



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	MVK-2024-678
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Tarmiko Graham
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5540
E-MAIL:	Tarmiko.V.Graham@usace.army.mil
DATE:	February 13, 2025
EXPIRATION DATE:	March 5, 2025

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit for the work described herein. Comments should either be emailed to the project manager listed above, submitted through the Regulatory Request system at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs/public-notices>, or mailed in hard copy to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-RD, 4155 East Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435, and must reach this office by the cited expiration date.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule (Certification Improvement Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that has the potential to result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a potential discharge from a federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying authority. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has not submitted a certification request to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Improvement Rule, once the applicant submits a certification request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the certifying authority will jointly establish the reasonable period of time for the certifying authority to act upon the certification request.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Name of Applicant:
Mr. Staci A. Mitchell
City of Monroe
2305 North 7th Street
West Monroe, Louisiana 71291

Name of Agent:
Mr. Matt Mixon
Wetlands Unlimited, LLC
Post Office Box 1892
West Monroe, Louisiana 71294

Location of Work: Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 3 East; Latitude 32.498107, Longitude -92.141804; Ouachita River, 8-digit HUC: 08040207; Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to conduct regulated activities within jurisdictional waters of the United States (U.S.) to restore the drainage channel of Black Bayou south of Exit 115 on Interstate 20 in West Monroe, Louisiana. The project is proposed for funding under Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant number FEMA-4263-DR-LA, Project #0016 (attached).

A section of the Black Bayou included in the proposed project has become significantly overgrown with vegetation and has also become encumbered by significant amounts of foreign debris and litter within the existing channel, all of which have greatly reduced the hydraulic abilities of this section of the drainageway, resulting in an inability to adequately clear flows during elevated precipitation scenarios at a rate sufficient to mitigate flood risks for upstream areas of West Monroe. The proposed project aims to clear out flow-inhibiting overgrowth and foreign debris/litter within the channel of the drainageway throughout the project footprint. The combined project improvements would significantly increase the hydraulic capacity of the channel, resulting in an improved waterway which would better allow for the removal of discharges created upstream of the project area.

Impacts to WOTUS from the project are provided in Table 1 – Impact Summary and the locations of the listed impact areas are shown in Figure 2 – Site Detail Map Series (attached). The majority of permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters pertain to the introduction of the revetment liner material within the banks of Black Bayou.

Table 1 – Impact Summary					
Impact Area	Type of WOTUS	Length (Feet)	Amount (Acres)	Impact Type	Impact Duration
PI-01	Perennial Stream	1,898.93	2.53	Armor (Revetment)	Permanent
PI-02	Perennial Stream	54.00	0.06	Armor (Rip-Rap)	Permanent
PI-03	Perennial Stream	174.00	0.20	Armor (Revetment)	Permanent
PI-04	Perennial Stream	38.00	0.04	Armor (Rip-Rap)	Permanent
TI-01	Perennial Stream	6,039.82	6.97	Excavate/Remove	Temporary

Total anticipated unavoidable impacts to WOTUS from the project would include approximately 2.83 acres (2,164.93 liner feet) of permanent impacts to RPW-Perennial streams (Black Bayou), and 6.97 acres of temporary impacts to RPW-

Perennial streams (Black Bayou). Approximately 3,906 cubic yards of concrete revetment would be placed to stabilize the slopes and prevent erosion and sloughing. Approximately 1,305 cubic yards of rip rap would be installed at bridge width, plus an additional 10 feet on each side (54 feet and 38 feet).

In accordance with LDEQ stormwater construction permitting requirements, all disrupted areas would be graded, seeded, mulched, and fertilized to facilitate herbaceous vegetation growth and reduce erosion impacts at the conclusion of construction activities. Silt fencing or other erosion and runoff control measures will be placed throughout the project site, as necessary, to aid in erosion control and offsite sediment migration via stormwater.

