Final
Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for the Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Project at the Calverton National Cemetery Calverton, Suffolk County, New York

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
425 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) identifies, analyzes, and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York, 11933.

Under the Proposed Action, the new burial sections designed in general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan for CNC would be constructed, and other improvements to upgrade existing roadways, buildings, and other infrastructure would also be implemented. The 2018 Expansion would provide approximately 26,592 interment areas which would provide an additional 10 years of burial capacity to the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area.

VA has determined that if the current burial capacity at CNC is not increased, then future generations of eligible Veterans and their families would progressively not have long-term, reasonable access to burial benefits at a National Cemetery in the New York City metropolitan area. Presently, other National Cemeteries situated on Long Island are Cypress Hills National Cemetery, in Brooklyn, New York (approximately 70 miles southwest), and Long Island National Cemetery, in Farmingdale, New York (approximately 40 miles southwest). Cypress Hills National Cemetery is closed to new interments. Long Island National Cemetery only has space available for cremated remains in a columbarium. The nearest National Cemeteries with space available for casketed remains are Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Pennsylvania (approximately 150 miles southwest) and Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, Pennsylvania (approximately 230 miles southwest). Those National Cemeteries are not located within a reasonable distance of Veterans and their families in the New York City metropolitan area.

Purpose and Need

Accordingly, the ***purpose*** of the Proposed Action is to enable NCA to continue providing interment benefits to eligible Veterans and their families by further extending the longevity of CNC.

Due to gravesite depletion, the Proposed Action is ***needed*** to allow NCA to continue meeting its goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA burial options in the New York City metropolitan area.

Alternatives

VA has prepared this SEA to evaluate the potential impacts of implementing the Proposed Action. This SEA also evaluates the potential impact of a "No Action" alternative, defined as not implementing the Proposed Action and maintaining conditions at CNC as they currently exist. Those two alternatives are summarized below:

- The ***Proposed Action*** is to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan, which includes a planned expansion phase at CNC designed in general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan. The expansion would occur within an approximately 77-acre area within the existing cemetery boundary (no new property would be acquired) and provide approximately 26,592 new interment areas. The Proposed Action would also include improvements to physical infrastructure, including roadways and maintenance areas. The Proposed Action would provide an additional 10 years of burial capacity to the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area.
- The No Action alternative is to maintain CNC as it presently exists and not implement the Proposed Action as described in the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan. Under

the No Action alternative, the longevity of CNC would not be extended, and future generations of eligible Veterans and their families would progressively not have long-term, reasonable access to burial benefits at a National Cemetery in the New York City metropolitan area. Accordingly, the No Action alternative does not meet the purpose and need for action.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

The following table summarizes the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative.

Resource / Issue	Proposed Action	No Action
Meets Purpose and Need for Action	Yes.	No.
Aesthetics	Short-term, minor, less-than-significant adverse impact from presence of heavy equipment during construction. Long-term, direct, moderately beneficial impacts during operation from expansion of park-like setting. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.2 for more information.*	None.
Air Quality	Short-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse impact from dust and particulate emissions during construction. Emissions would comply with all permit requirements and regulations. Long-term, negligible, adverse impact from expanded maintenance activities in the new expansion area, but beneficial impacts associated with decreased travel distances for visitors. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.3 for more information.*	None.
Cultural Resources	Negligible impact on cultural resources. No significant cultural resources are known to be within the expansion area. Implement the 'Inadvertent Discovery' plan and coordinate with SHPO and Tribes if artifacts or remains uncovered during construction and follow proper management procedures. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.4 for more information.*	None.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	No impact on geology or topography. Short-term, minor impact on soil due to potential for soil erosion during construction. Sediment and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMP) will be utilized. Short-term, minor, potential impact to soil quality in the event of an accidental release of construction vehicle operating fluids. No impact to prime farmland. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.5 for more information.*	None.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Surface water is not present and would not be impacted. Potential long-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse impacts to the groundwater aquifer due to increased draw for irrigation needs. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.6 for more information.*	None.
Wildlife and Habitat	Long-term, minor, adverse impacts due to the loss of foraging habitat for Northern long-eared bat (NLEB) from clearing approximately 23 acres of forest. To minimize impacts, clearing and building demolition would occur between November 1 and March 31. No listed flora present. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.7 for more information.*	None.

Resource / Issue	Proposed Action	No Action
Noise	Short-term, direct and indirect, less-than-significant adverse noise impacts during construction due to heavy machinery associated with clearing and grading. Receptors limited to National Cemetery visitors and workers. Long-term, direct, less-than-significant impacts due to grounds maintenance equipment working in the expansion area. Long-term beneficial impact by installing a new sound barrier wall between Veterans Circle committal shelters and Route 25. No significant adverse impact. *See Section 3.8 for more information.*	None.
Land Use	No impact on zoning or land use. *See Section 3.9 for more information.*	None.
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management	Wetlands are not present at CNC. Expansion area is outside of the 100- and 500-year floodplain. Expansion would not impact coastal zone resources. No significant impacts. *See Section 3.10 for more information.*	None.
Socioeconomics	No impact on Environmental Justice. *See Section 3.16 for more information.*	None.
Community Services	Long-term, direct, significant beneficial impact due to the increased burial capacity and longevity of CNC. *See Section 3.12 for more information.*	Long-term, significant adverse impact due to lack of burial opportunities at CNC or another National Cemetery within 75 miles of the New York City metropolitan area.
Solid and Hazardous Materials	Short-term, direct, less-than-significant impacts due to increase in solid waste (excess construction materials that cannot be recycled) during demolition and construction of maintenance buildings, and negligible during operations. Regulated building material survey required prior to demolition to ensure proper waste transport and disposal of the 25A Yard outbuildings. No significant adverse impacts. *See Section 3.13 for more information.*	None.
Transportation and Parking	Short-term, negligible, direct, less-than-significant adverse impact from construction traffic traveling on roads within CNC. No operational transportation or parking impact. No significant adverse impacts. *See Section 3.14 for more information.*	None.
Utilities	Long-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse impact on utilities during operation due to increased volume of groundwater used to irrigate the new expansion area. *See Section 3.15 for more information*	None.
Environmental Justice	No impact on Environmental Justice. *See Section 3.16 for more information.*	None.
Potential for Generating Substantial Controversary	The community anticipates VA would expand CNC to provide sufficient burial capacity for the next several decades. Therefore, the Proposed Action would be positively perceived by the public. *See Section 4.5 for more information.*	Substantial adverse public reaction if expansion is not implemented, resulting in closure of CNC to new burials sooner than planned.

Significant cumulative impacts would occur if incremental impacts of the proposed action, added to the environmental impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, would exceed significance thresholds for resources at an installation and the surrounding region.

The cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action, in combination with environmental impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions at and in vicinity of CNC, still remain at less-than-significant adverse levels for all of the environmental resources analyzed in this SEA. The No Action alternative would continue to have a significant adverse impact on a cumulative basis due to the unmitigated impact on Community Services, due to the decreased longevity of CNC due to the lack of burial opportunities at a National Cemetery within a reasonable distance from the New York City metropolitan area.

Agency and Public Involvement

VA involved regulatory agencies and the public in decision-making for this Proposed Action. A Notice of Availability (NOA) announcing the release of a Draft SEA for a 30-day comment period was published in *Newsday* on February 24 and 26, 2019, and in *Suffolk County News* on February 28, 2019. The Draft SEA was available for review at the Riverhead Free Library and an electronic copy was made available for download from the VA website at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. Additionally, VA mailed letters to selected federal, state, and local governmental agencies about the availability of the Draft SEA and the opportunity to comment during the 30-day review period.

No comments were received from the public during the 30-day review period. Comments were received from two regulatory agencies. The NY State Department of Environmental Conservation concurred with the findings presented in the Draft SEA and reiterated the tree clearing time-of-year-restriction to avoid impacts to the northern long-eared bat (NLEB). The Suffolk County Planning Commission (SCPC) had no objections to the Proposed Action. As requested by SCPC, VA coordinated with the NYS Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission (CPBJPPC) because CNC is located within the Compatible Growth Area of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan. No comments from CPBJPPC were received. The regulatory agency correspondence has been incorporated into the Final SEA and were considered prior to a decision being made on whether or not to implement the Proposed Action.

Conclusion

Based on comments received from regulatory agencies on the Draft SEA, VA has completed this Final SEA without requiring substantive changes relative to the Draft SEA. As previously concluded in the Draft SEA and reiterated in this Final SEA, the Proposed Action would not cause significant adverse impacts on the environmental resources presented herein.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	***Definition***
ACM	Asbestos-Containing Materials
ACS	American Community Survey
amsl	above mean sea level
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BMP	Best Management Practice
BO	Biological Opinion
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGA	Compatible Growth Area
CLUP	Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CMP	New York State Coastal Management Program
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CPBJPPC	Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
CRIS	Cultural Resource Information System
CWA	*Clean Water Act*
CZMA	*Coastal Zone Management Act*
dBA	A-weighted decibel
dbh	diameter breast height
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EISA	*Energy Independence and Security Act*
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	*Farmland Protection Policy Act*
GCR	General Conformity Rule
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GPD	gallons per day
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
LAUS	Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program
LBP	Lead-based Paint
LID	Low Impact Development
LIRR	Long Island Rail Road

Acronyms and Abbreviations	***Definition***
LWRP	Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
MG	million gallons
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	*Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act*
NAVFAC	Naval Facilities Engineering Command
NCA	National Cemetery Administration
NEPA	*National Environmental Policy Act*
NESHAP	National Emission Standard for Hazardous Airborne Pollutants
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NLEB	Northern Long-Eared Bat
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrous Oxides
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYDOS	New York Department of State, Office of Planning & Development
NYSM	New York State Museum
O_3	Ozone
OCFM	VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management
OPRHP	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	Lead
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PM	Particulate Matter
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
ROI	Region of Influence
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SEA	Site-Specific Environmental Assessment
SESC	Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
SF	Square Foot
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
SO_x	Sulfur Oxides

Acronyms and Abbreviations	***Definition***
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SPDES	NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Services
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VA	United States Department of Veterans Affairs
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound

1 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors Veterans and their families with final resting places in National Shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to the nation. NCA maintains approximately 3.3 million gravesites at 136 National Cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. The mission of VA's Office of Construction and Facility Management (OCFM) is to advance VA's mission in support of the nation's Veterans by planning, designing, constructing, and acquiring major facilities, and setting design and construction standards. This Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) evaluates the proposed 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan for near-term expansion of the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York, 11933 (Figure 1).

1.1 Background and Existing Site Details

There are three National Cemeteries situated on Long Island. These include Cypress Hills National Cemetery, in Brooklyn, NY, established in 1862, Long Island National Cemetery, in Farmingdale, NY, established in 1936, and Calverton National Cemetery, established in 1978.

In 1974, Long Island National Cemetery was the only National Cemetery on Long Island with space available for burials, though its maximum burial capacity was soon to be reached. As a result, plans were developed by VA to construct a new regional cemetery to serve the greater New York City area—home, then, to nearly three million Veterans and their dependents.

On December 7, 1977, a 902-acre tract of land was transferred from the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant at Calverton to VA for use as a National Cemetery. Calverton is located in eastern Long Island between the towns of Manorville and Riverhead in Suffolk County, New York. VA subsequently developed the 1977 Master Plan for the phased development for the property. Initial development began in 1978, and CNC began accepting burials the same year. CNC is now the largest, and one of the most active, National Cemeteries currently overseen by VA (VA, 2018a).

The most recent planned expansion at CNC was in 2008. The expansion covered a 40-acre area and provided approximately 33,000 full-casketed gravesites, 500 sites for in-ground cremated remains, 3,000 columbaria niches, and infrastructure improvements including the renovation of the administration and maintenance buildings and committal shelters, extension of the irrigation system, new roadways, and additional associated site improvements. According to the 2008 EA prepared for that project, the expansion was estimated to provide additional burial capacity through 2019 (VA, 2008). The current layout of CNC is depicted in Figure 2.

1.2 Problem Statement

Currently, an average of 30 burials are performed per day at CNC, and approximately 21,000 full-casketed gravesites and 1,000 sites for cremated remains are available for new interments. VA has compared the current burial capacity at CNC with projected burial needs in the New York City metropolitan area and concluded that, without an expansion, the current cemetery would not have sufficient capacity to meet projected demand over the next 10 years.

Presently, other National Cemeteries situated on Long Island are Cypress Hills National Cemetery, in Brooklyn, New York, (approximately 70 miles southwest) and Long Island National Cemetery, in Farmingdale, New York (approximately 40 miles southwest). Cypress Hills National Cemetery is closed to new interments. Long Island National Cemetery only has space available for cremated remains in a columbarium. The nearest National Cemeteries with space available for casketed remains are Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Pennsylvania (approximately 150 miles southwest) and

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Annville, Pennsylvania (approximately 230 miles southwest). Those National Cemeteries are not located within a reasonable distance of Veterans and their families in the New York City metropolitan area.

Based on this information, VA determined that the longevity of CNC should be extended by expanding burial capacity within the current cemetery according the general design of the 1977 Master Plan. This expansion would allow future generations of eligible Veterans and their families long-term, reasonable access to burial benefits at a National Cemetery in the New York City metropolitan area for the next 10 years.

Accordingly, VA has prepared the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan, which provides the specific design for new gravesite areas along with other infrastructure improvements within CNC (Figure 3). The implementation of this Plan is defined as the Proposed Action.

1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The ***purpose*** of the Proposed Action is to enable NCA to continue to provide burial services for eligible Veterans by further extending the longevity of CNC.

Due to gravesite depletion, the Proposed Action is ***needed*** to allow NCA to continue meeting its goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA burial options in the New York City metropolitan area.

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Figure 2. Current Layout of CNC

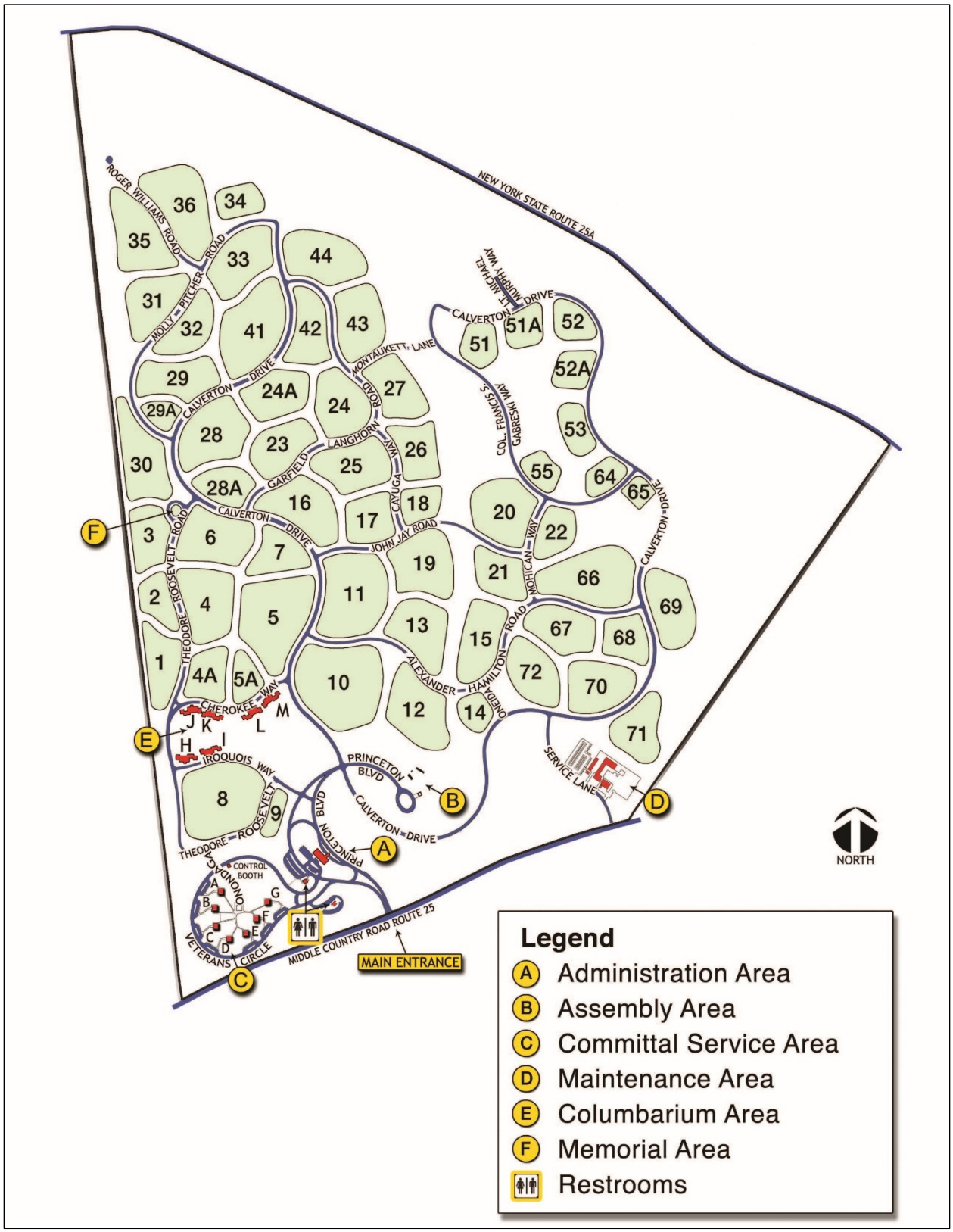
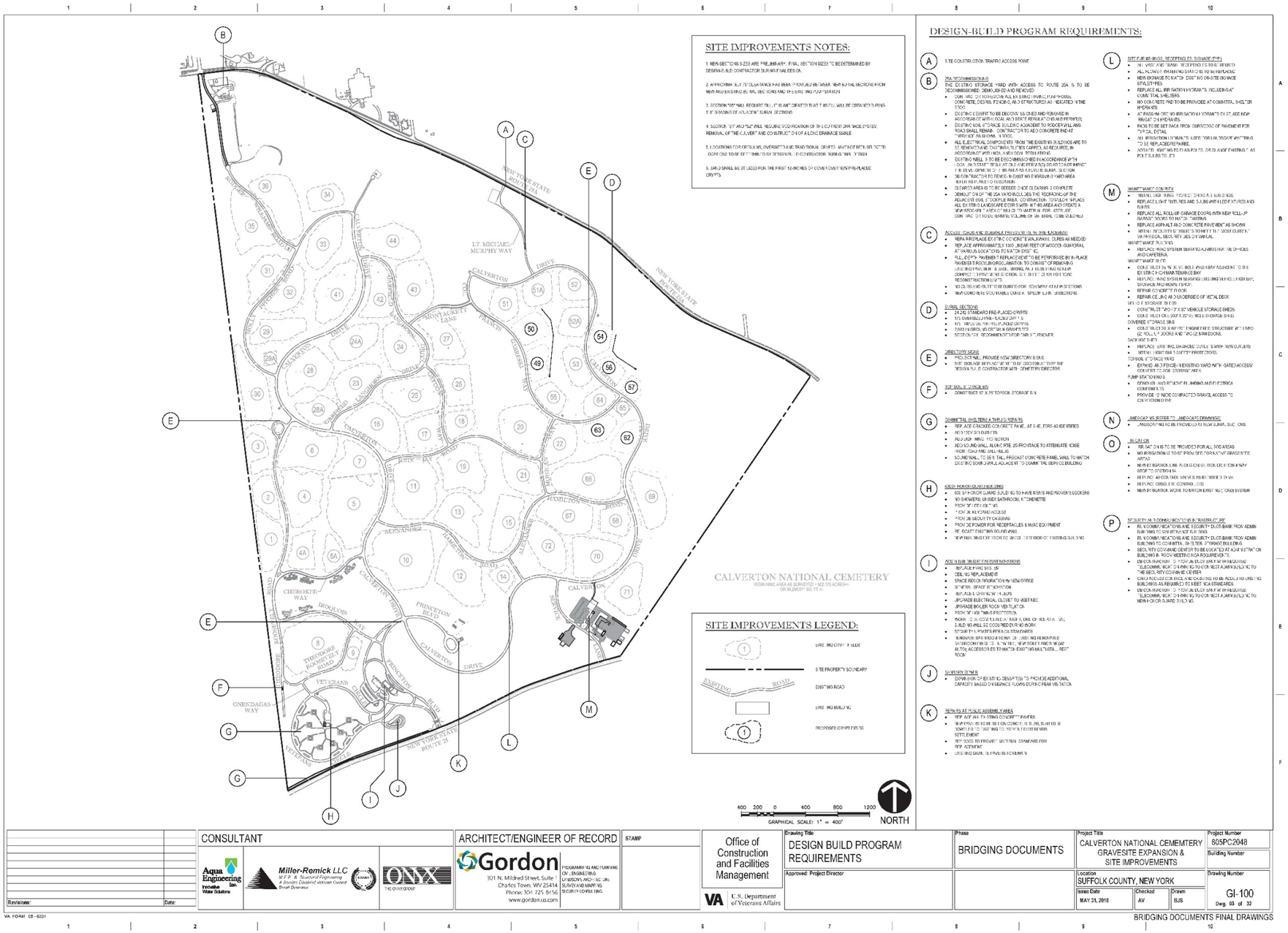


Figure 3. Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan Schematic



1.4 Regulatory Requirements

This SEA is conducted in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA* (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), VA's NEPA regulations titled *Environmental Effects of the Department of Veterans Affairs Actions* (38 CFR Part 26), and VA's *NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects* (VA, 2010).

NEPA established the national policy for the environment and for the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and provides for the consideration of environmental issues in federal agency planning and decision-making. To implement the NEPA policies, CEQ promulgated the *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act* (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, referred to as the CEQ Regulations).

VA's procedures to comply with NEPA are set forth in 38 CFR Part 26, *Environmental Effects of the Department of Veterans Affairs Actions*. These regulations establish VA policies and responsibilities to integrate environmental considerations early in the decision-making process. Instructions on preparing NEPA documentation and carrying out public and agency coordination are provided in VA's *NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects* (VA, 2010).

These requirements specify that prior to taking action VA must evaluate the potential environmental impacts of VA facilities, operations, and related funding decisions. The evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives includes direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, as well as a qualitative and quantitative (where possible) assessment of the level of significance of these effects. Additionally, as required by NEPA and the implementing regulations from CEQ and VA, the alternative of taking no action is also evaluated, providing a baseline for comparison of potential impacts from the action alternative(s).

An EA provides a sufficient level of analysis and evidence to evaluate whether or not an action would cause a significant environmental impact. When the EA concludes there is no significant impact, VA may issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (40 CFR Part 1508.9). A FONSI is a decision document that briefly presents the reasons why an action would not have a significant effect on the human environment (40 CFR Part 1508.13). Conversely, when an action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, VA may consider issuing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

1.5 Scope of the Analysis

This SEA has been prepared to analyze and evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of the Proposed Action. Further details of the Proposed Action are provided in Section 2.

1.6 Decision Making

VA, as a federal agency, is required to incorporate environmental considerations into its decision-making process for the actions it proposes to undertake. This is done according to the regulations and guidance identified in Section 1.4. As such, this SEA provides VA with the necessary analysis to address and support decision making for the Proposed Action and serves to:

- Inform the public of the possible environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives, as well as methods to reduce these impacts,
- Provide for public, state, inter-agency, and tribal input into VA's planning and evaluation,
- Document the NEPA process, and

- Support informed decision-making by the federal government.

As the decision document for this proposed federal undertaking, this SEA also identifies the actions to which VA would commit to minimize environmental effects, as required under NEPA, its implementing regulations from CEQ (40 CFR Part 1500-1508) and VA (38 CFR Part 26), and VA's NEPA guidance (VA, 2010).

The decision to be made is whether—having considered the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects—VA should implement the Proposed Action including, as appropriate, measures to reduce adverse effects to less than significant levels through implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP).

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

NEPA, and the regulations of CEQ and VA for implementing NEPA, require that an EA include a brief discussion of all reasonable alternatives, to include at least the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative. Accordingly, this section summarizes the process used to develop alternatives and provides a description of the subsequently selected Proposed Action and its alternatives, as well as alternatives considered but ultimately eliminated from further analysis, and the reasons for elimination.

2.1 Development of Alternatives

No reasonable alternatives that would adequately meet the purpose and need for action have been identified by VA. Therefore, the alternatives evaluated in this SEA are the Proposed Action and No Action. The Proposed Action is described in detail in the following Section 2.2. The No Action alternative serves as the baseline for determining the significance of potential effects of the Proposed Action in relation to existing conditions. A description of the No Action alternative is provided in Section 2.3.

2.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan would be implemented at CNC. The Proposed Action would develop approximately 77 acres across seven new burial sections to provide approximately 26,592 interment areas (24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains). Infrastructure improvements would be made to existing roadways, buildings, and other areas within the existing property boundary; no new property will be purchased, and the existing boundary of the cemetery will not be expanded. Details regarding the specific elements of the 2018 Expansion are provided in the following outline and summarized in Table 1, while Figure 4 depicts the locations of primary activity areas.

- *Interment Areas* – Seven new burial sections for in-ground cremains, in-ground traditional gravesites and pre-placed crypts would be graded and separated from other interment areas using landscaped vegetation. Capacity would be approximately 26,592 new interment areas.
- *Roadways* - Full-depth pavement replacement of approximately 3.8 miles of existing site roadways. Full-depth replacement to be performed by in-place pavement recycling/reclamation method in accordance with New York State Department of Transportation Standards. New paving of existing Lt. Michael Murphy Way and portions of existing Roger Williams Road. New mountable concrete curb at edge of pavement at specified intersections.
- *Site Concrete* – Replace existing site concrete to match existing concrete walkways and vehicle/heavy duty concrete slabs.
- *Site Improvements* – All existing flower watering stations and irrigation hydrants used for landscaping watering are to be replaced. New section markers and street name signage is to be installed. Existing concrete pavers at the Public Assembly Area to be replaced.
- *25A Yard* – The existing storage yard with access to Route 25A is to be decommissioned, demolished and removed. Existing cesspit to be decommissioned and removed in accordance with local and state regulations and permit(s). Existing well is to be decommissioned in accordance with local and state regulations and permit(s) so as not to impact the development of this area as a future burial section. Cleared area is to be graded and seeded once clearing is complete.
- *Sound Barrier Wall* – A modular 8-foot high sound-dampening wall would be installed within the wooded area between the Veterans Circle committal shelters and Route 25 to increase the solemnity of memorial services. Installation of the modular wall would not require the removal of any trees.

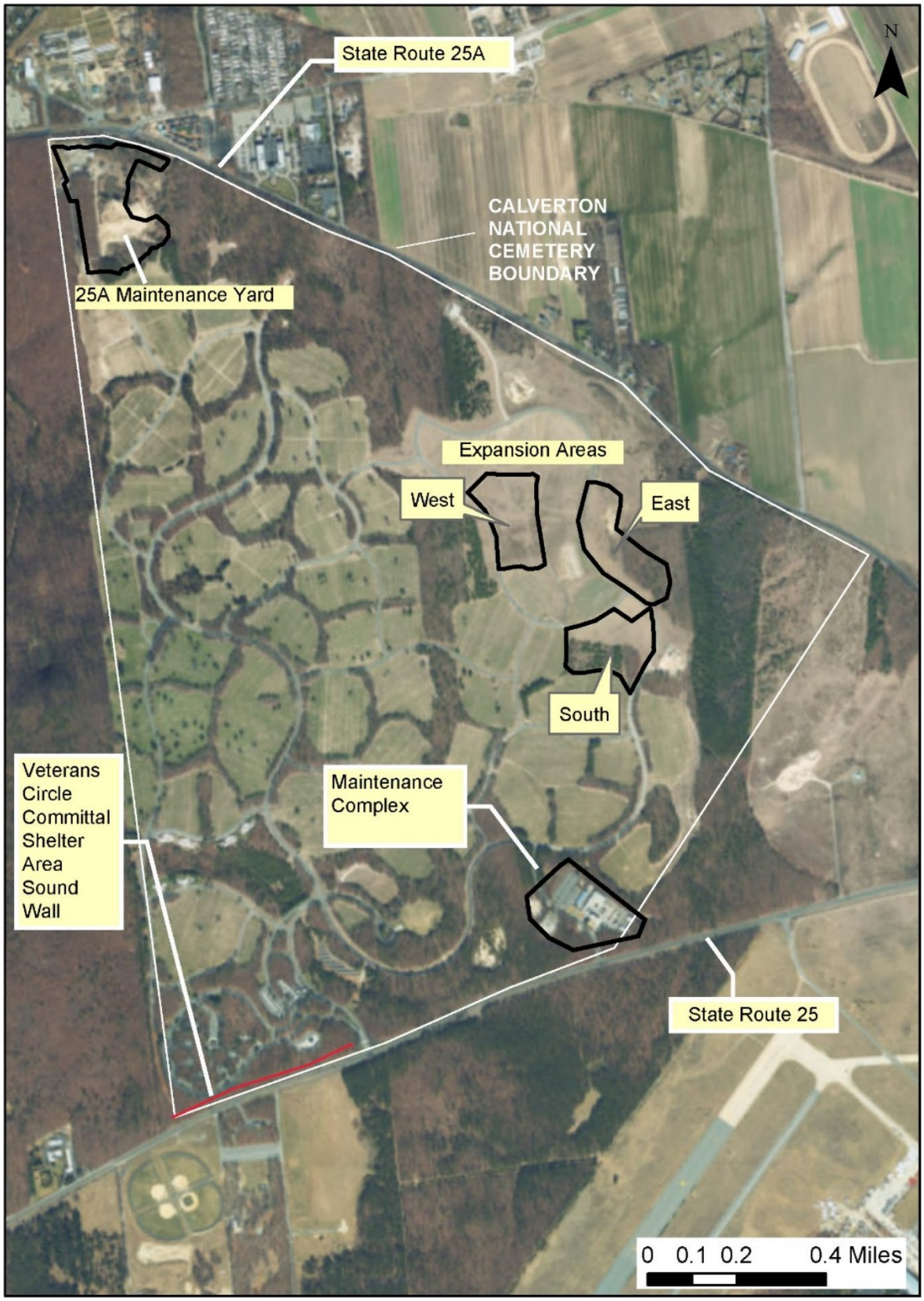
The Proposed Action is anticipated to provide CNC with an additional 10 years of continued burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area.

Table 1. Summary of Proposed Action Elements

Location	Details of Proposed Expansion and/or Improvements Project Activity
East Area (new burial sections)	**26,592 New Interment Sites**
49	3,922 Double Depth Early Turnover Pre-placed crypts
50	5,000 Double Depth Pre-placed crypts
54	3,555 Double Depth pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts
56	3,465 Double Depth pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts
57	2,000 In-ground cremain sites
62	4,300 Double Depth pre-placed crypts
62	4,000 Double Depth pre-placed crypts
E	New Directory Signage
South East Area	
M	Maintenance Complex upgrades; replace HVAC systems; construct 3 new storage sheds; construct pre-engineered structure; construct wash bay; Expand and fence-in yard
South West Area	
E	New Directory Signage
F	New Top Soil storage bin
G	Committal Shelters A thru G repairs; Add sound wall along State Route (SR) 25 frontage to attenuate noise from vehicular traffic on SR 25 and nearby ballfields
H	600 Square Foot (SF) Honor Guard Building upgrades
I	Admin Building repairs/renovations
J	Expand existing cesspit(s) to provide additional capacity
K	Repairs at public assembly area
North West Area	
25A	Existing Maintenance/Storage Yard with Access to SR 25A to be decommissioned, demolished and removed

Source: VA, 2018b

Figure 4. Proposed Action Primary Activity Areas



2.3 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). For this project, No Action is defined as not implementing the Proposed Action and retaining conditions as CNC as they currently exist for the foreseeable future.

