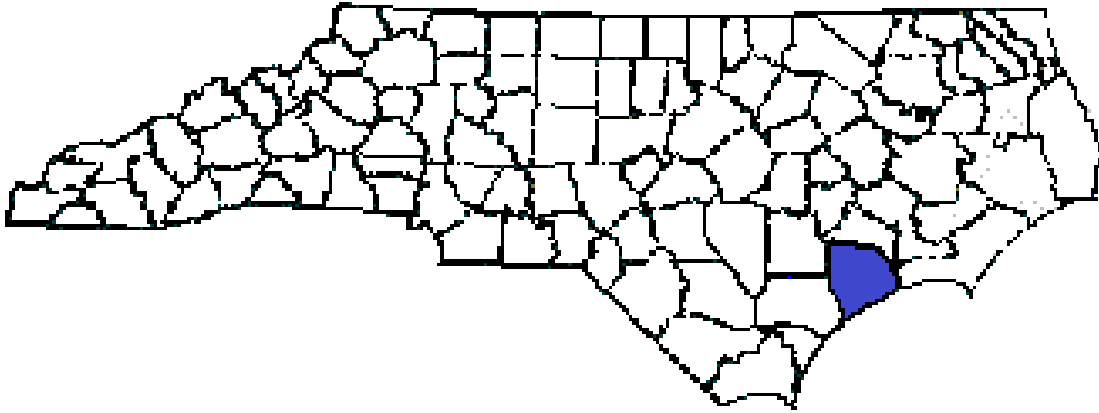


ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020



Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site

Onslow County

TIP No. U-3810

COE Action ID: 2005-9988695

DWQ Project #: 11-0931v.3

CAMA Permit #: 88-12



Prepared By:
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North Carolina Department of Transportation
October 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY 1

1.0 Introduction 2

 .1 Project Description 2

 .2 Purpose 2

 .3 Project History 2

 .4 Debit Ledger 3

2.0 Vegetation: 5

 .1 Success Criteria 5

 .2 Description of Species 5

 .3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring 6

 .4 Conclusions. 6

3.0 Overall Conclusions and Recommendations 6

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map 4

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Site Photos and Site Maps

SUMMARY

The Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site is located on SR 1406 Piney Green Road just south of SR 1465 Swains Loop Road in Jacksonville, NC. The site was planted in March 2015 and March 2016 and was designed as wetland mitigation for impacts associated with TIP project U-3810.

The mitigation encompasses approximately 1.05 acres of riparian wetland restoration (including 0.91 ac. of riverine swamp restoration and 0.14 of non-tidal freshwater marsh) and 7.87 acres of riparian wetland preservation. The restoration of the wetland area was accomplished via excavation of the fill material out to the bank of the tributary of the Little Northeast Creek. The site was graded to match target elevations in the adjacent wetland. Approximately 0.91 acres of the 1.05 acre restoration area will be reforested to match the existing species composition of the adjacent riverine swamp forest preservation area. The remaining 0.14 acres of the restoration area is within the DUE. This area was seeded using a native wetland seed mix typical of a non-tidal freshwater marsh. The area that was restored is being monitored by vegetation plots and photo point locations for survival of planted seedlings. No hydrologic monitoring is required for this project; however, vegetation monitoring is required for five years.

A supplemental planting of approximately 180 baldcypress trees was completed on March 1, 2017. This supplemental planting took place along Little Northeast Creek in the area that includes Vegetation Plot #1.

There were two vegetation monitoring plots established throughout the 0.91 acre reforested area. After the fifth year of monitoring, the 2020 vegetation monitoring of the site revealed an average tree density of 528 trees per acre. This average is above the minimum success criteria of 260 trees per acre for Year 5.

NCDOT proposes to discontinue vegetation monitoring at the Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site is located on SR 1406 Piney Green Road just south of SR 1465 Swains Loop Road in Jacksonville, NC. The site consists of approximately 1.05 acres of riparian wetland restoration (including 0.91 ac. of riverine swamp restoration and 0.14 of non-tidal freshwater marsh) and 7.87 acres of riparian wetland preservation.

1.2 Purpose

In order for a mitigation site to be considered successful, the site must meet vegetation success criteria. This report details the vegetation monitoring in 2020 at the Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site. Hydrologic monitoring was not required for the site.

