



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Little Rock District

PUBLIC NOTICE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Application Number: SWL-2015-00111-1

Date: March 17, 2025

Comments Due: April 16, 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Comments are invited on the work described below. Please see the Public Involvement section for details on submitting comments.

Point of Contact. If additional information is desired, please contact the regulator, Emily Edwards, telephone number: (501) 340-1374, mailing address: Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, PO Box 867, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867, email address: Emily.L.Edwards@usace.army.mil. An electronic copy of the Site #2 Triangle Park for the Fourche Bayou Mitigation Bank prospectus can be viewed on the Little Rock District, Regulatory Division webpage at <http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx> or a hard copy can be obtained from the Corps of Engineers through the contact information listed above.

Project Information. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), notice is hereby given that

**Applied Land Restoration
Ms. Page Shurgar
PO Box 7901
Little Rock, AR 72217**

has submitted a mitigation banking instrument modification request for an additional site proposal called Site #2 Triangle Park for the Fourche Bayou Mitigation Bank (FBMB). This proposal outlines the development and operation of the additional property to the bank. After public comments are received and any issues are resolved on the proposal, Applied Land Restoration will submit a draft proposal to the District Engineer of the Little Rock District. The District Engineer will then distribute the draft proposal to the Interagency Review Team (IRT), which is made up of the Corps and the pertinent state and Federal resource agencies. The IRT will review the proposal and coordinate with Applied Land Restoration on any issues until a final proposal is completed. Finally, the District Engineer will review the final proposal and make a decision to approve or not approve.

The primary purpose of this bank is to mitigate for unavoidable impacts to streams and wetlands authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The project goal is to restore and enhance streams and wetlands functions and values within the mitigation bank area.

This project is a modification of the approved FBMB. An additional 26-acre site located on Fourche Island along Old Fourche Creek Channel is the site selected to be added to the FBMB. The property is owned by the Little Rock Port Authority and currently being used for row crop agriculture. Historically, Old Channel Fourche Creek was a forested riverine corridor bisecting the property until it was cleared and ditched in 2002. The straightened ditch currently enters the

site at the northeast corner and flows south paralleling Fourche levee until it exits through a culvert under Slackwater Harbor Road. The site contains approximately 17 acres of wetlands.

There will be three phases to the mitigation work plan to restore the lost ecological functions of Old Channel Fourche Creek, the adjacent wetland areas, and the associated riparian and buffer zones. Phase 1 proposes invasive species treatment and control. Phase 2 proposes restoration and enhancement activities including floodplain connectivity of Old Channel Fourche Creek through the creation of sinuosity and riffle/pool complexes, in addition to, the restoration and enhancement of historical and existing wetland areas within the Old Fourche Creek Channel floodplain. Phase 3 proposes revegetation of the wetland and riparian buffers with a succession of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbes designed to represent the natural system and encourage ecological diversity. As part of establishing an educational and outreach opportunity for the public, an approximately 2,500 linear foot elevated boardwalk with information signs will be constructed, starting in Phase 2 and ending in Phase 3.

The 2002 Charleston Method with the Little Rock Addendum and the 2011 Little Rock Stream Method would be used as the functional assessment and credit generation mechanism for this bank.

The mitigation plan, and the location and general plan for the proposed work are shown on the enclosed sheets dated March 2025 and the above referenced mitigation bank prospectus.

Cultural Resources. A Corps staff archeologist will evaluate the proposal for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, including identification and evaluation of cultural resources potentially impacted by the proposal's implementation in waters of the United States. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

Endangered Species. Our preliminary determination is that the proposed activity will not affect listed Endangered Species or their critical habitat. A copy of this notice is being furnished to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate state agencies and constitutes a request to those agencies for information on whether any listed or proposed-to-be-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

Floodplain. We are providing copies of this notice to appropriate floodplain officials in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60 (Floodplain Management Regulations Criteria for Land Management and Use) and Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management.

Regulatory Authority. Implementation of the proposed mitigation bank would require Department of the Army Authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Based on preliminary evaluation by the USACE, it appears the proposed bank may be authorized by Nationwide Permit 27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities.

Public Involvement. Any interested party is invited to submit to the above-listed POC written comments or objections relative to the proposed work on or before **April 16, 2025**. Substantive comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted and made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in determining whether this work would be in the public interest. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the 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 the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision.