Hydric soils within the project site, according to the NRCS Soils Map and the Ouachita Parish Soil Survey, include five primary soil types: Barclay-Rosebloom Complex, occasionally flooded; Perry clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded, Arkansas River; Savannah fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes; Waller loam; Hebert silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. Currently this office is coordinating with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally recognized Tribes, and other interested parties regarding potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

Endangered Species: The Threatened and Endangered Species list for the proposed project area includes the red-cockaded woodpecker (threatened), the tricolored bat (proposed endangered), the alligator snapping turtle (proposed threatened) and the monarch butterfly (proposed threatened). Utilizing the Information for Planning and Consultation tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana (as per Memorandum of Agreement, signed on January 14, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Ecological Services Office), the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on the Red cockaded

woodpecker. Additionally, the Corps has determined that the proposed expansion activities would not jeopardize the continued existence of the tricolored bat, alligator snapping turtle or monarch butterfly.

Floodplain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The proposed project is within the 100-year Floodplain.

Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

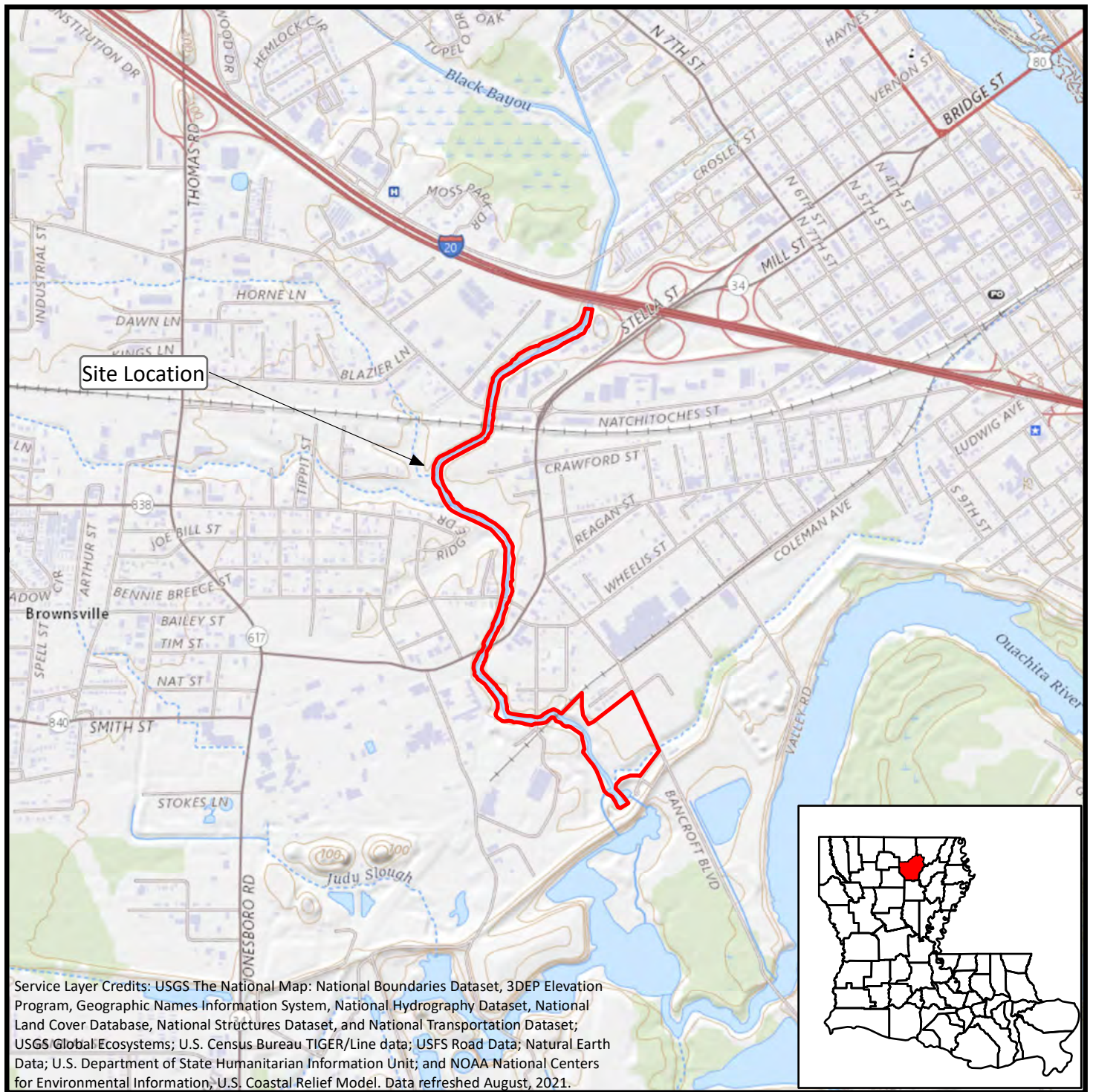
Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

