



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
St. Louis District

PUBLIC NOTICE

FILE NUMBER: [MVS-2024-507](#)

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: [April 24, 2025](#)

EXPIRATION DATE: [May 23, 2025](#)

Interested parties are hereby notified that Naturion West, LLC (Sponsor) has requested under their approved Umbrella Mitigation Banking Program Instrument (File Number: MVS-2022-728); approval for an Umbrella Mitigation Bank site pursuant to 33 CFR 332 and 40 CFR 230 Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resource; Final Rule (Federal Register / Vol. 73, No. 70 Pages 19594-19705, April 10, 2008).

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must be received or be post marked no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be submitted electronically to David.P.Meyer@usace.army.mil or mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: David P. Meyer

BANK SPONSOR: Naturion West, LLC
POC: Mr. Linden Graber
248 Southwoods Center
Columbia, Illinois 65261

LOCATION: Pursuant to its Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument (UMBI), The Sponsor aims to establish mitigation bank sites in multiple watersheds throughout the USACE St. Louis District in Missouri. The proposed Huckleberry Hollow Stream and Wetland Mitigation Site (HHSWMB) is in southern Missouri and is approximately 54.6 acres, situated on a parcel of land that consists of pasture adjacent to two unnamed intermittent tributaries of Dry Fork. This land is in part of Section 2, Township 34 North, Range 7, Dent County, Missouri. The approximate center of the bank site is Latitude 37.6935°, Longitude -91.6857°.

AUTHORITY: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) and in compliance with requirements outlined in the April 10, 2008, Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule.

SECTION 408: Section 408 authorization is not required because there are no federal projects in or near the vicinity of the proposal.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Sponsor seeks approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (the District) and the Interagency Review Team (IRT); which is comprised of representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Conservation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; to establish the HHSWMB, which is proposed in accordance with the approved UMBI. If approved, the Sponsor would make the stream and wetland mitigation credit available to Department of the Army permittees seeking to fulfill permit requirements to purchase compensatory mitigation credit to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The HHSWMB proposes to generate 38,485 stream credits and 52.80 wetland credits. The mitigation bank site includes the restoration, enhancement and preservation of stream and wetland habitat within the floodplain.

The Sponsor has deemed that HHSWMB is ecologically suitable for stream restoration as historical agricultural practices, cattle activity, and manmade structures (undersized culverts) have left the two unnamed tributaries

on the HHSWMB with incised banks, lateral erosion, and limited riparian buffer. The Sponsor has deemed the HHSWMB ecologically suitable for wetland restoration due to the presence of hydric soils on currently pastured ground. The HHSWMB construction area will total 1.18 acres of wetland enhancement, 11.62 acres of wetland restoration, 36.2 acres of riparian buffer restoration and enhancement, and 5,272 linear feet of stream restoration.

Improvements to occur throughout the two stream reaches in the HHSWMB site include; active erosion control through stone toe protection, the removal of central bars, and the addition of riffles to decrease stream velocity. The approximate locations of these structures can be seen in Appendix 5, as well as a detailed report from October 2023 and November 2024 regarding stream conditions and proposed restoration techniques. Additional information concerning the baseline stream conditions can be found in the Waters of the United States report in Appendix 9.

Forested wetland restoration and enhancement will occur on 12.8 acres of the HHSWMB site. The historic ecological condition of the area is consistent with a floodplain forest community. Based on the existing soil types, previous habitat types and the desire for reforested wetlands, (called out in the Meramec River Watershed and Inventory Assessment) the proposed area found in Figure 12 will be planted with appropriate herbaceous and woody species. A rock chute is proposed in an existing drainageway to bolster site hydrology. See the stream report in Appendix 5 for more details. This area will generally follow recommendations outlined in section 4.6.3 of the UMBI. The forested wetland planting equates to twenty feet by twenty feet (20 ft x 20 ft) spacing equaling 109 trees/acre. The herbaceous understory will be seeded throughout the forested wetland area, delineated in Figure 10, to a custom mix of native forbs, sedges and rushes that will include a minimum of six species.