NOTE: The mailing list for this Public Notice is arranged by state and county(s) where the project is located and includes any addressees who have asked to receive copies of all public notices. Please discard notices that are not of interest to you. If you have no need for any of these notices, please advise us so that your name can be removed from the mailing list.

Enclosures

Approximate Coordinates of Project Center

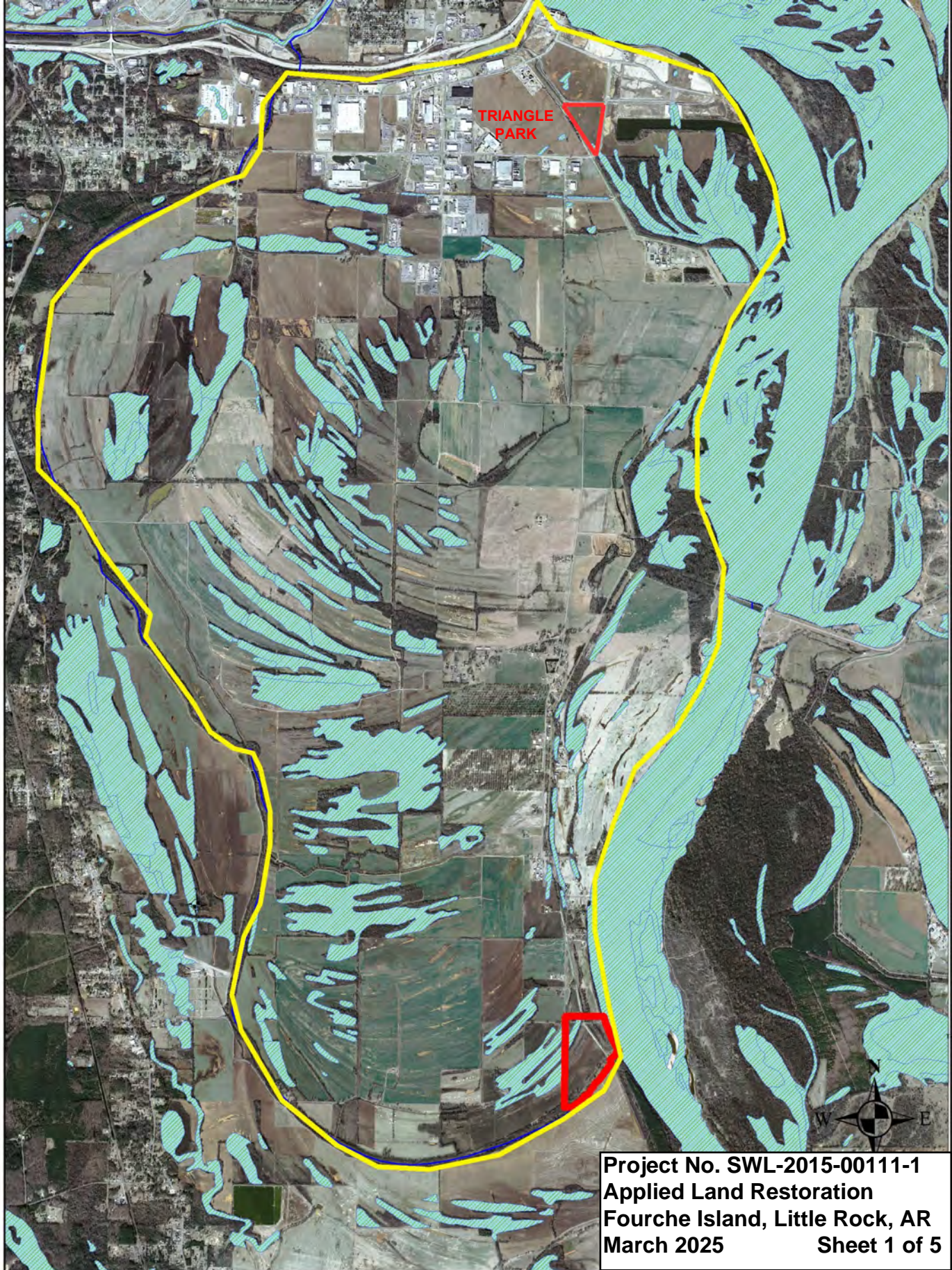
Latitude: **34.709886**

Longitude: **-92.173769**

UTM Zone: **15S**

North: **3841182.58**

East: **575661.58**



Fourche_Island

Site#1_ Fourche Bayou



Site #2_Triangle Park

AR_Wetlands (<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/>).