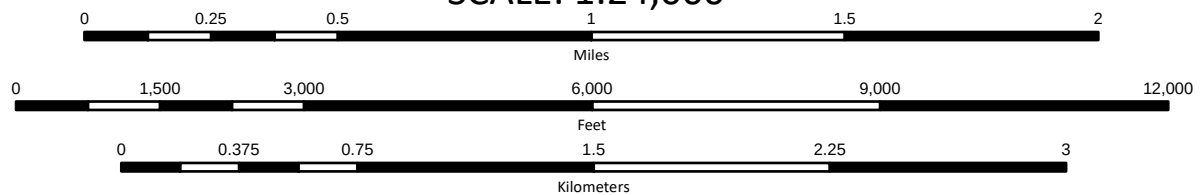
Andy Sanderson

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Sanderson
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**Andy Sanderson
Chief, Arkansas and Louisiana Branch
Regulatory Division**



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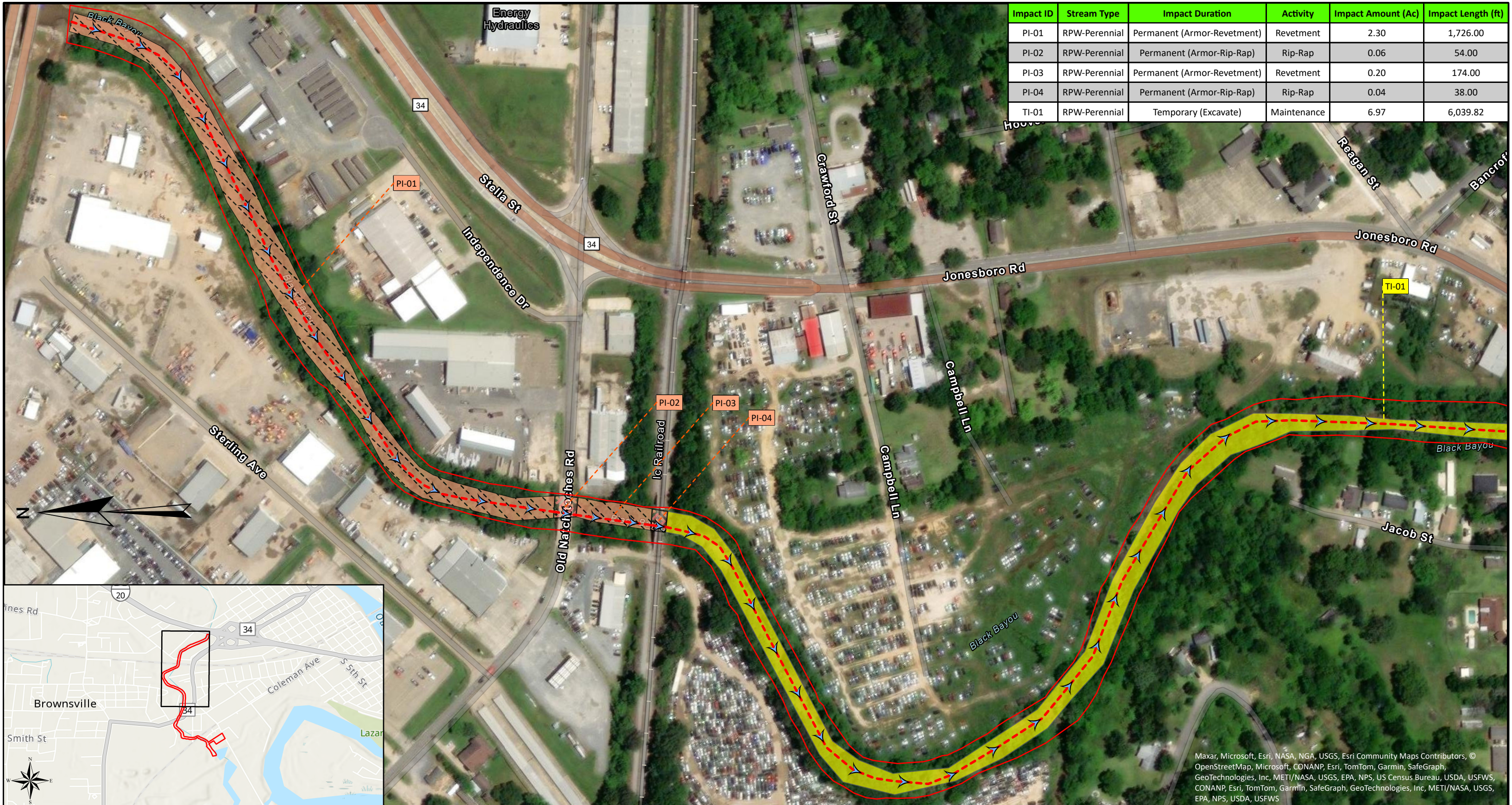
 Project Boundary