Upon request, a copy of the Site Mitigation Plan can be provided by our office.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION FOR UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS TO AQUATIC RESOURCES: The mitigation proposal is considered a restoration activity with no anticipated adverse impacts to aquatic resources. This mitigation banking proposal does not preclude the requirement for any Section 404 permit applicant, who intends or is required to use wetland or stream credits generated by this mitigation project, to comply with Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines; the National Environmental Policy Act; and the District's evaluation of probable impacts on public interest. Likewise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to determining compensatory mitigation through the implementation of current Regulatory Guidance and best professional judgment to consider on-site or within the immediate sub-watershed mitigation opportunities first, when impacts to waters of the United States cannot be practicably avoided or further minimized.

HISTORY: The proposed HHSWMB is currently made up of riparian corridor, active agricultural land, degraded floodplain forests and unmanaged grassland. The site is bordered by a combination of agriculture, non-native grassland, and woodland. This predominately agricultural and pastoral landscape has altered the natural drainage and erosion patterns throughout the region. Dry Fork is a primary waterway within the Meramec HUC 8 watershed. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) Watershed and Inventory Assessment for the Meramec River Watershed states that the major goals of the watershed are improving water quality, improving riparian and aquatic habitat conditions, maintaining diverse and abundant populations of native aquatic organisms and sportfish, providing for a high level of recreational use, and increasing public appreciation for stream resources. Though water quality within the Meramec River basin is stated to be quite good in the Watershed and Inventory Assessment, in the upper basin (where the Bank Site is located), cattle grazing on creek bottom pastures is very common and has resulted in damage to riparian areas and excessive nutrient loading of streams. Additionally, in the upper basin, impoundments containing tailings from mining operations pose a potential threat to stream water quality throughout the watershed.

HHSWMB would directly contribute to the identified action plan in the watershed through:

- Excluding cattle from the streams on the Bank Site with a perpetual conservation easement.
- Reducing nutrient load by restoring riparian buffers and stream channels.

- Providing offsets for mining operations and other impactors in the watershed through the generation and sale of mitigation credits.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached. In addition, the project plans may be viewed in color and in more detail by visiting the Public Notice section of our website at:

<https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>

STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: If the Banking IRT approves the proposed HHSWMB, the proposed stream & wetland restoration, enhancement and preservation activities associated with the bank site comply with and will be authorized through the issuance Nationwide Permit 27 (Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities). Therefore, Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) is granted, subject to compliance with General Conditions and WQC Special Conditions established specifically for Nationwide Permit 27.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website has been completed and the following species were identified to potentially be present in the project vicinity: The endangered Gray Bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis*), Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*), proposed endangered Salamander Mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*), threatened Virginia Sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*) and candidate species Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect all eight (8) listed species, or adversely affect critical habitat. The Corps is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the applicant is taking measures to minimize any potential effects of the project during construction. In order to further complete our evaluation, written comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

CULTURAL RESOURCES & TRIBAL TRUST: The District requested that the applicant provide a reconnaissance survey of the project area to investigate the permit area and inform analysis of potential affects. A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey was completed by an SCI Engineering, Inc. (SCI) archaeologist on behalf of the Sponsor. SCI surveyed a 54.6-acre area and identified no significant cultural findings within the survey area. The District concurred with SCI's report and found "No Historic Properties Affected" for the HHSWMB project. The survey report was coordinated with the Tribes on October 8, 2024.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to approve the Sponsor to proceed with the mitigation site project will be based on an evaluation of all comments received, and all relevant factors to the proposal, including the cumulative effects thereof. These factors include, but not limited to conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, the general needs and welfare of the people and compliance with the Mitigation Rule.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review. A request may be denied in writing by the Corps if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the 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 other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the

preparation of a Memorandum for Record associated with Nationwide Permit 27. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Additional information may be obtained by contacting David P. Meyer, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at 314-331-8810 or by e-mail to David.P.Meyer@usace.army.mil.

To join our public notice mailing list and receive all of our Public Notices electronically, please email your request to: MVS-Regulatory@usace.army.mil and include your name, email, and phone number with your statement of request to be added to the Public Notice mailing list.

Robert S. Gramke

Robert S. Gramke
Chief, Regulatory Division

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.