The No Action alternative would challenge NCA's goal of continuing to provide eligible Veterans and their family members with reasonable access to VA burial options in the New York City metropolitan area and, therefore, would not meet the purpose of and need for action.

Under the No Action alternative, long-term, reasonable access to burial benefits would not be provided to the estimated 419,493 Veterans living in the New York City metropolitan area and their families (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018a). As previously described, the nearest National Cemeteries are more than approximately 70 miles away from eastern Long Island. Therefore, Veterans and their families residing in the New York City metropolitan area would be underserved once CNC reaches full capacity in the near future. At that point, VA would not comply with the requirements of the *Service Members Civil Relief Act*. Furthermore, due to the distances between homes and the burial sites, the No Action alternative would result in a hardship for the survivors attending the funerals and visiting deceased Veterans interred in other National Cemeteries. If Veterans and their families must resort to private burials, they are deprived of the honor and privilege bestowed upon them by a grateful nation for their service to their country.

2.4 Alternative Identified but Not Evaluated in Detail

During development of the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan, several conceptual design alternatives were considered for the potential future expansion phases within existing cemetery to accomplish the plan to provide adequate burial for Veterans' and their families (VA, 2018). These conceptual design alternatives included various alignments and phasing for burial areas, roadways, and irrigation systems.

These conceptual design alternatives did not utilize the area efficiently or with fewer potential impacts (degree or intensity) compared to the select design presented in the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan. Therefore, these conceptual design alternatives are not further evaluated in detail in this SEA.

No other reasonable alternatives were identified that would extend the longevity of CNC and provide burial benefits to Veterans and their families in the New York City metropolitan area.

3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Criterial for Analysis of Impacts

This section describes the existing conditions at CNC and presents an analysis of the potential environmental consequences of implementing the Proposed Action and the consequences of selecting the No Action alternative. Each alternative was evaluated for its potential impacts on physical, biological, and socioeconomic resources in accordance with CEQ guidelines at 40 CFR Part 1508.8.

The specific criteria for evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative are described in the following sections. The significance of an action is also measured in terms of its context and intensity. The context and intensity of potential environmental impacts are described in terms of duration, whether they are direct or indirect, the magnitude of the impact, and whether they are adverse or beneficial, as summarized in the following paragraphs:

Short-term or long-term. In general, short-term impacts are those that would occur only with respect to a particular activity, for a finite period, or only during the time required for construction or installation activities. Long-term impacts are those that are more likely to be persistent and chronic.

Direct or indirect. A direct impact is caused by an action and occurs around the same time at or near the location of the action. An indirect impact is caused by an action and might occur later in time or be farther removed in distance but still be a reasonably foreseeable outcome of the action.

Less-than-significant (negligible, minor, moderate), or significant. These relative terms are used to characterize the magnitude or intensity of an impact. Negligible impacts are generally those that might be perceptible but are at the lower level of detection. A minor impact is slight, but detectable. A moderate impact is readily apparent. Significant impacts are those that, in their context and due to their magnitude (severity), have the potential to meet the thresholds for significance set forth in CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1508.27) and, thus, warrant heightened attention and examination for potential means for mitigation to fulfill the policies set forth in NEPA. Significance criteria by resource area are presented in the following sections.

Adverse or beneficial. An adverse impact is one having unfavorable or undesirable outcomes on the man-made or natural environment. A beneficial impact is one having positive outcomes on the man-made or natural environment.

3.2 Aesthetics

3.2.1 Existing Environment

A combination of natural and built features influence and contribute to the aesthetic environment of an area. Natural features may include topography and vegetation, which themselves may have been altered over time by human action, while built features can include buildings and other constructed elements. Beneficial or adverse impacts may occur depending on how changes to the existing aesthetic environment are perceived by human receptors, which can include visitors and residents living adjacent to and in vicinity of the area.

The 1977 Master Plan design for CNC departed from the formality and monumentality often associated with a National Cemetery and aimed to present a less rigid appearance to the public (VA, 1977). Therefore, CNC design maintains a “natural woods and fields” character in keeping with its semi-rural surroundings (see photographs in Figure 5). Paved roads wind through the landscaped grounds, which are professionally maintained by VA staff. The landscape within CNC is gently rolling to relatively flat, consistent with the surrounding community. Mature forested grounds surround the perimeter of CNC, serving as a natural visual buffer between CNC and the community. State Route (SR) 25A is present along the

north/northeastern boundary, while Middle County Road/SR 25 is present along the southern boundary. Both SR 25A and SR 25 are two-lane divided highways. The entrances to CNC and the primary maintenance complex are located along SR 25, while an entrance to the 25A maintenance yard is located along SR 25A.

The properties surrounding CNC include Calverton Pine Barrens State Forest to the west, the Calverton Executive Park to the south and east, and farmed agricultural land on the northeast boundary.

Figure 5. Representative Photographs of Calverton National Cemetery

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction. The 2018 Expansion would be constructed within the central eastern portion of CNC, in an area that is adjacent to active burial sections (see Figure 4). The majority of the 2018 Expansion area is located in an open grass-covered area, reasonably visible to visitors and staff in that portion of the cemetery. The proposed eastern and southern burial expansion areas are partially wooded. Wooded areas dominated by pines have been affected by the Southern Pine Beetle and are not likely to survive.

Heavy equipment would be used for land clearing, grading, and the initial stages of building the burial sections. The heavy equipment phase of construction would last approximately 18 months, though would not necessarily be over one continuous period. The presence of heavy equipment and unfinished stages of site preparation and construction would temporarily impact the visual quality of the central portion of the cemetery.

Land clearing and grading activities would expose underlying soils and increase the potential for fugitive dust generation to the air and mud/dirt on the cemetery roadways, which could lead to nuisance concerns about the appearance of CNC. To minimize these potential impacts, the construction contractor would control fugitive dust emissions through routine construction BMPs. Available methods include application of water, dust palliative, or soil stabilizers; use of enclosures, covers, silt fences, or wheel washers; and suspension of earth-moving activities during high wind conditions. Further measures to prevent dust emissions include covering haul trucks and installing gravel-covered pads to remove dirt from the tires of vehicles leaving the Proposed Action construction site.

Therefore, short-term, direct, minor, less-than-significant adverse impact from presence of heavy equipment would occur during construction.

25A Maintenance/Storage Yard

The 25A Yard in the northern portion of CNC is surrounded by dense forest and is not accessible or visible to visitors within CNC or to the community outside of CNC. Therefore, potential aesthetic impacts due to the presence of heavy machinery involved in the demolition of the existing buildings would be negligible.

Sound Dampening Wall

Construction of the sound dampening wall between the Veterans Circle and SR 25 would require partial clearing of a narrow line of trees in the wooded area that separates Veterans Circle from SR 25. The wooded area ranges in width from approximately 125- to 325-feet between Veterans Circle and SR 25 and provides a natural visual barrier to visitors at CNC. The temporary presence of construction equipment in this wooded area would be partially visible to visitors participating in memorial services at Veterans Circle. Therefore, to minimize aesthetic impacts, construction of the wall would be timed to occur when memorial services are not taking place at Veterans Circle, to the extent practicable. If warranted, the construction contractor would install privacy fencing between the construction area and Veterans Circle during construction of the wall. Construction of the wall is anticipated to take approximately two months.

Therefore, considering the natural viewshed obstructions, retention of existing vegetated borders, and incorporation of construction BMPs to reduce fugitive dust generation, wall construction would have a short-term, direct, minor, and less-than-significant adverse impact on aesthetics.

Management practices to limit and further reduce potential construction-related impacts are summarized in Section 6.0 in this SEA.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action would provide long-term, direct, moderately beneficial aesthetic effects, resulting from the expansion of CNC's park-like setting to areas that are currently open

grassland, or forested with dying pine trees or unmanaged hardwoods.

The design of the Proposed Action would be compatible with the surrounding landscape, graded in concert with the surrounding topography, and aesthetically consistent with existing operational areas within CNC.

Operations within the expansion area would include routine and scheduled professional maintenance to ensure the upkeep of the park-like landscaping and associated physical infrastructure (roadways, interment areas). New section markers and street name signage would be installed to match existing signage to ensure uniformity in the cemetery signage system. Three new directory signs would be installed to replace existing directory signs.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would be expected to have an overall long-term, direct, moderately beneficial impact on aesthetics.

Management practices to maintain the beneficial impact are summarized in Section 6.0 in this SEA.

3.2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no changes to the current aesthetic or visual character of the grounds would occur at CNC.

Although the less-than-significant adverse impacts associated with construction of the Proposed Action would be avoided, the beneficial impacts to aesthetics associated with operations would not occur. Baseline conditions would remain, as described above.

3.3 Air Quality

3.3.1 Regional Climate

Weather and climate are important influences on air resources. CNC is located in Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. Based on data measured from 1981-2010 at the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center in Riverhead (approximately 5-miles east of CNC), the annual average temperature is 53.6 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), ranging from an average high of 83 °F in July to an average low of 23 °F in January. The average annual rainfall is 47.8 inches, with an average monthly low of 3.27 inches in July to a high of 4.72 inches in March (NOAA, 2018).

3.3.2 Air Quality Standards

National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The *Clean Air Act* (CAA) and its subsequent amendments require the USEPA to establish the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants that may endanger public health or welfare. The USEPA has promulgated primary and secondary NAAQS for six criteria pollutants including carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), lead (Pb), particulate matter (PM; particulate matter sized 10 microns or less (PM_{10}) and particulate matter sized 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). Primary standards set limits to protect public health, and secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare. The CAA also gives the authority to states to establish air quality rules and regulations stricter than the federal standards.

Suffolk County, NY, is under the jurisdiction of the NY Department of Environmental Conservation Region 1 and USEPA Region 2. Suffolk County is currently listed as a moderate non-attainment area for 8-Hour O_3 by USEPA. The New York Department of Environmental Conservation has several air monitoring stations in Riverhead, NY, within a one-mile radius of CNC.

The General Conformity Rule (GCR) (CAA Part 176(c)(4)) applies to all federal actions in nonattainment or maintenance areas. This rule requires that any federal action meet the requirements of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) or Federal Implementation Plan. More specifically, CAA conformity is ensured when a federal action would not cause a new violation of the NAAQS; contribute to an increase in the

frequency or severity of violations of NAAQS; or delay the timely attainment of any NAAQS, interim progress milestones, or other milestones toward achieving compliance with the NAAQS. AQCRs that comply with the NAAQS are designated "attainment" areas by the USEPA, while areas where the standards are not met are designated as "non-attainment" areas.

3.3.3 Existing Emissions Sources

Current emissions sources at CNC include petroleum-powered boilers that provide heat and air conditioning at the existing administration and maintenance buildings, and from gasoline- or diesel-fueled maintenance vehicles. No large sources of regulated air emissions exist on the property; therefore, VA, as the owner of the property, is not required to have a Title V operating permit.

3.3.4 Sensitive Receptors

CEQ's NEPA regulations require evaluation of the degree to which the proposed action affects public health (40 CFR Part 1508.27). Children, elderly people, and people with illnesses are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants; therefore, hospitals, schools, convalescent facilities, and residential areas are considered to be sensitive receptors for air quality impacts, particularly when located within 1 mile from the emissions source.

The nearest residential area is located to the north of CNC, on the northern side of SR 25A. There are no schools or hospitals within one mile of CNC. There is one religious institution, "Saint Johns Church," located 1.3-miles northwest of CNC on North Country Road in a medium-density residential neighborhood (NEPAssist, 2018).

3.3.5 Environmental Consequences

The impacts on Air Quality are determined based on any increases in emissions of regulated pollutants compared to the existing conditions. The impacts on air quality are evaluated on the basis of the Proposed Action exceeding the *de minimis* threshold established by USEPA in the GCR.

3.3.5.1 Proposed Action

Construction. Construction of the expansion area would require approximately 18 months of earthwork activities associated with land clearing, filling, grading, and construction of interment areas, roadways, and associated infrastructure improvements. Particulates are the main air pollutant of concern from construction projects. Construction activities would generate both coarse and fine particulate emissions primarily during land clearing, filling, and grading. The amount of particulate emissions can be estimated from the amount of ground surface exposed, the type and intensity of activity, soil type and conditions, wind speed, and dust control measures used. As described in Section 3.1, construction BMPs generally including water or chemical dust suppression and a gravel-covered access pads would be implemented to reduce fugitive dust generation and prevent dust from becoming airborne.

Total suspended particulates were calculated using the emission factor for heavy construction activity operations from "AP-42, Compilation for Air Pollutant Emission Factors" (USEPA, 1995), to provide a conservative estimate of PM emissions. Estimates are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Estimate of Particulate Emissions during Construction of the Proposed Action

Total Area (acres)	Exposed Area (acres)	Construction Duration (months)	Emission Factor (tons/acre/month)[1]	Control Efficiency (%)	Total Suspended Particulate Emissions (tons/year)
77	77	18	1.2	80	221.8

[1] *Emission factor for "Heavy Construction Operations" (USEPA, 1995)*

Non-road construction vehicles (excavators, graders, bulldozers) would emit criteria pollutants during construction of the expansion areas. Criteria pollutant emissions from construction equipment were calculated assuming the use of six backhoes, two graders, and two bulldozers operating for approximately eight hours per day for a total of 392 weekdays. Emissions were estimated using "Off-Road – Model Mobile Source Emission Factors," from the California South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD, 2018) because New York and federal USEPA emission factors are not available. Tables 3 and 4 show estimated annual emissions, projected equipment operating hours, and equipment emission factors, while Table 5 shows the total emissions for the 18-month construction period. Emissions of sulfur oxides (SO_x), nitrous oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOC), carbon monoxide (CO), and lead are below *de minimis* thresholds; therefore, a General Conformity Determination is not required. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions are shown for informative purposes only.

Table 3. Estimated Total Operational Hours for Construction Equipment

Equipment Type	Number	Hours/Day	Total Days	Total Hours
Grader	2	8	390	6,240
Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	6	8	390	18,720
Rubber Tired Dozers	2	8	390	6,240

Table 4. South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) Fleet Average Emission Factors (Diesel)

	Emission Factors(1)					
Equipment Type	ROG(2) (lb/hr)	CO (lb/hr)	NO_x (lb/hr)	SO_x (lb/hr)	PM (lb/hr)	CO_2 (lb/hr)
Graders	0.0982	0.5787	0.6490	0.0015	0.0316	133.0000
Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.0472	0.3630	0.3019	0.0008	0.0160	66.8000
Rubber Tired Dozers	0.2227	0.8388	1.6948	0.0025	0.0682	239.0000

1 – South Coast Air Basin (SCAQMD, 2018)
http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/off-road-mobile-source-emission-factors, emission factor year 2019. Composite emission factor used.
2 - VOCs are assumed to be equivalent to Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) for calculating non-road construction equipment emissions.

Table 5. Total Criteria Pollutant Emissions from Non-Road Construction Vehicles

Equipment Type	Total Hours	ROG (total lbs)	CO (total lbs)	NO_x (total lbs)	SO_x (total lbs)	PM (total lbs)	CO_2 (total lbs)
Graders	6,240	612.77	3,611.09	4,049.76	9.34	197.36	829,920
Tractors/Loaders/ Backhoes	18,720	883.58	6,795.36	5,651.57	14.51	299.11	1,250,496
Rubber Tired Dozers	6,240	1,389.65	5,234.11	10,575.55	15.30	425.62	1,491,360
Total Pounds	--	2,886.00	15,640.56	20,276.88	39.14	922.09	3,571,776
Total Tons	--	1.44	7.82	10.14	0.02	0.46	1,786
Emissions (tons/year)	--	1.3505	7.3190	9.4885	0.0183	0.4315	1671.408
de minimis level[(1)] (tons/year)		50/100	100	100	100	100	N/A

1 – USEPA, 2018 (General Conformity de minimis table)
NA – Not applicable. CO_2 is not a priority pollutant; information provided for informative purposes only.

As shown in Table 5, construction emissions associated with the 2018 Expansion would be below the General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds.

Construction of expansion areas is currently anticipated to require importing some fill to cover pre-placed crypts with a suitable soil to support landscaped plantings and promote the infiltration of precipitation into the soil. On-road haul trucks would be required to transport fill from a nearby borrow source to CNC. The specific number of trucks would be dependent on the volume of fill required for the Proposed Action. Transporting fill may require dozens or hundreds of on-road truck trips to CNC. Additionally, on-road construction vehicles would be associated with delivering construction materials (stone, asphalt, concrete, crypts) to the expansion areas. These on-road vehicle activities would generally have fewer emissions than the off-road construction equipment and therefore have a negligible contribution to the overall emissions during the construction phase of the Proposed Action.

To further minimize construction-related air emissions impacts, the following BMPs would be implemented in addition to those previously mentioned:

- Utilize appropriate construction scheduling (avoid earthwork during extremely windy and dry periods).
- Stabilize exposed soil with vegetation or mulching to minimize erosion and potential dust generation.
- Construction vehicles traveling on paved roads within and outside of CNC would follow posted speed limits. This would minimize dust generated by vehicles and equipment on paved surfaces.
- On unpaved surfaces at the site, vehicle speeds will be maintained at or below 5 miles per hour to prevent dust generation of any exposed soil. Additionally, should any vehicles transport soil from one area of the property to another, the soil will be covered with haul tarps.
- Visually monitor construction activities on a daily basis, and particularly during extended periods of dry weather; implement additional dust control measures as needed.

Management practices to reduce potential adverse impacts are summarized in Section 6.0 in this SEA.

Operation. Operational sources of air emissions would include visitors' vehicles and CNC maintenance equipment (mowers, backhoes, power washers, etc.). The Proposed Action would result in an increase in visitor vehicle traffic and maintenance equipment operations. However, this increase in vehicle volume and equipment usage would lead to a negligible increase in emissions. To further minimize emissions from operational maintenance activities, the maintenance equipment would be kept in good working order.

Operation of the Proposed Action would also extend the longevity of CNC. While emissions from visitor traffic would marginally increase in the immediate area of CNC, these visitors and families would not be required to travel the longer distances to reach other National Cemeteries outside of the New York City metropolitan area, as they would under the No Action alternative.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term, direct, negligible adverse impacts on air quality.

3.3.5.2 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short-term changes in air quality compared to current conditions. However, emissions associated with visitors and families would begin to increase once CNC capacity was reached, as these groups would be required to travel greater distances to reach a National Cemetery outside of the New York City metropolitan area.

3.4 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources refer to places, buildings, structures, districts, archaeological sites, manmade objects, or natural resources considered important by local or regional communities for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. Cultural resources that meet certain criteria are protected under several federal laws and Executive Orders (EO), including the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA) (1966, as amended) (Pub. L. 89-655, 16 USC 470 et seq.). The NHPA recognizes the importance of preserving the nation's heritage and establishes programs and rules that engage the federal government as a partner in historic preservation. Section 106 and Section 110 of the NHPA requires federal agencies and departments to assess the potential for their actions to impact cultural resources in their proposed programs, projects, and actions prior to initiation.

Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) (Pub. L. 89-655, 16 USC 470 et seq.), ensure that federal agencies consider cultural resources, defined as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), in their proposed programs, projects, and actions prior to initiation.

For the purposes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470f), cultural resources are identified as historic properties if they are considered to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Historic properties typically fall into the following general categories: archaeological resources, historic buildings, historic structures, and historic landscapes. For NRHP eligibility a historic property is typically 50 years in age or older and must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Cultural resources with integrity are assessed under each of the following NRHP eligibility criterion:

a. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

b. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or

c. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

d. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2018)

3.4.1 Existing Environment

Based on archaeological data, Native Americans occupied northeastern Long Island as early as the Paleoindian period (10,500-6,000 B.C.). While occupational data is limited, Paleoindian sites have been identified as "open-air" sites or sites that have been found atop elevated landforms. These sites were established in the tundra environments created by the retreating of the Wisconsin ice sheet (Funk et. al. 1969). Indigenous groups continued to inhabit Long Island through the Archaic Period (8,000-1,000 B.C.). In the northeastern US, the Archaic Period is divided into four sub periods known as the Early Archaic (8,000-6,000 B.C.), the Middle Archaic (6,000-4,000 B.C.), the Late Archaic (4,000-1,400 B.C.) and the Transitional Period (1300-1000 B.C.). These occupations are primarily that of hunters and gatherers, and as such, these sites tend to be small, have limited tool diversity with limited evidence of long-term or substantial occupations. There is limited evidence of early Archaic occupation northeast (Ritchie, 1971; Dinacauze and Mulholland, 1977). The most commonly encountered Archaic Period occupations found in eastern New York date to the Late Archaic Period (Ritchie, 1971).

The Woodland Period is divided into three sub-periods known as the Early Woodland (1,000 B.C. to 500 A.D.) the Middle Woodland (500 to 1,000 A.D.) and the Late Woodland (1,000 to 1,600 A.D.).The Woodland Period is generally marked by a shift away from steatite vessels to pottery crafted from localized clay sources. Subsistence agriculture led to the creation of communal villages. The use of pottery is distinctive in that it demonstrates the focus on sedentary village life as opposed to smaller bands of hunters and gatherers (Ritchie, 1980). At contact with Europeans northeastern Long Island was inhabited by several bands of Native Americans, several of which maintained indirect associations and resided in camps and villages. These tribes typically spoke in the Unquachog dialect (Welch, 2005).

Initial English settlement on Long Island began in 1639 on Gardiner's Island and later in what was to become the Town of Riverhead in 1659. This settlement was largely due to new milling operations on the Peconic River but was quickly followed by the rise of small-scale family agrarianism.

The Town of Riverhead was established in 1792 from a portion of the Town of Southold; however, the town was not formally named until 1856 (Thompson, 1839; Ross, 1902). During the nineteenth century the region's industries included agrarianism focused on livestock rearing and production of flax, oats, wheat and corn. The region was also known for its shipbuilding, timbering, and cigar-making (Thompson, 1839). While settlement grew in New York and western Long Island, the Project Area remained rural in nature throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The area that would become CNC was purchased during the early 1950's for the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant. This facility was formally established in 1954 "for the development, assembly, testing, refitting, and retrofitting of Naval combat aircraft; Northrop Grumman Corporation was the sole operator of the facility from its construction in the early 1950's until it closed in February 1996" (NAVFAC 2018). The Northwest Buffer Zone for the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant was made available for joint use and acquired by the National Cemetery Administration in 1977 (VA, 2008). This 902-acre tract of the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant property was transferred to the Veterans Administration on December 7, 1977 for the creation of CNC, which was constructed in 1978 (VA, 2008; Clarke & Rapuano, 1977).

CNC was constructed according to the 1977 Master Plan, which established plans for future expansion of the Calverton National Cemetery. Beginning in 2008 Calverton carried out a five-year expansion project. This expansion added 34,000 crypts. The project also included upgrading existing buildings, roads and infrastructure (U.S. VA, 2008; Clarke & Rapuano, 1977).

3.4.1.1 Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources are those areas that contain evidence of past human occupation and activity. Archaeological sites are evaluated using historic contexts, application of NRHP eligibility criteria, review of relevant site types; and, presence or absence of integrity. Archaeological sites typically fall within three general temporal categories: Precontact Period, Contact Period, and the Post Contact Period.

VA conducted a review of known archaeological sites within CNC property. This review included archaeological sites inventoried by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the New York State Museum (NYSM) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This review found no archaeological resources recorded within CNC property.

The review also assessed the extent of previously disturbed lands within the limits of the Proposed Action. Ground disturbance serves as a negating factor when determining the potential for the presence of preserved archaeological sites. This review examined historic maps, aerial imagery and construction episodes associated with the cemetery property. The review found that much of the expansion area was disturbed during initial cemetery construction as well as during the subsequent expansion at CNC. Therefore, potential for preserved archaeological sites within CNC expansion area was deemed low.

3.4.1.2 Buildings, Structures and Landscapes

VA also considered potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to historic buildings, structures, and landscapes. Impacts affecting the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association for these historic property types may constitute an adverse effect under Section 106 of the NHPA. As previously discussed, to meet the eligibility criterion for NRHP eligibility a historic property would typically be at least 50 years in age. A review of CNC history determined that the oldest standing buildings, structures, as well as the cemetery's designed landscape, are approximately 40 years old.

VA also considered indirect impacts to outlying archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures and landscapes. Because the Proposed Action will not exceed the vertical limit of existing cemetery structures or buildings, this review was limited to a 0.5-mile radius from CNC property line. This review found that no historic properties are recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of CNC property. CNC property was recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP during consultation with the OPRHP for the 2008 cemetery expansion project.

3.4.1.3 Consultation

State-Level Consultation

As part of the initial development of CNC, consultation with the New York OPRHP using New York's web-based Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS). This review was conducted pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A project consultation request was submitted through CRIS on October 15, 2018. In a letter dated October 19, 2018, OPRHP recommended that no historic properties will be affected by the Proposed Action (Appendix A).

As the lead federal agency, VA is responsible for making determinations of adverse impacts to historic properties as regulated under Section 106 of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470f). VA, in its role, concurred with the OPRHP recommendation regarding potential adverse effects to historic properties. Therefore, VA has determined that the Proposed Action will have no adverse effect to cultural resources.

Native American Resources and Consultation

For all federally proposed actions, federal agencies are required to consult with federally-recognized Native American Tribes in accordance with NEPA, the NHPA, the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* (NAGPRA), and Executive Order (EO) 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*.

Based on a review of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Shinnecock Indian Nation is the only federally-recognized Native American Tribe with ties to Long Island, New York. The Shinnecock Indian Nation is a historically Algonquian-speaking Native Americans based at the eastern end of Long Island. This Tribe is headquartered in Suffolk County on the southeastern shore. Since the mid-19th century, the Tribe's land base is the Shinnecock Reservation within the geographic boundaries of the Town of Southampton. They are descended from the historic Pequot and Narragansett peoples of southern New England whose bands also occupied eastern Long Island.

Currently, no Traditional Cultural Properties or Native American sacred places are known to exist within the Project Study Area. Therefore, the proposed improvements are not expected to result in any adverse impacts to Traditional Cultural Properties or Native American sacred places. However, as part of the NEPA public outreach effort, VA will solicit comment about the Proposed Action from the Shinnecock Indian Nation.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

3.4.2.1 Proposed Action

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of an area consistent with the project area boundaries. Under the Proposed Action the Project will impact approximately 77 non-contiguous acres in CNC property. Much of the new construction is associated with the creation of seven new burial sections in the eastern portion of CNC. In addition, the existing Administration Building, Public Assembly Area, Maintenance Facility, Honor Guard Building, and Committal Shelters (A through G) will be upgraded, while the existing 25A Storage Yard would be decommissioned by demolishing the existing outbuildings, regrading the area, and landscaping the area with grass. The Proposed Action would also include new directory signage, expand an existing cesspit, and will install a new sound barrier wall near Veterans Circle. All planned project improvements were reviewed to determine potential direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources.

Construction. No historic properties exist within the Project Area. Therefore, no historic properties would be impacted during the construction phase of the Proposed Action.

Operation. No historic properties exist within the Project Area or within the surrounding 0.5 miles of the cemetery property. Therefore, the operation of the Proposed Action would have no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to historic properties.

However, some potential exists for disturbance of previously unknown archaeological resources during the excavation work at the proposed burial sections that are partially wooded. To minimize the potential impact on previously unknown resources during construction, VA would comply with the NHPA, *Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* (ARPA), NAGPRA, *American Indian Religious Freedom Act* (AIRFA), 36 CFR Part 79, and EO 13007, *Indian Sacred Sites*.

Additionally, VA would implement an “Inadvertent Discovery” plan. Under this plan, if prehistoric or historic artifacts that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time during construction or operation of the expansion areas, VA would cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. Should human remains or other cultural items, as defined by NAGPRA, be discovered during project construction, the construction contractor would immediately cease work until VA, a qualified archaeologist, the Shinnecock Indian

Nation, and the OPRHP, are contacted to properly identify and appropriately treat discovered items in accordance with applicable state and federal law(s).

Implementation of these measures would ensure that potential impacts on cultural resources are maintained at long-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse levels.

3.4.2.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative would result in no impact on cultural resources because expansion would not occur, leaving potential unknown cultural resources undisturbed.

3.5 Geology, Topography, and Soils

This section presents an overview of the geology, topography, and soils encompassing the proposed expansion areas.

3.5.1 Existing Environment

Geology

CNC is located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. The land was created or altered by the activity of four major glacial stages. The youngest glacial event, the Wisconsin, produced Long Island Sound and most of the current topographic features of Suffolk County (USDA, 1975). Most of the area is an outwash plain. Long Island also is underlain by Coastal Plain sediments of Cretaceous and Pleistocene ages (USGS, 1995). The depth to bedrock is approximately 1,000-feet below sea level (USGS, 1967).

Topography

Overall, the topography of CNC is gently rolling to relatively flat (Figure 6). Slopes on the site were mapped based on the USGS topographic map for Wading River, New York (map ID 40072H7). Slope classes mapped on Figure 6 are 0-5%, 5-10%, 10-15%, 15-20%, and greater than 20%. Approximately 90% of the property has less than a 5% slope. Where slopes of more than 15% are present, they are generally confined along the edges of the four principal drainage swales that traverse the property. The USGS topographic map also depicts relatively small localized areas within selected proposed burial sections with slopes that are above a 15% grade.

Section 10.6 (Grading Guidelines) from the most recent NCA Design Guidelines (November 2016) has a requirement that interment areas be located on slopes of 15% or less. These same design guidelines establish a maximum slope of 25% for mowed slopes. Therefore, the final grading plan for the new interment areas should regrade actual slopes, as needed, to comply with this requirement.

The lowest elevation at CNC is approximately 73 feet (22.25 meters) amsl in the south portion along SR 25. The highest elevation is approximately 109 feet (33.22 meters) amsl within the northwest central portion of CNC. A culvert under SR 25A carries some of the drainage from the north side of the highway on to the site where it is absorbed into the ground. Drainage from the four drainage swales collects itself at the south end and disappears into the ground (VA, 2018).

