

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed new runway 5L/23R, Federal Express sorting facility and associated developments at Piedmont Triad International Airport (PTIA) may impact approximately 23.77 acres of wetland and 13,917 linear feet (l.f.) of stream channel. These impact estimates are based on maximum project footprint and may be subject to reduction as plans are refined. Therefore, the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority (PTAA) has identified potential mitigation concepts responsive to appropriate regulatory compensation ratio guidance. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, will be provided by restoring, creating, and preserving approximately 286.4 acres of wetlands and restoring, enhancing, and preserving approximately 41,895 l.f. of stream channel.

The preferences of on-site, in-kind restoration, creation and enhancement were prioritized to the maximum extent practicable. This evaluation was accomplished through the identification and preliminary classification of jurisdictional wetlands and stream segments on airport property, as well as land parcels not designated for development in the Airport Master Plan.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) Division of Water Quality (DWQ) have preliminarily concurred that the main stem of Horsepen Creek, which traverses the Longview Golf Course on the southeastern side of the airport, is suitable for restoration. Segments of Horsepen Creek, select unnamed tributaries, adjacent property, and the Longview Golf Course constitute the location of the majority of the proposed on-site stream and wetland compensatory mitigation. Approximately 4,960 l.f. of Horsepen Creek and associated tributaries are proposed for restoration. Wetland creation and restoration is proposed on the golf course and adjacent property along Horsepen Creek where the wide, well-developed floodplain can be reconnected to the degraded stream. Approximately 11.0 acres of wetlands will be created and approximately 9.0 acres of wetlands will be restored.

Most of the on-site stream channel and wetlands associated with Brush Creek will be preserved (3,690 l.f. of stream and 52.3 acres of wetland). Approximately 500 l.f. of ditch will be restored to functional Brush Creek tributary. The Old Oak Ridge Road bed will be restored to prior wetland condition, the fill southeast of North Triad Boulevard will be removed to restore former floodplain wetlands adjacent to Brush Creek (7.1 acres). Wetlands (5.3 acres) will be created adjacent to Bryan Boulevard on the northwest side of Brush Creek.

Off-site mitigation areas within the same Hydrologic Unit proposed are: 0.5 acres of wetland creation and 1,350 l.f. of stream restoration along Staley Creek in North Park, Burlington; 0.5 acres of wetland creation and 2,190 l.f. of stream restoration at Willowbrook Park, Burlington; 0.7 acres of wetland creation, 3,405 l.f. of stream restoration, and 1,330 l.f. of stream enhancement at Little Alamance Creek in City Park, Burlington; 900 l.f. of stream restoration along Staley Creek in Robinson Park, Burlington in Alamance County; 920 l.f. of stream restoration at South Buffalo Creek in Greensboro, Guilford County; and 200.0 acres of wetland preservation and 21,000 l.f. of stream preservation at Benaja Swamp, south of Reidsville in Rockingham County.

The mitigation proposed is summarized as follows:

<u>WETLANDS</u>	<u>PRESERVATION</u>	<u>CREATION</u>	<u>RESTORATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Horsepen Creek		11.0 acres	9.0 acres	20.0 acres
Brush Creek	52.3 acres	5.3 acres	7.1 acres	64.7 acres
Staley Creek		0.5 acres		0.5 acres
Willowbrook Park		0.5 acres		0.5 acres
Little Alamance Creek		0.7 acres		0.7 acres
Robinson Park				0.0 acres
South Buffalo Creek				0.0 acres
Benaja Swamp	200.0 acres			200.0 acres
SUBTOTAL:	252.3 acres	18.0 acres	16.1 acres	286.4 acres

<u>STREAMS</u>	<u>PRESERVATION</u>	<u>ENHANCEMENT</u>	<u>RESTORATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Horsepen Creek			4,960 l.f.	4,960 l.f.
Brush Creek	3,690 l.f.		500 l.f.	4,190 l.f.
Staley Creek			1,350 l.f.	1,350 l.f.
Willowbrook Park		1,230 l.f.	2,190 l.f.	3,420 l.f.
Little Alamance Creek		1,330 l.f.	3,405 l.f.	4,735 l.f.
Robinson Park		100 l.f.	900 l.f.	1,000 l.f.
South Buffalo Creek		320 l.f.	920 l.f.	1,240 l.f.
Benaja Swamp	21,000 l.f.			21,000 l.f.
SUBTOTAL:	24,690 l.f.	2,980 l.f.	14,225 l.f.	41,895 l.f.

In addition, approximately 210.1 total acres of minimum 50-foot wide transitional and upland vegetated buffer is included with the proposed wetland and stream mitigation. Based on DWQ guidance ratios of 5:1 (preservation), 2:1 (enhancement), 1.5:1 (creation), and 1:1 (restoration); the mitigation proposed exceeds that required to compensate for project impacts.