Figure 2: Service Area Map

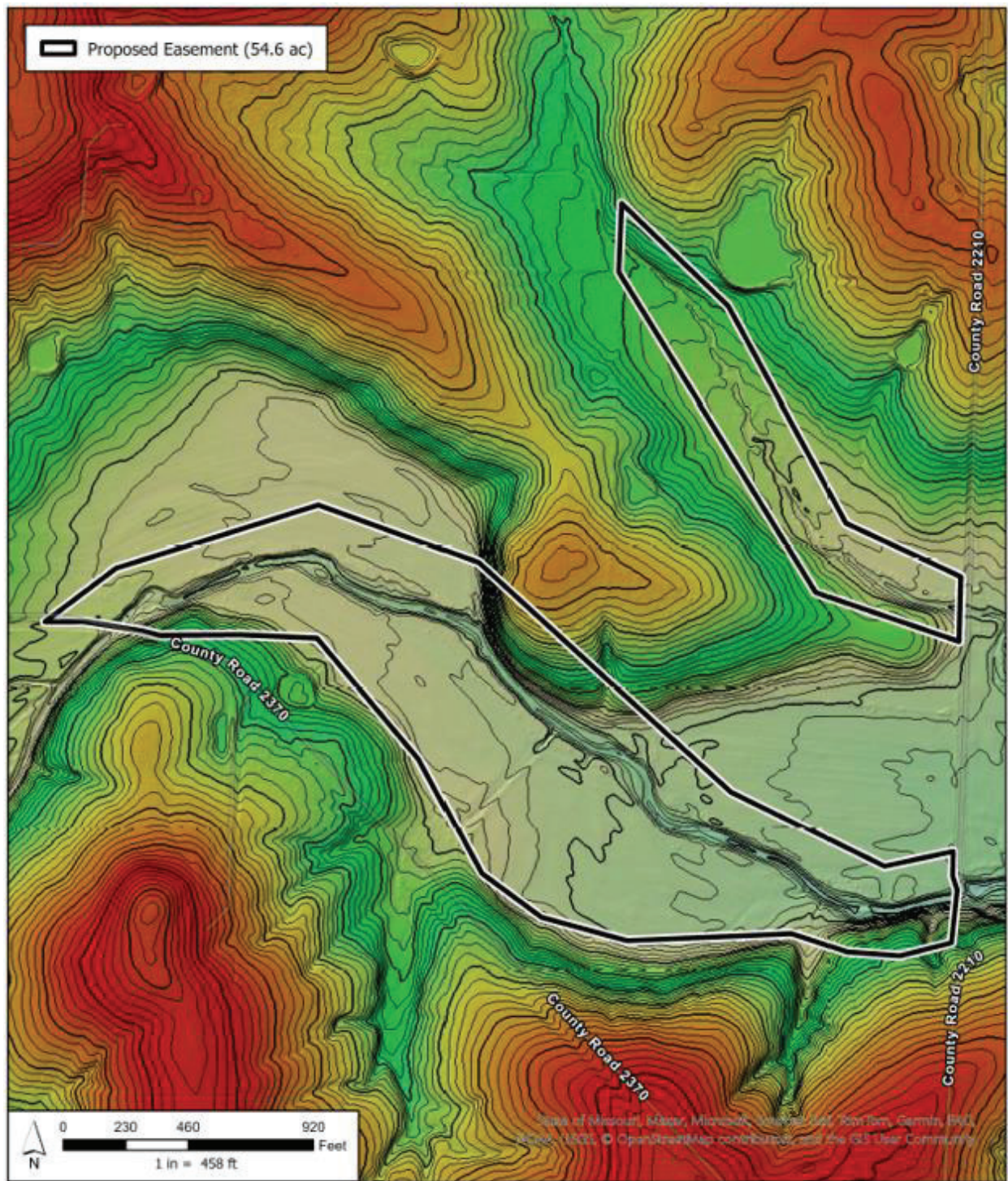
