facility with 3.7 acres of parking/storage. To facilitate construction of the proposed campus, the applicant is requesting authorization to impact 16.82 acres of wetland and 1,139 linear feet of ditch.

To mitigate for the impacts the applicant proposes to purchase 101.04 wetland mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank that services the Coastal Ogeechee Watershed.

## **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 will review the proposed project for water quality certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army permit for a project location in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification is required. A reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year, is established under the Clean Water Act for the State to act on a request for Water Quality Certification, after which, issuance of such a Department of the Army permit may proceed.

State-owned Property and Resources: 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.

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Corps of Engineers making a final permit decision on this application, the project must be certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, to be consistent with applicable provisions of the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program (15 CFR Part 930). Anyone wishing to comment on Coastal Management Program certification of this project should submit comments in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

## **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.

Cultural Resources Assessment: As part of the application package the applicant provided a report titled "Phase I Intensive Cultural Resources, Survey for the Richmond Hill Highschool". This report will be coordinated with the State Historical Preservation Officer for a determination of effects.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) list of Endangered and Threatened Species indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: red cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), and frosted flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*).

Utilizing the programmatic Effects Determination Guidance for Endangered & Threatened Species (EDGES) consultation the Corps has determined that the proposed project may affect not likely to adversely affect the red cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*), and eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*).

The Corps has determined that the proposed project will have no effect to frosted flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*).

Public Interest Review: 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.

Consideration of Public Comments: 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.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: 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.

Public Hearing: 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.

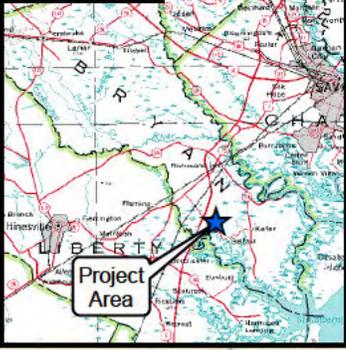
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments by email to [terry.c.kobs@usace.army.mil](mailto:terry.c.kobs@usace.army.mil). Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mr. Terry Kobs, Project Manager, 1104 North Westover Boulevard, Albany, Georgia 31707, 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 further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Terry Kobs, at (229) 430-8567.

\*\*Encls

1. Richmond Hill High School, Wetland Mitigation Plan (Sheet W1 through W10)
2. Project Location Map
3. USGS Topographic

1 inch = 20 miles



 Project Area

0 1 2 Miles

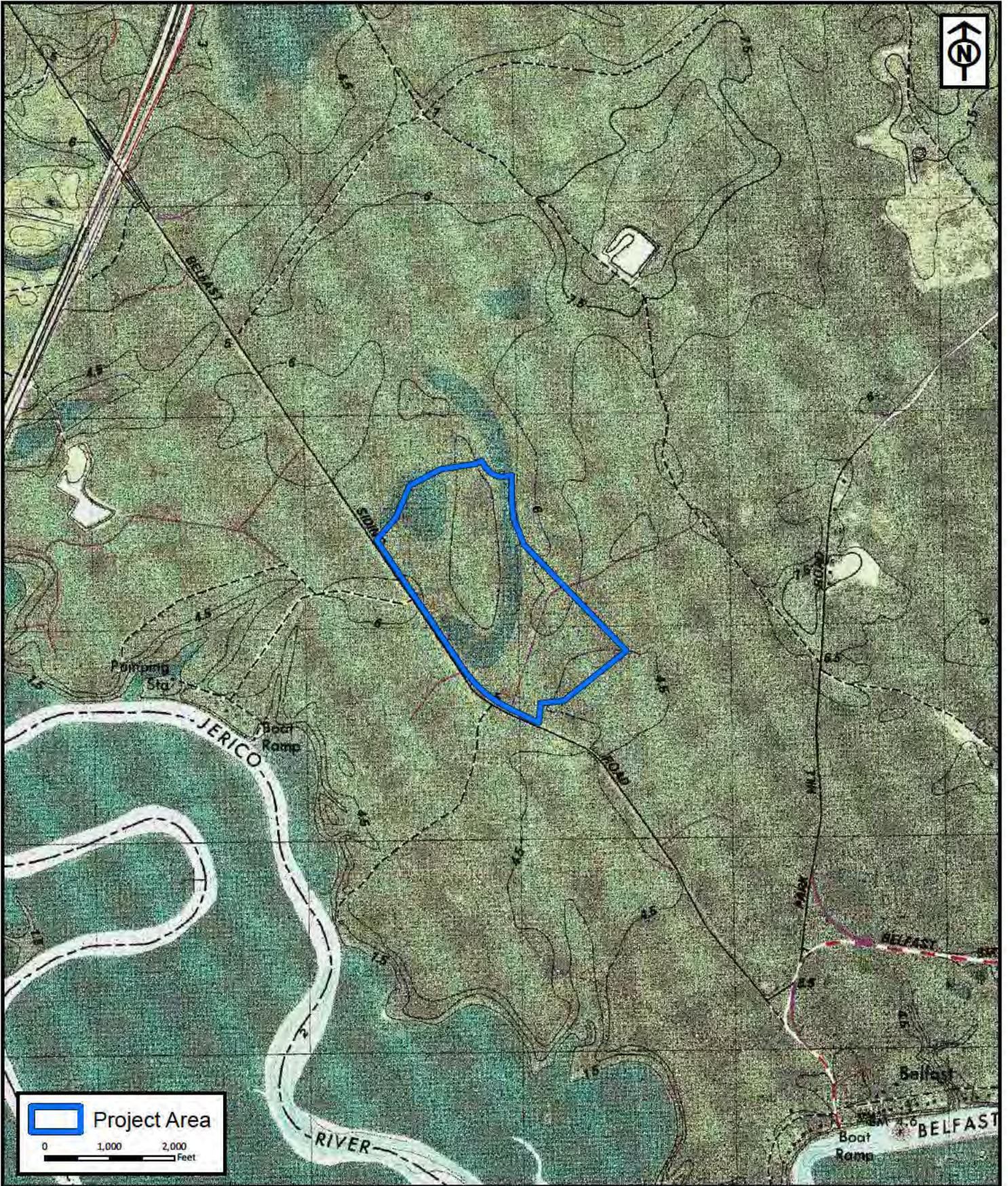
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

RLC Project No.:	17-004.3
Figure No.:	1
Prepared By:	TS
Sketch Date:	2/27/2020
Map Scale :	1 inch = 2 miles

**Richmond Hill High School**  
Bryan County, Georgia

**Project Location Map**  
Prepared For: Bryan County Schools

**RLC**  
RESOURCE+LAND CONSULTANTS  
41 Park of Commerce Way, Ste. 101  
Suwanee, Georgia 30146  
770.443.9796 www.rland.com