1.3 Project History

March 2015	Initial Planting
March 2016	Supplemental Planting
August 2016	Vegetation Monitoring (Year 1)
March 2017	Supplemental Planting
July 2017	Vegetation Monitoring (Year 2)
August 2018	Vegetation Monitoring (Year 3)
September 2019	Vegetation Monitoring (Year 4)
October 2020	Vegetation Monitoring (Year 5)

1.4 Debit Ledger

Site name	Site TIP	HUC	River Basin	Division	County	Mitigation Type	Notes	As Built Quantity	Available	Debit
Piney Green Road	U-3810	03030001	White Oak River	3	Onslow					U-3810
						Riverine Swamp Preservation		7.87 ac (10:1 ratio)	0	0.78 ac
						Riverine Swamp Restoration		0.91 ac (1:1 ratio)	0	0.91 ac
						Non Tidal Freshwater Marsh		0.14 ac (2:1 ratio)	0	0.07 ac

Note: Debit ledger information up to date as of September 28, 2016.

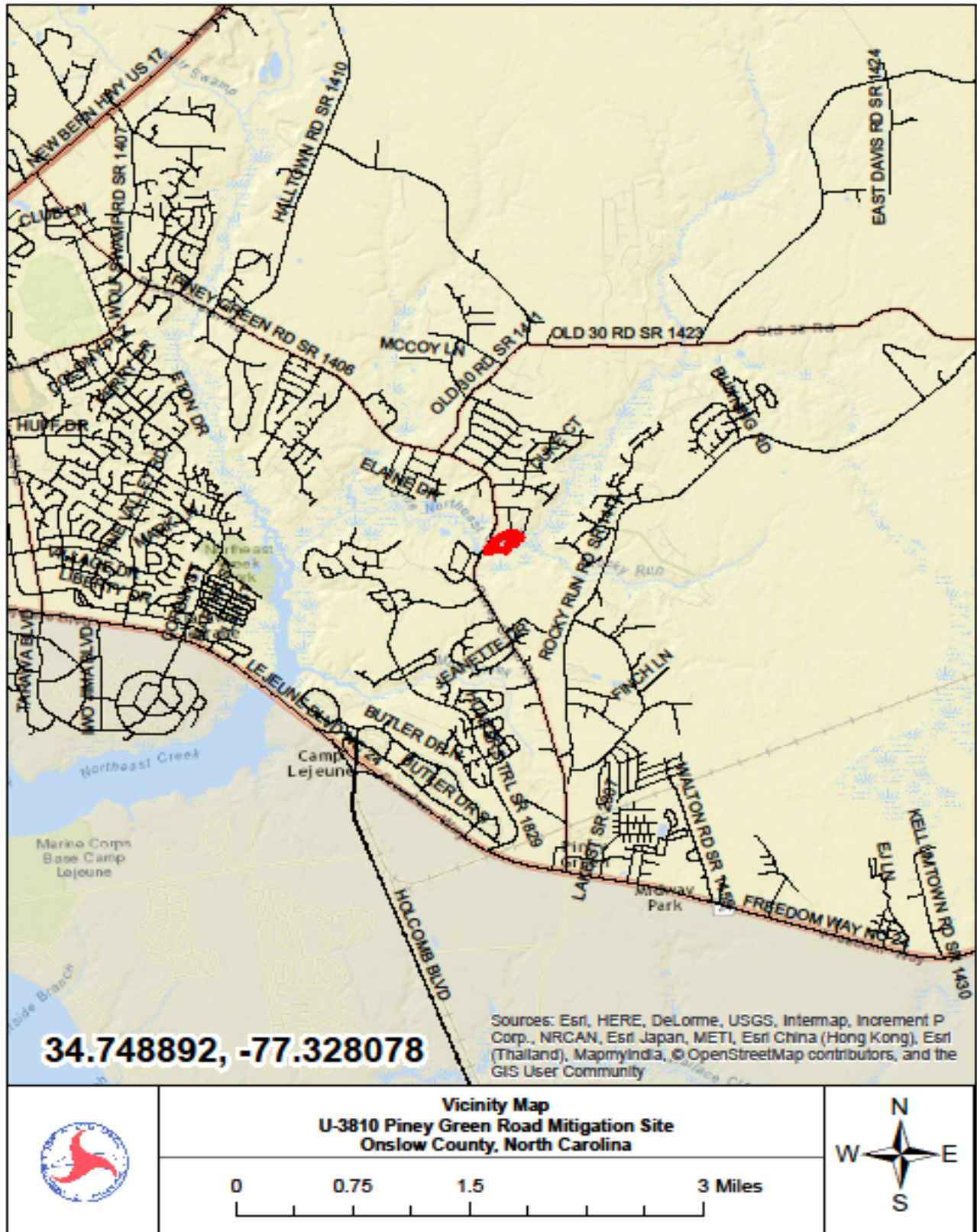


Figure 1. Vicinity Map

2.0 VEGETATION: PINEY GREEN ROAD WETLAND MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 5 MONITORING)

2.1 Success Criteria

Success for vegetation monitoring within the restoration area is based on the survival of the planted woody vegetation and coverage of seeded herbaceous vegetation.

Vegetation success shall be measured by survivability over a 5-year monitoring period. Survivability will be based on 320 stems/acre after three years and 260 stems after five years. If the surviving vegetation densities are below the required thresholds after the five-year monitoring period, the site may be declared successful at the discretion of and with written approval from the regulatory agencies.

Upon successful completion of construction, the following monitoring strategies are proposed for the mitigation site. NCDOT will document monitoring activities on the site in an annual report distributed to the regulatory agencies.

No specific hydrological monitoring is proposed for this restoration site. The target elevation will be based on the adjacent wetland elevation and verified during construction. Constructing the site at the adjacent wetland elevation will ensure that the hydrology in the restored area is similar to the hydrology in the reference area.

NCDOT shall monitor the restoration site by visual observation, vegetation plots, and photo points for vegetation survival. A survey of vegetation during the growing season shall be conducted annually over the five-year monitoring period and submitted to the regulatory agencies via the NCDOT website. Monitoring will be initiated upon successful completion of site grading and planting.