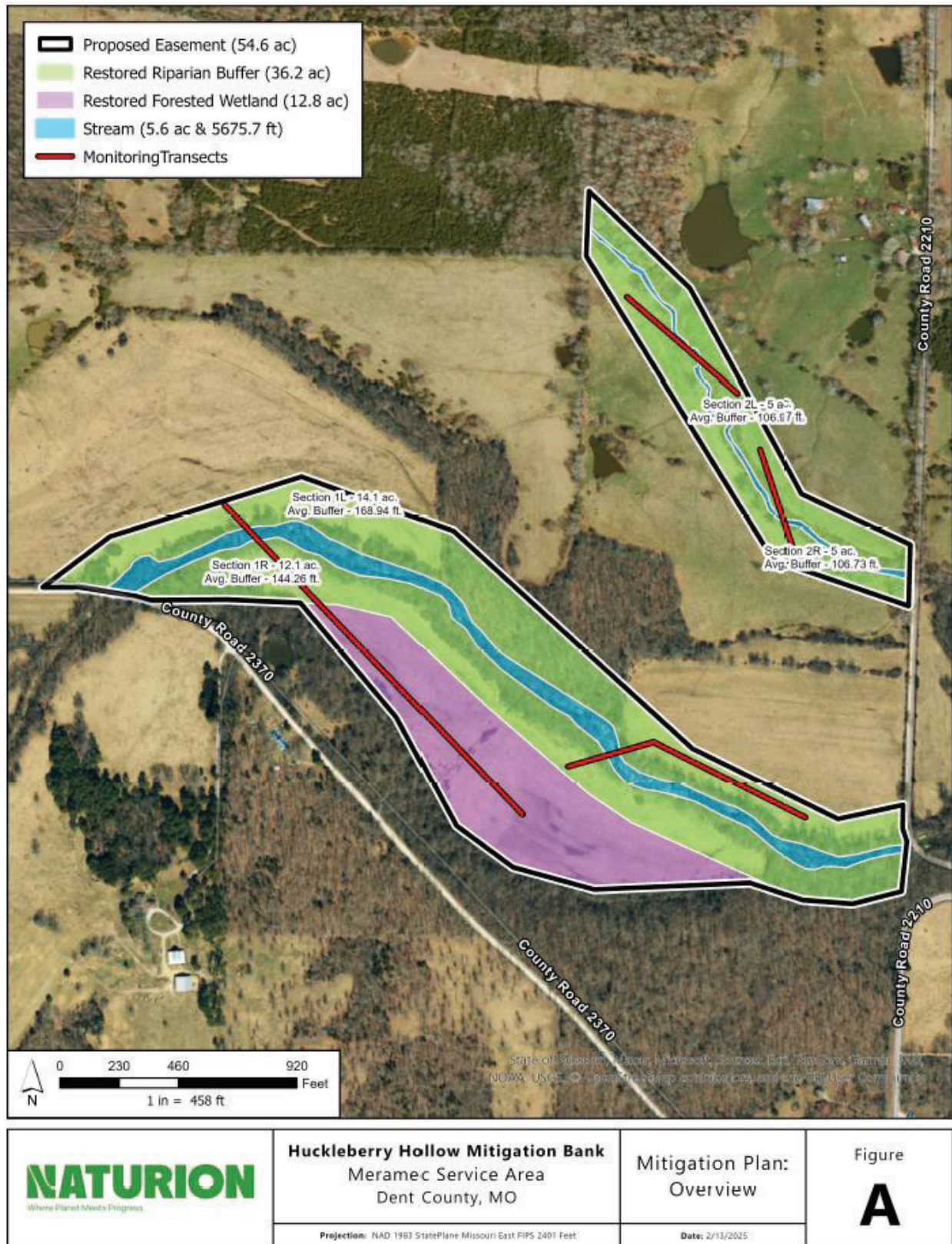