 Project Area

0 1,000 2,000  
Feet

RLC Project No.:	17-004.3
Figure No.:	2
Prepared By:	TS
Sketch Date:	2/27/2020
Map Scale :	1 inch = 2,000 feet

**Richmond Hill High School**  
Bryan County, Georgia

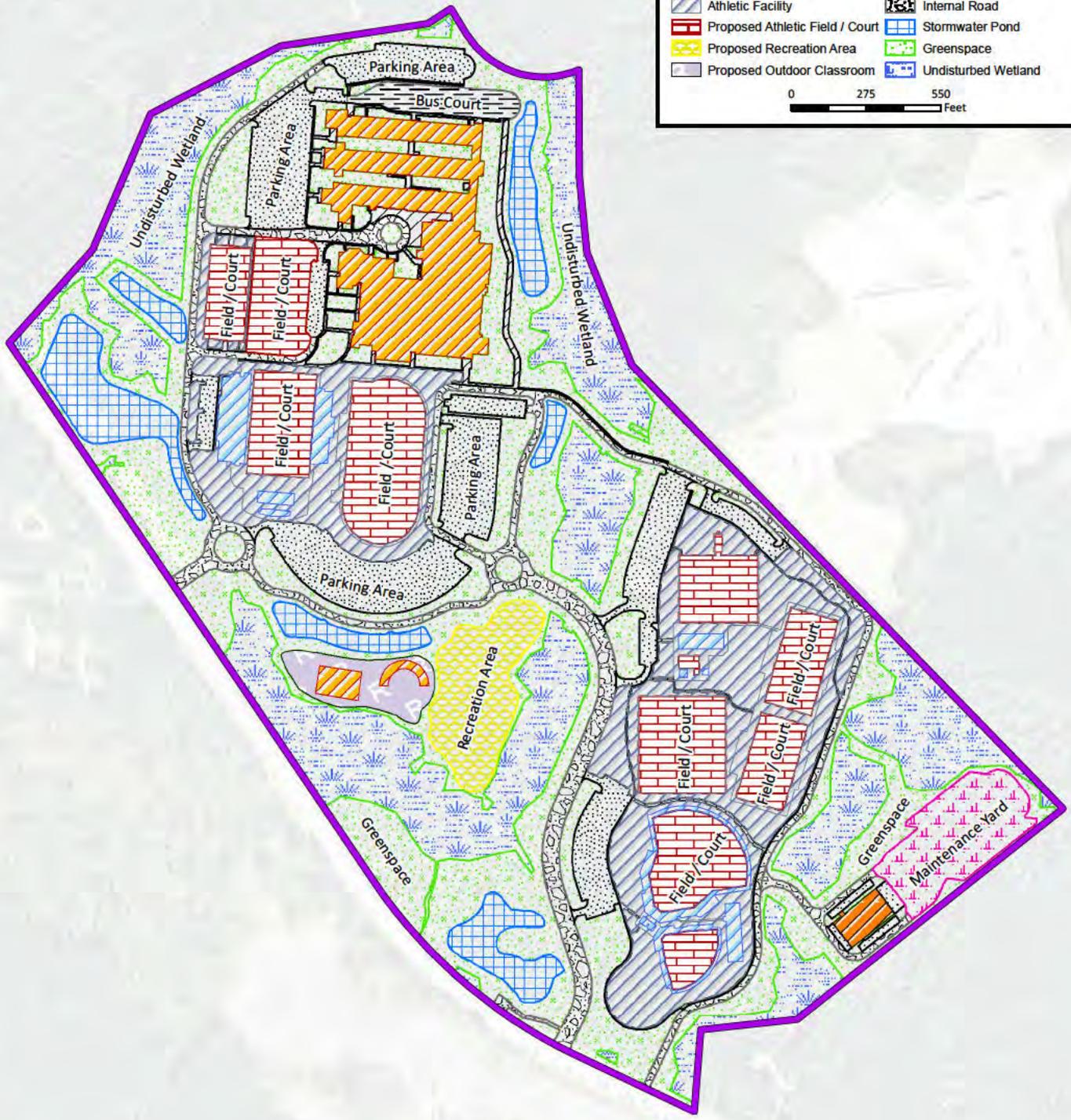
**USGS Topographic Map**  
Prepared For: Bryan County Schools

**RLC**  
RESOURCE+LAND CONSULTANTS  
461 Park of Commerce Way, Ste. 102  
Savannah, Georgia 31426  
919-443-9995 www.rlc.com



	Project Area		Proposed Maintenance Yard
	Academic Structure		Proposed Sidewalk
	Athletic Structure		Proposed Bus Court
	Maintenance Structure		Parking Area
	Athletic Facility		Internal Road
	Proposed Athletic Field / Court		Stormwater Pond
	Proposed Recreation Area		Greenspace
	Proposed Outdoor Classroom		Undisturbed Wetland

0 275 550 Feet



RLC Project No.:	17-004.3
Figure No.:	3
Prepared By:	TS
Sketch Date:	3/10/2020
Map Scale :	1 inch = 550 feet