2.2 Description of Species

The following tree species were planted in the Wetland Reforestation area:

Nyssa sylvatica var. *biflora*, Swamp Blackgum

Taxodium distichum, Baldcypress

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

Nyssa aquatica, Water Tupelo

Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Poplar

2.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

Plot #	Swamp Blackgum	Baldcypress	Green Ash	Water Tupelo	Tulip Poplar	Total (Year 5)	Total (at planting)	Density (Trees/Acre)
1		26	5	8		39	44	603
2	2	8	7	11		28	42	453
Year 5 Average Density (Trees/Acre)								528
Year 4 Average Density (Trees/Acre)								560
Year 3 Average Density (Trees/Acre)								680
Year 2 Average Density (Trees/Acre)								680
Year 1 Average Density (Trees/Acre)								680

Site Notes: Water was standing across the entire site. Other species noted onsite included cattail, smartweed, *Juncus* sp., *Scirpus* sp., *Sagittaria* sp., woolgrass, black willow and various grasses. Per Regulatory Agencies request, additional trees were flagged outside of the vegetation plot locations across the site so the trees could be more easily seen amongst the cattails. Trees were noted throughout the site when flagging was completed. Trees closer to Vegetation Plot #2 were smaller due to these trees being planted at a later date.

2.4 Conclusions

There were 2 vegetation monitoring plots established throughout the 0.91 acre reforested area. The 2020 vegetation monitoring of the site revealed an average density of 528 trees per acre for the fifth year of monitoring.

3.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2020 year represents the fifth year of monitoring activities that have occurred at the Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site. The site must demonstrate vegetation success for a minimum of five years or until the site is deemed successful.

There were two vegetation monitoring plots established throughout the 0.91 acre reforested area. The 2020 vegetation monitoring of the site revealed an average density of 528 trees per acre. This average is above the minimum success criteria of 260 trees per acre for Year 5.

NCDOT proposes to discontinue vegetation monitoring at the Piney Green Road Wetland Mitigation Site.