Soils

The Calverton area is situated on a glacial outwash plain, underlain by very deep deposits of relatively compact medium to fine sand, with some gravelly strata (USDA-NRCS, 2018). Found several feet just below the surface are loams that vary from sandy in character to silty; some even contain clayey silts. Haven and Riverhead, the finer textured silty loams, cover approximately 60% of CNC property. The Carver and Plymouth loams, which constitute approximately 40% of CNC, are sandy in character and occur in the lowest areas of CNC where the presence of sandy surface deposits aids in the disposal of storm run-off through percolation back into the ground water supply. Topsoil on the site varies in depth from 3 inches to

16 inches, averaging 5 inches. A description of each mapped soil unit within the proposed expansion areas is provided in the following list. Table 6 summarizes the acreage of the mapped soil units within the proposed expansion areas, and these soil units are depicted on Figure 7.

- **Haven Loam Group (Oi, Oa, A, Bw1, Bw2, BC, 2C):** The Haven series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in loamy over sandy and gravelly outwash. They are nearly level through moderately sloping soils on outwash plains, valley trains, terraces, and water-sorted moraine deposits. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the mineral solum and very high in the substratum. Slope ranges from 0 to 15%.
- **Riverhead Sandy Loam (Ap, Bw, BC1, 2BC2, 2C1, 2C2):** The Riverhead series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in glacial outwash deposits derived primarily from granitic materials. They are on outwash plains, valley trains, beaches, and water-sorted moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 50% slopes. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high in the solum and very high in the substratum.
- **Carver Sands (Oi, Oe, A, E, Bw1, Bw2, BC, C):** The Carver series consists of very deep, excessively drained sandy soils formed in glaciofluvial deposits of coarse and very coarse sands. They are nearly level through steep soils on outwash plains and moraines. Slope ranges from 0 to 45%. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is very high throughout.
- **Plymouth Sands (A, Bw1, Bw2, Bw3, 2C):** The Plymouth series consists of very deep, excessively drained sandy soils formed in glaciofluvial or deltaic deposits derived largely from siliceous rocks. They are nearly level through steep soils on plains and hilly moraines. Slope ranges from 0 through 35 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high in the mineral solum and very high in the substratum.

Prime Farmland

Haven and Riverhead, the finer textured silty loams, cover 60 percent of the site-mostly in the northern portion of the property. These soils are considered prime farmland and it is in these zones that farming was historically practiced. This site has not been used for agricultural purposes since the establishment of CNC in 1978. As part of the 1977 EIS, VA documented the conversion of prime farmland at the property from agricultural to cemetery land use. Conversion of farmland within the property was deemed unavoidable and sufficiently addressed in the 1977 EIS. As such, additional analysis of the conversion impact is not required for this Proposed Action.

Figure 6. Topography of the Calverton National Cemetery

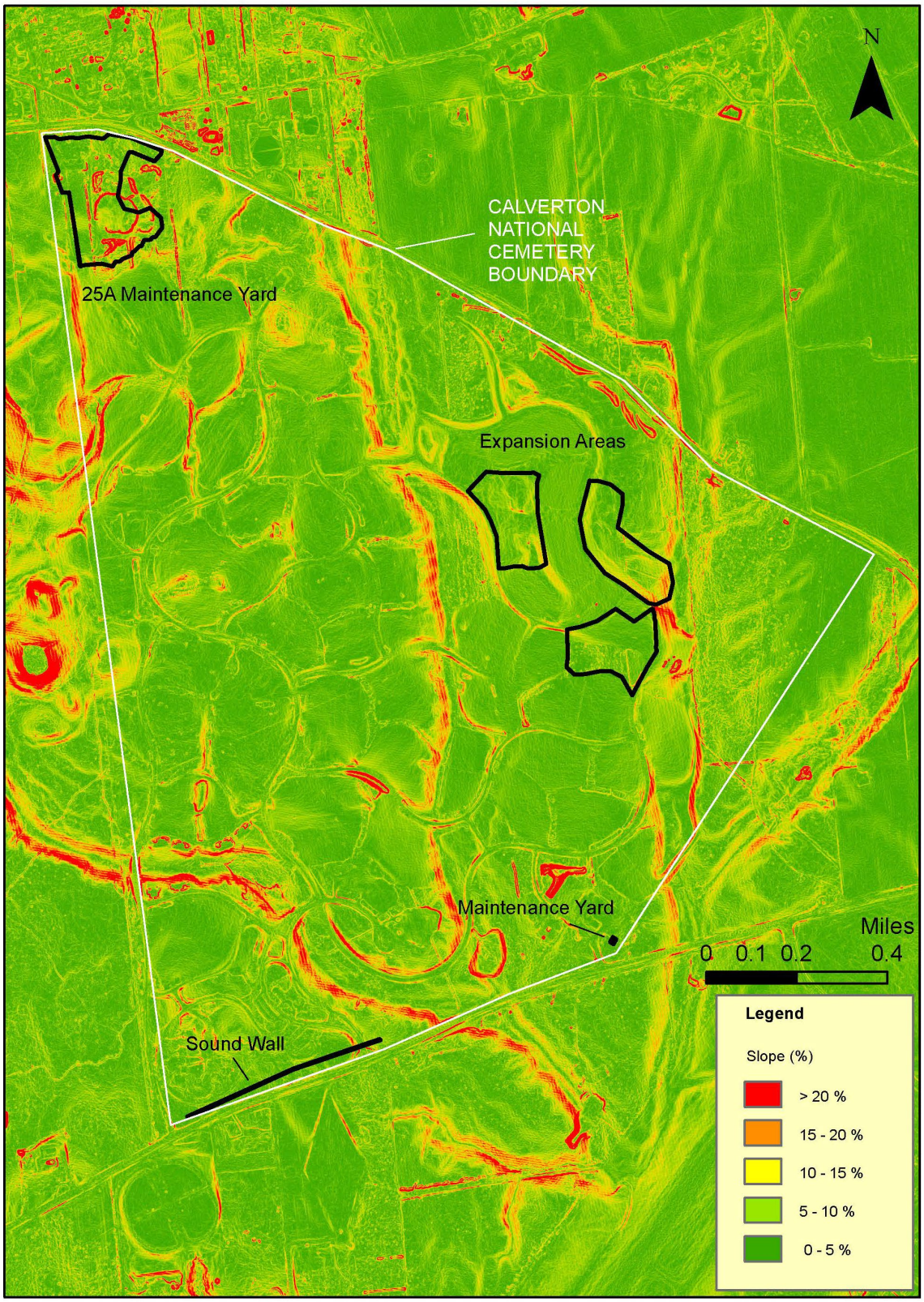


Table 6. USDA-NRCS Soils within the Proposed Expansion Areas

Soil Map Unit	Soil Map Unit Name	Drainage Class	Hydric (Y/N)	Acres within Expansion Areas
CpC	Carver and Plymouth Sands 3% to 15% slopes	Excessively drained	N	3.6
HaA	Haven Loam 0% to 2% slopes	Well drained	N	8.8
PIA	Plymouth Loamy Sand 0% to 3% slopes	Excessively drained	N	7.2
PmB3	Plymouth Gravelly Loamy Sand 3% to 8% slopes, eroded	Excessively drained	N	5.2
RdA	Riverhead Sandy Loam 0% to 3% slopes	Well drained	N	13.1
RdB	Riverhead Sandy Loam 3% to 8 % slopes	Well drained	N	4.8
RdC	Riverhead Sandy Loam 8% to 15% slopes	Well drained	N	1.3
		Total		**44.1**

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

3.5.2.1 Proposed Action

Geology

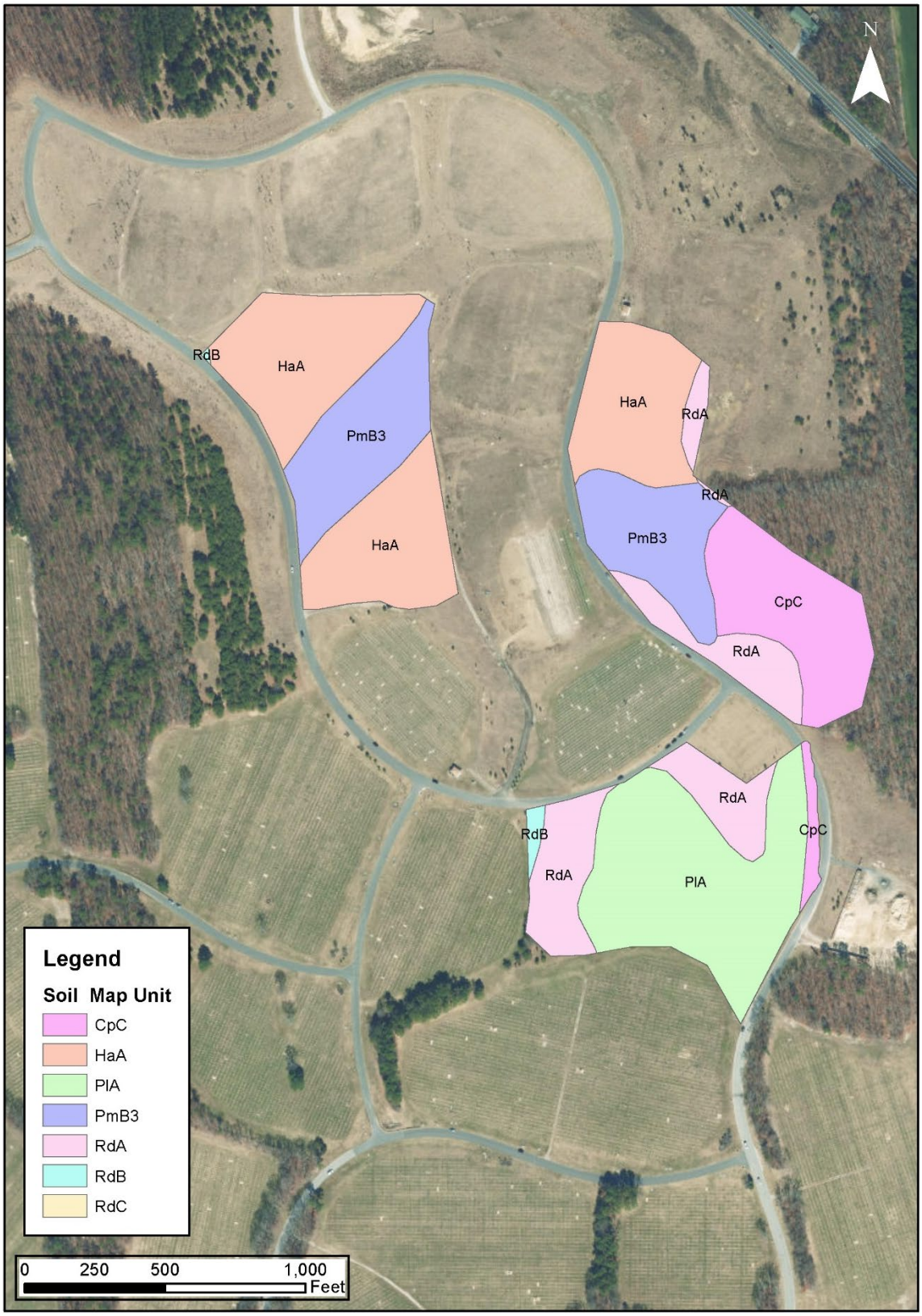
Construction and Operation. Construction and operation of the 2018 Expansion would not require or result in any impacts to the underlying bedrock, which is more than 1,000-feet below the ground surface. Construction activities including the noise-dampening wall and the maintenance building would have footings that extend less than 10-feet below the ground surface, while inground pre-placed crypts may extend up to 8-feet below the ground surface. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no impact on geology.

Topography

Construction. Construction of the burial sections and infrastructure improvements would have a negligible adverse impact on the topography of CNC. The majority of the land disturbance necessary for the burial sections previously occurred during prior cemetery development phases. The topography of the proposed burial sections has been modified over the past decades, and may require additional minor grading to be consistent with more recent NCA Design Guidelines, as previously described. Minor grading may be required in the proposed expansion areas to facilitate surface water drainage away from the adjacent roadways. The grading would generally be consistent with adjacent burial sections, thereby creating a uniform topographical appearance across the landscape. All grading within burial areas would be finished at a grade of less than 15%.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action would not require grading or changes in the ground elevation. Therefore, operation would have no impact on topography.

Figure 7. Soil Types within the Proposed Expansion Areas



Soils

Construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would require earthwork in preparation of crypt placement and subsequent grading. These activities would remove vegetation, disturb and expose the soil surface, and compact the soil. Exposed soils can be susceptible to erosion by wind and surface run-off, resulting in increased sedimentation of run-off.

A soil erosion and sedimentation control (SESC) plan would be prepared by the A/E firm and implemented by the construction contractor; the SESC plan would specify the BMPs to prevent and reduce soil erosion and sedimentation during construction, including the use of silt fencing, synthetic hay bales, specified loading and unloading areas, covering exposed soils during anticipated storm events, and revegetating soils with temporary and/or permanent native, non-invasive vegetation as soon as construction conditions allow.

A release of petroleum-based fluids from construction equipment could adversely impact soil quality. As such, construction equipment will be properly maintained in good working order and equipped with emergency spill kits. This would ensure that construction contractors are prepared to respond to a release of petroleum-based fluids (diesel, hydraulic fluid) to soil. Additionally, construction equipment would be refueled in designated impervious areas away from impervious soil surfaces.

Should excess soils be generated during excavations for pre-placed crypts, these soils would be reused on site to the maximum extent practicable, or transported off-site for reutilization.

Therefore, potential adverse effects would be prevented or mitigated to less-than-significant levels through utilization of appropriate erosion and sedimentation BMPs throughout the construction period.

Operation. During operation, soil impacts would be limited to excavation for individual burial sites in the new burial sections. Excavated soil would be temporarily stockpiled and returned to the burial site from which it was obtained, and then sodded or seeded to prevent erosion.

During operation, VA would conduct routine landscaping to ensure any exposed soil is rapidly revegetated and stabilized to prevent erosion.

Therefore, operation would have a negligible, short-term, and less-than-significant adverse impact on soil quality.

3.5.2.2 No Action

No changes to the site would occur from implementation of the No Action alternative; therefore, no impacts to geology, topography, or soils would occur. Baseline conditions would remain, as described above.

3.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

This section describes existing surface water and groundwater conditions, and the potential impacts to these resources from implementing the Proposed Action. A discussion of wetlands and floodplains is presented in Section 3.10.

3.6.1 Existing Environment

CNC is located within the Peconic River drainage basin. The drainage basin originates approximately 1 to 1.5 miles north of SR 25, with surface waters generally flowing in a southerly direction toward the Peconic River. The Peconic River is the largest stream in Suffolk County. It originates on the Brookhaven National Laboratory property, six miles southwest of CNC. The Peconic River flows easterly across Long Island. The Peconic River is tidally influenced below the dam on Peconic Lake and discharges to Peconic Bay.

3.6.1.1 Surface Water

Surface waters include any areas of flowing or standing water above the ground surface. These features can include wetlands, streams, springs, seeps, artificial and natural lakes, ponds and watercourses. Surface water features are fed by a number of sources such as precipitation, melting snow and ice, and groundwater. Surface water systems are typically defined in terms of watersheds. A watershed is a land area bounded by topography that drains water to a common destination. Watersheds divide the landscape into hydrologically defined areas, which drain, capture, filter, and store water and determine its subsequent release.

There are no surface waters or wetlands present at CNC.

3.6.2 Stormwater

Stormwater is the conveyance of precipitation and melting snow and ice over the ground surface. As the stormwater flows over paved areas and maintained landscapes it has the potential to convey sediments and pollutants into surface waters such as wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams. Stormwater flows also have the potential to cause soil erosion at construction sites where bare soils are exposed. Eroded sediments can be carried downstream, affecting surface water quality in areas beyond a project area. Appropriate BMPs such as silt curtains and stormwater management ponds are used to reduce the potential for sediments and other contaminants to be conveyed directly into surface waters.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-15-002) is required prior to any construction activities that will disturb more than one acre of soil. Additionally, NYSDEC authorization is required prior to disturbing more than 5 acres of soil at any one time. Coverage under the General Permit is obtained by submitting a Notice of Intent form that contains a certification that sediment and erosion control plans and an accompanying Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) have been prepared in accordance with the General Permit requirements and with NYSDEC's New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control.

Stormwater at CNC is not captured but is allowed to naturally infiltrate into the ground surface. Additionally, the topography of the ground surface in developed areas of CNC has been graded to prevent ponding and allow overland stormwater run-off to flow away from roadways, impervious surfaces, and burial sections.

3.6.3 Groundwater

Groundwater is water that is found beneath the earth's surface. It originates from precipitation and melting snow and ice that fills and moves through the porous spaces in soil, sediment, and rocks. Groundwater is an essential resource used as a source of potable water by more than 50 percent of people in the United States.

Three principal aquifers underlie Long Island. They are unconsolidated deposits of Pleistocene age, referred to as the upper glacial aquifer, and unconsolidated deposits of Cretaceous age, which include the Magothy aquifer above and the Lloyd aquifer below. The three aquifers are bounded above by the water table and below by the crystalline bedrock surface. Laterally, usable freshwater in the aquifers is bounded by a freshwater-saltwater transition zone that surrounds the island (USGS, 1995). CNC is located in the Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain aquifer system (hydrologic unit 02030202) (USGS, 2018).

On Long Island, water from precipitation that is not evapotranspired or that does not run off in storm drains or streams infiltrates the permeable soil and moves both downward and horizontally through the porous rocks in response to gravitational or withdrawal-induced gradients (USGS, 1995).

Currently, CNC utilizes up to seven groundwater extraction wells advanced within the cemetery property boundary to supply all of the water used to irrigate landscaped areas within CNC. These wells are screened from between approximately 180- to 220-feet below the ground surface and are completed in the Magothy aquifer, which is approximately 1,100-feet thick and is the source of water for most of Nassau County and half of Suffolk County, including the portion where CNC is located. The wells were installed and are operated by VA under permit number 1-4730-00365 issued by NYSDEC, Division of Permits-Region One per Article 15, Title 15: Long Island Wells. The current daily water utilization volume is estimated at over 100,000 gallons per day. As discussed under the Utility heading in Section 3.15, potable drinking water is obtained from the Riverhead Water District.

3.6.4 Environmental Consequences

3.6.4.1 Proposed Action

Surface Water

Construction. Stormwater run-off from areas under development can result in off-site problems including erosion and water quality degradation due to sedimentation and other non-point source pollutants. These impacts are greatest during construction periods when soils are present without any vegetative cover. Construction of the Proposed Action could result in these adverse effects occurring to off-site surface water resources.

To avoid these adverse impacts, the design of the Proposed Action would comply with the USEPA's Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Run-off Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence Security Act (EISA) (USEPA, 2009). EISA Section 438 specifically calls for federal developments that exceed 5,000-square feet to maintain or restore pre-development hydrology during post-development conditions to the maximum extent technically feasible using a variety of “green infrastructure” and “low impact development” (LID) practices.

Although there are no surface water bodies at or directly adjacent to CNC, BMPs implemented to manage soil quality would also help to limit sedimentation of stormwater run-off from active construction areas. These BMPs would be implemented at the start of the construction process and continuously maintained throughout the 18 months of construction. These controls would include placement of erosion control measures (silt fences, hay bales) around construction areas to limit migration of potentially sediment-laden run-off away from the immediate disturbed area. All run-off would then be allowed to infiltrate into the ground surface. As previously noted, because there are no surface water bodies within or immediately adjacent to CNC, the potential for sediment-laden run-off to leave CNC is negligible.

Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action would have a short-term, indirect, negligible adverse impact on surface water.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action would result in a negligible increase in impervious surface area, due to the installation of the sound barrier wall at CNC. Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would not result in a measurable increase the volume of stormwater run-off generated at CNC compared to current conditions.

Vegetation in landscaped areas would be maintained by CNC maintenance staff to prevent exposure of underlying soils. Any exposed soils would be sodded or reseeded to prevent erosion. These landscaping management measures would minimize the potential for sedimentation of run-off.

During operation, CNC maintenance staff would continue to perform or oversee routine pesticide/herbicide applications in and around building common areas, and apply sand and road salt (for deicing roadways) during the winter. These activities would have no measurable impact on surface water quality in the vicinity of CNC.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have no measurable impact on surface water quality.

Groundwater

Construction. A previously described, groundwater is generally present at approximately 70-feet below the ground surface. The deepest ground-intrusive construction activities associated with excavations for pre-placed crypts would generally not extend deeper than approximately 10-feet below the ground surface. Therefore, construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would not directly encounter groundwater.

Groundwater quality could potentially be adversely impacted during construction if a release of petroleum-based fluids from construction equipment was allowed to infiltrate through soil and into the underlying groundwater. To prevent this potential adverse impact, construction equipment will be properly maintained in good working order and equipped with emergency spill kits. This would ensure that construction contractors are prepared to respond to a release of petroleum-based fluids (diesel, hydraulic fluid) to soil, such that a release does not eventually migrate to the underlying groundwater. Additionally, construction equipment would be refueled in designated impervious areas in the maintenance complex and away from impervious soil surfaces.

Implementing these BMPs would help to ensure that potential construction-related groundwater impacts are maintained at short-term, indirect, negligible adverse levels.

Operation. Operation of the new burial sections would require an increase in the volume of irrigation groundwater. VA has estimated that approximately 101,000 gallons per day of groundwater at peak season (summer) and 24.1 million gallons per day annually would be required to irrigation the newly landscaped portions of the new burial sections. This additional groundwater volume would be supplied from the seven existing extraction wells that are completed in the Magothy aquifer. The Magothy aquifer is capable of supplying this additional volume without resulting in an overall drawdown of the aquifer or causing other users of the aquifer to experience water shortages or service interruptions. To potentially reduce the need to irrigate landscaped vegetation, the new burial areas would be planted with drought-tolerant varieties of blue grass and fescue, and shaded with planted spruce and oak trees.

Based on standard modern burial practices, it is unlikely that embalming fluid or other decomposition products would be released into the soil and/or groundwater during operation of the Proposed Action. The standard NCA design incorporates (for full casket burials) subsurface concrete crypts, which would be installed in each of the proposed seven burial sections. Using this technique, the caskets are not buried directly in the soils, rather they are set in a pre-placed concrete crypt. Modern embalming fluids are markedly less toxic as the primary active ingredients are no longer arsenic-based. Additionally, as selection of either cremain interment or columbaria placement increases, the potential for groundwater contamination commensurately decreases, as no embalming fluids are used in these processes.

Additionally, the proposed crypt fields would utilize an adequate underdrainage system designed to keep groundwater from reaching the inside of the lowest crypt. As a result, operation of crypt fields would not encounter groundwater.

As previously described under the Surface Water heading, pesticide and herbicide applications (as part of routine maintenance activities) would be conducted to the minimum extent necessary and in accordance with manufacturer specifications, thereby avoiding adverse impacts to underlying groundwater resources.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have a long-term, indirect, negligible adverse impact on groundwater.

3.6.4.2 No Action

No changes to the site would occur from implementation of the No Action alternative; therefore, no impacts to hydrology or water quality would occur. Baseline conditions would remain, as described above.

3.7 Wildlife and Habitat

3.7.1 Existing Environment

Federally-listed species are those plant and animal species protected by the federal government pursuant to the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, as amended. Federally-listed species are classified as endangered or threatened. State-listed species are those plant and animal species managed by the State of New York pursuant to section 182.2(g) of 6NYCRR Part 182, respectively. State-listed species are classified as endangered, threatened, species of special concern (animals), or commercially exploited (plants).

The potential for state- and/or federally-listed species occurring within the "Project Study Area" (the areas within CNC were the Proposed Action activities would occur) was assessed on September 7, 2018, by field observation of existing habitats and a review of species accounts and agency listings (via readily available online geographic information system [GIS] sources) of species known to occur or potentially occurring within one mile of the Project Study Area. Online sources include websites of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (http://endangered.fws.gov/), NYSDEC (https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html), and New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) (http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html).

The Project Study Area was assessed for the occurrence of Critical Habitat as defined by 17 CFR 35.1532. No federally-designated Critical Habitat occurs within the Project Study Area for any federally-listed species.

The following sections present the findings of research and field studies of the vegetation and wildlife at and in the vicinity of the Project Study Area.

3.7.1.1 Ecological Communities

The ecological communities present at the Project Study Area were characterized according to the Ecological Communities of New York State (Edinger et al, 2014). The proposed improvements at the Maintenance Complex (construction of new outbuildings), installation of the sound barrier wall near Veterans Circle, and decommissioning of the 25A Yard would require disturbance and clearing of coastal oak-heath forests. At these sites, these forests are dominated by scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) with a well-developed shrub layer comprised of lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinum angustifolium* and *Vaccinium pallidum*) and black huckleberry (*Gaylusscia baccata*) and lesser abundance of other species such as bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*).

The proposed new burial sections would require disturbance to successional old fields and coastal oak-heath forests. The successional old fields are dominated by various grasses such as orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*), broom sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), crabgrass (*Digitaria sp*.), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and switch grass (Panicum virgatum) and abundant native and invasive forbs including Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia gramnifolia*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), vetch (*Vicia sp*.), small white aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*), lady's thumb (*Persicaria maculosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*), and common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). Brambles, particularly dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*), and dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) are common in these successional fields and scattered autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) are present. The coastal oak-heath forests present at the proposed burial sections are similar in species composition to those at the Maintenance Complex and the forested area between Veterans Circle and SR 25. No hydrophytic vegetation or indicators

of wetland hydrology were observed in the Project Study Areas. Additionally, no wetlands are known to be present elsewhere within CNC property.

3.7.1.2 Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species

A desktop review of New York State and federal on-line databases was conducted to determine if endangered, threatened, or protected wildlife or plant species may potentially occur on or in the vicinity of CNC. New York State's on-line resources indicated that northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), common sanddragon (*Progomphus obscurus*), and Herodias underwing (*Catocala herodias gerhardi*) may occur on or in the vicinity of CNC (http://www.dec.ny.gov/eafmapper/). A request for confirmation of the on-line data was submitted to the NYNHP on September 6, 2018. The USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (iPaC) tool was utilized for CNC (www. https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac) and an iPaC report indicating six (6) species listed as federally endangered and threatened and 20 species of migratory birds was generated (Appendix B). The potential for the Proposed Action at CNC to adversely impact each of these federal or New York State protected species is discussed below.

Federal and State-Listed Species

Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Federal-Threatened, New York State-Threatened:

The Project Study Area contains habitat that could be utilized by the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) during the summer months. The northern long-eared bat was listed in 2016 as threatened by the USFWS and the NYSDEC. The northern long-eared bat can utilize a wide variety of upland woodland and forest types (NYNHP, 2016), but are typically associated with mature interior forest and tend to avoid woodlands with significant edge habitat. Northern long-eared bats roost during the day in dead or live trees under loose bark, or in cavities and crevices.

Due to the presence of summer habitat at the site and documentation of northern long-eared bat foraging over various habitat types throughout eastern Suffolk County (NYSDEC, 2018c), which encompasses CNC property, any clear-cutting of trees should occur during the winter months (between November 1 and March 31) to avoid any potential take of this protected species. Similarly, the demolition of structures at the 25A Yard should also occur between November 1 and March 31 to avoid potential impacts to any bats using these structures as day roosts.

Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Federal-Threatened, New York State-Endangered

Red knot (*Calidris canutus*), Federal-Threatened

Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Federal-Endangered, New York State-Endangered:

These three species were included in the iPaC report generated for CNC (Appendix B). These three shorebirds inhabit coastal beaches, intertidal habitats, and nearshore waters. No impacts to these species would result from the Proposed Action.

Seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), Federal-Threatened, New York State-Threatened:

Seabeach amaranth was included in the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This plant species is found only on maritime beaches between the spring high water line and the foredune and in overwash areas (NYNHP, 2017a). No impacts to this species would result from the Proposed Action.

Sandplain gerardia (*Agalinis acuta*), Federal-Endangered, New York State-Endangered:

Sandplain gerardia was included in the iPaC report for CNC (Appendix B), but not in the New York Natural Heritage Program data for the property. Sandplain gerardia is known to occur in four, small, isolated populations on Long Island (none in the vicinity of the project area) in remnant grasslands (NYNHP,

2017b). The meadows located on the Calverton National Cemetery property are not similar to the high-quality, native, maritime grasslands dominated by little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*) with a diversity of forbs needed to provide suitable habitat for sandplain gerardia. Accordingly, no impacts to this species would result from the Proposed Action.

New York State-Listed Species

Eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystomata tigrium*), New York State-Endangered:

The eastern tiger salamander is listed as an endangered species in New York State. Tiger salamanders breed in small ponds and woodland pools in the winter months and spend much of the remainder of the year in surrounding upland forests. The freshwater wetlands located to the west of CNC are the nearest potential salamander breeding ponds. Due to the absence of wetlands at CNC, the Proposed Action would have no impact on this species.

However, NYSDEC restrictions related to development adjacent to tiger salamander breeding ponds include: 1) preserving 100% of the existing upland forest habitat within 535 feet of a breeding pond; and, 2) preserving a minimum of 50% of the adjacent upland area within 1,000 feet of breeding ponds in contiguous blocks of suitable habitat. The nearest potential tiger salamander breeding pond is 500 feet from CNC property boundary and 3,500 feet from the nearest Project Study Area involving clearing of natural vegetation. Accordingly, no impacts to tiger salamanders are expected to result from the Proposed Action and no New York State permit is required pursuant to Article 11 (New York Endangered Species Act) for potential impacts to tiger salamanders.

Short-eared owl (*Asio fallmeus*), New York State-Endangered:

The short-eared owl is a New York State-endangered species that is known to utilize grasslands in the Calverton area as wintering habitat. Open habitats such as grasslands, hayfields, fallow farm lands, pastures, and freshwater and salt water may be used during the winter months by short-eared owls (NYNHP, 2017c). Short-eared owls are not known to breed in Suffolk County (McGowan and Corwin, 2008); accordingly, the project will not adversely impact short-eared owl breeding. Observations of this species are well-documented in the grasslands located to the south of Route 25 on the EPCAL property (www.ebird.org). The mowed turfgrass and degraded meadows at CNC provides less suitable habitat for this species than the native grasslands at EPCAL. However, the proposed conversion of forested areas to open turf grass and bordering fields could result in a minor benefit to short- eared owls.

Common sanddragon (*Progomphus obscurus*), New York State Species of Special Concern:

The common sanddragon is one of the rarest dragonflies in New York State and is listed as a Species of Special Concern. This species is known to breed at two coastal plain ponds in northern Suffolk County (NYNHP, 2018). No coastal plain ponds or freshwater wetlands are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this species would result from the Proposed Action.

Herodias underwing (*Catocala herodias gerhardi*), New York State Species of Special Concern:

This New York State Species of Special Concern is found only in pitch pine-scrub oak forests and woodlands and other pine barrens habitats with an abundance of scrub oak (NYNHP, 2017d). The larvae of this moth feed almost exclusively on scrub oak and the adults typically rest near the base of scrub oak or other bushes (NYNHP, 2017d). There is little scrub oak in the oak-heath forests within the Project Study Area. Due to the absence of suitable habitat for this species, no impacts to Herodias underwing would result from the Proposed Action.

3.7.1.3 Migratory Birds

The following bird species protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 may occur at or in the vicinity of CNC based on the USFWS iPaC report generated for the Proposed Action (Appendix B).