**Richmond Hill High School**  
 Bryan County, Georgia

**Proposed Development Plan**  
 Prepared For: Bryan County Schools

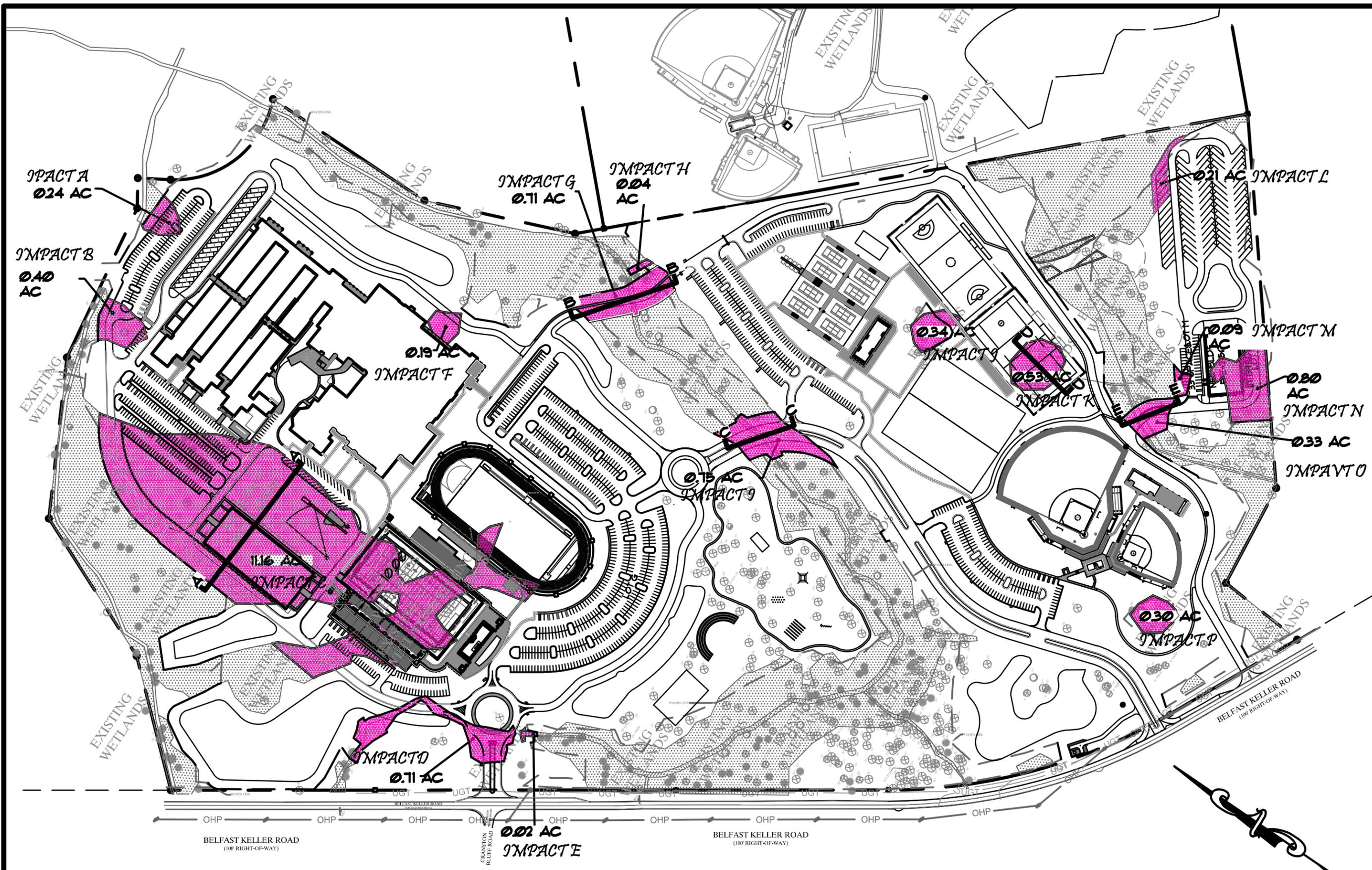
**RESOURCE+LAND CONSULTANTS**  
451 Park of Commerce Way, Ste. 101  
 Savannah, Georgia 31405  
 912.443.9792 www.rland.com



**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.** - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS  
 SWAINSBORO, ALBANY, ROME, AND SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

DRN. CDS  
 CHK. MLR  
 10817  
 11/5/19

SHEET NO.  
**W1**



**WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN**

TOTAL DISTURBED  
 WETLANDS - 16.82 Ac

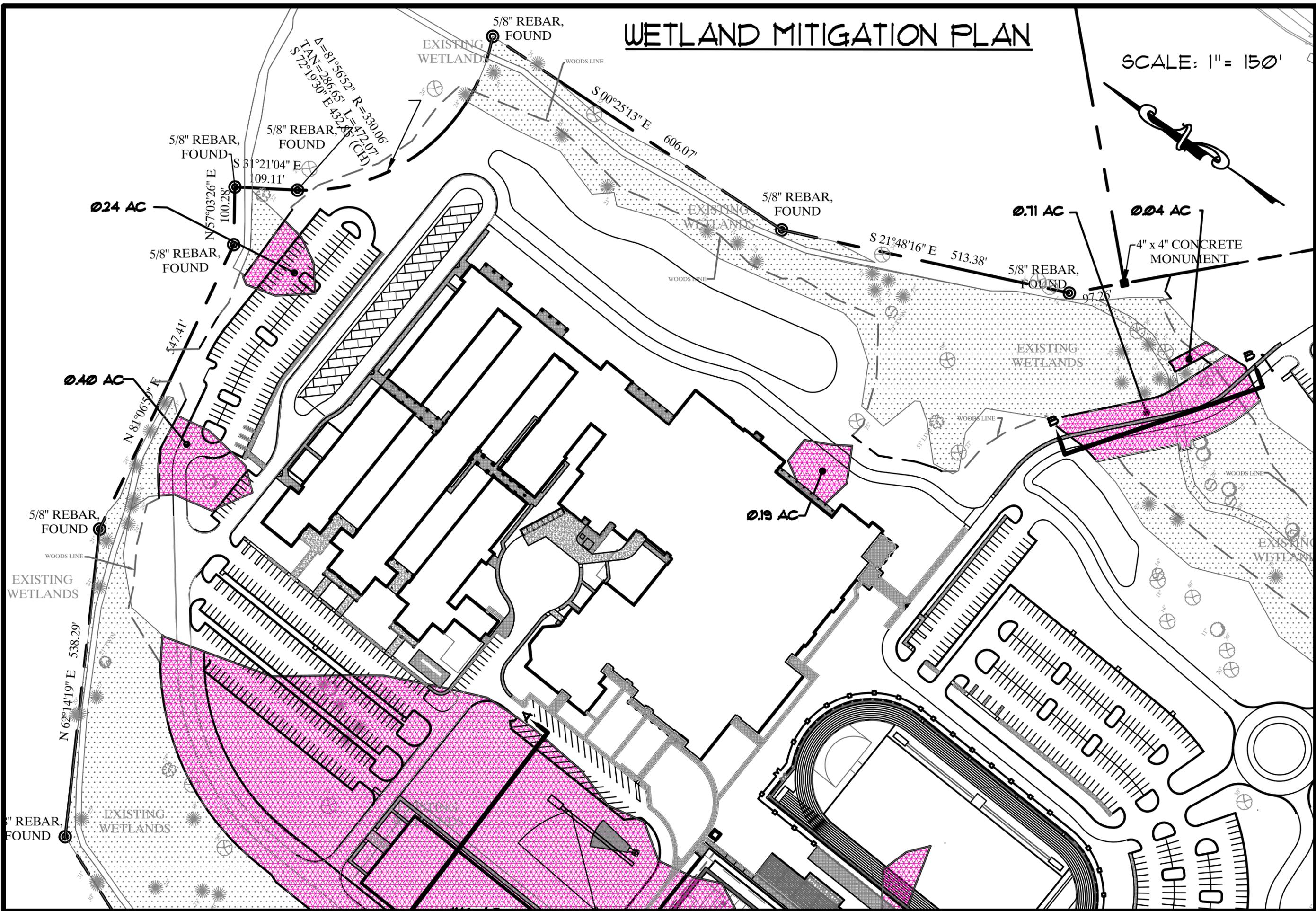
SCALE: 1" = 300'

# WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 150'



**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS**  
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SHEET NO.  
**W2**



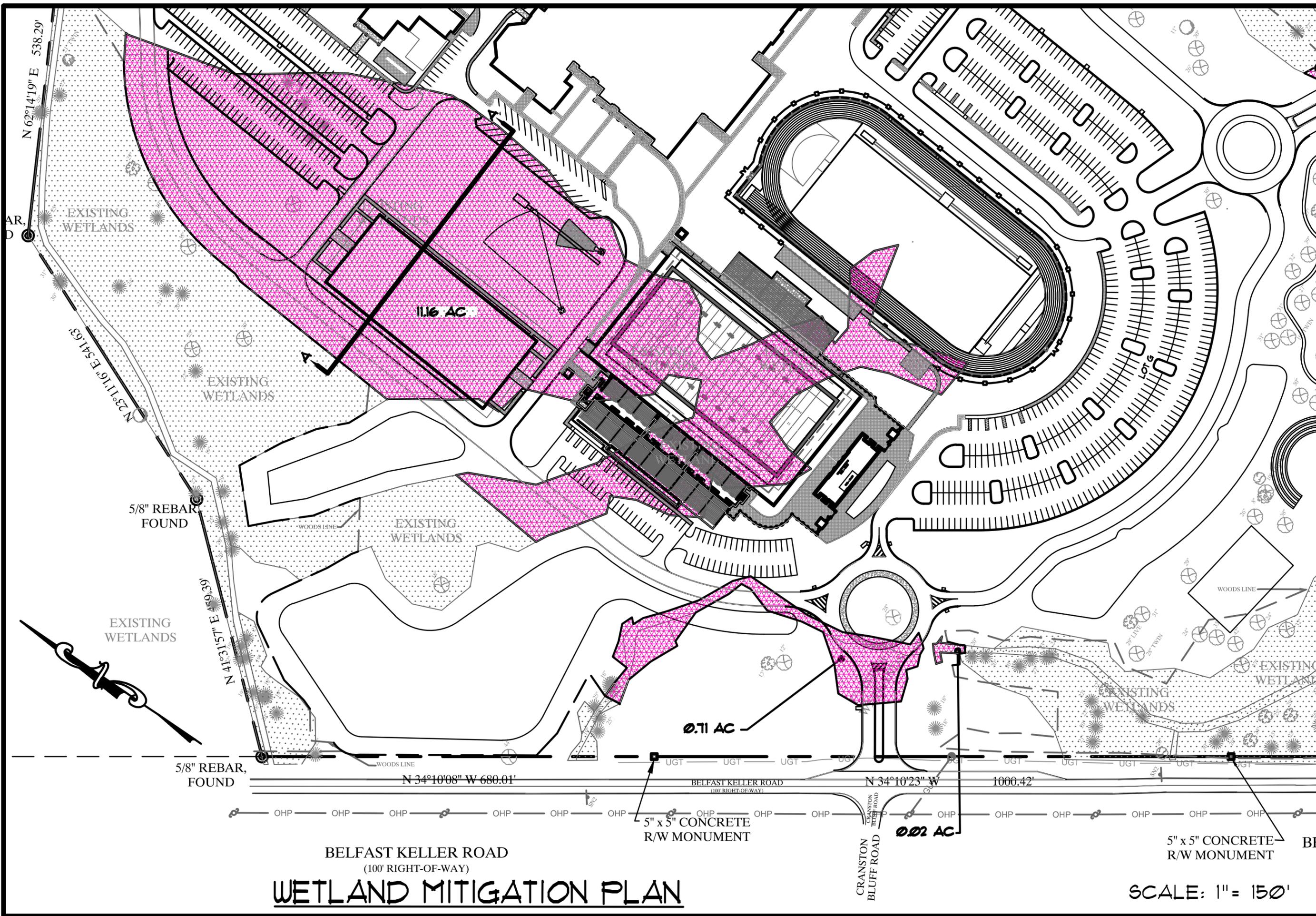
# RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL

WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN  
JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS  
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SHEET NO.

## W3



## WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 150'

SCALE: 1" = 150'

# WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN

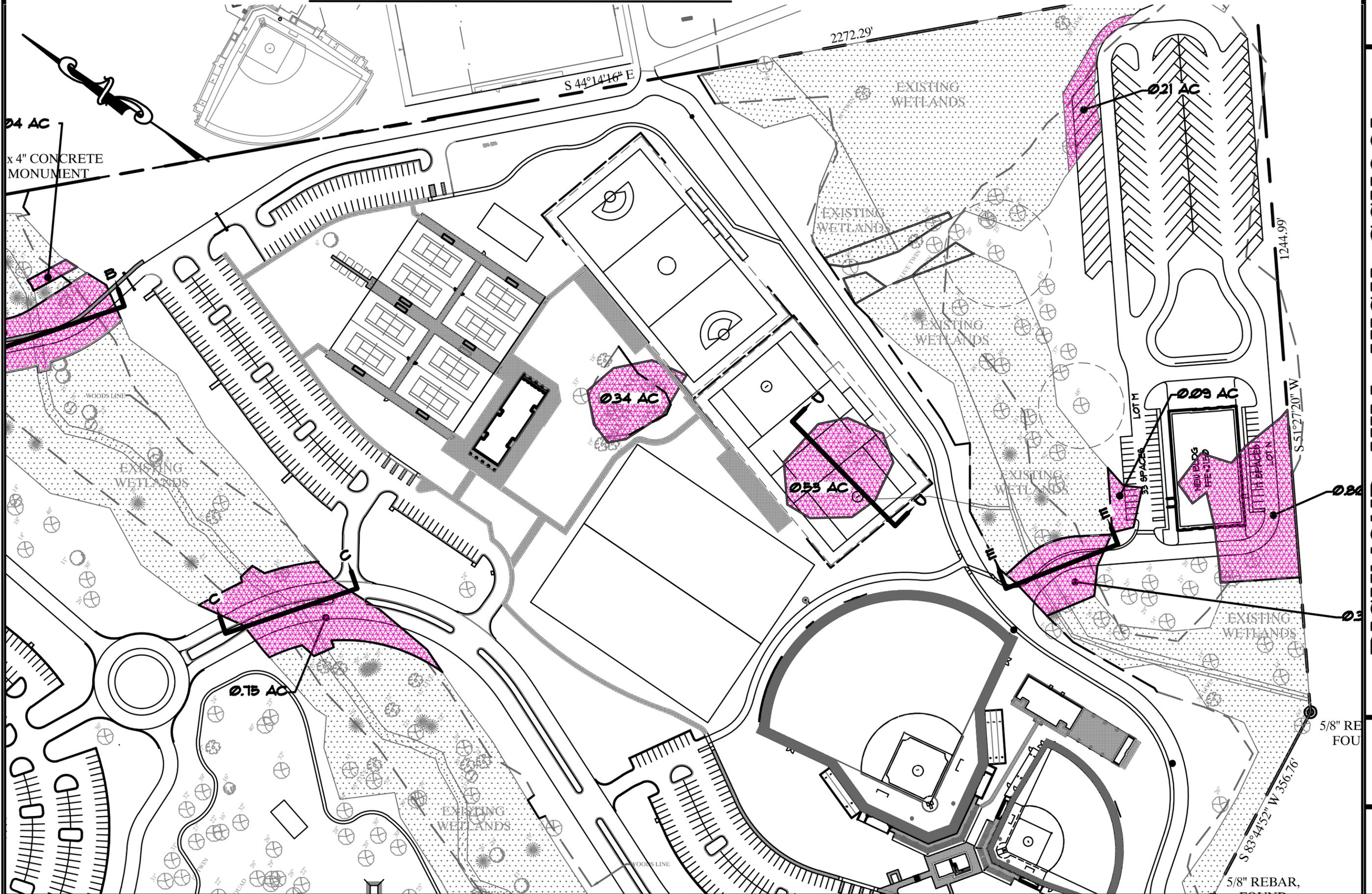


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SHEET NO.

## W4



5/8" REBAR,

5/8" REBAR,

S 83°44'52" W 356.76'

S 51°27'20" W

1244.99'

2272.29'

