



City of Gainesville Public Works Department SW 62nd Boulevard Connector

Countywide Wetland Protection Code Application

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

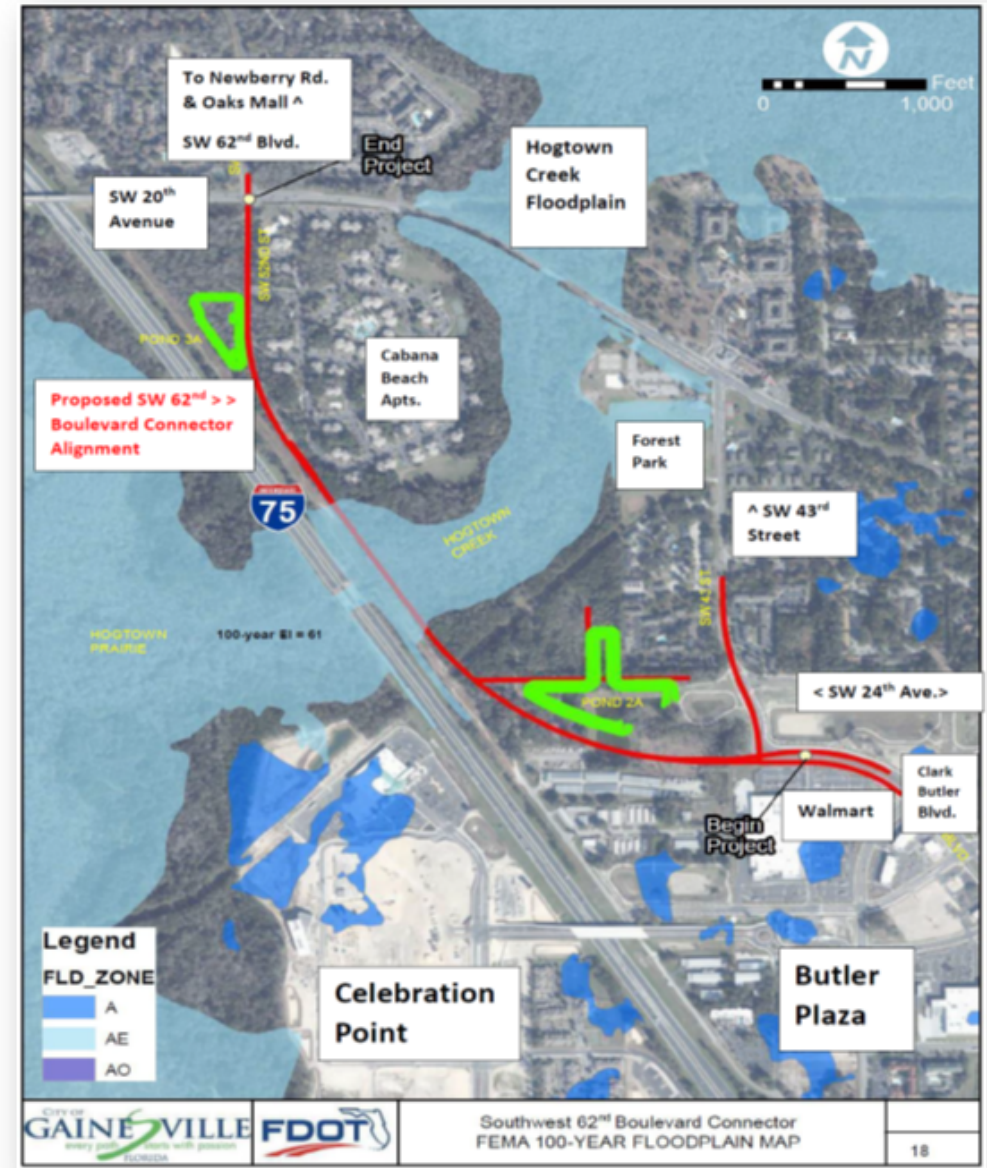
October 12, 2021

Environmental Protection Department

SW 62nd Boulevard Connector

Project Purpose & History

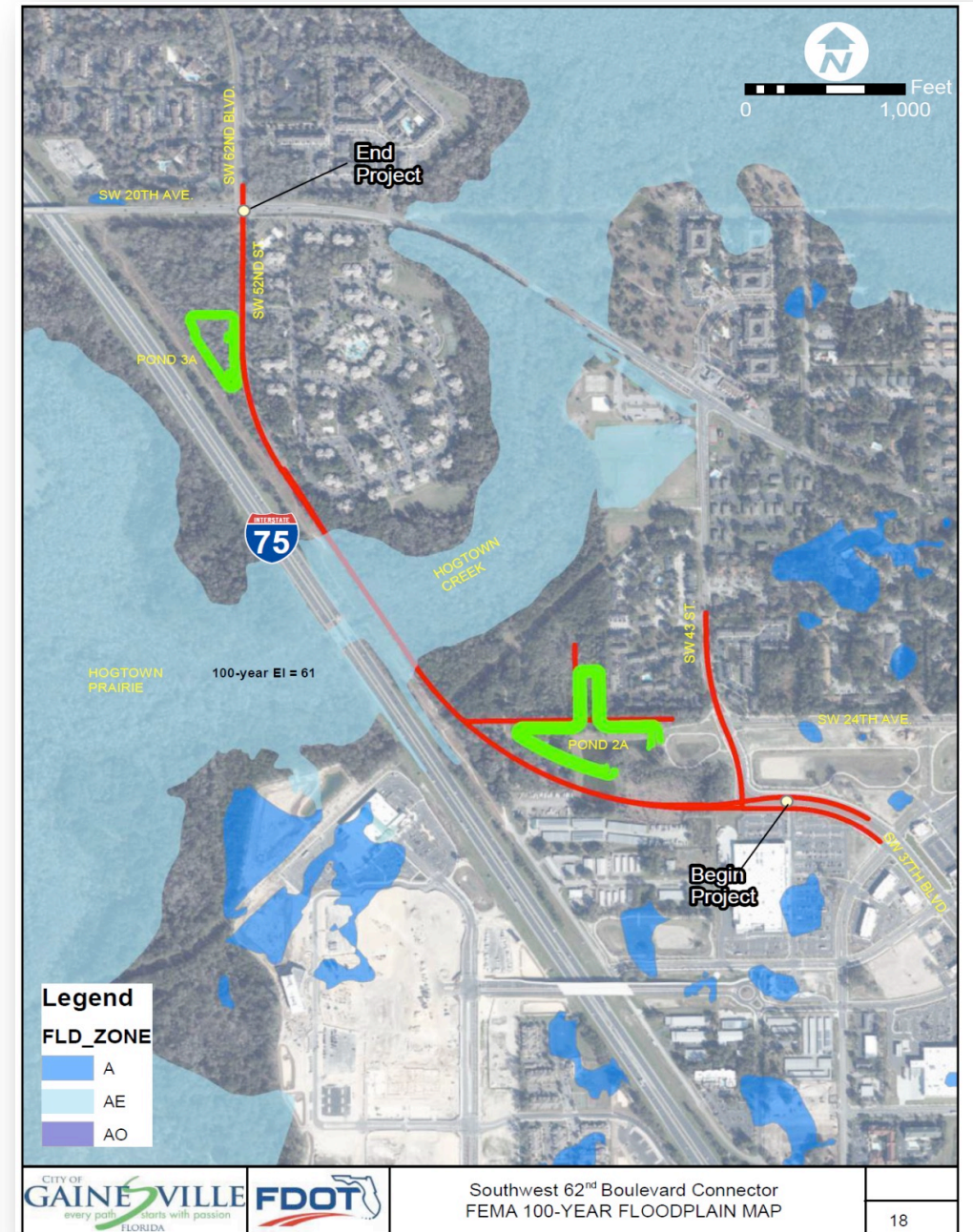
- Provide traffic congestion relief to I-75, SR 121 (SW 34th Street), SR 24 (Archer Road), CR 2074 (SW 20th Avenue), and SR 26 (Newberry Road).
- 2007–2014 – Project Development & Engineering (PD&E) - 11 Route Alternatives.
- 2014-2016 – Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).
- 2016-2022 – Design Plans, R/W Acquisition, Permitting.
- 2022-2024 – Construction.



SW 62nd Boulevard Connector

Selected Alignment – Major Design Features

- Proposed length of 1.1 miles, roadway right-of-way (R/W) width varies from 100 feet to 154 feet.
- Two-lane, minor arterial roadway with 11-foot travel lanes and 10-foot outside shoulders (7 feet paved bike lanes).
- Transitions to existing roadways will have 4-foot wide paved bicycle lanes with curb and gutter to match the existing roadway sections.
- 10-foot wide multi-use path along east side of Connector.