Figure 2: Triangle Park area in 1994, prior to construction of Slackwater Harbor Road.



Figure 3: 2023 image of the Triangle Park showing clearing and ditching of Old Fourche Creek Channel.

Project No. SWL-2015-00111-1
Applied Land Restoration
Fourche Island, Little Rock, AR
March 2025 **Sheet 2 of 5**

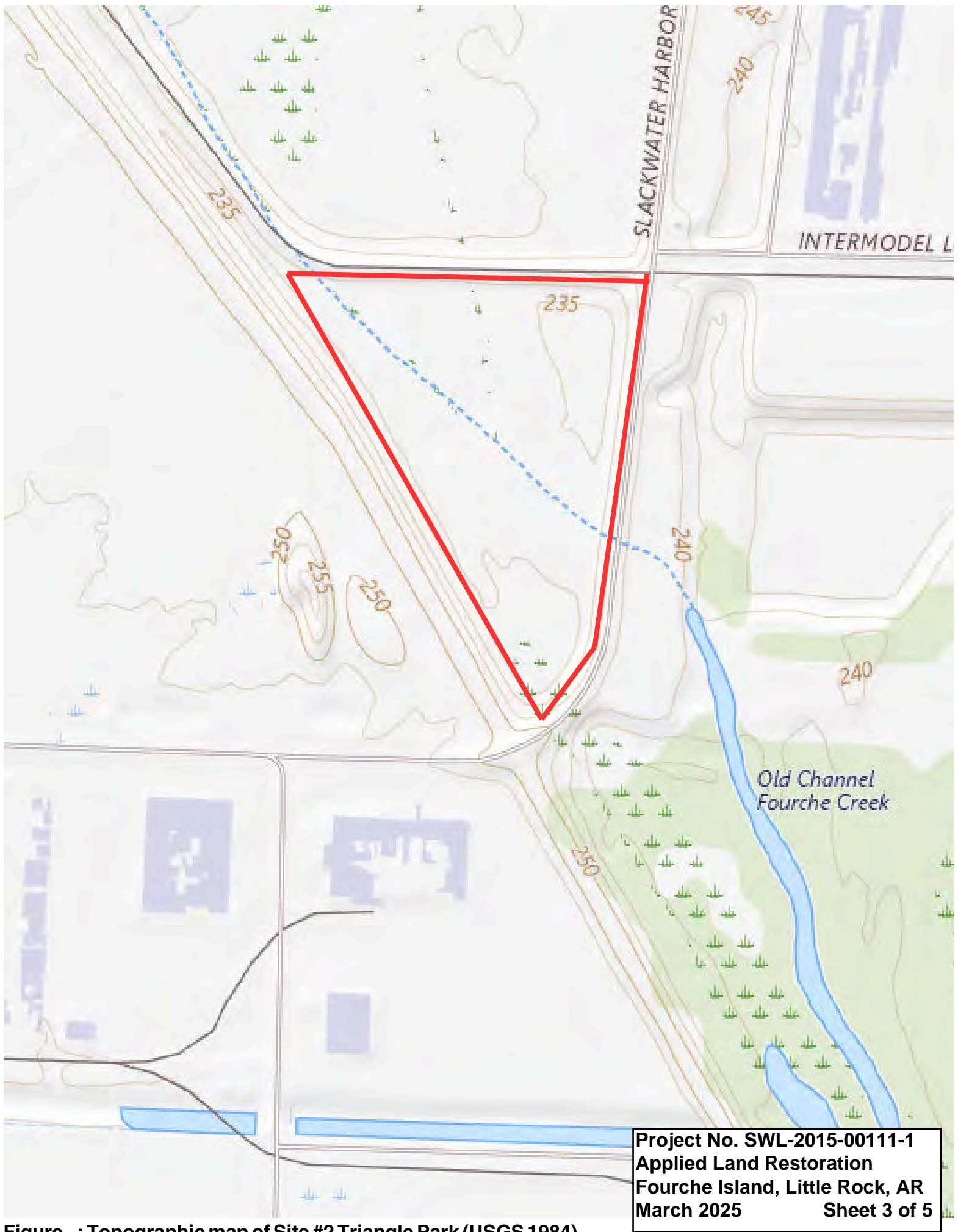


Figure : Topographic map of Site #2 Triangle Park (USGS 1984)