S 44°14'16" E

0.24 AC  
x 4" CONCRETE MONUMENT

0.75 AC

0.34 AC

0.55 AC

0.09 AC

0.21 AC

0.28 AC

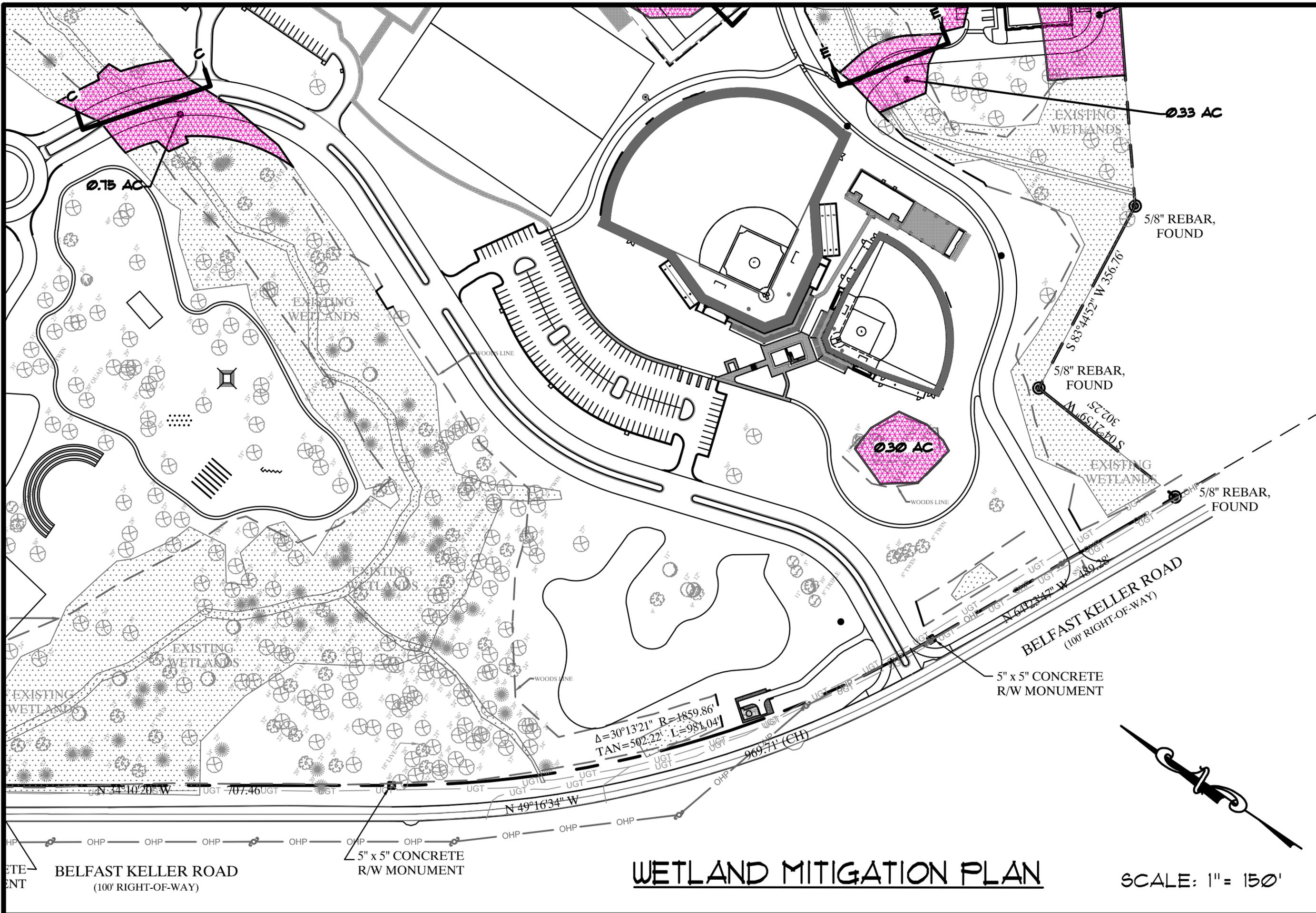
0.31 AC



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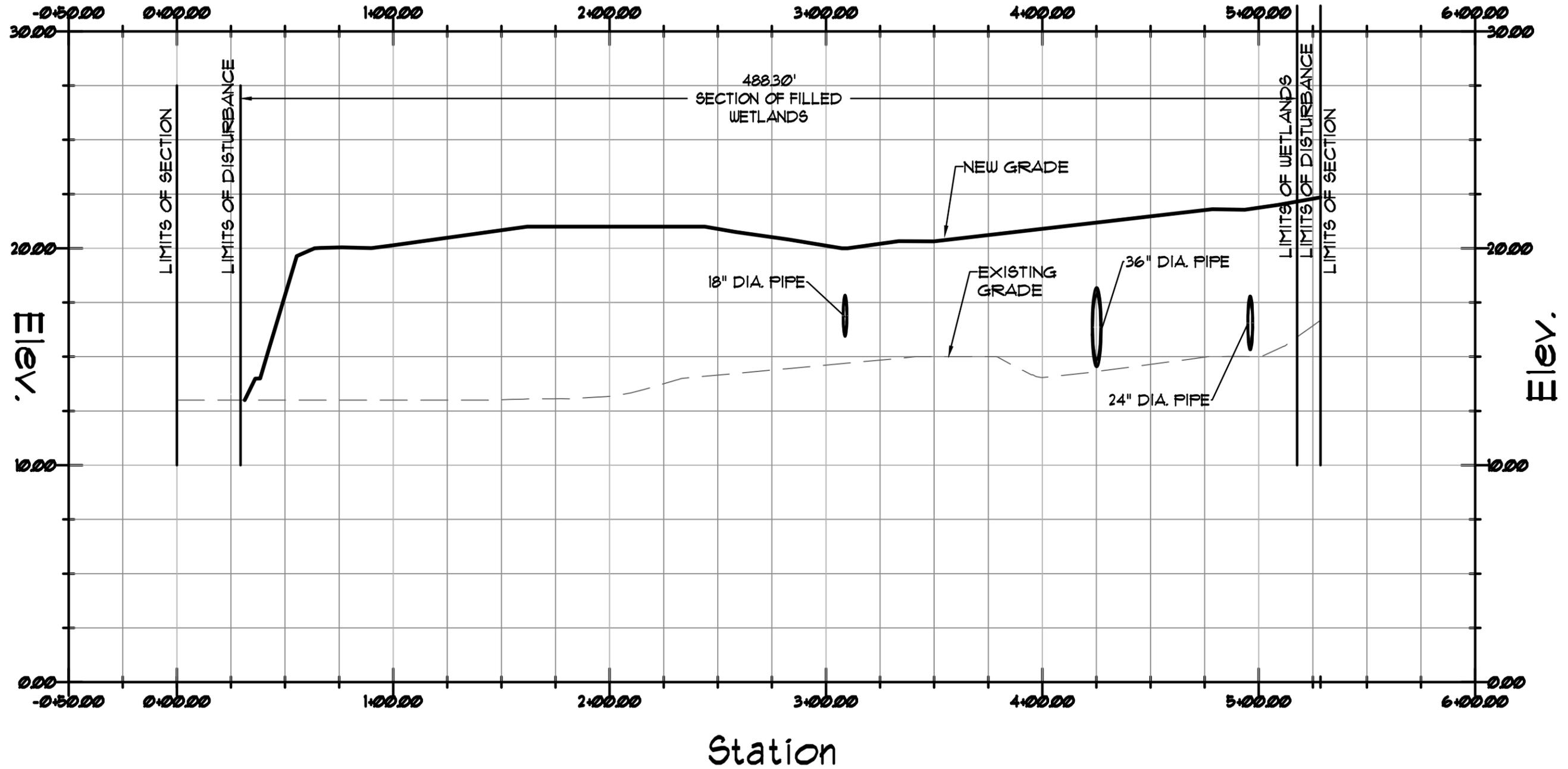
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SHEET NO.  
**W5**



**WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN**

# CROSS SECTION A-A



**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 WETLAND CROSS SECTIONS  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.** - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS  
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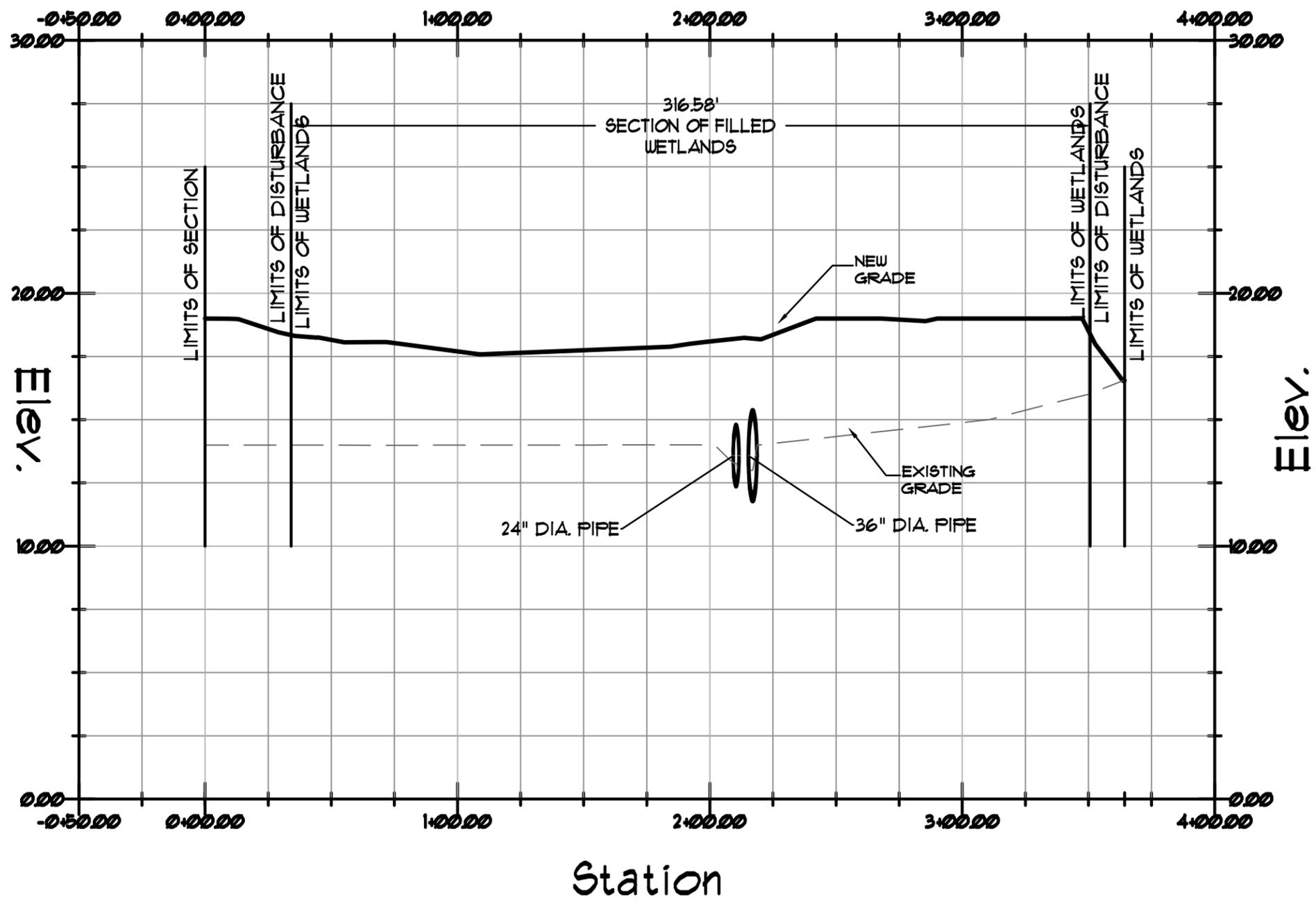
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 11/5/19

SHEET NO.