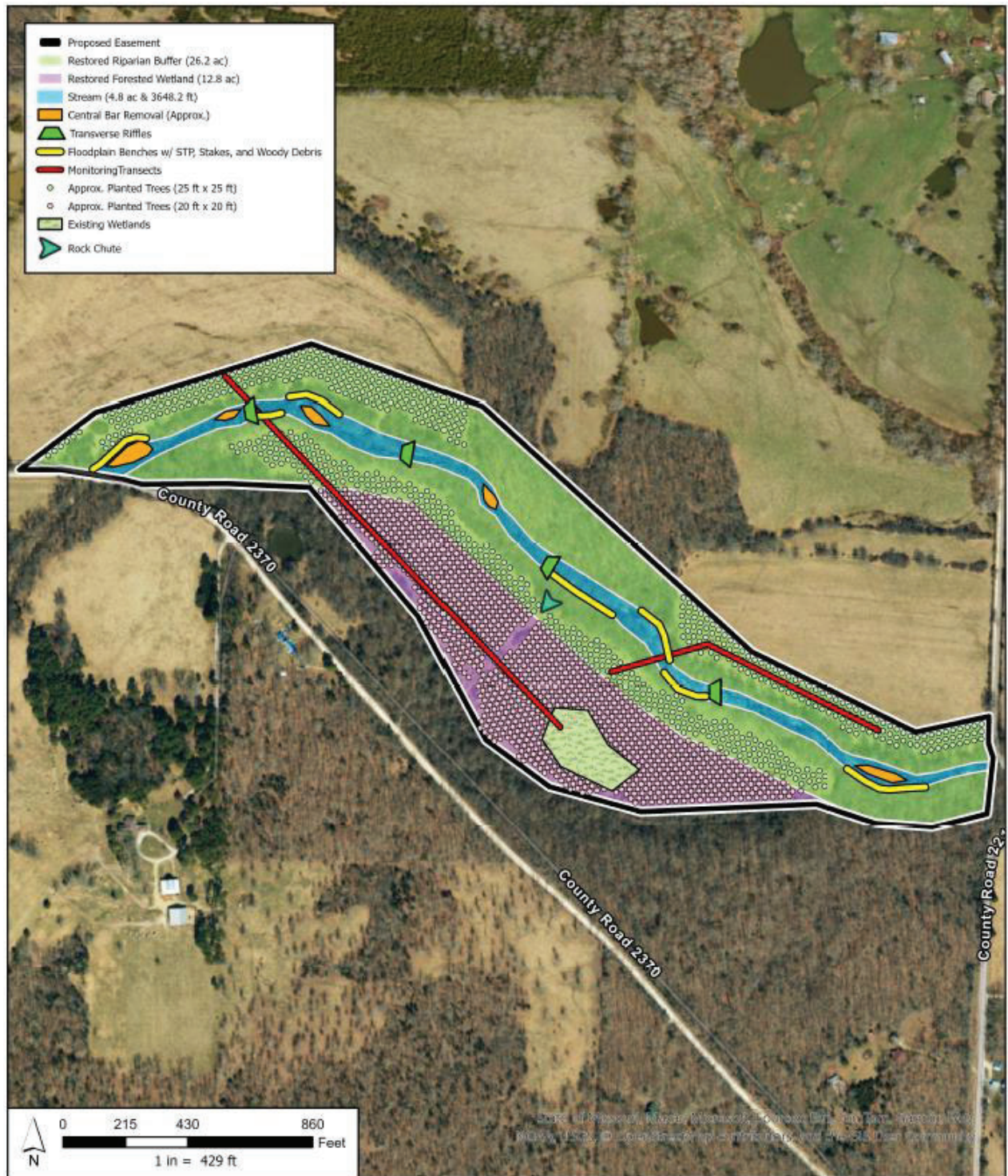