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This shorebird is found on beaches comprised of sand, gravel, or shells; salt marshes and dunes, marsh islands, and mudflats. The available habitat at CNC is not suitable for this species and the Proposed Action would have no effect on this coastal species.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*):

In addition to Federal protection under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, bald eagles are listed by New York State as a threatened species. Bald eagle habitat includes undisturbed forests near large rivers, large lakes and reservoirs, estuaries, and marshes and swamps. They nest in forests along the shorelines of river, lakes, estuaries, or oceans and, in the Northeast, spend the winter months along major river systems (New York Natural Heritage Program, 2017e). Bald eagle sightings in the Calverton area are centered along the Peconic and Carmans Rivers. The absence of large tracts of forested shoreline habitat at CNC indicates that no impacts to this species would result from the Proposed Action.

Bobolink (*Doliochonyx oryzivorus*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for CNC. The bobolink is known to utilize grasslands in the Calverton area in the spring and fall months (www.ebird.org). Bobolink are not known to breed in the Calverton area based on McGowan and Corwin (2008); accordingly, the Proposed Action would not adversely impact bobolink breeding. Observations of this species are well-documented in the grasslands located to the south of SR 25 on the EPCAL property. The mowed turfgrass and degraded meadows at CNC provide less suitable habitat for this species than the native grasslands at EPCAL, but the existing meadows at CNC may be used by bobolink as habitat during migration. The conversion of forests to mowed turfgrass and marginal meadows would improve habitat conditions for bobolink at CNC, but the conversion of existing meadows to mowed turf areas would somewhat offset this benefit by degrading some of the available habitat for bobolink. Accordingly, no significant adverse impacts to bobolink would result from the Proposed Action, while a small benefit to bobolink could result.

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). The Canada warbler nests in cool, moist, deciduous and mixed forests with a dense shrub understory (Banner and Schaller, 2001) and is not known to nest in the Towns of Brookhaven or Riverhead (McGowan and Corwin, 2008). Canada warbler uses a wide variety of habitats during migration including shrub edges near parks and developed areas, woodland edges, swamps, and stream thickets (Conway, 1999). CNC provides habitat for Canada Warbler during migration periods and will continue to do so under the Proposed Action. Accordingly, no impacts to the breeding of this species and inconsequential impacts on the availability of migratory habitat for this species would result from the Proposed Action.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This secretive wading bird is found

in vegetated coastal wetlands. The available habitat at CNC is not suitable for this species and the Proposed Action would have no effect on this coastal species.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpine arcticola*)

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This shorebird can be found during the migration periods and winter months found in mudflats, estuaries, marshes, flooded fields, sandy beaches, and shores of lakes and ponds. The available habitat at CNC is not suitable for this species and the Proposed Action would have no effect on this coastal species.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species is listed as threatened in New York State, but was not included in New York Natural Heritage Program data for this property. This shorebird nests on sandy beaches and spit and forages for fish in estuarine and coastal waters. The available habitat at CNC is not suitable for this species and the Proposed Action would have no effect on this coastal species.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This wading bird can be found in Long Island's freshwater and tidal marshes during migration periods. The available habitat at CNC is not suitable for this species and the Proposed Action would have no effect on this coastal species.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelson*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species inhabits brackish and tidal marshes in coastal areas. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to Nelson's sparrow would result from the Proposed Action.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). The prairie warbler nests in shrublands and scrub-shrub habitats in mixed pine-oak barrens, old pastures and fields, and dry hillsides. Large openings surrounding or containing clumps of shrubs are typical components of breeding habitat (Bannon and Schaller, 2002). Prairie warbler are abundant in Long Island's Central Pine Barrens in the vicinity of CNC (www.ebird.org). The species is expected to be present on or near CNC during the breeding season. However, the Project Study Area does not contain open habitats with abundant shrubs; accordingly, no adverse impacts to prairie warbler breeding or availability of breeding habitat are expected to result from the Proposed Action.

Purple sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species can be found on Long Island's coast during migration and wintering periods on rocky intertidal shores. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to purple sandpiper would result from the Proposed Action.

Red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. In New York State, red-headed woodpeckers are classified as a Species of Special Concern. These birds are found in the open areas with scattered trees (e.g., parks, golf courses, roadsides); open swamps and river bottoms with dead, standing trees; pitch pine-oak forests; pitch pine-scrub oak barrens; and silver maple swamps (Levine, 1998; McGowan and Corwin, 2008; NYNHP, 2017f). The species may be present on or near CNC during the breeding season. However, the improvement locations do not contain the preferred breeding habitat with large dead trees in forest gaps or woodlands. Accordingly, no adverse impacts to red-headed woodpecker breeding or availability of breeding habitat are expected to result from the Proposed Action.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species can be found on Long Island's coast during wintering periods in marine waters. No impacts to red-throated loon would result from the Proposed Action.

Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species can be found on Long Island's coast during migration on rocky and sandy beaches and mudflats. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to ruddy turnstone would result from the Proposed Action.

Rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. Winter habitats for this species include wooded wetlands, swamps and wet margins, lawns and open pastures, and agricultural areas predominantly in the southeastern United States. The species may be present on or near CNC during the migration and wintering periods. However, the Project Study Area does not contain the preferred wintering habitats for this species including forested wetlands and swamps. The Proposed Action would result in conversion of some oak forests to more open turfgrass areas and meadows. Accordingly, the Proposed Action would not have any adverse impacts to rusty blackbird and may result in a minor improvement in habitat availability for this species at CNC.

Saltmarsh sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species is only found in tidal marshes in coastal areas. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to saltmarsh sparrow would result from the Proposed Action.

Semi-palmated sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species can be found on Long Island's coast during migration periods on mudflats, sandy beaches, lake and pond shorelines, and wet meadows. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to semi-palmated sandpiper would result from the Proposed Action.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species can be found during the winter months on open beaches and dunes. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to the snowy owl would result from the Proposed Action.

Wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. The wood thrush breeds in shaded, cool, mesic mixed or deciduous forests with an abundance of saplings and shrub understory, often near swamps or water (Bannon and Schaller, 2001). The species is present in the vicinity of CNC, especially in and near the wet forests in the headwaters of the Peconic River in Calverton and other freshwater wetland complexes in Calverton and Wading River. However, the forests that will be cleared in the Project Study Area are too dry with insufficient tall understory and sub-canopy vegetation to provide preferred breeding habitat for wood thrush. Accordingly, no adverse impacts to wood thrush breeding or availability of breeding habitat are expected to result from the Proposed Action.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*):

This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property. This species nests in brackish and tidal marshes on Long Island's bays and barrier islands. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on CNC property; accordingly, no impacts to willet would result from the Proposed Action.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

3.7.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would require tree clearing in selected proposed new burial sections, within the footprint of the sound barrier wall, and within the footprint of the new outbuildings in the maintenance complex. Construction would also require the clearing of selected trees and demolition of existing outbuildings during decommissioning of the 25A Yard. The total tree-clearing area would be approximately 7.7 acres in the proposed new burial sections; 0.05 acres for the new outbuildings in the maintenance complex; and approximately 15.2 during decommissioning of the 25A Yard. These activities would occur within the critical habitat distribution area of the northern long-eared bat.

To avoid adversely impacting the northern-long eared bat, the previous USFWS recommendations for seasonal tree clearing restrictions to avoid prohibited incidental take of northern long-eared bats during the pup season would be implemented. Specifically, any clear-cutting of trees would occur during the winter months (between November 1 and March 31) to avoid any potential take of this protected species. Similarly, the demolition of structures at the 25A Yard would also occur between November 1 and March 31 to avoid potential impacts to any bats using these structures as day roosts. Under this approach, no further consultation or coordination under the *Endangered Species Act* would be required, and northern long-eared bats would not be impacted. None of the other federally or state listed species or suitable habitat was observed during the site survey on September 7, 2018. A memorandum of findings from the survey is provided in Appendix B. Additionally, during their review of the Draft SEA, NYSDEC concurred that CNC does not contain suitable habitat for short-eared owls, is far enough away to have no impact on documented tiger salamander habitat, and agreed with VA's commitment to avoid impacts to NLEB by implementing the time-of-year-restriction on tree clearing (clear only between November 1 and March 31).

A copy of this correspondence is provided in Appendix A. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on federally or state listed wildlife or habitat.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action could have a negligible beneficial impact on habitat for the selected avian species described above. However, the operational maintenance activities including frequent and routine mowing, frequent visitor activity throughout CNC, and other human activities in and around the Project Study Area is generally disruptive to wildlife, and therefore the potential beneficial impacts to habitat are unlikely to occur.

The long-term conversion and maintenance of the habitat in the Project Study Area would not otherwise have an adverse or beneficial impact on federally or state listed wildlife or habitat.

3.7.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, expansion would not occur. Environmental conditions would remain as they currently exist, and there would be no impact to listed species or changes in the type or quality of habitat.

3.8 Noise

Sound occurs when vibrations that travel through a medium are interpreted by the biological elements of the ear. Noise occurs when sounds become undesirable, unpleasant, or damaging. Noise-sensitive receptors are residences, hospitals, libraries, recreation areas, and religious institutions.

Sound pressure levels are quantified in decibels (dB), which is dependent on both frequency and intensity, and is given a level on a logarithmic scale. The way the human ear hears sound intensity is quantified in A-weighted decibel (dBA), which are level "A" weights according to weighting curves. Sound levels for common activities and construction work are presented in Table 7. Noise levels and durations from these activities would vary depending on the specific equipment being used, and the impact from this noise on a receptor would depend on the distance between the receptor and the source of the noise. Generally, noise levels decrease by approximately 6 dBA for every doubling of distance for point sources (such as a single piece of construction equipment), and approximately 3 dBA for every doubling of distance for line sources (such as a stream of motor vehicles on a busy road at a distance).

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that individuals working in an environment of 85 dBA or louder for an eight-hour work day limit their exposure to this noise level and wear protective earwear to help manage and prevent hearing loss due to noise exposure.

Table 7. Common Household, Industrial, and Construction Sound Levels

Sound Level (dBA)	Common Sounds	Effect
140	Jet engine	Painful
130	Near air-raid siren	Painful
120	Jet plane takeoff, siren	Painful
110	Chain saw, Thunder, Garbage Truck	Extremely Loud
100	Hand drill	Extremely Loud
90	Subway, passing motorcycle	Extremely Loud
85	Backhoe, Paver	Very Loud
80	Blow-dryer, kitchen blender, food processor, cement mixer, power saw	Very Loud
70	Busy traffic, vacuum cleaner, alarm clock	Loud
60	Typical conversation, dishwasher, clothes dryer	Moderate

Sound Level (dBA)	Common Sounds	Effect
50	Moderate rainfall	Moderate
40	Quiet room	Moderate
30	Whisper, quiet library	Faint

3.8.1 Existing Environment

Noise Receptors

Noise sensitive receptors are defined as properties where frequent human use occurs and where a lowered noise level would be of benefit. These noise sensitive receivers are considered to be residences, hospitals, libraries, recreation areas, and religious institutions.

CNC is located in a quiet rural area with agricultural and low-to-medium density residential land uses predominating the immediate surrounding area. There is a church located approximately 1.27 miles north west of CNC in a medium-density residential neighborhood. Several houses are located in a low-density pattern adjacent to the northwestern boundary of CNC property, along Route 25A. There are no schools or hospitals within a 1-mile radius of CNC.

Current Noise Conditions

The noises in the immediate surrounding area are typical of rural/residential area. The principal source of noise in the area is from traffic along Middle Country Road/SR 25 to the south, and to a lesser degree along SR 25A to the north. Traffic noise along Middle Country Road/SR 25 are evident at the Veterans Circle

and can be disruptive to memorial services. The current sound level near the committal shelters at Veterans Circle from traffic along Route 25 is approximately 40-60 dBA.

The noises at CNC are generated during weekday daytime hours and include ceremonial rifle salutes during memorial services at committal shelters, routine maintenance activities (mowing, burials, etc.), and visitor traffic within the cemetery grounds. No other notable noise-generating sources are present at or in the immediate vicinity of CNC.

Rifle salutes may be performed at a committal shelter during Veteran interment ceremonies, at the flag assembly area, or other memorial areas within CNC. The A-weighted maximum levels (Lmax dBA) for blanks from rifle salutes at various distances and angles from a source is provided in Table 8 (VA, 2014). These sound levels correspond to firing directly (0 degrees) or at different angles to the receptor, and do not account for sound shielding from tree lines, berms, and other buffers; thus, actual sound levels at a receptor site are expected to be lower than those shown. For comparison purposes, speech ranges from 50 to 80 dBA. Additionally, the Veterans Circle committal shelters are located approximately 500 meters (1,640 feet) east of the nearest residential area and separated from it by a forest. Thus, the rifle salute sound level at this residential area would be approximately 40 dBA and would be a minor contributor to overall sound levels and sources experienced in the area.

Table 8. Azimuth Predicted Noise Levels from Rifle Salutes

Distance from Source	A-Weighted Maximum Sound Level (Lmax, dBA), Degrees from Source		
Meters	0°	90°	180°
50	66-76	64-74	64-74
100	60-70	58-68	58-68
200	53-63	51-61	51-61
400	39-49	38-48	38-48
800	31-41	30-40	30-40
1600	21-31	20-30	20-30

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

If a project would result in significant adverse increases in ambient noise levels at sensitive receptors or result in excessive ground-borne vibration to persons or property, it could have a significant effect.

3.8.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would generate noise from the heavy equipment used for earthwork at the expansion areas, construction of the outbuildings at the maintenance complex, and decommissioning/demolition of the maintenance buildings at the 25A Yard.

Potential noise receptors for this Proposed Action include construction workers, visitors and staff at the cemetery, and nearby residents.

The impact of construction noises on these receptors would be minimized by carefully coordinating the construction activities and schedule with CNC Administrator. Specifically, construction machinery would be routed along CNC roadways to avoid areas near to or where active memorial services are occurring. Additionally, the construction contractor would inform CNC Administration at least 24-hours in advance of conducting any unusually loud activities in order to schedule such activities during a time that would avoid disrupting a memorial service. Otherwise, construction generally would take place during daylight, weekday hours, unless there is a specific activity that requires completion outside of this normal construction schedule. Noise levels would be further minimized by equipping construction equipment with appropriate sound-muffling devices (i.e. from the original equipment manufacturer or better) and limiting engine idling to less than 5 minutes.

Potential adverse impacts to workers would be minimized by complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements to protect hearing of workers around loud construction equipment.

Construction workers would be working in close proximity to construction equipment and could be exposed to noise levels above 90 dBA. This is above the permissible noise exposure level defined by the OSHA. These levels would be reduced to permissible levels through feasible administrative or engineering controls, including the aforementioned use of noise-shielding equipment and reduced idling times, and the use of BMPs such as the use of hearing protection equipment, to ensure compliance with applicable OSHA standards.

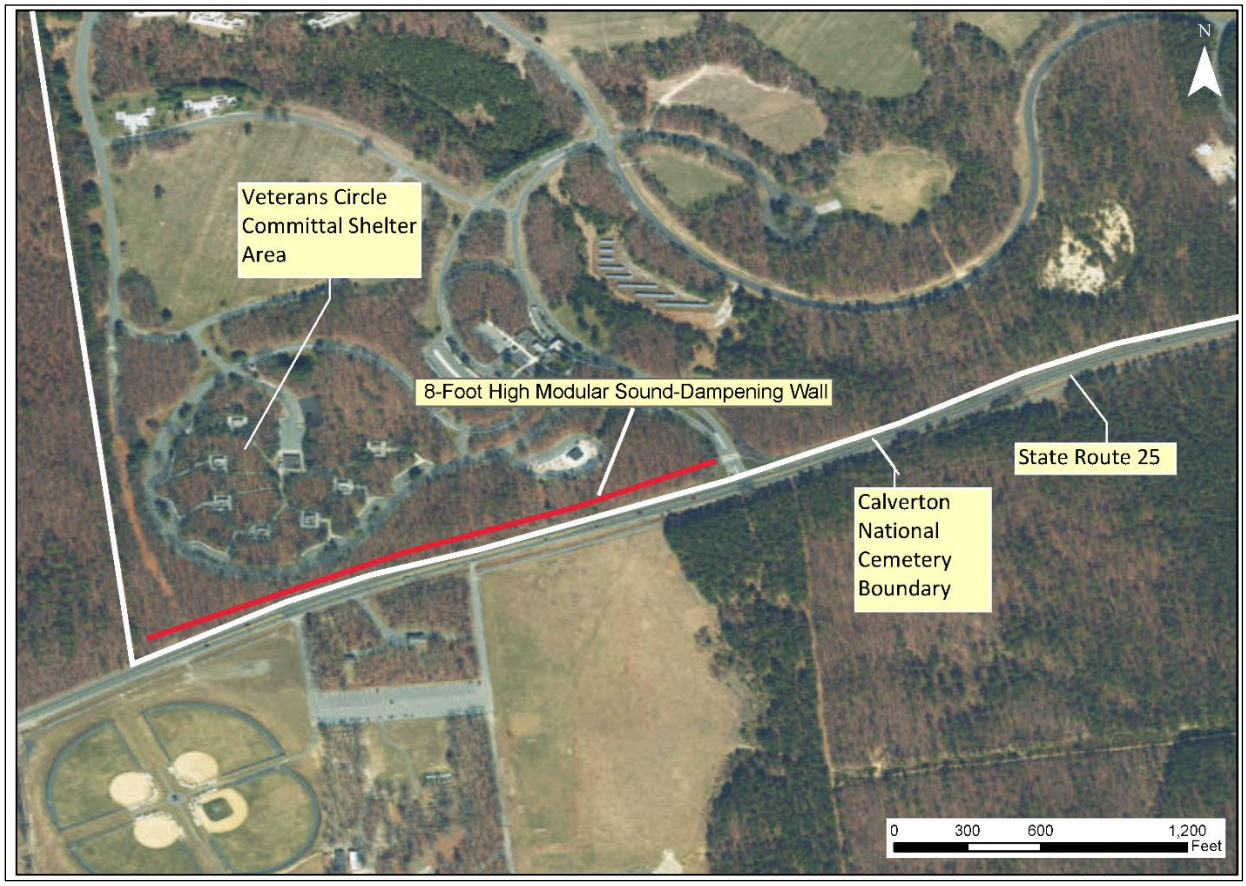
Based on the presence of approximately 700 feet of forested area between the 25A Yard and the nearest off-site residential receptors, noise from the 25A Yard decommissioning is not anticipated to be minimally or not evident to these receptors. Likewise, noise from other construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would not be perceptible above other background noises (traffic, wind) to these off-site receptors.

Therefore, the noise impact to potential receptors from the Proposed Action construction activities would be short-term, direct and indirect, and less-than-significantly adverse. These impacts would end once the 18-month construction phase is completed.

Operation. The Proposed Action includes the installation of an 8-foot high modular sound-dampening wall in the wooded area between the Veterans Circle committal shelters and SR 25 (Figure 8). This element of the Proposed Action would minimize the traffic noise levels from disturbing ongoing memorial services at Veterans Circle. The specific design for the wall would be determined by the construction contractor and the decrease in noise levels would be a function of the final design and placement of the wall. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have a long-term, direct, beneficial impact on memorial services at CNC by decreasing the noise level experienced by visitors during memorial services.

Operations within the new burial areas would require noise-generating maintenance activities (e.g. mowing, pressure washing). However, these noise sources, levels, and temporary durations would be similar to those currently generated at existing burial areas within CNC. According to CNC Maintenance Foreman, these noises have not resulted in any complaints from visitors or nearby receptors. Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would result in long-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse noise impacts.

Figure 8. Proposed Modular Sound-Dampening Wall Location



3.8.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the cemetery expansion would not occur, and the noise dampening wall would not be constructed. Traffic noise along SR 25 would continue to adversely impact memorial services at the Veterans Circle committal shelters.

3.9 Land Use

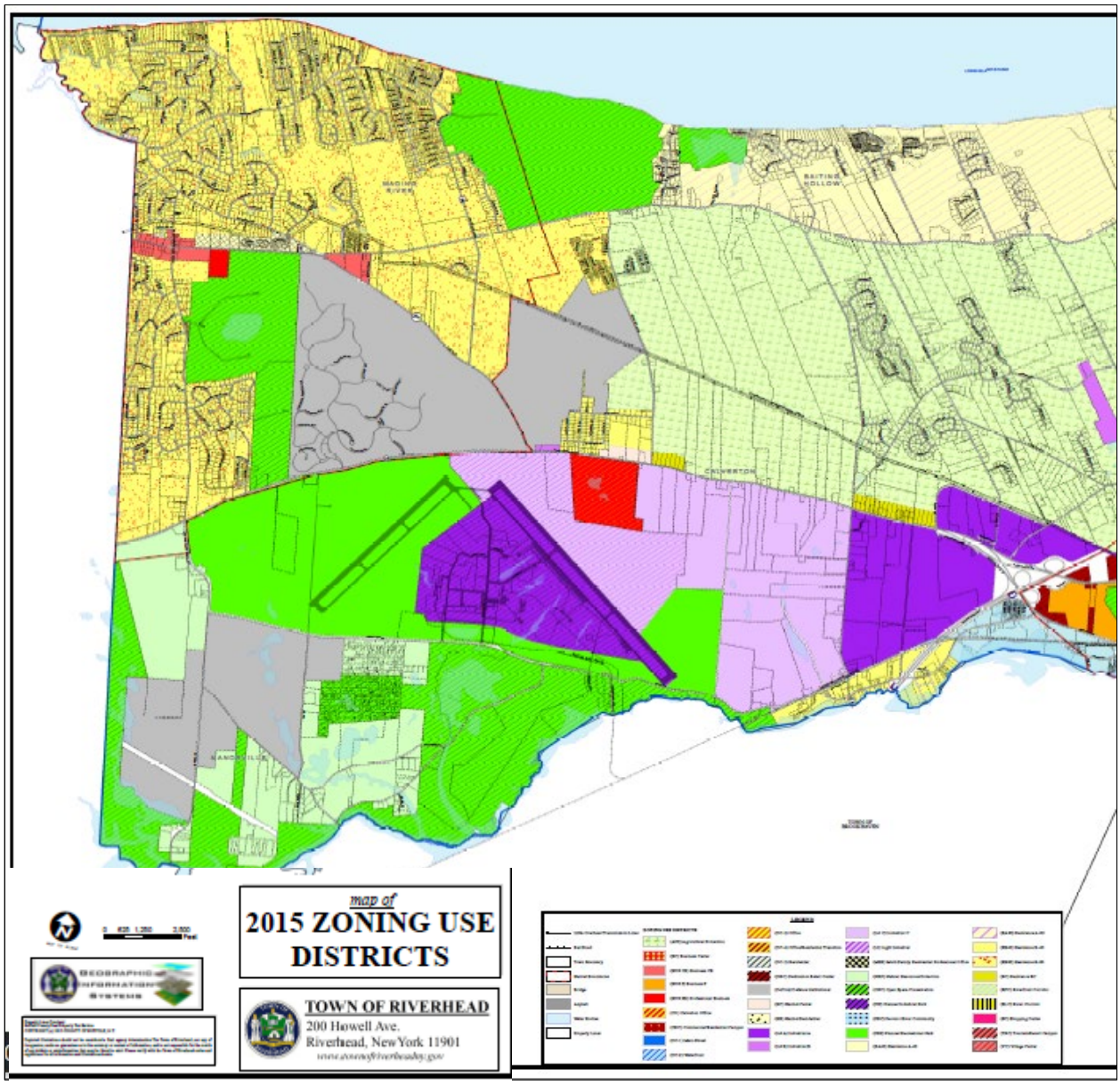
3.9.1 Existing Environment

The Calverton National Cemetery is within a Defense Institutional ("Def Ins") zoning district. To the west and south, Planned Recreational Park ("RRP") and some light industrial ("LI") land uses dominate. Hamlet Residential ("HR") land borders the property to the north with a very small section of Business CR ("BUS CR") immediately north across SR 25A. Figure 9 depicts the land uses in the area.

The New York State Long Island Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve Act (Environmental Conservation Law [ECL] Article 57) delineated a terrestrial and marine planning area for Eastern Long Island and mandated the creation of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). The CLUP guides regional land use and land management to protect diverse and unique ecological communities of the Core

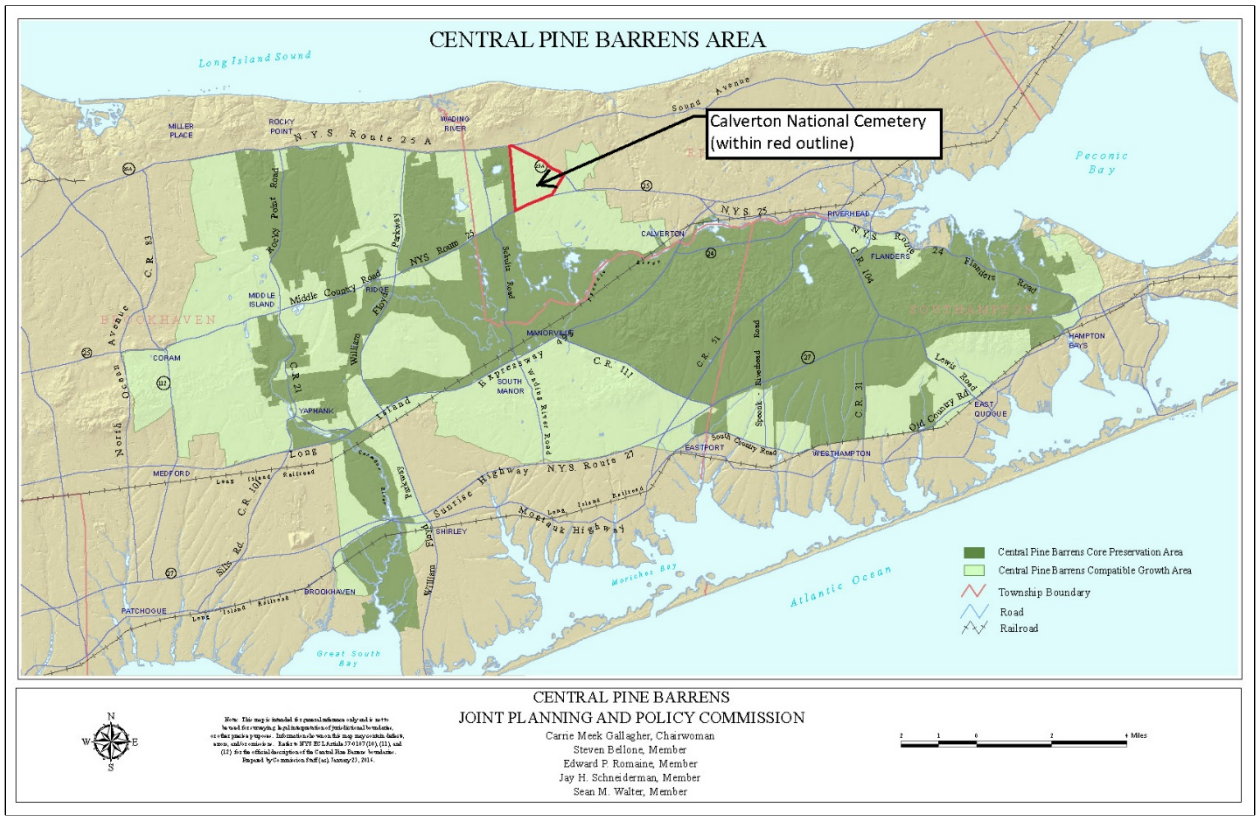
Preservation Area, as well as surface water and groundwater resources in the Compatible Growth Area (CGA). The Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission (CPBJPPC) oversees land use in the Central Pine Barrens region to ensure conformity with ECL Article 57 and the CLUP. As depicted in Figure 10, CNC is located within the CGA. Development projects located in the CGA may require a decision from the CPBJPPC regarding conformity with the CLUP. However, activities defined as "non-development" are not subject to review pursuant to the Act and the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan. VA determined that the Proposed Action is considered a non-development activity because it is a public improvement undertaken for the welfare of the public, and confirms to the uses within the permitted zoning district and does not increase the footprint of the CNC. VA presented this information and requested concurrence from the CPBJPPC in a letter dated April 8, 2019 (a copy of the letter is included in Appendix A). A response from the CPBJPPC was not received by the date of publication of this Final SEA.

Figure 9. 2015 Zoning Use Districts Town of Riverhead



Source: Town of Riverhead, 2015

Figure 10. Location of CNC within the Central Pine Barrens Compatible Growth Area



3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

3.9.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction and Operation. The Proposed Action would have no impact on land use at or in vicinity of CNC. The Proposed Action would occur within the existing boundary of CNC, in an area planned for cemetery use, and would not require or lead to changes in land use in the vicinity of CNC. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no impact on land use or zoning.

3.9.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action development would not occur. Baseline land use conditions would remain, as described above.

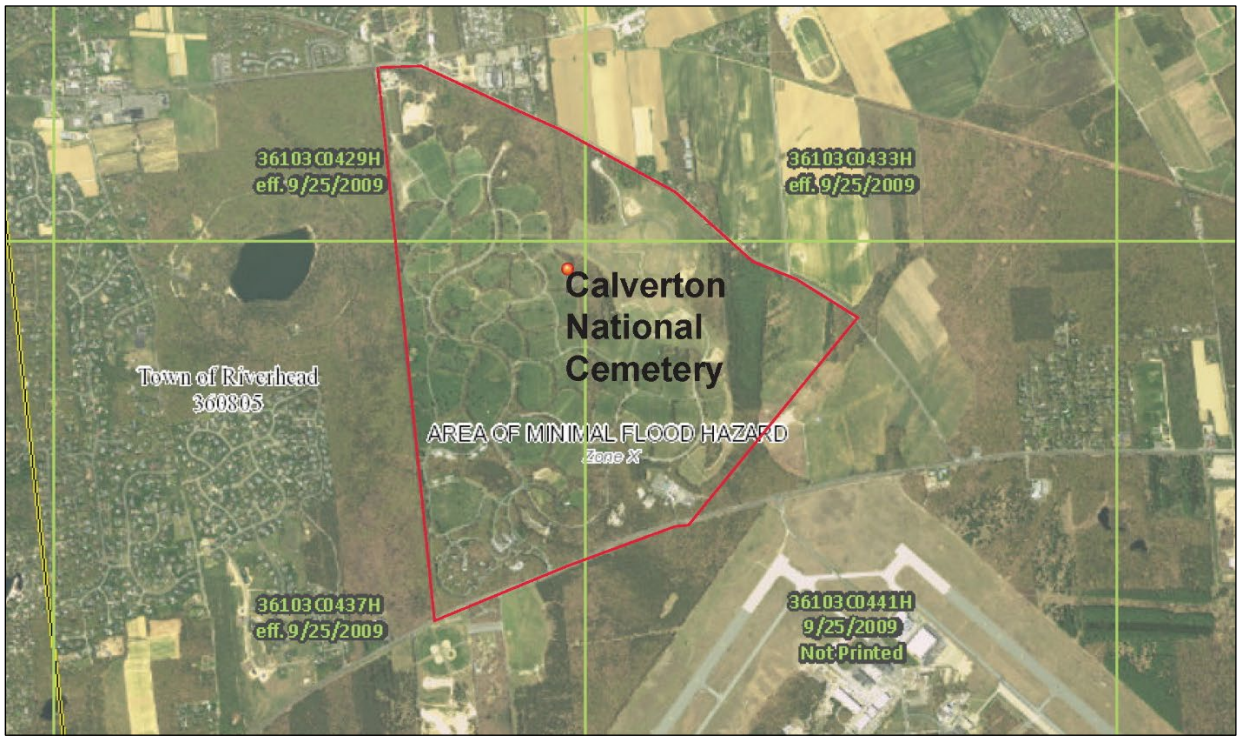
3.10 Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management

3.10.1 Existing Environment

Floodplains

Based on review of available Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Zone Maps (Figure 11), CNC property is located within an area of minimal flood hazard (Zone X; above the 500-year floodplain), and not within a 100-year (Zone A, AE) or a 500-year floodplain (FEMA, 2018). NYSDEC Region 1, which consists of Long Island, has no flood projects (NYSDEC, 2018e).