**W6**

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 5'

# CROSS SECTION B-B



**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 WETLAND CROSS SECTIONS  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.** - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS  
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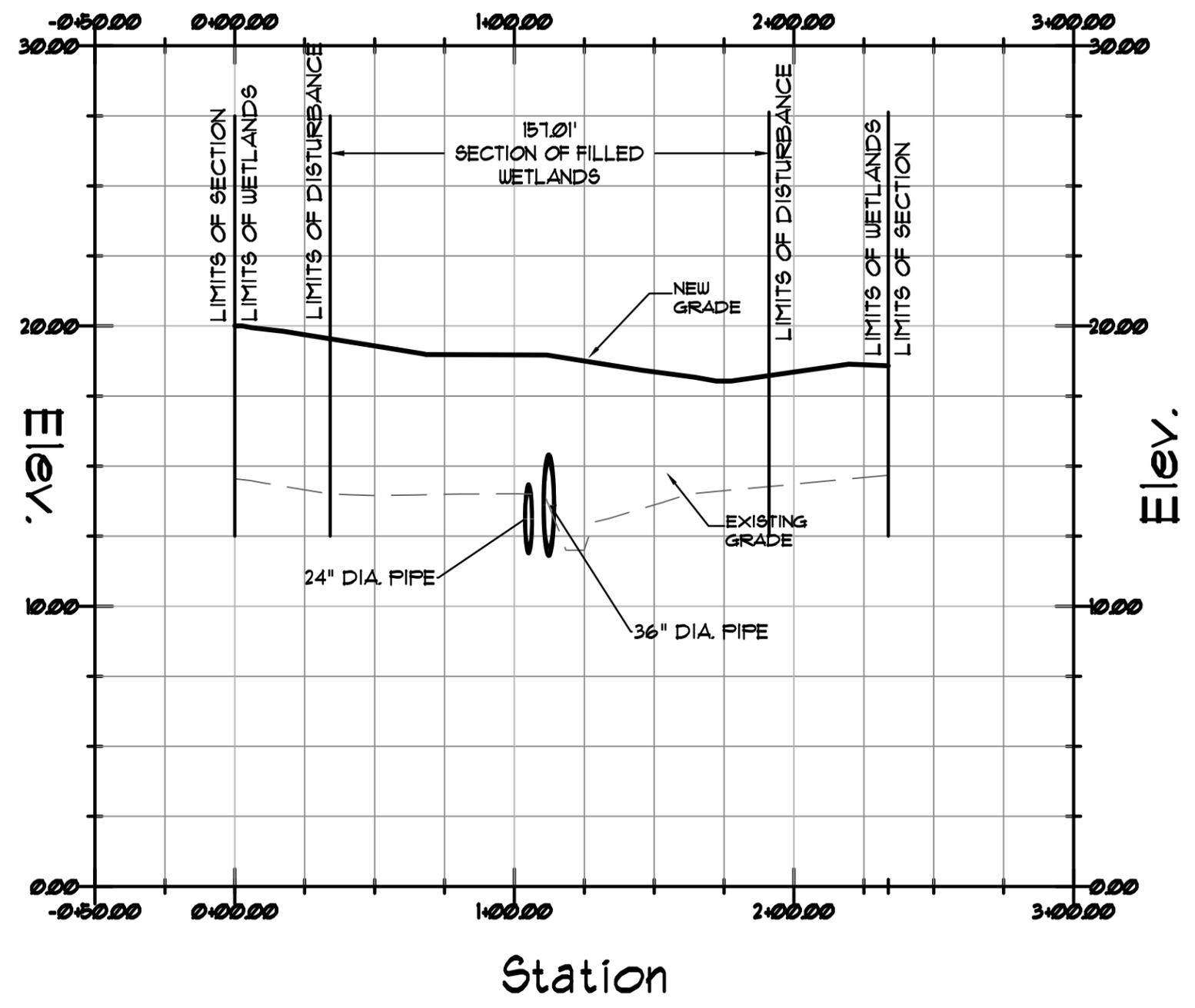
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 11/5/19

SHEET NO.

**W7**

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 5'

# CROSS SECTION C-C



**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 WETLAND CROSS SECTIONS  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.** - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS  
 SWAINSBORO, ALBANY, ROME, AND SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