Site Location Map
Black Bayou Drainage Canal Maintenance
City of West Monroe
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE

1



Impact ID	Stream Type	Impact Duration	Activity	Impact Amount (Ac)	Impact Length (ft)
PI-01	RPW-Perennial	Permanent (Armor-Revetment)	Revetment	2.30	1,726.00
PI-02	RPW-Perennial	Permanent (Armor-Rip-Rap)	Rip-Rap	0.06	54.00
PI-03	RPW-Perennial	Permanent (Armor-Revetment)	Revetment	0.20	174.00
PI-04	RPW-Perennial	Permanent (Armor-Rip-Rap)	Rip-Rap	0.04	38.00
TI-01	RPW-Perennial	Temporary (Excavate)	Maintenance	6.97	6,039.82

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Legend

Project Boundary

Proposed Staging Area (Surface Disturbances <8 Inches in Depth)

Impact Type

Permanent (Armor-Revetment)

Permanent (Armor-Rip-Rap)

Temporary (Excavate)

Streams

RPW-Perennial

0

450

900

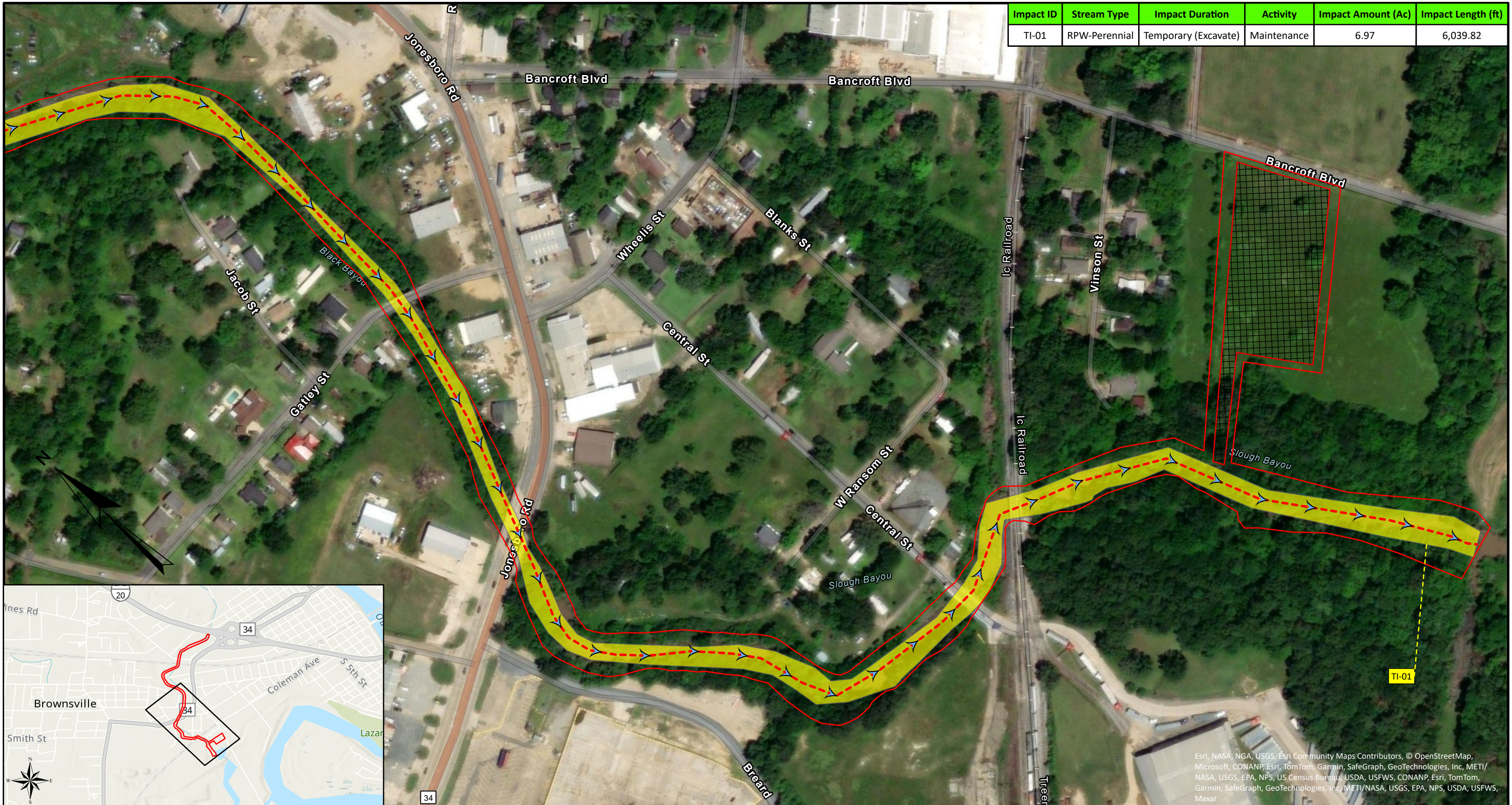
Feet

Site Detail Map - Northern Extent
Black Bayou Canal Drainage Improvements
City of West Monroe
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE
2.1

Maxar, Microsoft, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS



Impact ID	Stream Type	Impact Duration	Activity	Impact Amount (Ac)	Impact Length (ft)
TI-01	RPW-Perennial	Temporary (Excavate)	Maintenance	6.97	6,039.82

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Legend

Project Boundary

Proposed Staging Area (Surface)

Disturbances <8 Inches in Depth

Impact Type

Permanent (Armor-Revetment)

Permanent (Armor-Rip-Rap)

Temporary (Excavate)