SW 62nd Boulevard Connector – Two Proposed Wetland Crossings

Hogtown Creek wetland crossing requires eastern alignment shift into forested area to avoid power line.



Primary Wetland Impact - 1.7 Acres
Secondary Wetland Impact – 4.9 Acres
Total - 6.6 Acres

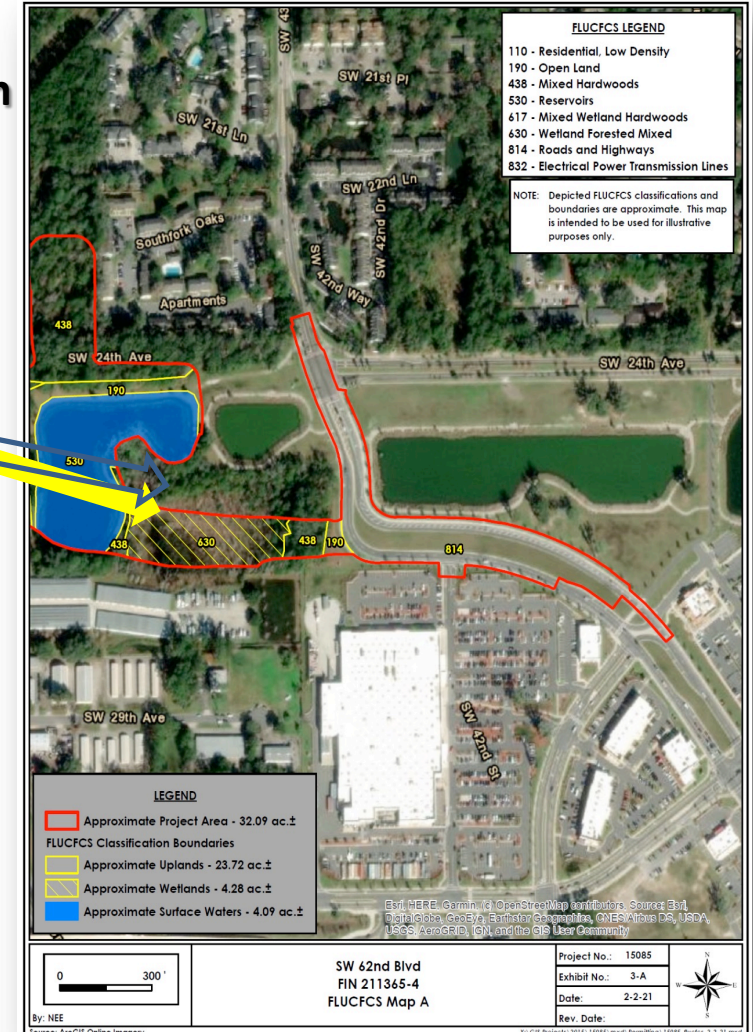


Isolated wetland surrounded by stormwater basins (north & west), Clark Butler Blvd. (east), warehouses & Walmart (south).