Figure 11. National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



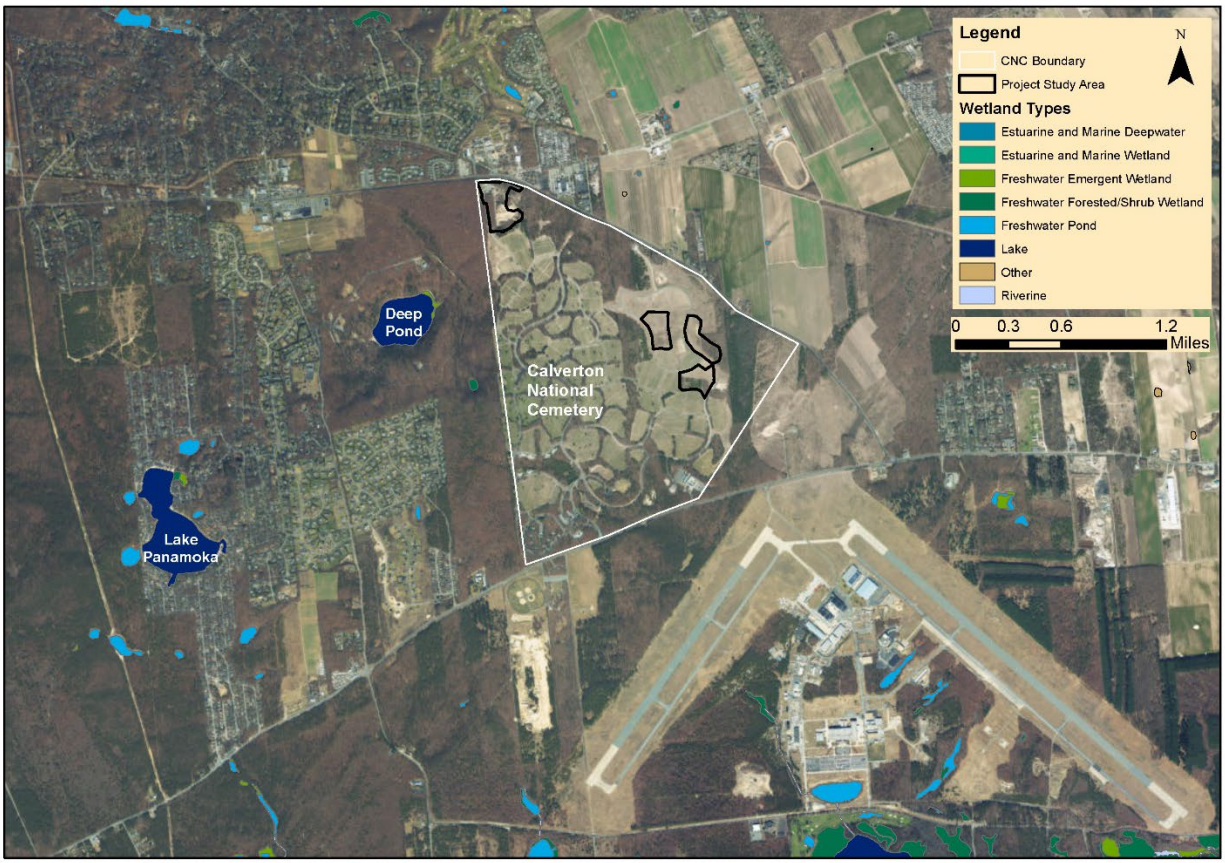
Wetlands

A desktop review of the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Inventory and the National Wetland Inventory Maps of CNC was conducted, followed by an onsite survey at CNC on September 7, 2018. The natural vegetation and ecological communities at the Project Study Area consist of coastal oak-heath forests and successional old fields. No hydrophytic vegetation (i.e. plants with a wetland indicator classification of FACW or OBL) or indicators of wetland hydrology were observed. The coastal oak-heath forests and successional old fields present at the Project Study Area does not contain freshwater wetlands following New York State and Federal wetland delineation manuals (Browne et al, 1995; Environmental Laboratory, 1987; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2011).

Deep Pond (NYS ID# W-1) and Scuttle Hole (NYS ID# W-17) are located approximately 500 and 1,400 feet, respectively, to the west of CNC and approximately 2,800 feet from the nearest Proposed Action work area (Figure 12).

The dominant plant species in these oak-heath forests and successional fields do not consist of 50 percent or more of plant species with wetland indicator classifications of FAC or wetter. Accordingly, the hydrophytic vegetation criteria for these delineation manuals is not met and no freshwater wetlands are present. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not result in any adverse impacts to freshwater wetlands and, furthermore, no federal or New York State permits are required pursuant to Section 404 of the *Clean Water Act* or Article 24 (*Freshwater Wetlands Act*) of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law.

Figure 12. Wetlands in the Vicinity of CNC



Coastal Zone Management

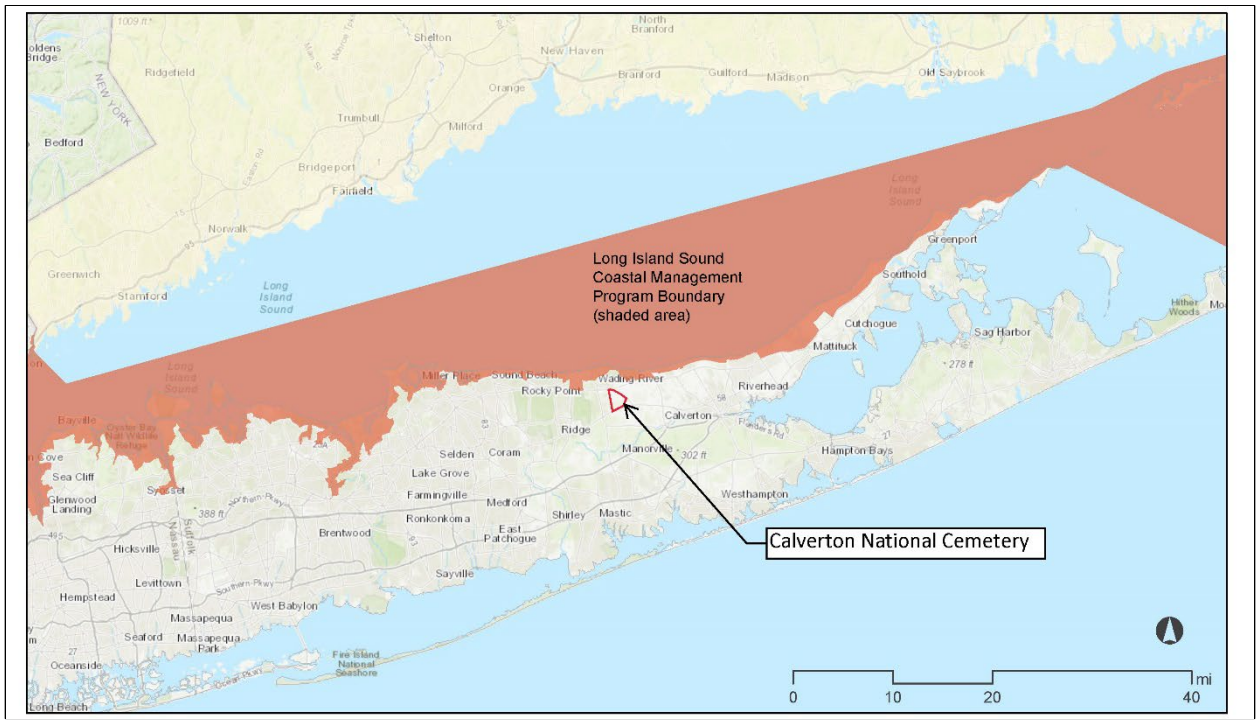
The *Coastal Zone Management Act* (CZMA) was enacted in 1972 to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore and enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone. Coastal states are encouraged to develop state coastal management programs, and comprehensively manage and balance competing uses of and impacts to coastal resources. The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) approves coastal management programs. In 1981, the New York State Legislature enacted Article 42 of the Executive Law, the *Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act*. In 1982, the New York State Coastal Management Program (CMP) was created to establish the boundaries of the coastal area within which the CMP applies, describe the organizational structure to implement the CMP, and provide a set of statewide policies enforceable on all state and federal agencies which manage resources and coordinate actions along the state's coastline. The CZMA requires that any federal actions affecting any land or water use, or natural resource of the coast be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program.

Article 42 also offers local governments the opportunity to participate in the state's CMP on a voluntary basis. Localities are encouraged to prepare and adopt local waterfront revitalization programs (LWRP) which in turn, would provide more detailed implementation of the state's CMP through use of existing broad powers such as those covering zoning and site plan review (NYDOS, 2018).

In addition to the state CMP, Long Island has its own CMP, the Long Island Sound CMP (LIS CMP). The LIS CMP is based on public consensus and close consultation with the state agencies whose programs and activities affect the coast. It integrates the capabilities of state and local government into an enforceable

program for the Sound. It complements the Long Island Sound Study Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, which focuses on water quality in the deep waters of the Sound, by addressing the upland watershed and harbor and nearshore waters. Figure 13 depicts the LIS CMP boundary; as shown on this figure, CNC is located outside and to the south of the LIS CMP boundary.

Figure 13. Long Island Sound Coastal Management Program Boundary Map



3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

3.10.2.1 Proposed Action

Wetlands

Construction and Operation. According to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory and an onsite evaluation, there are no wetlands located on CNC (USFWS, 2018) (NYSDEC, 2018b). Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no impact on wetlands.

Floodplains and Coastal Zone Management

Construction and Operation. The Proposed Action would not affect floodplains. As previously mentioned, the Proposed Action is located within an area of minimal flood hazard (Zone X; above the 500-year floodplain) and is not within a 100-year (Zone A, AE) or a 500-year floodplain.

Based on a review CNC property boundary, the entirety of CNC is outside both the coastal and watershed boundaries. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no impact on coastal zone management and would not require further coordination with state or local coastal zone management agencies.

Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no impact on floodplains or coastal zone resources.

3.10.2.2 No Action

Under No Action Alternative current conditions would remain unchanged. Similar to the Proposed Action, the No Action alternative would have no impact on wetlands (none are present), floodplains, or coastal zone resources.

3.11 Socioeconomics

3.11.1 Existing Environment

CNC is located in eastern Long Island between the towns of Manorville and Riverhead in Suffolk County, New York. Suffolk County is a predominantly suburban county on Long Island and the easternmost county in the state of New York. It incorporates the easternmost portion of the New York City metropolitan area. The socioeconomic conditions are influenced by the employment opportunities in the region, which are predominantly associated with the scientific innovations at Brookhaven National Lab, Stony Brook University and the high-tech Route 110 corridor.

Employment

From 2015 to 2016, employment in Suffolk County, NY, grew at a rate of 0.21%, from 744,715 employees to 746,250 employees. The most common employment sectors for those who live in Suffolk County, NY, are Healthcare & Social Assistance, Retail trade, and Educational Services. Compared to other counties, Suffolk County, NY, has an unusually high number of residents working in areas of Fire Fighting Supervisors; Education, Training, & Library; and Construction & Extraction. The highest paid jobs held by residents of Suffolk County, by median earnings, are Fire Fighting Supervisors; Management; and Legal services (DataUSA, 2018). Traditional family farms and wineries in Suffolk County's rural East End make it the largest agricultural county in New York State.

Income

Suffolk County has a median household income of $92,933, which is higher than the median annual income of $60,781 for New York and $55,332 for the United States. From 2015 to 2016, the median household income grew from $88,340 to $92,933, a 5.2 percent increase.

Population

Suffolk County has a population of 1.49 million people with a median age of 41.2. Suffolk County is the 4th most populated county in New York. Between 2015 and 2016 the population of Suffolk County declined from 1.5 to 1.49 million, a 0.6 percent decrease. The population has remained generally steady, decreasing only slightly from 1,493,350 in 2010 to 1,492,953 individuals in 2017 (the year the most recent data were reported by the U.S. Census Bureau).

The population of Suffolk County is 68% White, 19% Hispanic, and 7.21% Black. Approximately 23.8% of the population in Suffolk County speak a non-English language, and 92.8% are U.S. citizens. Population and relevant demographic figures for all of Suffolk County and the State of New York are presented in Table 9. Economic figures are presented in Table 10.

Table 9. Demographic Data the State of New York and Suffolk County

Location	Total Population[1]	Median Age	% Population under age 18[1]	% Minority Population[2]	% High School Graduates[1]	Veterans[1]
Suffolk County	1,492,953	40.9	21.4%	32.5%	90.0%	70,625
State of New York	19,849,399	38.2	20.9%	44.7%	85.9%	789,553

1 – U.S. Census Bureau 2018a
2 –includes all race/ethnicity categories except non-Hispanic White persons

Table 10. Economic Data for Suffolk County and the State of New York

Location	Number of Households[1]	% Population in Poverty[2]	% Unemployment Rate[2,3]
Suffolk County	489,758	7.6%	6.1%
State of New York	7,266,187	14.7%	7.5%

1 – U.S. Census Bureau, 2018b
2 – NOTE: Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences that may exist between different data sources.
3 – U.S. Census Bureau, 2018c

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

3.11.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would require the temporary employment of skilled laborers to construct the new burial sections and the outbuildings at the maintenance complex, perform roadway and other infrastructure improvements, and decommission the 25A Yard. Additionally, construction of the Proposed Action would require the purchase of supplies and materials from local and regional vendors. The temporary increase in employment and spending on materials would have a short-term, direct, beneficial but less-than-significant impact on the local economy, though only a negligible beneficial impact on regional socioeconomic conditions. These construction-related beneficial impacts would end once the 18-month construction phase is completed.

Operation. VA currently employs approximately 100 staff to maintain and operate CNC. This current workforce is anticipated to be sufficient to maintain and operate the Proposed Action. If needed, additional maintenance staff could be hired to help maintain of the landscaped grounds at the new burial sections. Maintaining or slightly increasing staff levels would have no measurable impact on the socioeconomic conditions in the town, county, or region.

The Proposed Action would increase the interment capacity and therefore the longevity of CNC. Over time, this would lead to a slight increase in the number of visitors to CNC from the New York City metropolitan area. These visitors could potentially utilize local businesses (restaurants, lodging, service stations, etc.) during visits. The potential increase in spending would have a beneficial but negligible impact to the overall economic activity in Suffolk County or the eastern region of Long Island. However, extending the longevity of CNC allows veterans in the New York City metropolitan area to continue choosing to be interred at this National Cemetery, and allows their families, who may also reside in the New York City metropolitan area, to avoid travelling longer distances to another National Cemetery outside of the New York City metropolitan area.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have a long-term, direct and indirect, negligible beneficial impact on socioeconomics.

3.11.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, and the longevity of CNC would not be extended. The aforementioned socioeconomic benefits associated with the Proposed Action would not be realized. Therefore, the No Action alternative would have a short- and long-term, negligible adverse impact on socioeconomics.

3.12 Community Services

3.12.1 Existing Environment

CNC has provided burial benefits to Veterans and their families in the New York City metropolitan area since 1978. Approximately 250,000 interments have been completed at CNC to date, averaging approximately 6,000-7,000 burials per year. The most recent expansion in 2008 provided an additional 33,000 burial spaces. However, VA anticipates CNC burial capacity will be reached in the next several years (the specific date is not calculated because burial frequency changes over time). As previously described in Section 1, there are no other National Cemeteries within 75-miles of CNC.

Other community services provided by Suffolk County include police and fire protection, ambulatory service, schools, health care, and parks and recreation. Because no additional load is expected to be placed on these or other community services as a result of the Proposed Action, impacts to community services other than Veterans' burial benefits are not analyzed in this SEA.

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

3.12.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction and Operation. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 26,592 interment areas, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action would provide an additional 10 years of continued burial opportunities to the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area, resulting in a direct, long-term, significant beneficial impact on this community resource.

3.12.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented, and there would be no increase in burial capacity or extension of the longevity of CNC. Upon reaching capacity, Veterans in the New York City metropolitan area would be required to obtain burial benefits at another National Cemetery, the nearest of which is located more than 75-miles outside of eastern Long Island. NCA has learned through experience that few people will elect burial at a National Cemetery that is farther than 100 miles from their residence, and that there is a reluctance for burial to take place across a state line from the place of residence (VA, 2001). Veterans, their families, and visitors would have to travel more than 75 miles—a distance considered to be an undue burden—to obtain burial benefits at the next nearest National Cemetery. Furthermore, the No Action alternative is not in compliance with the *Service Members Civil Relief Act*. Therefore, the No Action alternative would result in a long-term, direct, significant adverse impact on burial opportunities for Veterans and their families in the New York City metropolitan area.

3.13 Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials

3.13.1 Existing Environment

Hazardous and toxic materials or substances are generally defined as materials or substances that pose a risk (i.e., through either physical or chemical reactions) to human health or the environment. Regulated hazardous substances are identified through a number of federal laws and regulations. The most comprehensive list is contained in 40 CFR 302, and identifies quantities of these substances, when released to the environment, that require notification to a federal agency. Hazardous wastes, defined in 40 CFR 261.3, are considered hazardous substances. Generally, hazardous wastes are discarded materials (e.g., solids or liquids) not otherwise excluded by 40 CFR 261.4 that exhibit a hazardous characteristic (i.e., ignitable, corrosive, reactive, or toxic), or are specifically identified within 40 CFR 261. Petroleum products are specifically exempted from 40 CFR 302, but some are also generally considered hazardous substances due to their physical characteristics (i.e. especially fuel products), and their ability to impair natural resources.

No regulated quantities of hazardous materials or wastes are present at CNC. Registered pesticides and herbicides may be used by licensed applicators on an as-needed basis for activities such as pest control and weed management. In the winter, natural salt (halite) and sand is used for road de-icing.

Current operations at CNC generate solid waste consisting of office debris, flowers and other items left behind at burial sites, and container waste associated with minor vehicle maintenance activities. These solid wastes are managed by VA and transported by a licensed contractor for off-site disposal.

Small volumes of excess soils are generated during burial operations. These soils are stockpiled in one of two designated storage areas: in the 25A Yard, or in the fenced accumulation area on the eastern side of CNC, along Calverton Drive. Neither of these stockpiles are readily accessible to visitors.

To date, a survey for regulated building materials, including asbestos, lead-based paint, and/or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), has not been performed at the buildings at the 25A Yard maintenance buildings that are scheduled for demolition. Due to the age of these buildings, there is the potential for one or more of these regulated building materials to be present in and/or on these buildings. Federal and state laws regulate the disturbance, demolition, and proper disposal of these materials. Accordingly, prior to any disturbance or demolition of these buildings, VA would perform an assessment for these materials and remove or manage them according to existing applicable federal and state regulations.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

3.13.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction/Demolition. Construction-related activities under the Proposed Action have the potential to generate solid waste, including excess soils excavated for pre-placed crypts, and vegetation cleared from the selected burial expansion areas, the sound barrier wall, the outbuildings at the maintenance complex, and the decommissioned 25A Yard. The excess soils would either be stockpiled on site for later reuse as fill, or would be transported for reutilization off-site. The cleared vegetation would either be composted on or off-site site.

Solid wastes would also be generated from the demolition of the storage building and two wooden outbuildings at the 25A Yard. As previously described, a regulated building materials survey would be performed prior to any disturbance or demolition of these buildings in order to ensure the building debris is properly transported and disposed of off-site. The existing cesspit at the 25A Yard would be decommissioned and removed in accordance with local and state regulations and permit(s). All existing paving and fencing would also be removed. Once the demolition is completed and the impervious surfaces removed, the area would be seeded, allowing it to become a potential future burial area.

The volume of solid wastes generated from these activities would be a negligible addition to the overall solid waste volume generated in Suffolk County and would not result in an adverse impact at landfills in eastern Long Island.

Additionally, all construction contractors would comply with VA's solid and hazardous materials Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and management measures specified in NCA Master Construction Specifications.

These management measures would ensure that potential adverse impacts from construction of the Proposed Action would remain at short-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse levels.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action would result in a negligible increase in the volume of solid waste currently generated at CNC. These wastes include flowers and other debris left behind at memorial sites, though no new types of solid wastes would be generated. Small volumes of excess soil would be generated during routine burial operations. These soils would be stockpiled in the existing fenced yard located along Calverton Way and reutilized on-site where possible.

The solid waste management program currently in place at CNC is capable of handling this additional volume without impacting on-going operations.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have a long-term, direct, less-than-significant adverse impact on solid waste and hazardous materials.

3.13.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented. No changes to the 25A Yard would occur, and no additional excess soil volumes would be generated. Current conditions at CNC would remain unchanged.

3.14 Transportation and Parking

3.14.1 Existing Environment

Transportation Infrastructure in the Vicinity of Calverton National Cemetery

The Long Island Expressway (NY 495). the major arterial running the length of Long Island between New York City and Riverhead, and the main line of Long Island Railroad which runs roughly parallel to the expressway, lie approximately 4.5 miles to the south of CNC. Two state highways, NY 25 (Middle Country Road) and NY 25A (North Country Road) lying north of the Long Island Expressway and also running east-west, form the south and north boundaries of CNC. About 4.5 miles west of CNC, William Floyd Parkway crosses the island from north to south and intersects each of these highways and the expressway.

Calverton is easily reached by the Long Island Expressway from the regional road network via the New England Thruway from the northeast, the New York State Thruway from the north, 1-80 from the west, and the New Jersey Turnpike from the south. From these arterial feeders passage through or around New York City to the Long Island Expressway can be made directly on major arterial links. CNC is also accessible via the system of parkways in the metropolitan region.

The majority of funerals and visitors approach CNC from the west via the Long Island Expressway (NY 495) to exit 68, then north on William Floyd Parkway approximately 4.5 miles to Middle Country Road (NY 25) then east approximately 4.5 miles to the cemetery entrance on SR 25. Both the Long Island Expressway and the William Floyd Parkway are limited access highways. The Northern and Southern State Parkways and the Heckscher State Parkway which parallel the Long Island Expressway also provide limited access travel for about half the length of the island from New York City at which point they interconnect either with the Long Island Expressway or with other state highways serving the cemetery area. Sunrise

Highway (NY 27) serving the south shore, Middle Country Road/SR 25 serving the center of the island, and North Country Road (SR 25A) serving the north shore intersect the William Floyd Parkway and provide direct local access from all parts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Suffolk County is served by Suffolk County Transit. Long Island Rail Road (LIRR), the Hampton Jitney, and Hampton Luxury Liner connect Suffolk County to New York City. The LIRR is a commuter rail system with an average weekday ridership of 354,800 passengers in 2016, it is the busiest commuter railroad in North America. It is one of busiest commuter systems that runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round. The LIRR currently runs five trains daily from New York City that interconnect with buses at Babylon to serve the North Fork of Eastern Long Island. All stop at Riverhead, approximately nine miles from CNC. Taxis are currently the most readily available means of transportation from Riverhead to CNC, but the Coram Bus Service also runs several buses daily past its northern boundary on NY 25A.

Transportation Infrastructure within Calverton National Cemetery

All funeral services at conducted at the Veterans Circle, which is a circular roadway connecting a group of seven permanent committal shelters located in the southwestern portion of CNC and apart from the burial sections.

CNC is served by a primary loop road system which connects with the main entrance road from SR 25 on the south (Figure 2). A separate maintenance entrance is located to the east of the main entrance on SR 25. A secondary maintenance entrance is located on the northern portion of CNC along SR 25A. This primary loop road, approximately 28-feet wide, intersects with 20-foot wide secondary roads which give access to burial areas within CNC. Visitors to the burial areas are allowed to park on the road side while remaining off the grass-covered shoulder.

3.14.2 Environmental Consequences

3.14.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would result in a temporary increase in the number of vehicles (including both construction trucks and workers' vehicles) traveling on SR 25 to access CNC. State Route 25 (Functional Class 14) is adequate for handling this temporary increase in roadway use, and no modifications to this roadway or traffic patterns would be required during construction.

Construction vehicles would be required to enter and exit CNC from the existing maintenance road entrances. The construction contractor would coordinate with CNC Administrator to identify the preferred entrance and exit points relative to daily mobilization of construction equipment and workers. If warranted, flaggers may be utilized to notify oncoming traffic of slower construction vehicles entering or exiting the maintenance roads either along SR 25 or SR 25A.

The roadways within CNC are adequate to handle the temporary construction traffic and would not require physical alternation or traffic pattern modifications. However, as previously described under the Noise heading, construction vehicles traveling through the cemetery would be scheduled and routed to avoid disrupting the solemnity of committal services and processions. As noted above, the construction contractor would coordinate with CNC Administrator prior to mobilizing construction machinery through the existing cemetery to avoid interfering with cortege travel or disrupting memorial services.

To ensure that construction vehicles do not degrade the quality of the existing roadways within and in the vicinity of CNC, gravel pads would be established at the exit of each construction area to ensure dirt is removed from construction vehicle tires before traveling on the cemetery roadways.

Therefore, construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would have a short-term, negligible, direct, less-than-significant adverse impact on transportation and parking within or in the vicinity of CNC.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action would result in a negligible increase in traffic from visitors on roadways within and in vicinity of CNC, but would not require any modifications to these roadways, transportation patterns, or parking capacity. Visitors would continue to be allowed to park on the shoulder of the roadways adjacent to the new burial areas, though not on the grass-covered road shoulders.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have a long-term, direct, negligible adverse impact on transportation and parking.

3.14.2.2 No Action

No changes to transportation or parking at CNC would occur under the No Action alternative; therefore, no impacts would occur. Baseline conditions would remain, as described above.

3.15 Utilities

3.15.1 Existing Environment

CNC currently uses the following utilities:

- Electric – supplied by PSEG Long Island;
- Natural gas – supplied by National Grid;
- Potable water – Riverhead Water District;
- Sanitary septic cesspool pumpout – Private vendor hired by CNC;
- Telecommunications - Verizon.

As previously described under the Groundwater heading in Section 3.6.3, under permit from NYSDEC, irrigation water is supplied by pumping groundwater from seven wells located within CNC property. Each well is connected to a pump house and an electronic controller system, which distributes the water through a series of underground irrigation lines to multiple sprinkler heads located at each burial area. The irrigation system is controlled and monitored by a computer-aided system.

3.15.2 Environmental Consequences

3.15.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction. Construction of the Proposed Action would not require the use of the aforementioned utilities. Construction contractors would be required to disconnect electrical utilities lines in the 25A Yard prior to demolition of the buildings. Prior to disconnecting the electrical utility service, the construction contractor would coordinate with the PSEG Long Island to ensure that the electrical utility work would not disrupt service elsewhere within CNC or to customers in the surrounding community.

Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action is not anticipated to have any adverse impact on utilities.

Operation. Operation of the Proposed Action would not require modifications to the aforementioned utility systems, with the exception of an increase in consumption of the irrigation water utility. Groundwater would continue to be used to supply irrigation water, which would be extracted using the CNC irrigation system. As previously described, the estimated irrigation water use for the new burial areas is 101,000 gallons per day at peak season, and 24.1 million gallons on an annual basis (Gordon, 2018). The NYSDEC permit allows for VA to withdraw up to 105 million gallons per year of groundwater for irrigation purposes. VA would coordinate with the NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Permits, Region One, to ensure the increased water withdrawal rate would not have an adverse impact on the Mathogy aquifer. An increase in electricity usage would result from the additional operating load on the irrigation water pump system. This increase in electricity usage would be considered negligible relative to the current electrical use at CNC

and would have no adverse impact on service quality at CNC or to other PSEG Long island utility customers in the surrounding community.

Therefore, operation of the Proposed Action would have a long-term, negligible, less-than-significant adverse impact on utilities.

3.15.2.2 No Action

Under the No Action alternative, no changes to the electrical system at the 25A Yard would occur, and no increases in the use of the irrigation system would be required. No other changes to utilities would occur. Baseline conditions would remain, as described above.

3.16 Environmental Justice

3.16.1 Existing Environment

Executive Order (EO) 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" was enacted in 1994 to focus federal agencies attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice. Under this EO, federal agencies must identify and address the human health or environmental effects of its actions on minority and low-income populations.

For this analysis, data for minority and low-income population were obtained for the area within a 2.5-mile radius of CNC, all of Suffolk County, and the State of New York (Table 11). According to these data, the area within a 2.5-mile radius of CNC has a generally similar minority population as Suffolk County, but lower than New York, and a lower percentage of low-income populations (household income less than $25,000/year) than either the surrounding county or state.

Table 11. Minority and Low-Income Populations

Location	Total Population[1]	% Minority Population[1, 2]	Percentage of Population below Poverty Level[1, 3]
2.5-mile radius of CNC	33,781	24.9%	8.3%
Suffolk County	1,492,953	32.5%	7.6%
State of New York	19,849,399	44.7%	14.7%

Notes:
1 - U.S. Census Bureau 2018a
2 - includes all race/ethnicity categories except non-Hispanic White persons
3- NOTE: Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences that may exist between different data sources

3.16.2 Environmental Consequences

3.16.2.1 Proposed Action

Construction and Operation. Construction and operation of the Proposed Action has no mechanism to cause changes in local population levels, income, housing, local tax revenues, or other non-cemetery-related community services. The Proposed Action would not have a disproportionate impact on low-income or minority groups in Suffolk County. However, the Proposed Action may provide a temporary increase in local employment if the contractor(s) selected to perform construction/demolition activities hires local crew members, which could result in a beneficial but negligible short-term socioeconomic impact on the local community.

Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no adverse impact on Environmental Justice.

3.16.2.2 No Action

No changes at CNC would occur from implementation of the No Action alternative; therefore, no impacts Environmental Justice impacts to minority and low-income populations would occur. Baseline conditions would remain, as described above.

3.17 Potential for Generating Substantial Controversy

The Proposed Action is not likely to generate substantial controversy. The Proposed Action would extend the longevity of CNC for at least the next decade. This would be positively perceived by veterans and the general public.

Under the No Action alternative, substantial public controversy would be anticipated due to the decreased availability of burial opportunities at CNC and the perception that VA has not taken the appropriate action to expand CNC according to the 1977 Master Plan.