Streams

RPW-Perennial

0

445

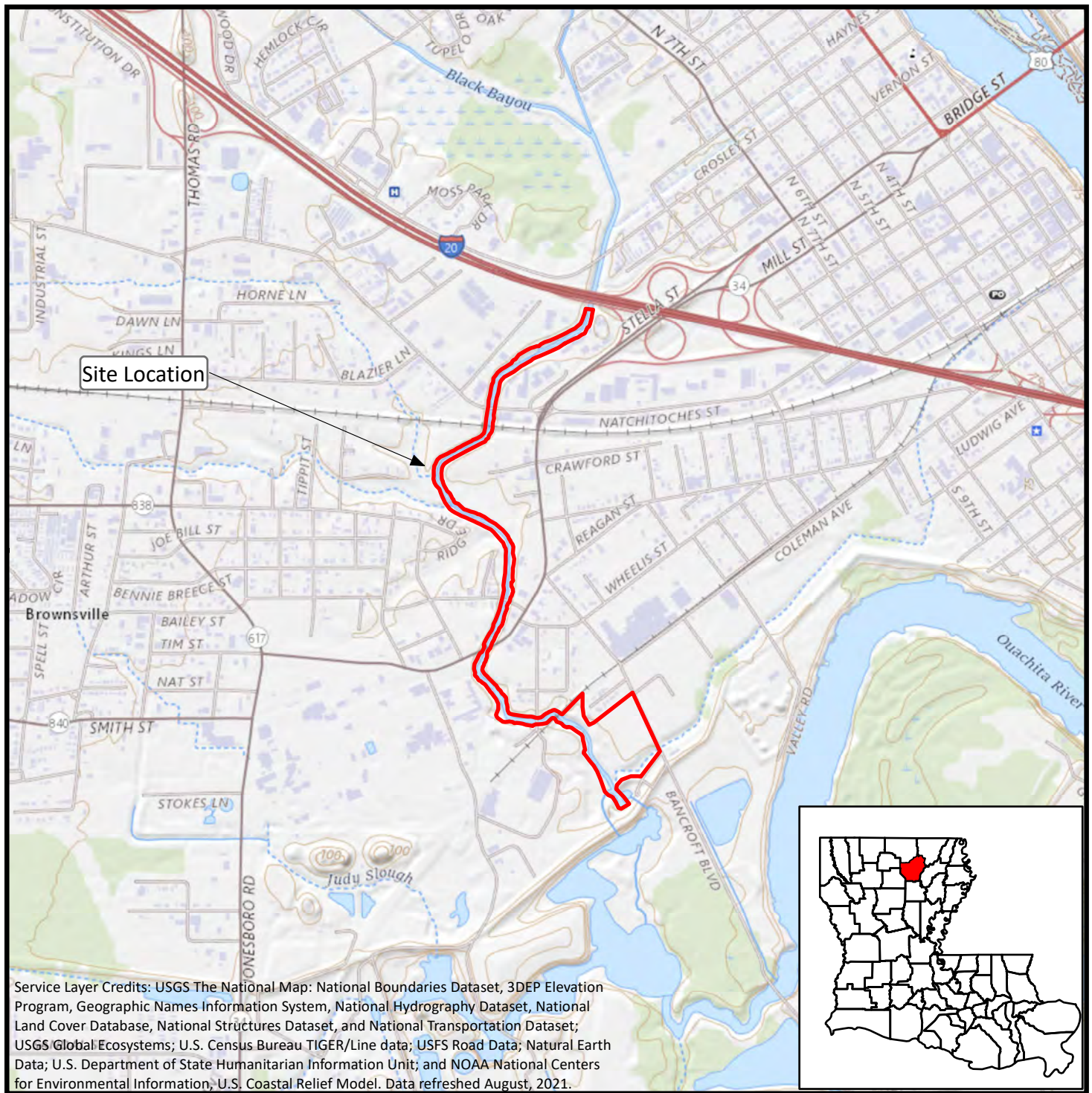
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Feet

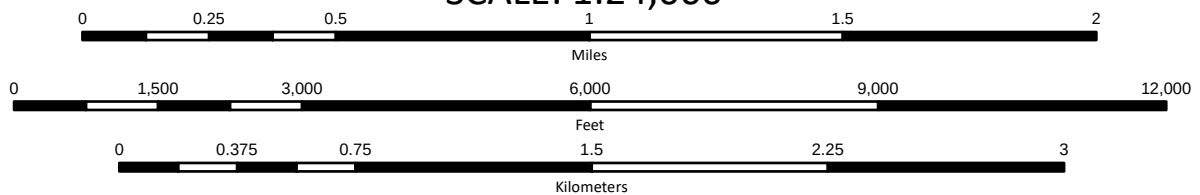
Site Detail Map - Southern Extent
Black Bayou Canal Drainage Improvements
City of West Monroe
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE
2.2