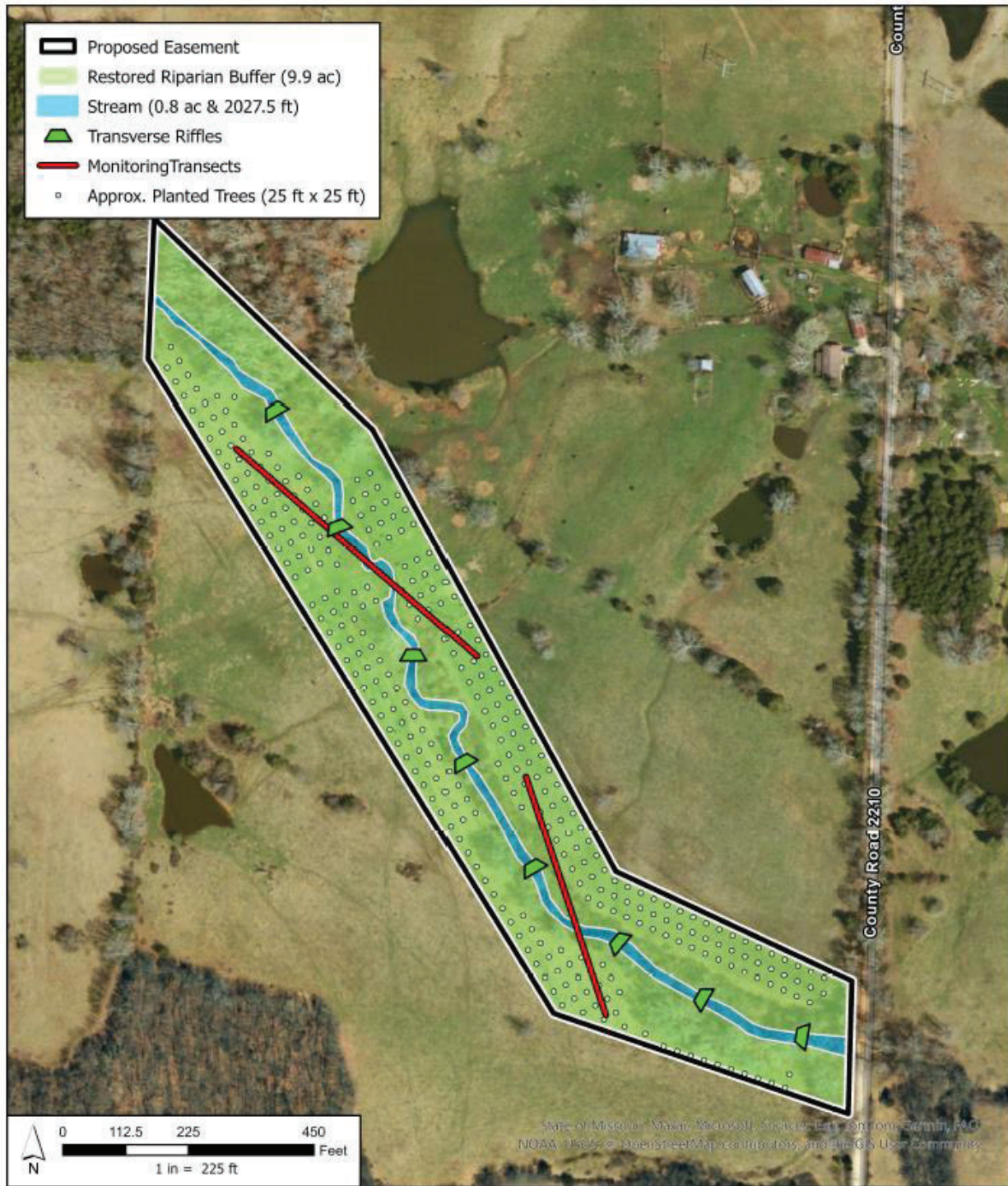
Figure 5: Topography Map

APPENDIX 5: MITIGATION WORK PLAN





 <p>Where Plans Meet Progress</p>	<p>Huckleberry Hollow Mitigation Bank Meramec Service Area Dent County, MO</p> <p>Projection: NAD 1983 StatePlane Missouri East FIPS 2401 Feet</p>	<p>Mitigation Plan: Reach 1</p> <p>Date: 2/18/2025</p>	<p>Figure B</p>
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	Huckleberry Hollow Mitigation Bank Meramec Service Area Dent County, MO	Mitigation Plan: Reach 2	Figure C
	Projection: NAD 1983 StatePlane Missouri East FIPS 2401 Feet	Date: 2/13/2025	



	Huckleberry Hollow Mitigation Bank Meramec Service Area Dent County, MO	In-Stream Structures: Reach 1	Figure D
	Projection: NAD 1983 StatePlane Missouri East FIPS 2401 Feet	Date: 2/13/2025	