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOS AND SITE MAPS

Piney Green Road Wetland Site



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3






Photo 4



Dual Utility Easement area of the mitigation site

October 2020



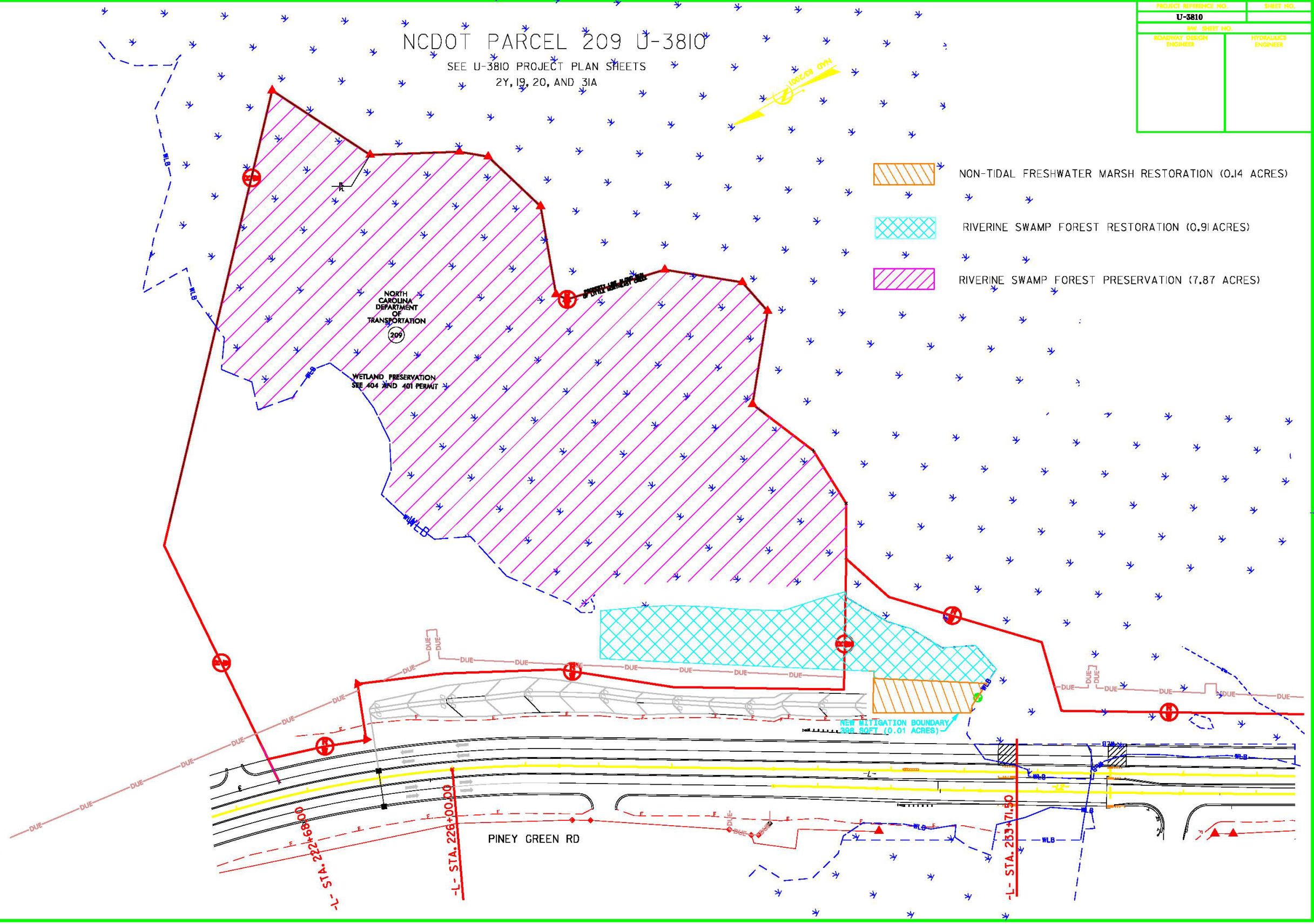
	<p>Site Map (Photo Point and Vegetation Plot Locations) U-3810 Piney Green Road Mitigation Site Onslow County, North Carolina</p>	
<p>0 187.5 375 750 Feet</p> 		

5/14/99

NCDOT PARCEL 209 U-3810

SEE U-3810 PROJECT PLAN SHEETS
2Y, 19, 20, AND 31A

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.
U-3810	
ROW SHEET NO.	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER



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