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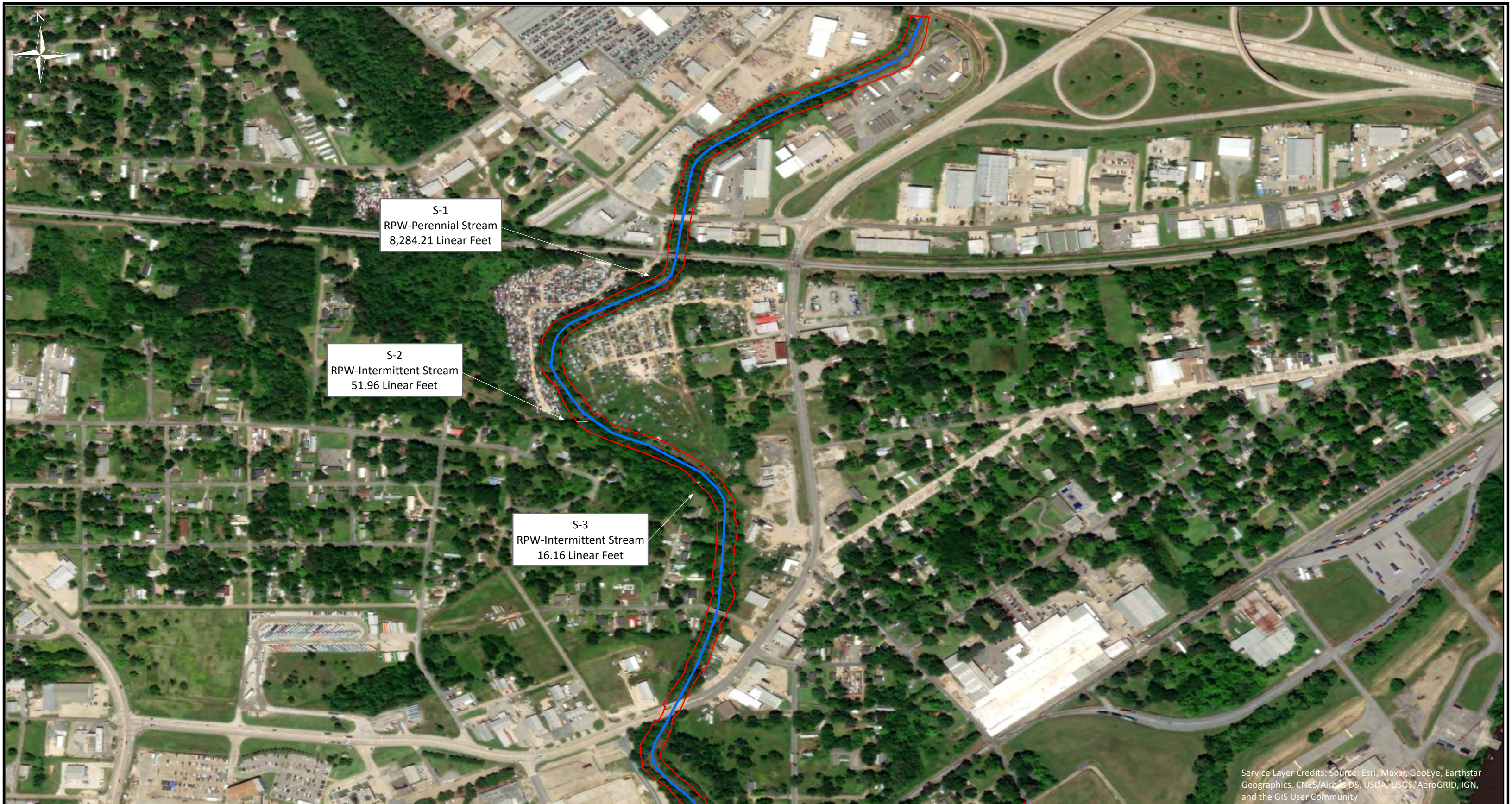
 Project Boundary

Site Location Map
Black Bayou Drainage Upgrades
City of West Monroe
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



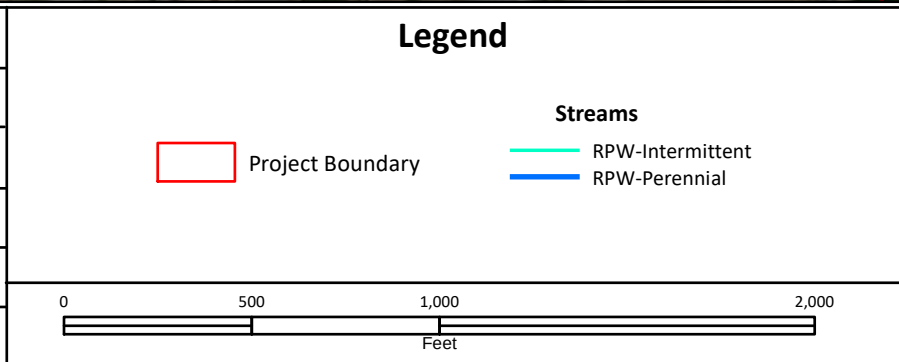
FIGURE

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Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