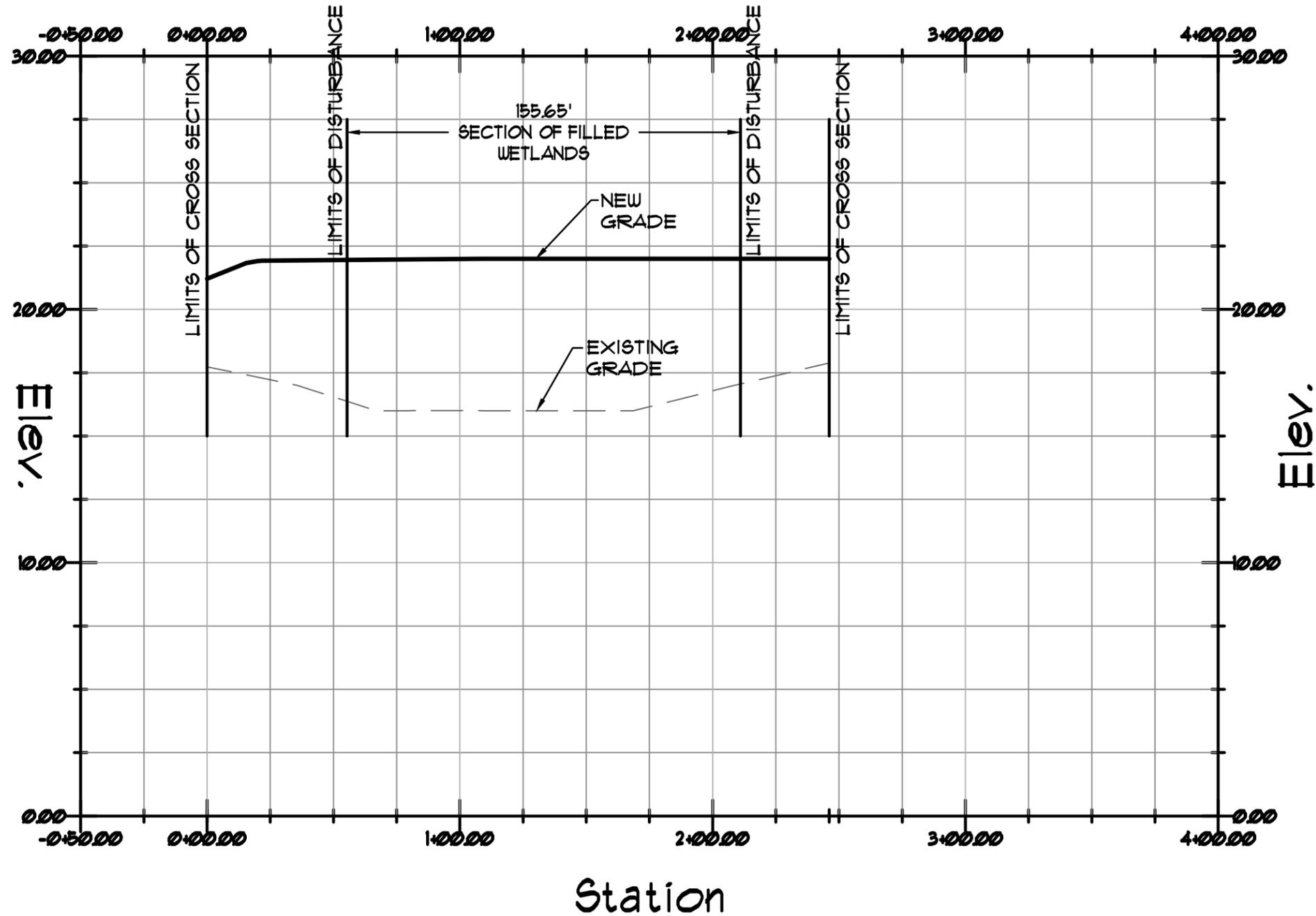
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 CHK. MLR  
 10817  
 11/5/19

SHEET NO.

**W8**

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 5'

# CROSS SECTION D-D



HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 5'

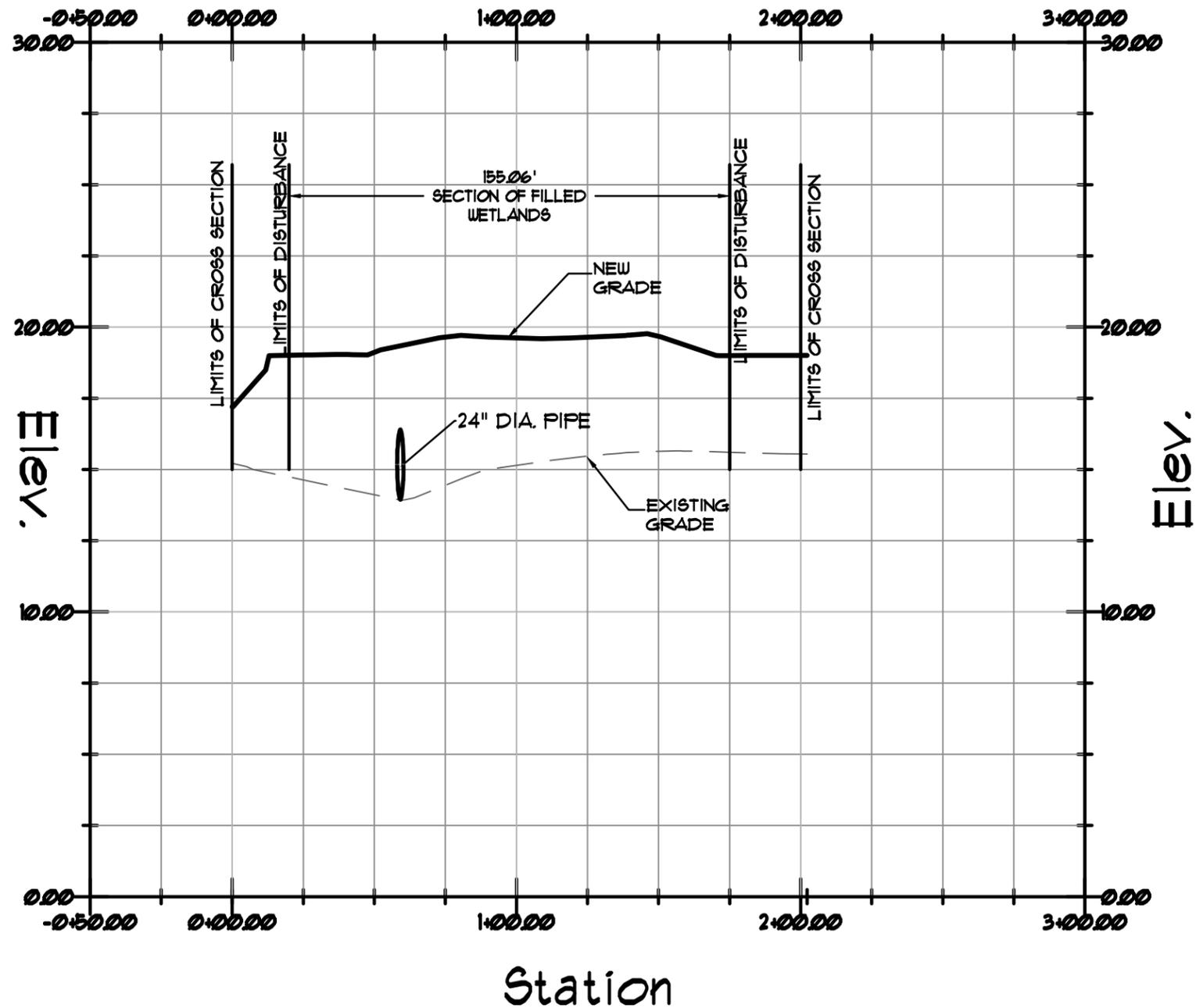


**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**  
 WETLAND CROSS SECTIONS  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS**  
 SWAINSBORO, ALBANY, ROME, AND SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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 CHK. MLR  
 10817  
 11/5/19

SHEET NO.  
**W9**

# CROSS SECTION E-E



**RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL**

WETLAND CROSS SECTIONS  
**JAMES W. BUCKLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.** - ARCHITECTS, CIVIL ENGINEERS  
 SWAINSBORO, ALBANY, ROME, AND SAVANNAH  
 GEORGIA

DRN. CDS  
 CHK. MLR  
 10817  
 11/5/19

SHEET NO.

**W10**

HORIZONTAL SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 VERTICAL SCALE: 1" = 5'