4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ regulations stipulate that the cumulative effects analysis should consider the potential environmental effects resulting from "the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions" (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively substantial, actions undertaken over a period of time by various agencies (federal, state, and local) or individuals. Informed decision making is served by consideration of cumulative impacts resulting from projects that are proposed, under construction, recently completed, or anticipated to be implemented in the reasonably foreseeable future.

Past activities are those actions that occurred within the geographic scope of cumulative effects that have shaped the current environmental conditions of the project site. For many resource areas, the effects of past actions are now part of the existing environment and are included in the description of the affected environment.

The scope of the cumulative effects analysis involves the timeframe and geographic extent to which effects could be expected to occur, and a description of the resources that could be cumulatively affected. The geographic Region of Influence (ROI) is an important consideration when discussing cumulative effects from construction and operations. For the purposes of this analysis, the ROI was determined to be CNC and the immediately surrounding community in Suffolk County. An effort was undertaken to identify other projects for evaluation in the context of the cumulative effects analysis. This was further developed through review of public documents and information gained from the coordination with various applicable agencies.

4.1 Proposed Action

As determined through the analysis provided in Section 3, the Proposed Action would not result in an appreciable (i.e., more than negligible) adverse impacts in context with existing baseline conditions for Cultural Resources; Geology and Topography; Surface Water; Noise (operation); Land Use; Floodplains and Wetlands; Socioeconomics; Community Services; and, Environmental Justice. Therefore, these resources were not evaluated for potential cumulative impacts. Additionally, resources that would be beneficially impacted by the Proposed Action were not evaluated for potential cumulative impacts, including Aesthetics (operation), Socioeconomics (construction and operation), Community Services (operation), and Transportation and Parking (operation). Resources that have the potential to be cumulatively affected by the Proposed Action, when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects at CNC, include Aesthetics (construction); Air Quality (construction and operation); Soils (construction); Groundwater (operation), Wildlife and Habitat (construction and operation), Noise (construction); Hazardous Materials (construction/demolition); Transportation (construction); and Utilities (operation). Therefore, past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects that could result in effects on these resource areas were considered for analysis.

4.2 Considered Cumulative Actions

The Proposed Action would modify portions of the expansion area but also preserve sensitive resources through compliance with existing permits and environmentally sensitive development. Overall, no significant adverse cumulative effects on the environment, induced by changes from implementing the Proposed Action, are anticipated within the ROI.

Prior to 1977, the site of CNC was owned by the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant at Calverton before being transferred to VA for use as a National Cemetery. Historically, the site was used as farmland. Since opening for burials in 1978, the property use has been restricted to and maintained for cemetery operations. During this time, land development around the property has increased, changing from

rural/agricultural uses to mixed residential/commercial uses, predominantly to the east, north, and south of the site. Calverton Pine Barrens State Forest is located to the west of the site and use has generally remained unchanged during this period. Based on past trends, land use surrounding CNC is anticipated to remain in use for agricultural and industrial purposes, with some increase in the conversion of agricultural lands to residential use.

4.3 Effects of Cumulative Actions on the Proposed Action

No significant, cumulative adverse impacts to any of the resources analyzed in the SEA would be expected from the implementation of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action activities would be confined to the area within the existing boundary of CNC. Several of the proposed new burial sections have already been cleared and graded, while limited tree clearing totaling approximately of approximately 23 acres would be required when accounting for the new burial sections, the new buildings at the maintenance complex, and decommissioning of the 25A Yard. Therefore, construction and operation of the Proposed Action would not result in a significant loss of forested areas relative to other forested area remaining at CNC and would not change the rural/agricultural nature of the surrounding community. The use of this portion of CNC for continued cemetery activities is consistent with 1977 Master Plan design and the intended use of the property. Additionally, VA has constructed and operated dozens of similar cemetery expansions without resulting in cumulative adverse impacts, including a recent expansion at CNC in 2008. The avoidance of cumulative impacts is primarily due to VA's implementation of major design elements that avoid environmentally sensitive areas and incorporation of BMPs to ensure that any potential adverse impacts are maintained at less-than-significant adverse levels. Further, while construction of the Proposed Action would require changes to several aspects of the current environment (e.g. limited grading; tree removal; new landscaping), operation of the Proposed Action is generally low-intensity, having few, if any, adverse impacts on the surrounding natural or built environment. Accordingly, no significant cumulative adverse impacts are anticipated from implementing the Proposed Action.

4.4 Effects of Cumulative Actions on the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, the conditions at CNC would remain as they currently exist for the foreseeable future. The current burial capacity would not be increased, effectively decreasing the longevity of CNC to only a few more years (in context of the availability to accept new burials). This would result in a long-term, significant adverse impact on Community Services (e.g. lack of burial opportunities at a National Cemetery within the New York metropolitan area). However, considered cumulatively, this impact and others associated with the No Action alternative are not anticipated to generate additional adverse impacts, or to increase the level of adverse impacts on other resources analyzed in this SEA.

5 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

VA invites public participation in decision-making on new proposals through the NEPA process. Public participation with respect to decision-making on the Proposed Action is guided by 38 CFR Part 26, VA's policy for implementing the NEPA. Additional guidance is provided in VA's Environmental Compliance Management Directive (VA, 2012) and VA's NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects (VA, 2010). Consideration of the views and information of all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision-making. Agencies, organizations, and members of the public with a potential interest in the Proposed Action, such as minority, low-income, and disadvantaged persons, are encouraged to participate. The following sections describe agency coordination and public involvement efforts associated with this Draft SEA.

5.1 Federal, State, and Local Agency Coordination

On February 20, 2019, VA mailed letters to notify relevant federal, state, and local agencies (listed in Table 12) of the publication of the Draft SEA and the opportunity to review and provide comments within a 30-day period (a copy of the letter is provided in Appendix A).

It is noted that the New York State Division for Historic Preservation (SHPO) was previously contacted during the development of the Draft SEA. The SHPO's comments were incorporated into the Draft SEA, as described under the Cultural Resources heading in Section 3.4.

Written comments on the Draft SEA were received from two regulatory agencies. Copies of all correspondence are included in Appendix A. On March 26, 2019, the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a letter concurring with the findings presented in the Draft SEA and reiterated the tree clearing time-of-year-restriction to avoid impacts to the northern long-eared bat (NLEB). On March 25, 2019, the Suffolk County Planning Commission (SCPC) issued a letter indicating no objections to the Proposed Action and a request to be informed of future actions at CNC pursuant to NEPA. SCPC also requested that VA include a reference in the SEA to the NYS Long Island Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve Act (ECL Article 57) and coordinate with the NYS Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission (CPBJPPC) to address tree clearing and others standards established for the Compatible Growth Area (CGA) of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP); CNC is located within the CGA. Accordingly, VA updated Section 3.9 (Land Use) in the SEA. Additionally, on April 8, 2019, VA mailed a letter to CPBJPPC describing the Proposed Action and requested concurrence with the finding that the project, as a public improvement consistent with existing zoning laws and not requiring expansion of CNC property, was consistent with the CLUP and not subject to further review. No response from CPBJPPC was received by the date of publication of the Final SEA. The regulatory agency correspondence has been incorporated into the Final SEA and considered prior to a decision being made on whether or not to implement the Proposed Action.

Table 12. Federal, State, and Local Agency Coordination Summary

Federal Agencies
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region II
United States Fish and Wildlife Service Long Island Field Office
United Stated Army Corps of Engineers New York District
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service New York Southeast Area
State Agencies
New York State Division for Historic Preservation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region I
Office of Planning and Development, New York State Department of State

New York State Natural Heritage Program
Local Agencies
Suffolk County Department of Health Services
Suffolk County Department of Public Works
Suffolk County Division of Planning and Environment
Riverhead Town Supervisor
Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission

5.2 Native American Tribal Coordination

For federal proposed actions, federal agencies are required to consult with federally-recognized Native American tribes in accordance with NEPA, NHPA, NAGPRA, and EO 13175. Based on a review of the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Shinnecock Indian Nation is the only federally-recognized Native American Tribe with ancestral ties to Long Island, New York.

On February 20, 2019, VA mailed a letter to notify the Shinnecock Indian Nation of the publication of the Draft SEA and the opportunity to review and provide comments within a 30-day period (a copy of the letter is provided in Appendix A). Comments were not received from the Shinnecock Indian Nation.

5.3 Public Review of Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment

VA made the Draft SEA available for a 30-day review and comment period. A NOA announcing the release of the Draft SEA and the start of the 30-day review period was published in *Newsday* on February 24 and 26, 2019, and in *Suffolk County News* on February 28, 2019. A copy of the NOA for the Draft SEA and affidavits of publication are provided in Appendix C. As stated in the NOA, the Draft SEA was available in print at the at the CNC Public Information Center; the Riverhead Free Library at 330 Court Street, Riverhead, New York, 11901; and in digital format from the VA website at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. The NOA instructed the public to submit comments or request additional information from Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to glenn.elliott@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5879. No comments from the public were received during the Draft SEA 30-day review period.

5.4 Final SEA

Based on comments received from regulatory agencies on the Draft SEA, VA has completed this Final SEA without requiring substantive changes relative to the Draft SEA. As previously concluded in the Draft SEA and reiterated in this Final SEA, the Proposed Action would not cause significant adverse impacts on the environmental resources presented herein.

Additional information about the Final SEA may be requested by writing to: Mr. Fernando Fernandez, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email at fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529.

An administrative record of the Draft and Final SEA and supporting documents is maintained at VA OCFM in Washington, D.C.

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6 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND MONITORING

This chapter summarizes the avoidance, minimization, and management measures (identified in Chapter 3) that have been incorporated into the Proposed Action to ensure that any adverse impacts remain at or below minor, less-than-significant adverse levels. "Management measures" are defined as routine BMPs and/or regulatory environmental compliance and protection measures that are regularly implemented as part of VA projects. Per established protocols, procedures, and requirements, VA (and VA's design and construction contractors) would implement these management measures and satisfy all applicable regulatory requirements associated with the design, construction, and operation of the Proposed Action. These management measures are summarized in Table 13. Additionally, environmental permits and approvals potentially required for construction and operation of the Proposed Action are provided in the list following this table.

Table 13. Environmental Protection Measures and Monitoring Incorporated in the Proposed Action

AESTHETICS
Construction
▪ Control fugitive dust emissions through routine construction BMPs. Available methods include application of water, dust palliative, or soil stabilizers; use of enclosures, covers, silt fences, or wheel washers; and suspension of earth-moving activities during high wind conditions. Further measures to prevent dust emissions include covering haul trucks and installing gravel-covered pads to remove dirt from the tires of vehicles leaving the Proposed Action construction site.
▪ If warranted, erect temporary privacy fencing around the construction area that are visible to visitors from existing cemetery areas.
Operation
▪ Perform routine and scheduled professional landscape maintenance to ensure the upkeep of the park-like appearance of the grounds and associated physical infrastructure (e.g. roads, interment areas).
AIR QUALITY
Construction
▪ Control fugitive dust emissions as described for Aesthetics.
▪ Stabilize exposed soil with vegetation or mulching to minimize erosion and subsequent dust generation.
▪ Limit construction vehicle speeds within the Calverton National Cemetery at or below posted limits. This will minimize dust generated by vehicles and equipment on paved surfaces. On unpaved surfaces at the site, vehicle speeds will be maintained at or below 5 miles per hour to prevent the generation of dust from exposed soil.
▪ Stabilize previously disturbed areas through revegetation or mulching if the area would be inactive for several weeks or longer.
▪ Visually monitor all construction activities on a daily basis, and particularly during extended periods of dry weather; implement additional dust control measures as needed.
CULTURAL RESOURCES
Construction and Operation
▪ In the unlikely event that human remains or cultural resources are encountered during construction, an "Inadvertent Discovery" plan should be immediately implemented. If prehistoric or historic artifacts that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery and the New York State Historic Preservation Office would be contacted immediately in accordance with Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act.

GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, AND SOILS
Construction
▪ Prior to conducting any work, develop a soil erosion and sediment control (SESC) plan for approval by VA. Install and maintain sedimentation and erosion control measures, including the use of silt fencing, synthetic hay bales, specified loading and unloading areas, covering exposed soils during anticipated storm events, and revegetating soils with temporary and/or permanent native, non-invasive vegetation as soon as construction conditions allow.
▪ Follow NCA Design Guidelines and grade all burial areas with a slope of less than 15%. Ensure all grades allow surface run-off to flow away from roadways and burial areas.
▪ Maintain construction equipment in good working order. Ensure the construction contractor has an emergency spill kit and is prepared to respond to a release of petroleum-based fluids (diesel, hydraulic fluid) to soil.
▪ Refuel construction equipment in designated impervious areas away from impervious soil surfaces.
▪ Reuse excess soils as a source of on-site fill to the maximum extent technically feasible. Excess soils that cannot be used on-site would be transported off-site for reutilization.
Operation
▪ Conduct routine landscaping to ensure soil remains vegetated and stabilized to prevent erosion.
▪ Temporarily stockpile excavated soil for individual burial sites at the maintenance area (or other designed on-site storage area). Seed or sod new burial sites to prevent erosion of soil.
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY
Construction
▪ Implement the BMPs listed above for Geology, Soils, and Topography to minimize sedimentation of run-off.
▪ Develop a site design that maintains or restores pre-development hydrology during post-development conditions to the maximum extent technically feasible according to EISA Section 438.
▪ Landscape using native, non-invasive, drought-resistant vegetation to reduce irrigation volumes.
▪ Implement spill and leak prevention and response procedures, including maintaining a complete spill kit at the project area, to reduce the impact of incidental releases of petroleum-based fluids from construction and operational equipment on groundwater quality.
▪ Refuel machinery in designated maintenance areas, on impervious services, to reduce the possibility for accidental spills or discharges to reach underlying groundwater resources.
Operation
▪ During operations, pesticide/herbicide applications (as part of routine maintenance activities) would be conducted to the minimum extent necessary and in accordance with manufacturer specifications, to avoid impacts to underlying groundwater resources.
WILDLIFE AND HABITAT
Construction
▪ Conduct tree clearing during the winter months (between November 1 and March 31) to avoid any potential take of northern long-eared bats. Similarly, the demolition of structures at the 25A Yard must also occur between November 1 and March 31 to avoid potential impacts to northern long-eared bats using these structures as day roosts.

NOISE
Construction
▪ Coordinate with CNC Administrator prior to mobilizing construction machinery through the existing cemetery to avoid and minimize noise-related disturbances to ongoing memorial services.
▪ Inform CNC Administration at least 24-hours in advance of conducting any unusually loud activities in order to schedule such activities during a time that would avoid disrupting a memorial service.
▪ Perform construction during daylight, weekday hours, unless there is a specific activity that requires completion outside of this normal construction schedule.
▪ Schedule construction activities to minimize impacts to memorial services to the extent possible, unless there is a specific activity that would directly impact the current operation of the cemetery, in which case the activity would be scheduled outside of the normal construction schedule.
▪ Comply with OSHA requirements to protect hearing of workers around loud construction equipment.
▪ Shut down heavy equipment and other noise emitters when they are not in use.
▪ Equip construction equipment with appropriate sound-muffling devices (i.e. from the original equipment manufacturer or better) and limiting engine idling to less than 5 minutes.
▪ Design, construct, and maintain the sound dampening wall to reduce noise impacts from SR 25 to Veterans Circle.
SOLID AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
Construction
▪ A regulated building materials survey will be performed on the Yard 25A buildings prior to their disturbance or demolition. Based on the survey findings, the buildings will be demolished, transported, and disposed of according to applicable federal and state regulations.
▪ Recycle excess construction materials and soils to the maximum extent practicable.
▪ Compost cleared vegetation on- or off-site.
▪ Manage solid wastes and hazardous materials according to VA's solid and hazardous materials SOPs and management measures specified in NCA Master Construction Specifications, and applicable federal and state laws.
Operation
▪ Manage excess soils in the existing fenced yard located along Calverton Way.
TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING
Construction
▪ Coordinate with CNC Administrator to identify the preferred entrance and exit points relative to daily mobilization of construction equipment and workers, and prior to mobilizing construction machinery through the existing cemetery to avoid interfering with cortege travel.
▪ If warranted, utilize flaggers to notify oncoming traffic of slower construction vehicles entering or exiting the cemetery from SR 25.
UTILITIES
Construction
▪ In advance of disconnecting electrical service at the 25A Yard, communicate with the utility provider to ensure no or minimal disruptions occur within CNC or to outside customers.
▪ Coordinate with Suffolk County Department of Health regarding the increase in groundwater extraction for irrigation supply water.

List of Potentially Applicable Permits and Approvals

1. The NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-15-002) is required prior to any construction activities that will disturb more than one acre of soil. Additionally, NYSDEC authorization is required prior to disturbing more than 5 acres of soil at any one time. Coverage under the General Permit is obtained by submitting a Notice of Intent form that contains a certification that sediment and erosion control plans and an accompanying Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) have been prepared in accordance with the General Permit requirements and with NYSDEC's New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control. The SWPPP stormwater management control systems must also meet NYSDEC post-construction requirements. The construction contractor can prepare and apply for this permit. Alternatively, if the construction contractor can demonstrate that no run-off would reach a surface water body beyond CNC's property boundary, the project can be considered exempt from having to obtain the General Permit.
2. As part of the design process, demonstrate compliance to the maximum technically feasible with the USEPA's Technical Guidance on Implementing the Stormwater Run-off Requirements for Federal Projects under Section 438 of the Energy Independence Security Act (EISA) (USEPA, 2009). EISA Section 438 specifically calls for federal developments that exceed 5,000-square feet to maintain or restore pre-development hydrology during post-development conditions to the maximum extent technically feasible using a variety of "green infrastructure" and "low impact development" (LID) practices.

7 LIST OF PREPARERS

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction and Facilities Management Office

Mr. Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer

Mr. David Martino
Environmental Officer

Mr. Fernando L. Fernández, REM
Environmental Engineer

Contractor Staff

Mabbett & Associates, Inc.

Name	Role	Years of Experience
A. Glucksman, MS	Project Manager, Document Review	13
H. Bisbee, MS	Document Preparation	13
H. Parzen, MS	Document Preparation and Review	2
R. Brodeur, MA, RPA	Subject Matter Expert	15
W. Bowman, PhD	Subject Matter Expert	15

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Aesthetic resources: The components of the environment as perceived through the visual sense only. Aesthetic specifically refers to beauty in both form and appearance.

Affected environment: A portion of the NEPA document that succinctly describes the environment of the area(s) to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration. Includes the environmental and regulatory setting of the proposed action.

Alternative: A reasonable way to fix the identified problem or satisfy the stated need.

Attainment area: An area that the Environmental Protection Agency has designated as being in compliance with one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants but not for others.

Conformity analysis: The Clean Air Act requires the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate rules to ensure that federal actions conform to the appropriate state implementation plans (SIP) for air quality. Two sets of rules (one for transportation and one for all other actions) developed by USEPA establish the criteria and procedures governing the determination of this conformity. A conformity analysis follows these criteria and procedures to quantitatively assess whether a proposed federal action confirms with the SIP.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): Established by Congress within the Executive Office of the President as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, CEQ coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives. The Council's Chair, who is appointed by the President with the advice and c consent of the Senate, serves as the principal environmental policy adviser to the President. The CEQ reports annually to the President on the state of the environment, oversees federal agency implementation of the environmental impact assessment process, and acts as a referee when agencies disagree over the adequacy of such assessments.

Criteria pollutant: An air pollutant that is regulated by National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Criteria pollutants include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and two size classes of particulate matter, PM10 and PM2.5 New pollutants may be added to, or removed from, the list of criteria pollutants as more information becomes available.

Cumulative effect (cumulative impact): The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Decibel (dB): A unit for expressing the relative intensity of sounds on a logarithmic scale from zero for the average least perceptible sound to about 130 for the average level at which sound causes pain to humans. For traffic and industrial noise measurements, the A-weighted decibel (dBA), a frequency-weighted noise unit, is widely used. The A-weighted decibel scale corresponds approximately to the frequency response of

the human ear and thus correlates well with the loudness perceived by people.

Effects: Effects and impacts, as used in NEPA, are synonymous. Effects include ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effect would be beneficial. There are direct effects and indirect effects. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Endangered species: Plants or animals that are in danger of extinction through all or a significant portion of their ranges and that have been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service following the procedures outlined in the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations.

Environmental assessment (EA): A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible that serves to briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact; aid an agency's compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary; or facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary. Includes brief discussions of the need for the proposal, of alternatives, of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons consulted.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A detailed written statement required by Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA, analyzing the environmental impacts of a proposed action, adverse effects of the project that cannot be avoided, alternative courses of action, short-term uses of the environment versus the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.

Environmental Justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): A public document issued by a federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why an action for which the agency has prepared an environmental assessment has no potential to have a significant effect on the human environment and, thus, would not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Floodplain: The lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including flood-prone areas of offshore islands, including at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Fugitive emissions: Emissions that do not pass through a stack, vent, chimney, or similar opening where they could be captured by a control device. Any air pollutant emitted to the atmosphere other than from a stack. Sources of fugitive emissions include pumps; valves; flanges; seals; area sources such as ponds, lagoons, landfills, and piles of stored material (such as coal); and road construction areas or other areas

where earthwork is occurring.

Hazardous material: Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Hazardous materials are typically toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.

Historic property: Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

Impacts: see Effects.

Impervious surface: A hard surface area that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil or causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots, storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, and gravel roads.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): Standards defining the highest allowable levels of certain pollutants in the ambient air (i.e., the outdoor air to which the public has access). Primary standards are established to protect public health; secondary standards are established to protect public welfare (for example, visibility, crops, animals, buildings).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): A provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, a state, or, where delegated, a tribal government on an Indian reservation.

National Register of Historic Places: The nation's inventory of known historic properties that have been formally listed by the National Park Service (NPS). The National Register of Historic Places is administered by the NPS on the behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. National Register listings include districts, landscapes, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that meet the set of criteria found in 36 CFR 60.4.

No action alternative: The alternative where current conditions and trends are projected into the future without another proposed action.

Particulate matter (PM), PM10, PM2.5: Any finely divided solid or liquid material, other than uncombined (that is, pure) water. A subscript denotes the upper limit of the diameter of particles included. Thus, PM10 includes only those particles equal to or less than 10 micrometers (0.0004 inch) in diameter; PM2.5 includes only those particles equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inch) in diameter.

Proposed Action: In a NEPA document, this is the primary action being considered. Its impacts are analyzed together with the impacts from alternative ways to achieve the same objective and the required no action alternative, which means continuing with the status quo.

Run-off: The portion of rainfall, melted snow, or irrigation water that flows across ground surface and is eventually returned to streams. Run-off can pick up pollutants from the air or the land and carry them to streams, lakes, and oceans.

Scope: Consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an environmental analysis. The scope of an individual statement may depend on its relationships to other statements (also see tiering).

Scoping: An early and open process for determining the extent and variety of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action (40 CFR §1501.7). The scoping process

helps not only to identify significant environmental issues deserving of study, but also to deemphasize insignificant issues, narrowing the scope of the NEPA process accordingly, and for early identification of what are and what are not the real issues (40CFR §1500.5(d)). The scoping process identifies relevant issues related to a proposed action through the involvement of all potentially interested or affected parties (affected federal, state, and local agencies; recognized Indian tribes; interest groups, and other interested persons) in the environmental analysis and documentation.

Significantly: As used in NEPA, requires considerations of both context and intensity.

> Context— significance of an action must be analyzed in its current and proposed short- and long-term effects on the whole of a given resource (for example, affected region).
>
> Intensity—refers to the severity of the effect.

Solid waste: Non-liquid, non-soluble materials ranging from municipal garbage to industrial wastes that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. Solid wastes also include sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, demolition wastes, and mining residues. Technically, solid waste also refers to liquids and gases in containers.

Wetlands: Those areas that are inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do, or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Jurisdictional wetlands are those wetlands protected by the Clean Water Act. They must have a minimum of one positive wetland indicator from each parameter (vegetation, soil, and hydrology). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires a permit to fill or dredge jurisdictional wetlands.

APPENDICES

Appendix A Regulatory Communications

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Environmental Permits, Region 1
SUNY @ Stony Brook, 50 Circle Road, Stony Brook, NY 11790
P: (631) 444-0365 I F: (631) 444-0360
www.dec.ny.gov

March 26, 2019

Mr. Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Construction & Facilities Management Office
425 I Street, NW Room 6W417a
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Comments
Calverton National Cemetery Expansion
Calverton, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Elliott:

This letter offers comments in response to your letter to Carrie Meek Gallagher, Regional Director of DEC Region 1 dated February 20, 2019 and supporting documentation for the above action received by the DEC Environmental Permits office on February 28, 2019.

We agree the cemetery does not contain suitable habitat for short-eared owls since it consists mainly of mowed turfgrass. Documented tiger salamander habitat is far enough away to be impacted by the cemetery expansion.

Our only area of concern is the wooded area to be removed. Since there may be roost trees of the northern long-eared bat within the cemetery, we have determined that tree clearing may result in the "take" of this threatened species or its habitat within the meaning of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) 11-535. The term "take" is defined in part as the direct killing or injury of individual members of a protected species, interference with critical breeding, foraging, migratory or other essential behaviors, or the adverse modification of the species' habitat. Tree clearing should occur between November 1st and March 31st, inclusive, of any calendar year or an Incidental Take Permit may be required.

Thank you for allowing DEC the opportunity to review the above action.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Penski
Environmental Analyst

cc: File

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

Steven Bellone
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Theresa Ward
Deputy County Executive and Commissioner

Department of
Economic Development and Planning

March 25, 2019

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Construction and Facilities Management Office
425 I Street, NW, Room 6W417a
Washington, DC 20001
Attn: Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M

Re: Draft Site Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA)
2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvement
Plan at **Calverton National Cemetery**
S.C.T.M. No.: 0600 13500 0100 001000
S.C.P.C. No.: LS-G-2420

Dear Mr. Elliott:

Your notification for review and comment on the Draft SEA for the above referenced was received by our agency on February 25, 2019.

Please be advised that our agency, the Suffolk County Planning Commission, has no objection with respect to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs conducting an SEA.

The Suffolk County Planning Commission reserves the right to comment on this proposed action in the future and wants to be kept informed of all actions taken pursuant to NEPA and to be provided with copies of all comments received during the Draft SEA 30 day review period and copies of the final SEA, DEIS's and FEIS's etcetera.
Please note the following comments.

Comments:

- There is no reference in the SEA to the NYS Long Island Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve Act (ECL Article 57), which delineated a terrestrial and marine planning area for Eastern Long Island and established an accompanying planning council.

- The subject site is located with the Compatible Growth Area of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The CGA has various clearing and other standards that should be addressed. The project sponsor should reach out to the NYS Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission to address the proposed action and enter correspondence into the public record.

- On page 29 and 52 Suffolk County Water Authority is listed as public potable water supplier and wastewater services. This should be re-examined. The Town of Riverhead is generally supplied by the Riverhead water district and the Suffolk County Department of Public Works is generally responsible for wastewater issues.

Thank you for your request to review the Draft SEA. Please do not hesitate to contact this office in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Freleng, Chief Planner
Division of Planning & Environment

APF/cd

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

April 8, 2019

Carrie Meek Gallagher, Chairwoman
Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission
624 Old Riverhead Rd, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Dear Chairwoman Gallagher,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. The current boundaries of CNC would not be expanded, and no new land would be acquired. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

VA prepared the Draft SEA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) "Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA" (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

VA released the Draft SEA for a 30-day review and comment period from February 26, 2019, through March 26, 2019. A comment received on March 25, 2019, from the Suffolk County Division of Planning & Environment recommended contacting your office regarding the Proposed Action, because CNC is located within the Compatible Growth Area (CGA) of the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CPBCLUP). Figure 3 depicts the location of CNC within the CGA.

Based on the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act, contained in Article 57 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL 57-0119), the following two categories describe the Proposed Action activities:

- *(i) public improvements undertaken for the health, safety or welfare of the public. Such public improvements shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of this article, and shall include, but not be limited to, maintenance of an existing road or railroad track*; and

- *(xiv) in the compatible growth area, renovations, reconstructions, additions or extensions to existing commercial or industrial uses providing the addition or extension conforms to the uses permitted in the zoning district in which said parcel is located and which does not increase existing square footage by more than twenty-five percent.*

As noted above, the Proposed Action is a public improvement that would extend the longevity of CNC for the benefit of Veterans and their families for at least the next 10 years, consistent with VA's 1977 Master Plan for CNC. Additionally, the Proposed Action does not increase the square footage of CNC nor involve the purchase of land outside CNC. VA also wishes to emphasize that the Proposed Action incorporates environmentally sensitive construction and operational design features to avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to the CGA.

Thus, VA concludes that the Proposed Action is consistent with the intent of the CPBCLUP and would not constitute development subject to further review under the LILPBP. VA respectfully requests the Commission's review and concurrence with this determination. Please note that all correspondence will be included in VA's Final EA, which is currently in preparation.

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me: Mr. Fernando L. Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email at Fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529.

Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Fernando L. Fernández, REM
Environmental Engineer
Construction & Facilities Management Office (CFM)

Enclosure: Figures 1 through 3

cc: Mr. Glenn Elliott (VA CFM)
Mr. David Martino (VA CFM)

Figure 1. Calverton National Cemetery Location Map

Figure 2. Location of Proposed Action Primary Elements

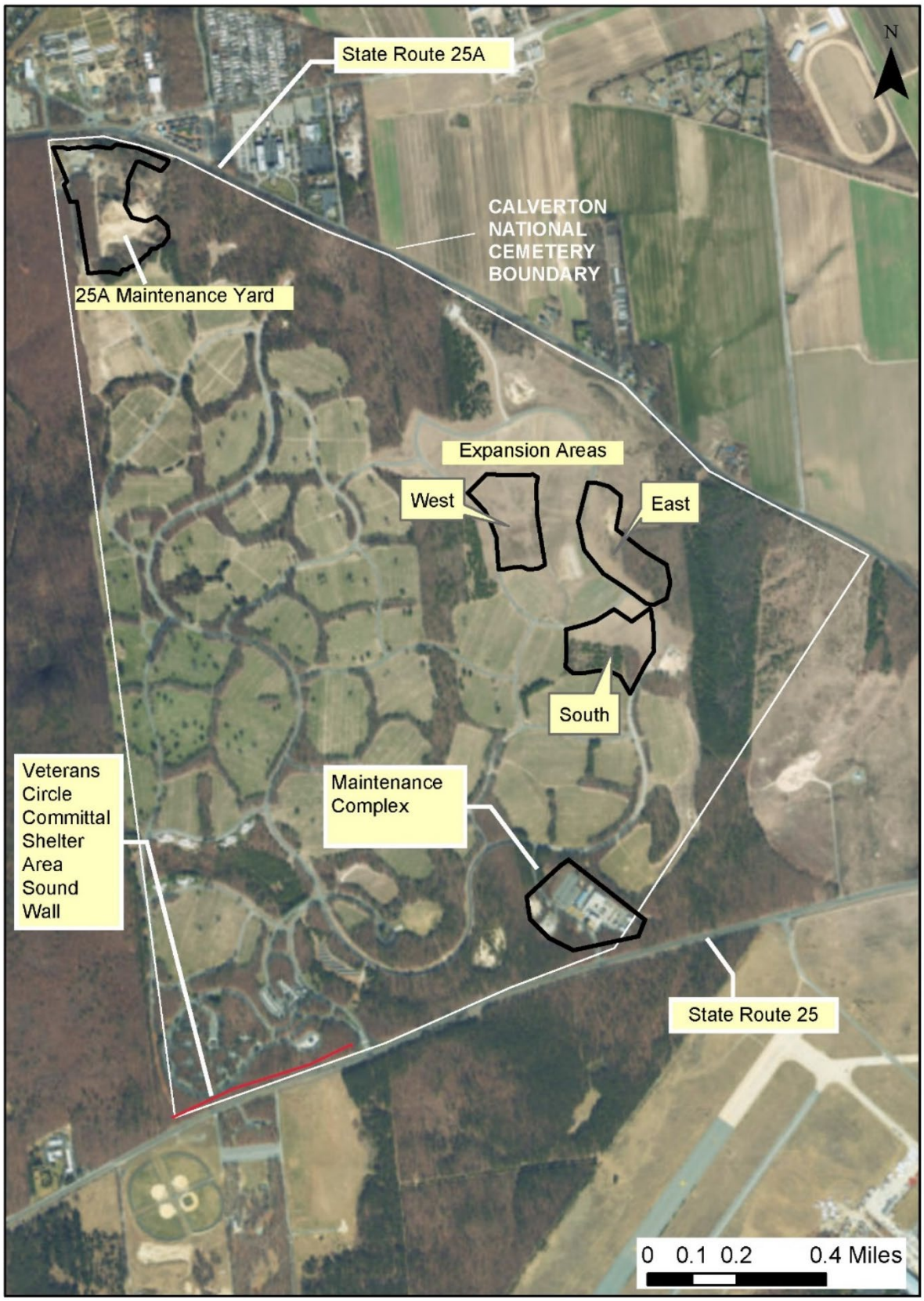
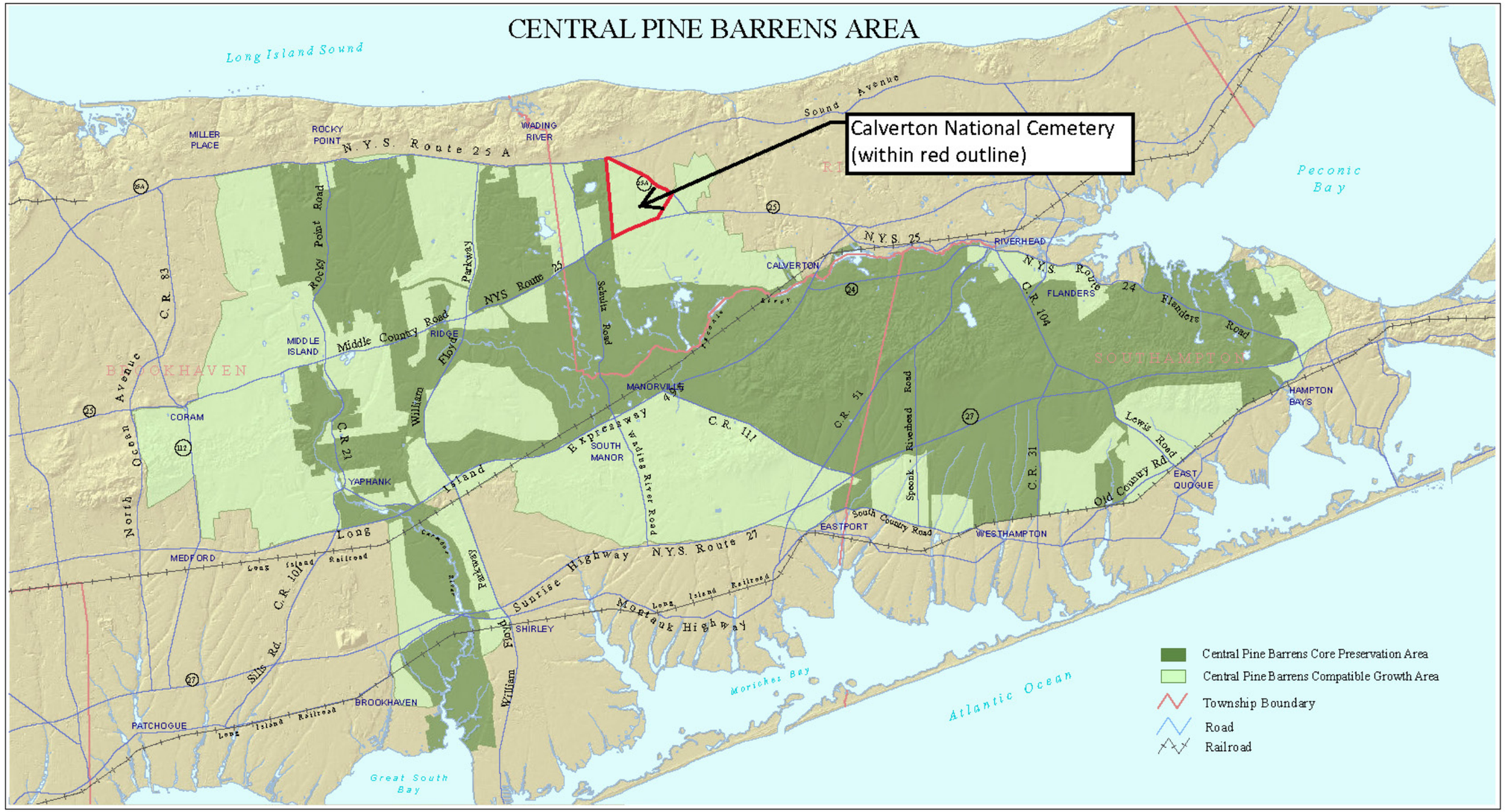


Figure 3. Location of Calverton National Cemetery within the Central Pine Barrens Area



CENTRAL PINE BARRENS
JOINT PLANNING AND POLICY COMMISSION

Carrie Meek Gallagher, Chairwoman
Steven Bellone, Member
Edward P. Romaine, Member
Jay H. Schneiderman, Member
Sean M. Walter, Member

Note: This map is intended for general reference only and is not to be used for surveying, legal interpretation of jurisdictional boundaries, or other precise purposes. Information shown on this map may contain defects, errors, and/or omissions. Refer to NYS ECL Articles 57-0107 (10), (11), and (12) for the official description of the Central Pine Barrens boundaries. Prepared by Commission Staff (ac), January 25, 2014.

N W E S

2 1 0 2 4 Miles

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Mr. Peter D. Lopez, Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency Region II, NEPA Review
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Lopez,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

VA prepared the Draft SEA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) "Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA" (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

VA invites your organization to review the Draft SEA and provide comments within 30 days of receiving this letter. VA has also made the Draft SEA available to the public for a 30-day review period that began with the publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Suffolk County News* and *Newsday*. Comments received during the Draft SEA 30-day review period will be documented and addressed in the Final SEA.

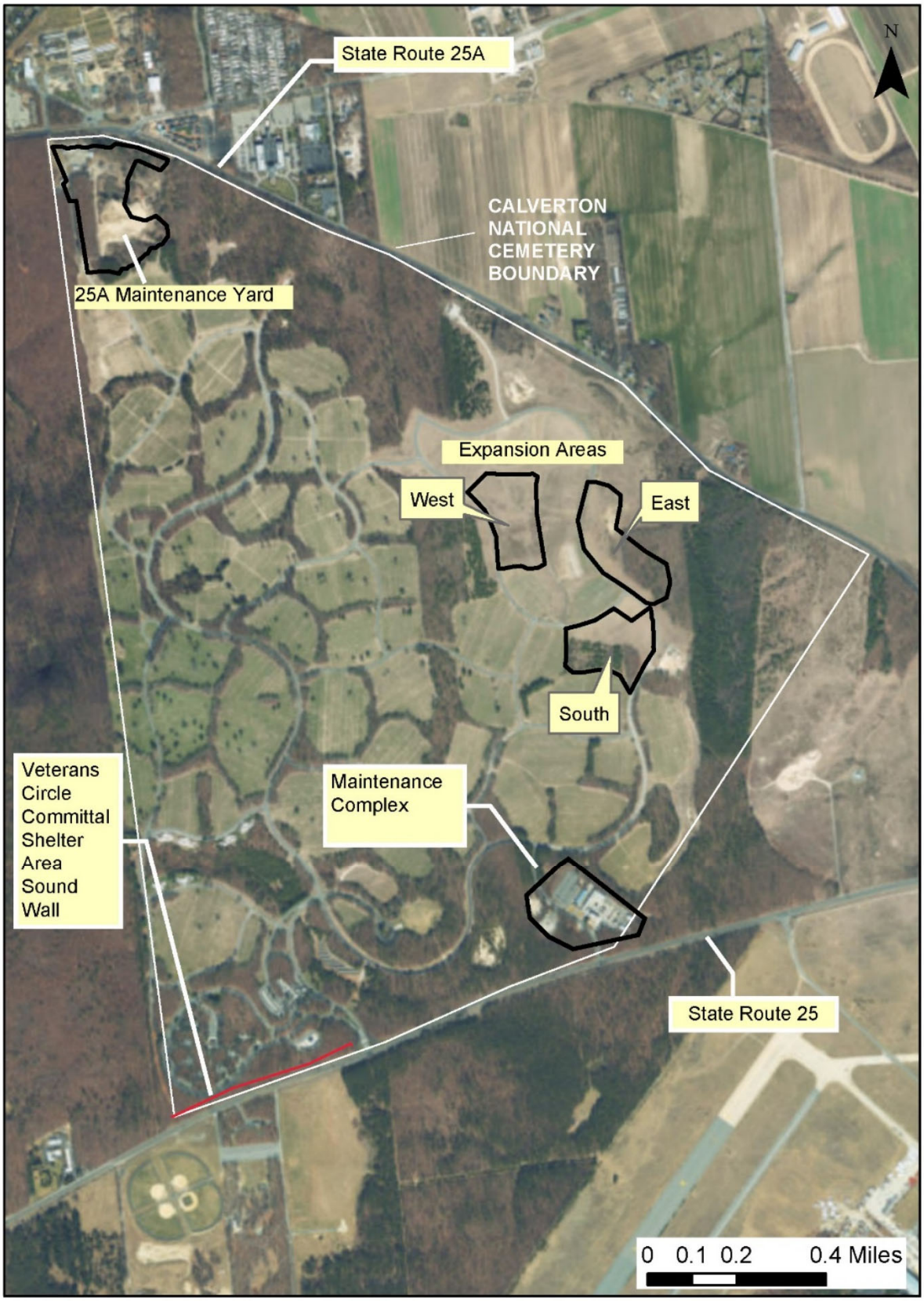
The Draft SEA is available for review in print at the Riverhead Free Library, 330 Court St, Riverhead, NY 11901, for electronic download from VA's website at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. Please address all comments to: Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to glenn.elliott@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5879. Please reference "Calverton National Cemetery" in all correspondence.

Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

Figure 1. Calverton National Cemetery Location Map

Figure 2. Location of Proposed Action Primary Elements



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Director
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Long Island Field Office
340 Smith Road
Shirley, NY 11967

Dear Director,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

VA prepared the Draft SEA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) "Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA" (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and the VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

United Stated Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
Regulatory Branch, NEPA Review
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Director,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Director
United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
New York Southeast Area, NEPA Review
44 West Street, Suite 1
Walton, NY 13856

Dear Director,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Mr. Daniel Mackay, Deputy Commissioner
New York State Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island Resource Center, One Delaware Ave North
Cohoes, NY 12047

Dear Commissioner Mackay,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Ms. Carrie Meek Gallagher, Regional Director
New York State Department of Enviornmental Conservation Region I
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Dear Ms. Gallagher,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Director, New York State Coastal Management Program
Office of Planning and Development, New York State Department of State
Suite 1010, One Commerce Place, 99 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231

Dear Director,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

DJ Evans, Director
New York State Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, 5th Floor
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Director Evans,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Mr. James L. Tomarken, Commissioner
Suffolk County Department of Health Services
3500 Sunrise Highway, Suite 124
Great River, NY 11739

Dear Commissioner Tomarken,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Mr. Darnell Tyson, Acting Commissioner
Suffolk County Department of Public Works
335 Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

Dear Commissioner Tyson,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Ms. Sarah Lansdale, Director
Suffolk County Division of Planning and Environment
H. Lee Dennison Building, 11th Floor, 100 Veterans Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear Director Lansdale,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Ms. Laura Jens-Smith
Riverhead Town Supervisor
210 Howell Ave
Riverhead, NY 11901

Dear Ms. Jens-Smith,

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Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
WASHINGTON DC 20001

February 20, 2019

Mr. Charles K. Smith II, Chairman
Shinnecock Indian Nation Tribal Office
PO Box 5006
Southhampton, NY 11969

Dear Chairman Smith,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan ("2018 Expansion") at Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York. In general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, the Proposed Action would create seven new burial areas within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment sites, including 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains. The Proposed Action includes the installation of a modular sound dampening wall between committal shelters at Veterans Circle and State Route 25 to maintain the solemnity of memorial services. Additionally, the Proposed Action would also allow for improvements to existing roadways, buildings, maintenance areas, as well as decommissioning of the 25A Storage Yard for potential future use as a burial area. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area. A site plan is presented in Figure 1 and locations of the Proposed Action primary elements are depicted in Figure 2.

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Sincerely,
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Glenn Elliott, Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction & Facilities Management Office

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Article Addressed to:
ffolk county Division
Planning + Environment
rah Lansdale, Director
Lee Dennison Building
n Floor, 100 veterans
emorial Highway, Hauppauge NY 11788

9590 9402 4767 8344 2055 43

Article Number (Transfer from service label)
19 6140 0000 3370 0124

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A. Signature
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☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)
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FEB 25 2019

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☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
☐ Collect on Delivery
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
☐ Insured Mail
☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over $500)
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1. Article Addressed to:
NY State Division for Historic Preservation
Daniel Mackay, Deputy Commissioner
Peebles Island Resource Center
1 Delaware Ave N cohoes NY 12047

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 44

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)
7[redacted]

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A. Signature
X Sam Gaw
☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)
C. Date of Delivery
2/25/19

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USPS WATERFORD NY 12188 FEB 25 2019

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☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
☐ Collect on Delivery
☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
☐ Insured Mail
☐ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over $500)
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☐ Registered Mail™
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
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Article Addressed to:
YS Department of
vironmental Conservation
gion 1
ric Meek Gallagher,
gional Director
Circle Road Stony Brook, NY 11790

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 68

Article Number (Transfer from service label)
19 0140 0000 3370 0070

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☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

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C. Date of Delivery
2.23.19

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☐ Collect on Delivery
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☐ Registered Mail™
☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
☐ Signature Confirmation™
☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

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1. Article Addressed to:
Riverhead Town Supervisor
Laura Jens-Smith
210 Howell Ave
Riverhead NY 11901

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 51

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)
7019 0140 0000 3370 0131

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X
☑ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)
C. Date of Delivery
2/25/19

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☑ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

RIVERHEAD NY 11901 FEB 25 2019 USPS

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☑ Certified Mail®
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Article Addressed to:
S Department of Agriculture
RCS NY Southeast Area
West Street, Suite 1
Salton, NY 13856

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 37

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019 0140 0000 3370 0056

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A. Signature
X Judith Spencer
☒ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) JUDITH SPENCER
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1. Article Addressed to:
NYS Natural Heritage Program
DJ Evans, Director
625 Broadway, 5th floor
Albany, NY 12233

9590 9402 4767 8344 2055 12

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)
7019 0140 0000 3370 0094

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FEB 26 2019
MAILROOM
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☐ Addressee

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Article Addressed to:
uffolk County Department
Health Services
ames L. Tomarken,
ommissioner
500 Sunrise Highway Suite 124
Great River NY 11739

9590 9402 4767 8344 2055 29

Article Number (Transfer from service label)
019 0140 0000 3370 0100

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X Phillip Cleveland
☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) Phillip Cleveland
C. Date of Delivery 2/25/19

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1. Article Addressed to:
Suffolk County
Department of Public Works
Darnell Tyson, Acting Commissioner
335 Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank, NY 11980

9590 9402 4767 8344 2055 36

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)
7019 0140 0000 3370 0117

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X M. McElleney
☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) M. McElleney
C. Date of Delivery 2/26/19

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

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Article Addressed to:
nited states EPA
egion II
ter D. Lopez, Regional
dministrator
90 Broadway New York, NY
10007

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 82

Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
019 0140 0000 3370 0032

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A. Signature
X Mrs Maloney ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* C. Date of Delivery
C. Maloney 2-27-19

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If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

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1. Article Addressed to:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service Long Island Field
Office, Director
340 Smith Road
Shirley, NY 11967

9590 9402 4767 8344 2055 05

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7019 0140 0000 3370 0025

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A. Signature
X T Lanhan ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* C. Date of Delivery
T. Lanhan 2/23/19

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

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Article Addressed to:
ffice of Planning + Development
S Department of State
S Coastal management
ogram Director, Suite 1010
Commerce Place, 99
ashington Ave, Albany NY 1223

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 75

Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
019 0140 0600 3370 0087

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A. Signature
X ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

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1. Article Addressed to:
Shinnecock Indian Nation
Tribal Office
Charles K. Smith II
PO Box 5006
Southhampton NY 11969

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 99

2. Article Number *(Transfer from service label)*
7019 0140 0000 3370 0148

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* C. Date of Delivery
Kyle Cause

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

5006

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1. Article Addressed to:

US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
Regulatory Branch
26 Federal plaza
New York, NY 10278

9590 9402 4767 8344 2054 20

2. Article Number

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

☐ Agent
☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)*

C. Date of Delivery

3/5/15

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
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Domestic Return Receipt

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY.
Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

October 19, 2018

Mrs. Rebecca Brodeur
Archaeologist
Stony Creek Archaeology, Inc.
1432 State Route 295
East Chatham, NY 12060

Re: VA
Gravesite Developments and Cemetery Improvements, Calverton National Cemetery
210 Princeton Blvd, Calverton , NY
18PR06719

Dear Mrs. Brodeur:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Based upon this review, the New York SHPO has determined that no historic properties will be affected by this undertaking.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Lynch, P.E., AIA

Director, Division for Historic Preservation

Calverton National Cemetery

Environmental Assessment/Section 106 Compliance

Project Description

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for a proposed major project at the Calverton National Cemetery, Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York. Under the Proposed Action, the Gravesite Developments and Cemetery Improvements will be performed in accordance with the 1977 Master Plan prepared previously for the entire property, and will develop approximately 77 acres for interment areas, improvements to existing roadways, buildings, and other areas generally within the project limits. This phase will provide approximately 26,592 interment areas to include: 24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains (Figure 1; Table 1). This project will provide an additional 10 years of continued burial services to the Veteran population the New York City metropolitan area.

Background

Calverton National Cemetery was created from lands transferred from the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant. The 902-acre tract of land was officially transferred to the Veterans Administration on December 7, 1977. Beginning in approximately 2009 Calverton carried out a five-year expansion over 90-acres of the facility grounds (Figure 2). This expansion added 34,000 crypts. The project also included upgrading existing buildings, roads and infrastructure (US VA 2018).

Documented Resources

A review of OPRHP site files determined that no archaeological sites are known to exist within the Calverton National Cemetery property. Because facility construction began in the late 1970s the oldest standing structures in the facility are approximately 40-42 years old. The 1977 Master Plan, included in Appendix A, provides plans and renderings for these buildings.

Table 1
Details of Proposed Expansion and/or Improvements Project Activity and Existing Conditions

Location	Proposed	Existing Conditions	Figure
New Interment Areas			
49	3,922 Double Depth Early Turnover Pre-placed crypts	(Disturbed) Included in recent expansion area	2
50	5,000 Double Depth Pre-placed crypts	(Disturbed) Included in recent expansion area	2
54	3,555 Double Depth pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts	(Disturbed) Included in recent expansion area	2
56	3,465 Double Depth pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts	Partially Disturbed with Woodland (0.9 acres tree clearing planned)	2
57	2,000 In-ground cremation sites	Partially Disturbed with Woodland (2.7 acres tree clearing planned)	2
62	4,300 Double Depth pre-placed crypts	Partially Disturbed with Woodland (1.75 acres tree clearing planned)	2
63	4,000 Double Depth pre-placed crypts	Partially Disturbed with Woodland (2.0 acres tree clearing planned)	2
NE Area			
E	New Directory Signage	(Disturbed) Included in recent expansion area	1
SE Area			
M	Maintenance Complex upgrades & new storage buildings; replace HVAC systems; construct 3 new storage sheds; construct pre-engineered structure; construct wash bay; Expand and fence-in yard	Within existing facility area with 0.01 acre of new tree clearing for storage shed construction	3
SW Area			
E	New Directory Signage	Within existing facility area	3
F	New Top Soil storage bin	Within existing facility area	3
G	Committal Shelters A thru G repairs	Within existing facility area	4
H	600SF Honor Guard Building upgrades	Within existing facility area	3
I	Admin Building repairs/renovations	Within existing facility area	3
J	Expand existing cesspit(s) to provide additional capacity	Within existing facility area	3
K	Repairs at public assembly area	Within existing facility area	3
G	New Sound Wall Installation	Limited roadside tree clearing totaling 0.35 acres	4
NW Area			
B	Existing Storage Yard with Access to Route 25A to be decommissioned, demolished and removed	Portions disturbed with +/- 4 acres of new disturbance planned.	5

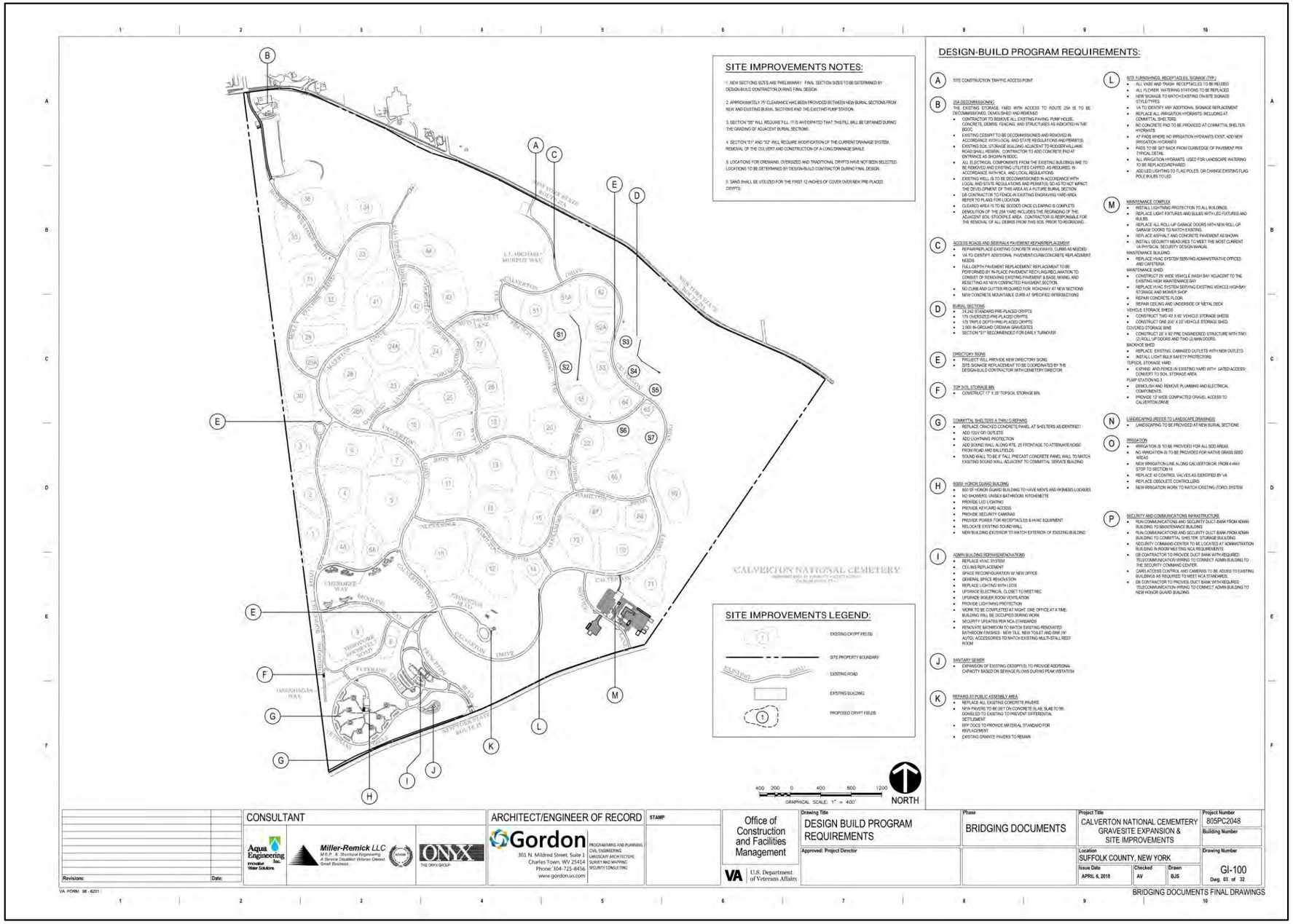
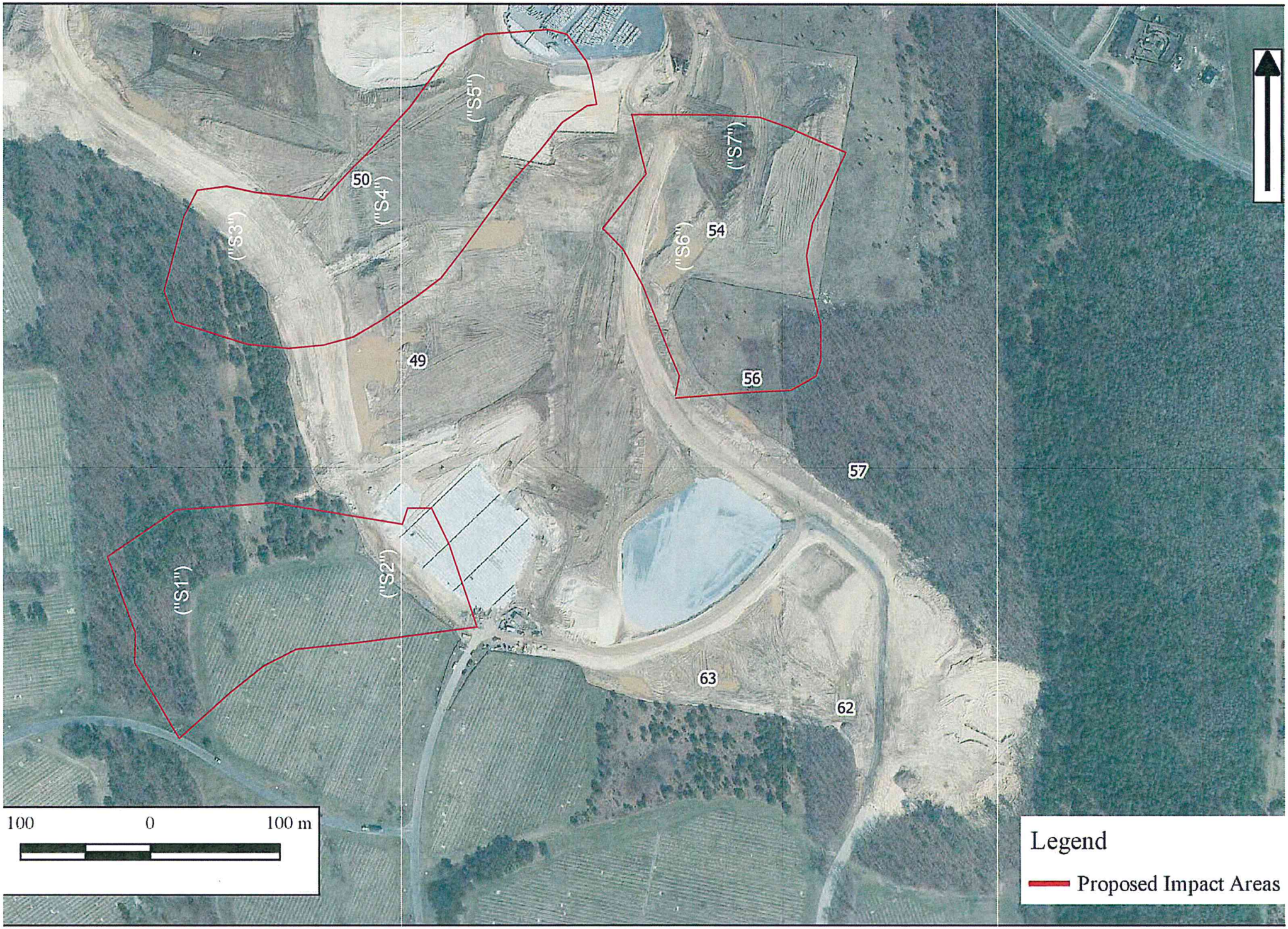


Figure 1: Calverton National Cemetery Site Plan with 2010 Aerial Overlay (NY GIS Data Gateway).



ıre 2: 2010 Areial Map Showing Recent Cemetery Expansion, Proposed New Internment Areas (49, 50, 54, 56, 57, 62, and 63) (NY GIS Data Gateway 2010).