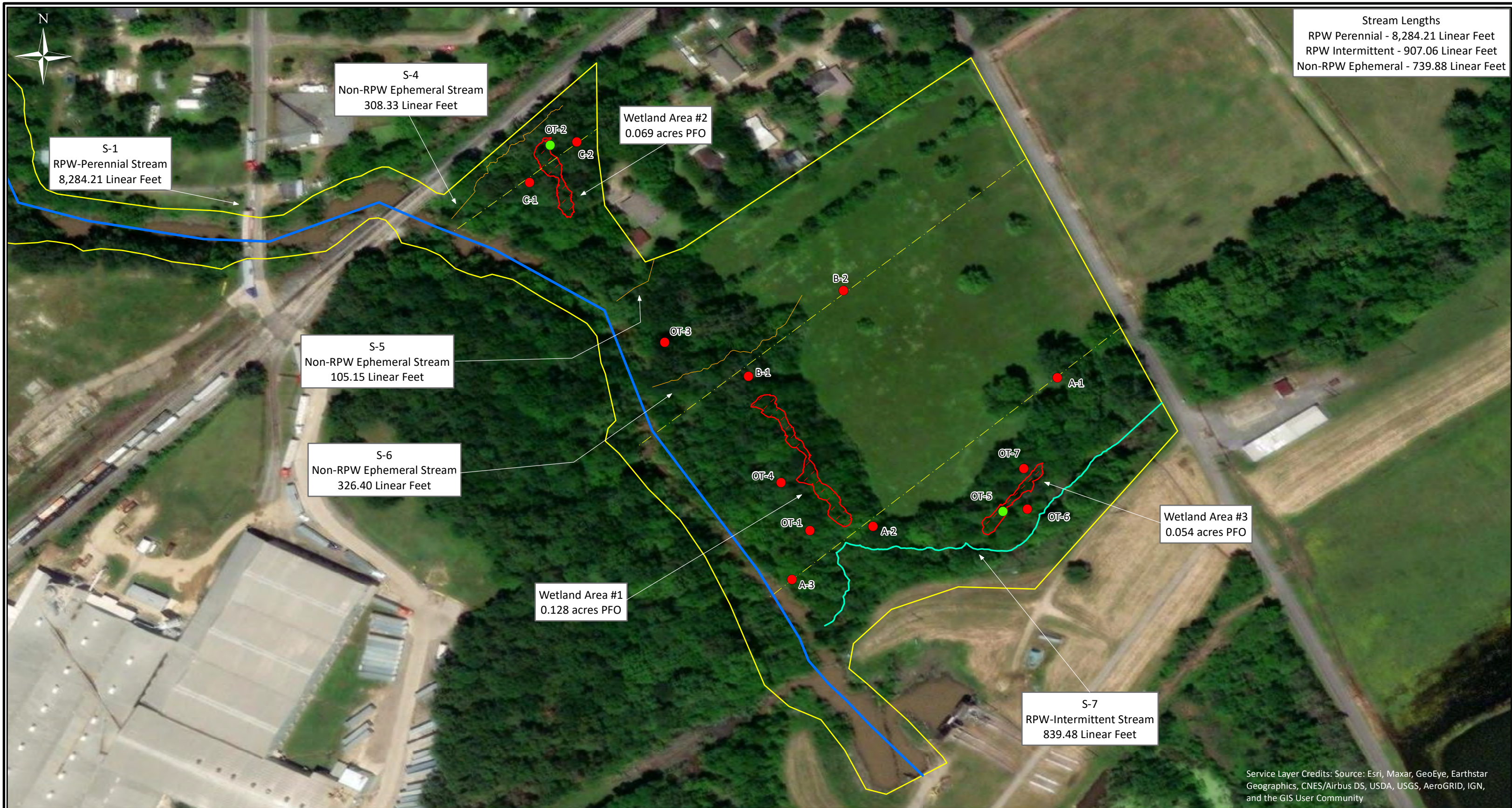
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Project Footprint
Black Bayou Delineation - Northern Extent
City of West Monroe
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE
2.1



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Legend		
	Sampling Transects	
	Wetland Areas (0.251 Acres)	
	Project Boundary	
Streams		
	Ephemeral	
	Intermittent	
	Perennial	
Datapoint Locations		
	Non-Wet	
	Wet	

Project Footprint
Black Bayou Delineation - Southern Extent
City of West Monroe
Ouachita Parish, Louisiana



FIGURE
2.2