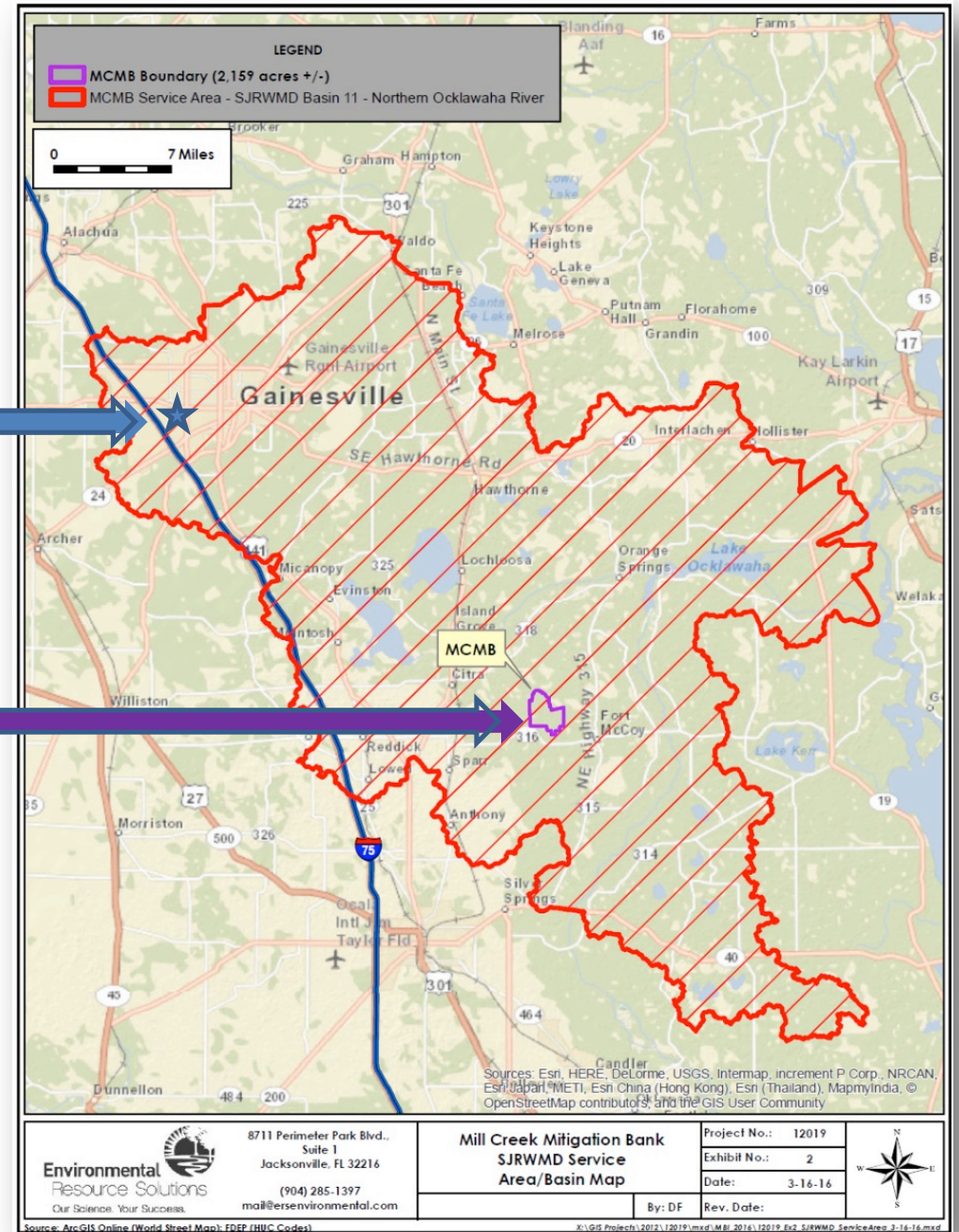
Primary Wetland Impact – 1.9 Acres
Secondary Wetland Impact – 2.7 Acres
Total – 4.6 Acres

TOTAL - PRIMARY & SECONDARY WETLAND IMPACTS – 11.2 Acres

TOTAL - WETLAND FUNCTIONAL LOSS RATING – 4.5 (UMAM)