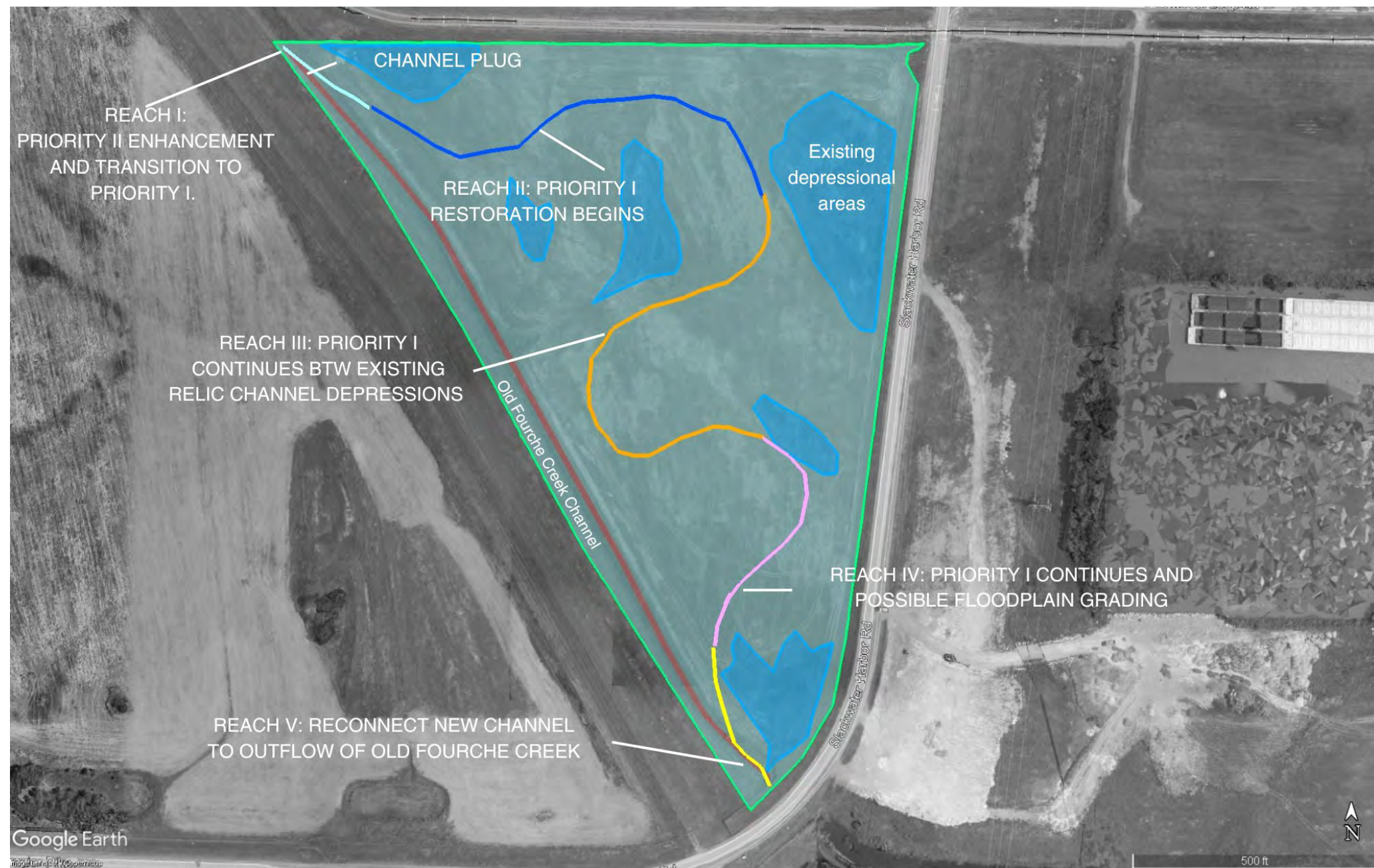


Figure 8: Triangle Park conceptual stream design