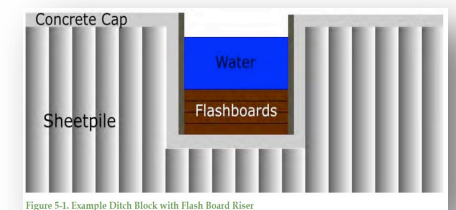
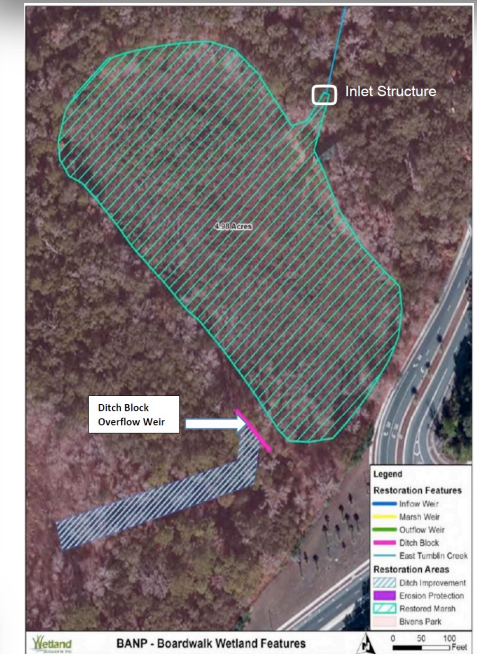
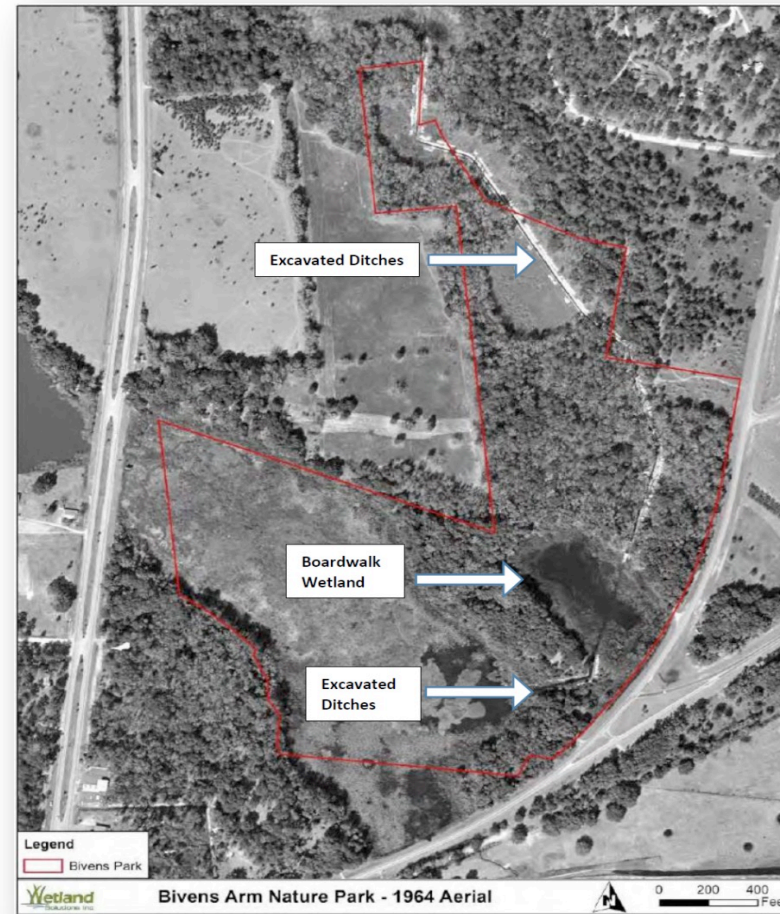


- **Roadway project within the same North Ocklawaha River Basin as the MCMB.**
- **MCMB location three miles southeast of Alachua County boundary.**
- **Permitted by SJRWMD & ACOE; authorized initial 22 mitigation credits available in 2020.**




SW 62nd Boulevard Connector Proposed Wetland Buffer Mitigation

- 1.1 acres of proposed wetland buffer impacts associated with Connector.
- No appropriate on-site wetland buffer mitigation options at the Connector site.
- Appropriate off-site wetland buffer mitigation option – COG Parks Dept. Bivens Arm Nature Park
- Wetland habitat & hydrologic alterations due to excavated ditches.
- Restoration proposed for 5-acre “Boardwalk Wetland.”



CWPC Analysis

- Staff has found the Connector project demonstrates the “overriding public interest” requirement of the CWPC [Section 77.20(a)(4)ii.]
 - Staff has found the proposed wetland and buffer impacts are necessary for Connector construction and demonstrates achieving the avoidance and minimization criteria requirements of the CWPC [Section 77.20(a)(1) & (2)].
 - Staff has found proposed purchase of credits from the Mill Creek Mitigation Bank will provide appropriate mitigation for the proposed wetland impacts; achieving the permitting requirements of the SJRWMD as well as CWPC [Section 77.20(a)(3)].
 - Staff has found the proposed habitat and hydrologic restoration of the Boardwalk Wetland at the Bivens Arm Nature Park will provide appropriate mitigation for the proposed wetland buffer impacts.
 - Prior to commencing Connector construction, COG-PWD and County BoCC will finalize an Interlocal Agreement to document purchasing of the mitigation bank credits and funding activities at the Bivens Arm Nature Park. This agreement will include contingency allocation of the Bivens Arm funds (\$100,000) to Alachua County’s Environmental Sensitive Lands Funds.
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Staff Recommendation

The BOCC finds the proposed Connector project consistent with Section 77.20 requirements of the Countywide Protection Code and approves the proposed wetland and buffer impacts contingent upon the city satisfying the mitigation requirements outlined in the submitted Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Plan.