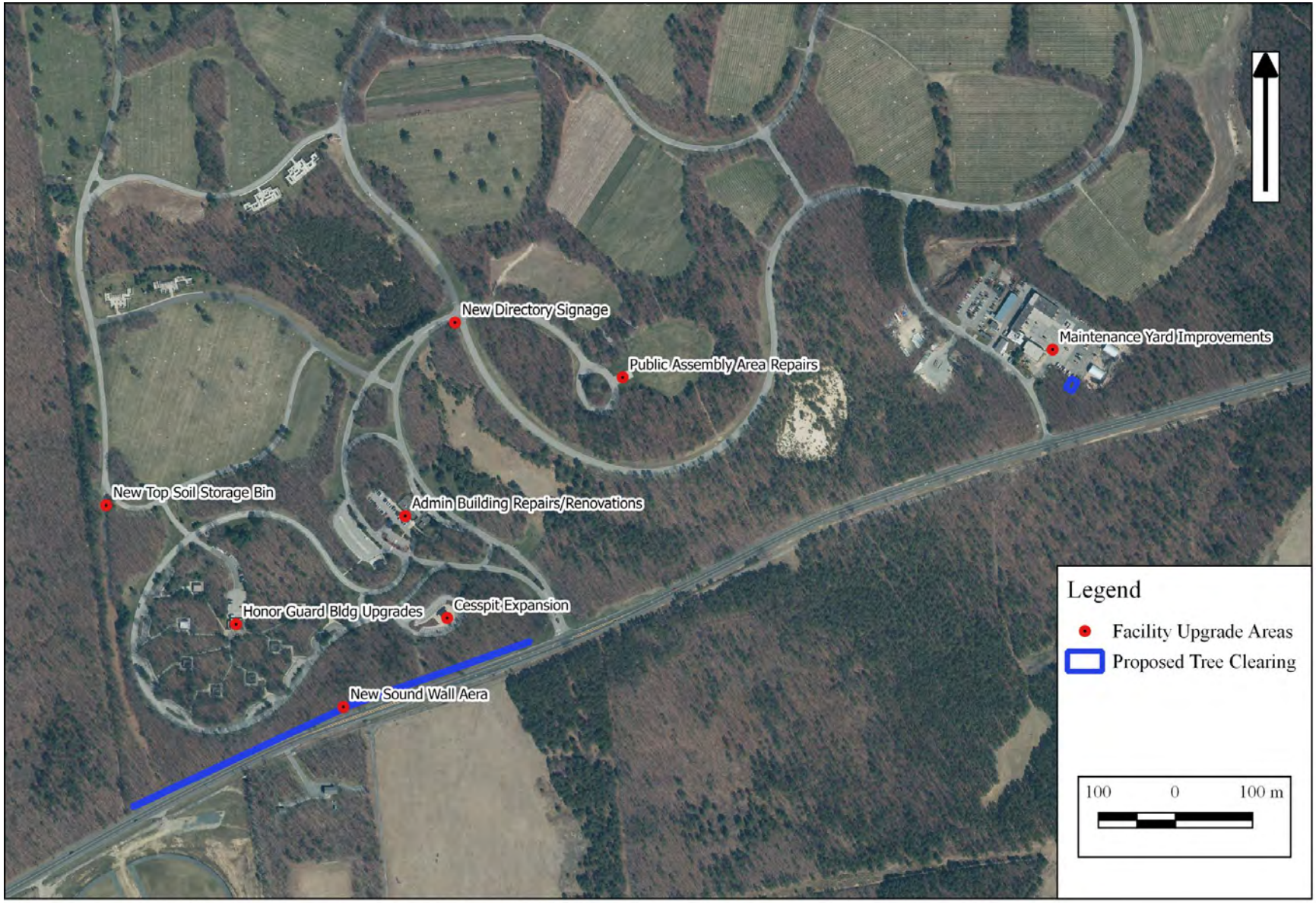


Figure 3: Proposed Facility Repair/Upgrade and Clearing Areas (NY GIS Data Gateway 2010).

Figure 4: Committal Shelters A thru G repairs (NY GIS Data Gateway 2010).

Figure 5: Boundary for Existing Storage Yard Demolition and Clearing (NY GIS Data Gateway 2010).

APPENDIX A

1977 Master Plan

Calverton National Cemetery

MASTER PLAN
CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

DECEMBER 1977

PREPARED FOR THE
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
BY CLARKE & RAPUANO, INC.

MASTER PLAN
CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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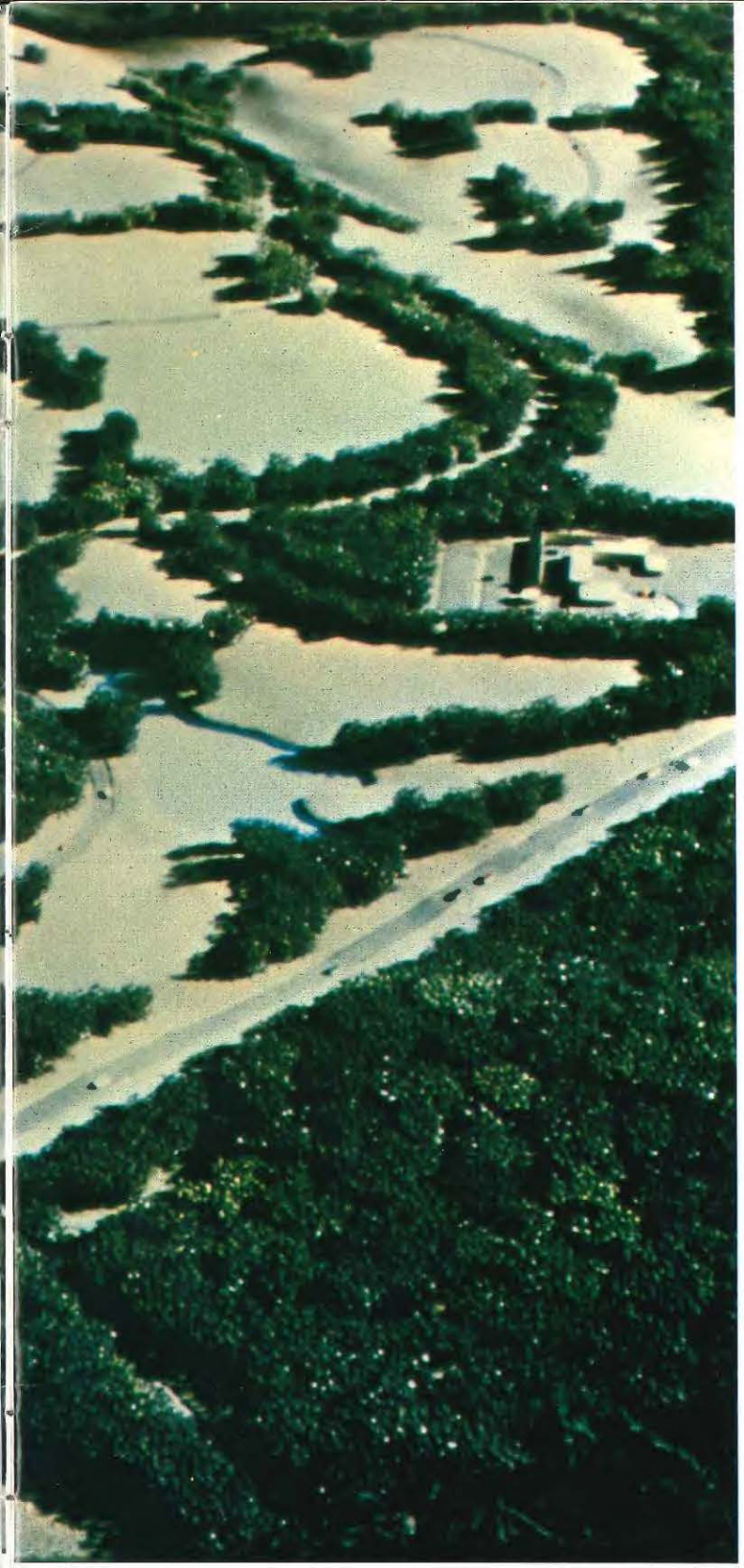


Calverton National Cemetery as it would appear when completed.

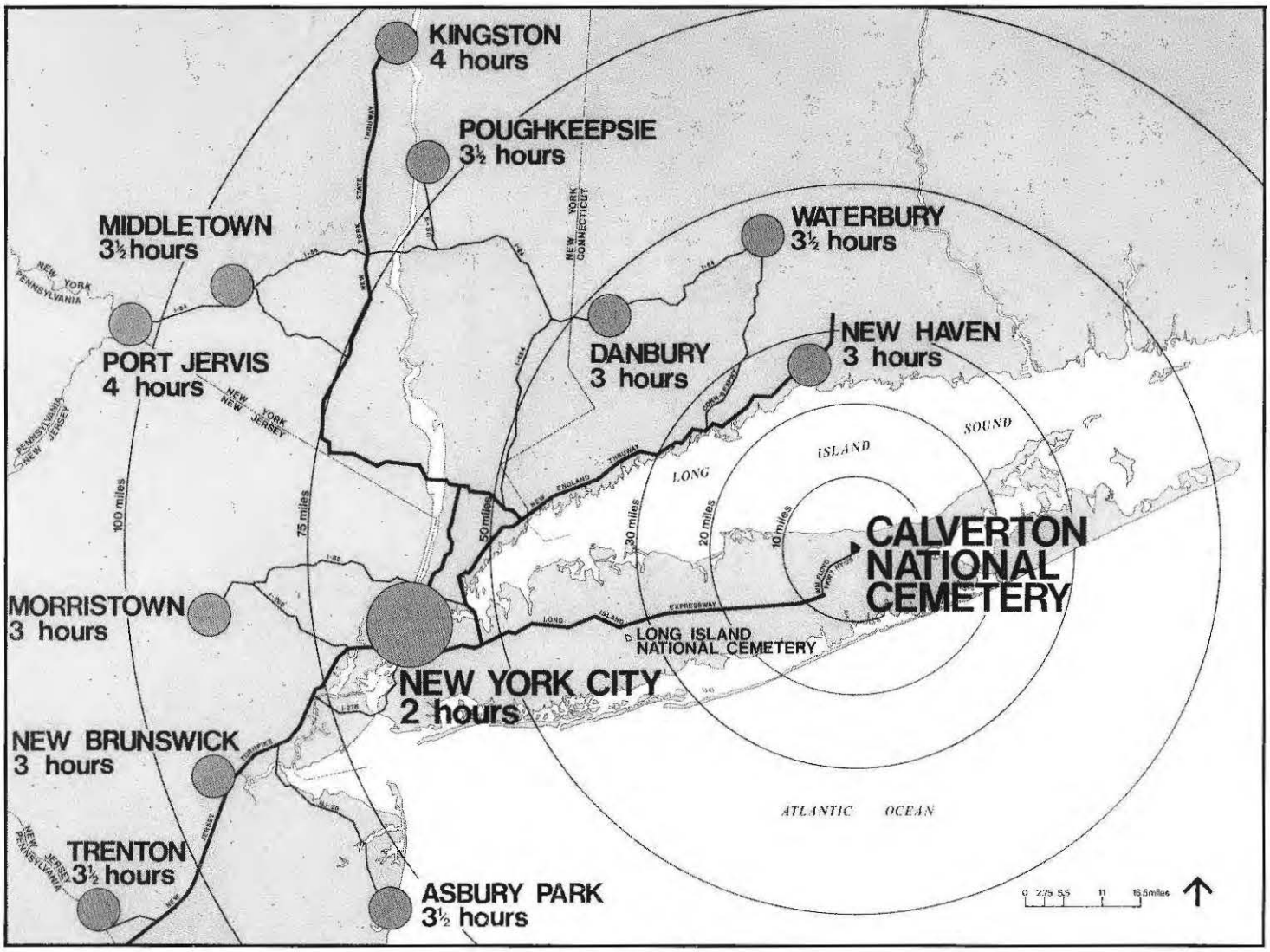
Introduction

Calverton National Cemetery will serve 2,596,000 veterans and their dependents who live within the Greater New York City Region. The Long Island National Cemetery, which is the only national cemetery serving the Greater New York City Region, has reached its capacity; it will run out of gravesites by the spring of 1978. Thenceforth, interments at that national cemetery will be limited to second burials in occupied gravesites.

With new national cemeteries being built in New England and Pennsylvania, Calverton, unlike Long Island National Cemetery which has had to serve communities as distant as Massachusetts, will have a service area centered on New York City that includes southern New York, northern New Jersey and southwestern Connecticut. The site at Calverton chosen for the new national cemetery lies within reasonable travel distance of the majority of the veterans it will serve.

In searching for a site within the Greater New York City Region, the Veterans Administration confined its choices to federally-owned land that could be transferred for national cemetery use since no funds were appropriated for the purchase of land. Out of that search came the selection of three buffer zones of the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Plant at Calverton, New York as primary candidates for closer evaluation which the Department of the Navy had declared surplus to its needs, each being large enough for a national cemetery. The northwest buffer zone was selected and proposed in the environmental impact statement that was approved in the fall of 1977.

The master plan appraises the location of the site for Calverton National Cemetery and its accessibility within the region it serves; it examines the capacity of the site to fulfill a cemetery function; it reviews the relationship of cemetery use to surrounding land uses; and it offers a humane and dignified solution for dealing with the magnitude of burials that will occur there.



Regional travelling time to the cemetery.

Location

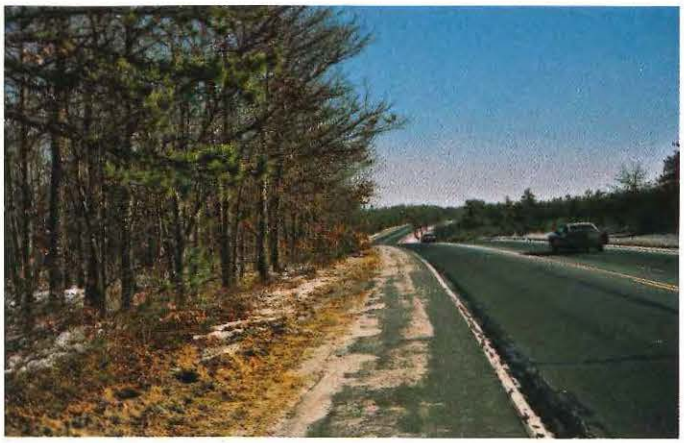
The site for Calverton National Cemetery is the northwest buffer zone of the U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant located near the Village of Calverton. The site is on the north shore of Long Island, 60 miles east of New York City and almost directly across Long Island Sound from New Haven, Connecticut. The nearest large communities are Riverhead on Great Peconic Bay, about 9 miles east of the site, ano Port Jefferson, 14 miles west on the north shore.

This part of Long Island in Suffolk County is still principally devoted to agriculture. Substantial areas remain as undeveloped stands of second growth woods but there are increasing intrusions of residential, commercial, and high-level industrial development. Most of the site is in woodland with the remaining portion devoted to agriculture. The Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, which is operated by the Grumman Aerospace Corporation, abuts the cemetery site on the south and east, and close by to the southwest there is Brookhaven National Laboratory. Wildwood State Park lies northeast of the site and undeveloped Brookhaven State Park to the west.

The Long Island Expressway (NY 495), the major arterial running the length of Long Island between New York City and Riverhead, and the main line of Long Island Railroad which runs roughly parallel to the expressway, lie approximately 4.5 miles to the south of the cemetery site. Two state highways, NY 25 (Middle Country Road) and NY 25A (North Country Road) lying north of the Long Island Expressway and also running east-west, form the south and north boundaries of the site. About 4.5 miles west of the cemetery site, William Floyd Parkway crosses the island from north to south and intersects each of these highways and the expressway.

Access

The Calverton National Cemetery can be expected to serve most effectively the areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut within a radius of approximately 100 miles. The major population centers of the service region lie within that distance and are less than 3½ hours driving time from the new cemetery. This would include communities as far north and west as Kingston and Port Jervis, New York, as far south as Trenton, New Jersey, and as far east as New Haven, Connecticut.

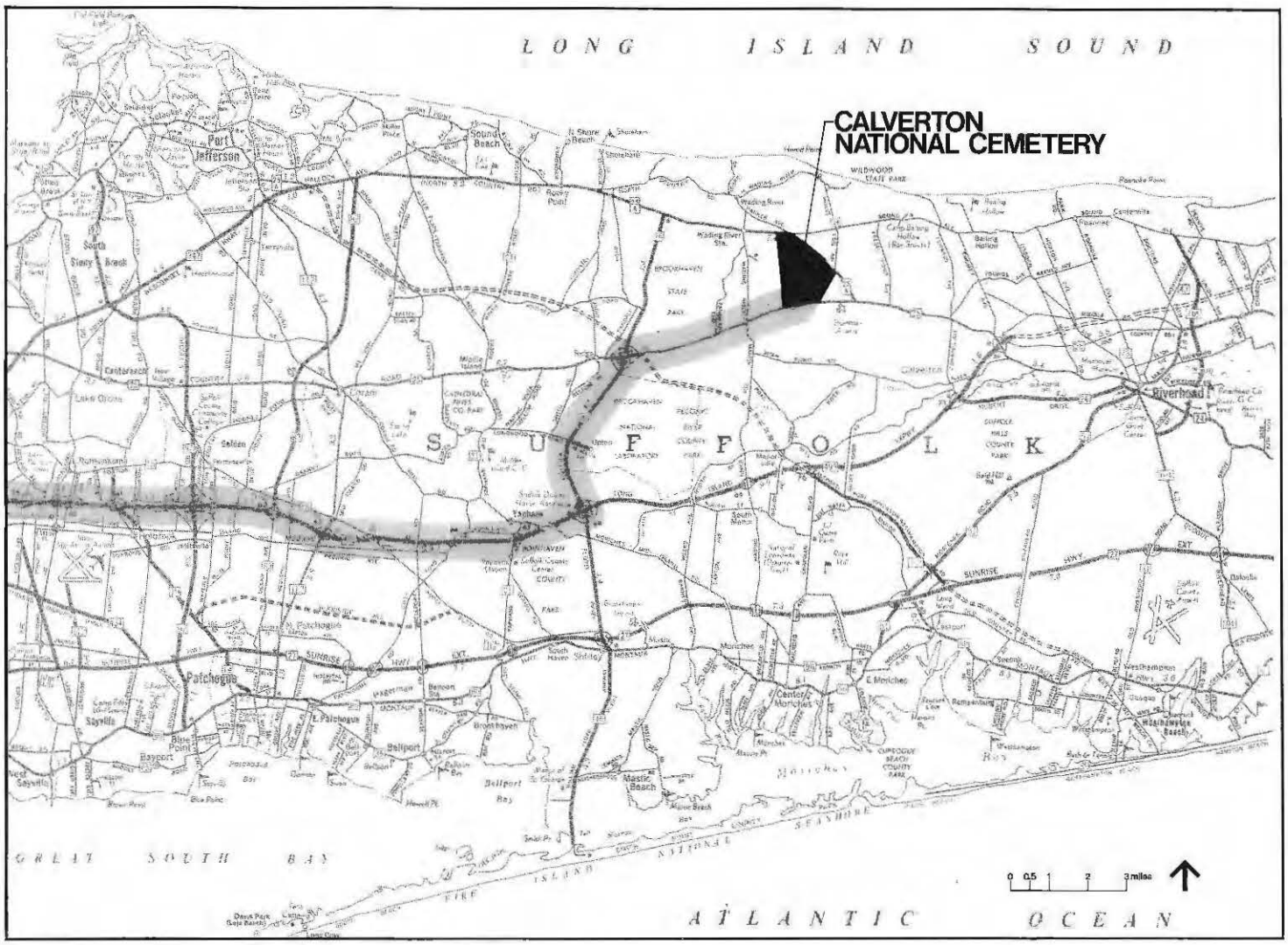


Route NY 25 approach to the cemetery

Calverton is easily reached by the Long Island Expressway from the regional road network via the New England Thruway from the northeast, the New York State Thruway from the north, I-80 from the west, and the New Jersey Turnpike from the south. From these arterial feeders passage through or around New York City to the Long Island Expressway can be made directly on major arterial links. The site is also accessible via the system of parkways in the metropolitan region.

The majority of funerals and visitors are expected to approach the cemetery from the west via the Long Island Expressway (NY 495) to exit 68, thence north on

Local highway access to the cemetery.

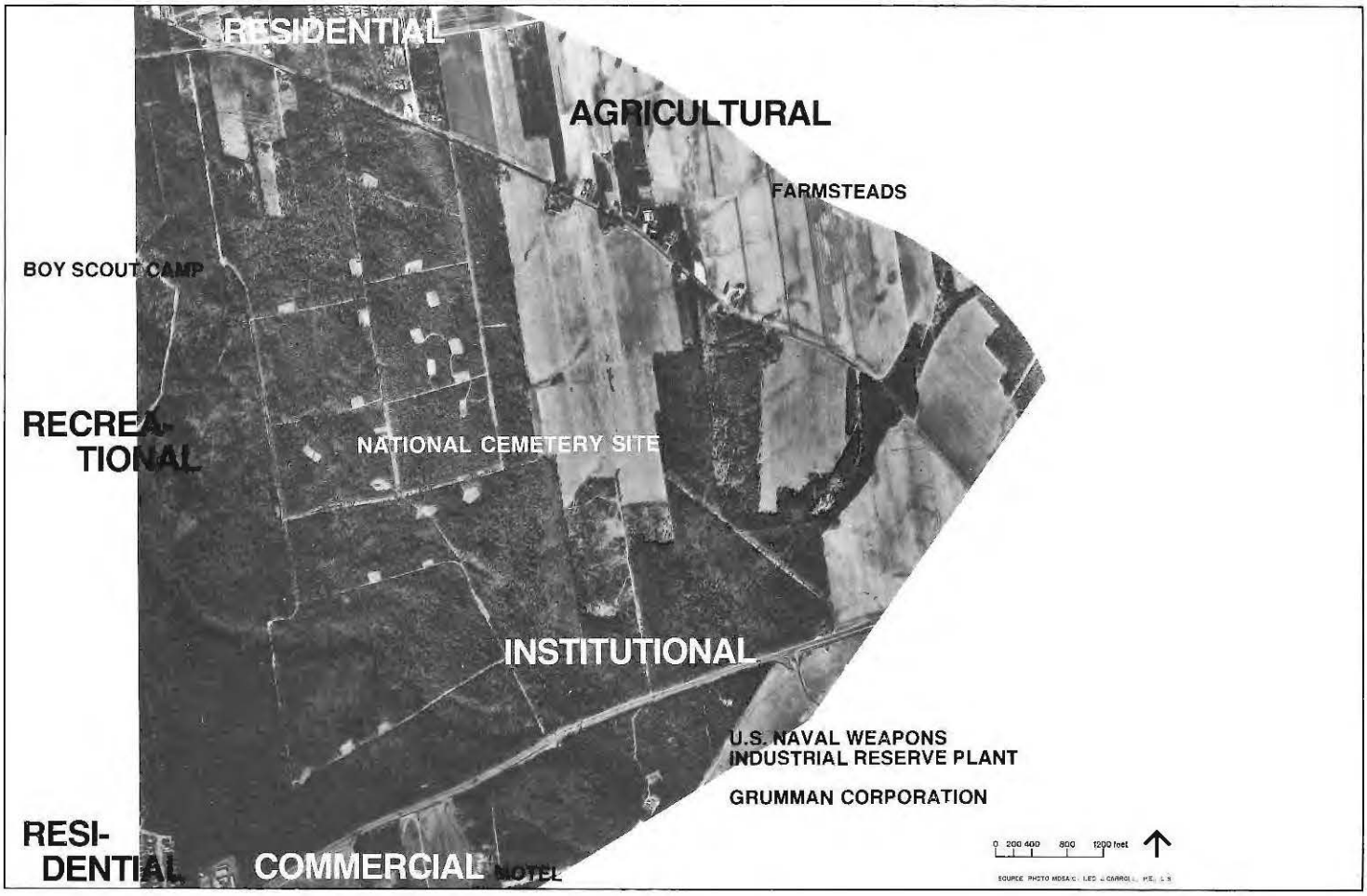


Cemetery site, looking north with Route NY 25 in foreground.

the William Floyd Parkway approximately 4.5 miles to Middle Country Road (NY 25), thence east approximately 4.5 miles to the cemetery entrance. Both the Long Island Expressway and the William Floyd Parkway are limited access highways. The Northern and Southern State Parkways and the Heckscher State Parkway which parallel the Long Island Expressway also provide limited access travel for about half the length of the island from New York City at which point they interconnect either with the Long Island Expressway or with other state highways serving the cemetery area. Sunrise Highway (NY 27) serving the south shore, Middle Country Road (NY 25) serving the center of the island, and North Country Road (NY 25A) serving the north shore intersect the William Floyd Parkway and provide direct local access from all parts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

There is limited mass transportation service to the site at present. This condition can be expected to improve in proportion to the increase of development and population in Suffolk County—fairly rapid in recent years. The Long Island Rail Road currently runs five trains daily from New York City that interconnect with buses at Babylon to serve the North Fork of Eastern Long Island. All stop at Riverhead, nine miles from the Calverton National Cemetery. Taxis are currently the most ready means of transportation from Riverhead to the cemetery but the Coram Bus Service also runs several buses daily past its northern boundary on NY 25A.

View within cemetery site.



Existing land uses.

Site

The site selected for the cemetery is well-suited to the purpose. Its trapezoidal configuration permits many options for development and its soils are ideal for cemetery use. Its topography will require minimal alteration which means that the existing second-growth woods, which are beautiful, can remain untouched wherever desired. As a land use in the community, the site would be not unlike a park when developed.

Present Land Use

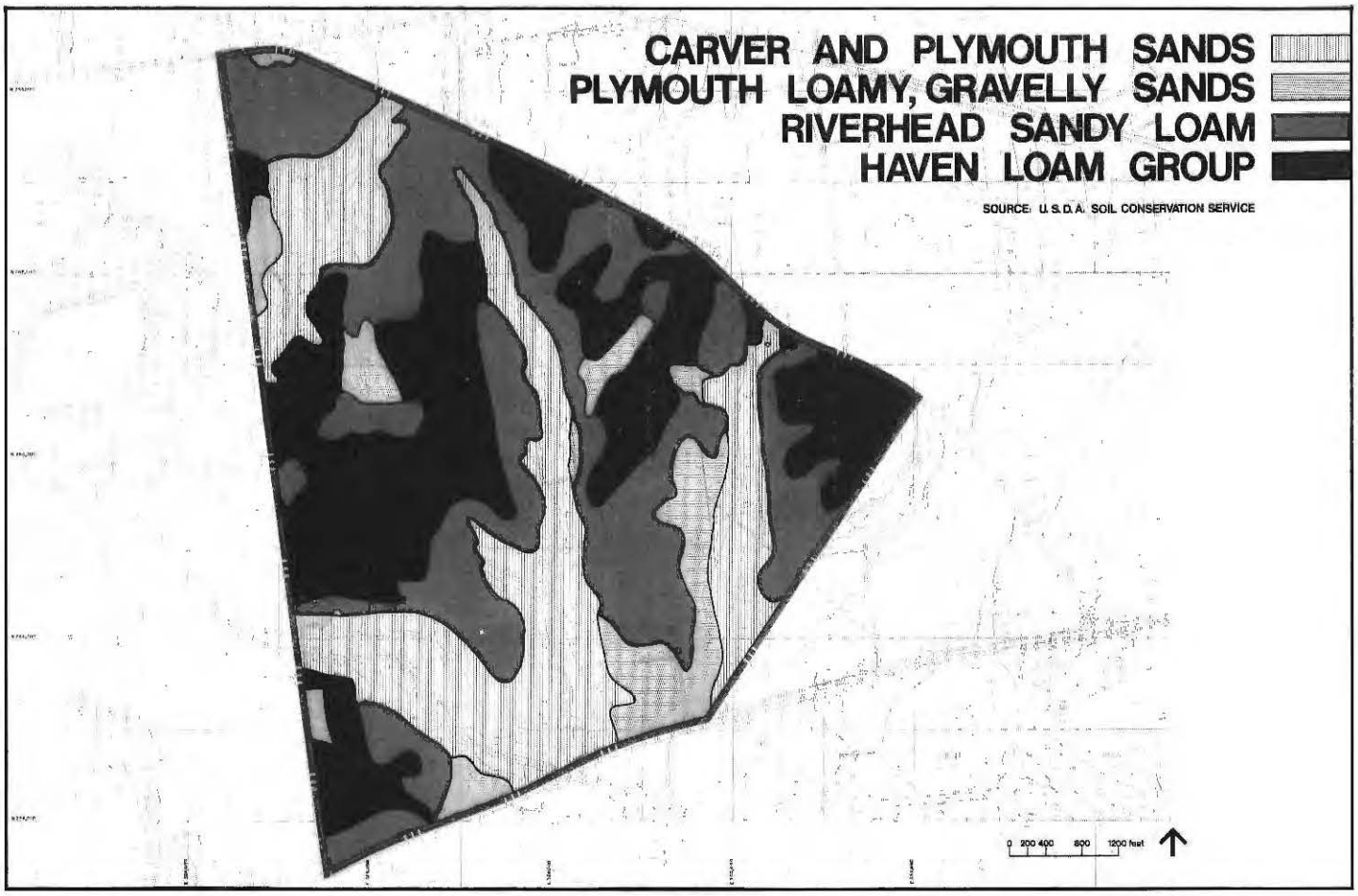
About 90 acres, located in the northeast sector of the site, are leased to local farmers for the raising of crops. There is an abandoned farmstead along NY 25A whose farm buildings are unused. Portions of the property were formerly used for the raising of nursery stock; several plantations of nursery stock, principally European Larch *(Larix laricina)*, remain abandoned and overgrown. The northern boundary of the site is impacted by a low-strung telephone and electric power line all along NY 25A.

The wooded portion in the westerly portion of the site has been managed for wildlife. Numerous small clearings have been made in the second-growth woods and planted to grass for food and cover for wildlife. Hunting is presently permitted on the property.

Abutting the site on the east is land in agricultural use which the Department of the Navy is retaining as part of its buffer zone for a runway of the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant. This area will always remain as open space. On the south, across the way of NY 25, there is the airfield of the Plant. The land along the entire west boundary is devoted to a Boy Scout Camp and on the north, across NY 25A, the land is given to agricultural and some single-family uses.

Topography and Drainage

The land is gently rolling to relatively flat, tilting slightly toward the south. About ninety percent of the area is of less than 5% slope. Where slopes of more than 15% occur they are confined along the edges of



Soil map.

the four principal drainage swales that traverse the site. The lowest point on the site is elevation 58.5 in the south portion along NY 25. The highest point, elevation 103.0, occurs just to the northwest of the center of the property.

A culvert under NY 25A carries some of the drainage from the north side of the highway on to the site where it is absorbed into the ground. Drainage from the four drainage swales collects itself at the south end and disappears into the ground.

Vegetation

About 70% of the site is in second growth woodland dominated by White Oak *(Quercus alba)* with substantial amounts of Northern Red Oak *(Quercus borealis)* and Pitch Pine *(Pinus rigida)*. The pines range upwards to 50 feet in height, and the oaks, 25 to 30 feet. Fire has ravaged nearly one-third of the existing woodland at some time in the past resulting in many of the oaks losing their central trunk and sprouting many stems from their roots. These trees presently range up to 15 feet in height. The woodland has been under a management program with the State of New York under which selective thinning, seeding and fire protection operations have been undertaken.

The shrub and floor level plants include members of the Blueberry and Huckleberry genera (*Vaccinium* and *Gaylussacia*), Sweet Fern *(Comptonia peregrina)* and Bracken Fern (*Pteridium aquilinium*). Wild flowers include Lupine and Yellow Rocket.

Soils

The Calverton area, being situated on a glacial outwash plain, is underlain by very deep deposits of relatively compact medium to fine sand, with some gravelly strata found. The several feet just below the surface are loams that vary from sandy in character to silty; some even contain clayey silts.

Haven and Riverhead, the finer textured silty loams, cover 60% of the site—mostly in the northern sector. These soils are regarded as prime agricultural land and it is in these zones that farming is being, or has been practiced. The Carver and Plymouth loams, which constitute 40% of the site, are sandy in character and

less suitable for farming. Fortunately they tend to occur in the lowest areas of the site where the presence of sandy surface deposits will aid in the disposal of storm runoff through percolation back into the ground water supply.

Topsoil on the site varies in depth from 3 inches to 16 inches, averaging 5 inches. The topsoil constitutes a valuable resource to be preserved for reuse in building the cemetery lawns.

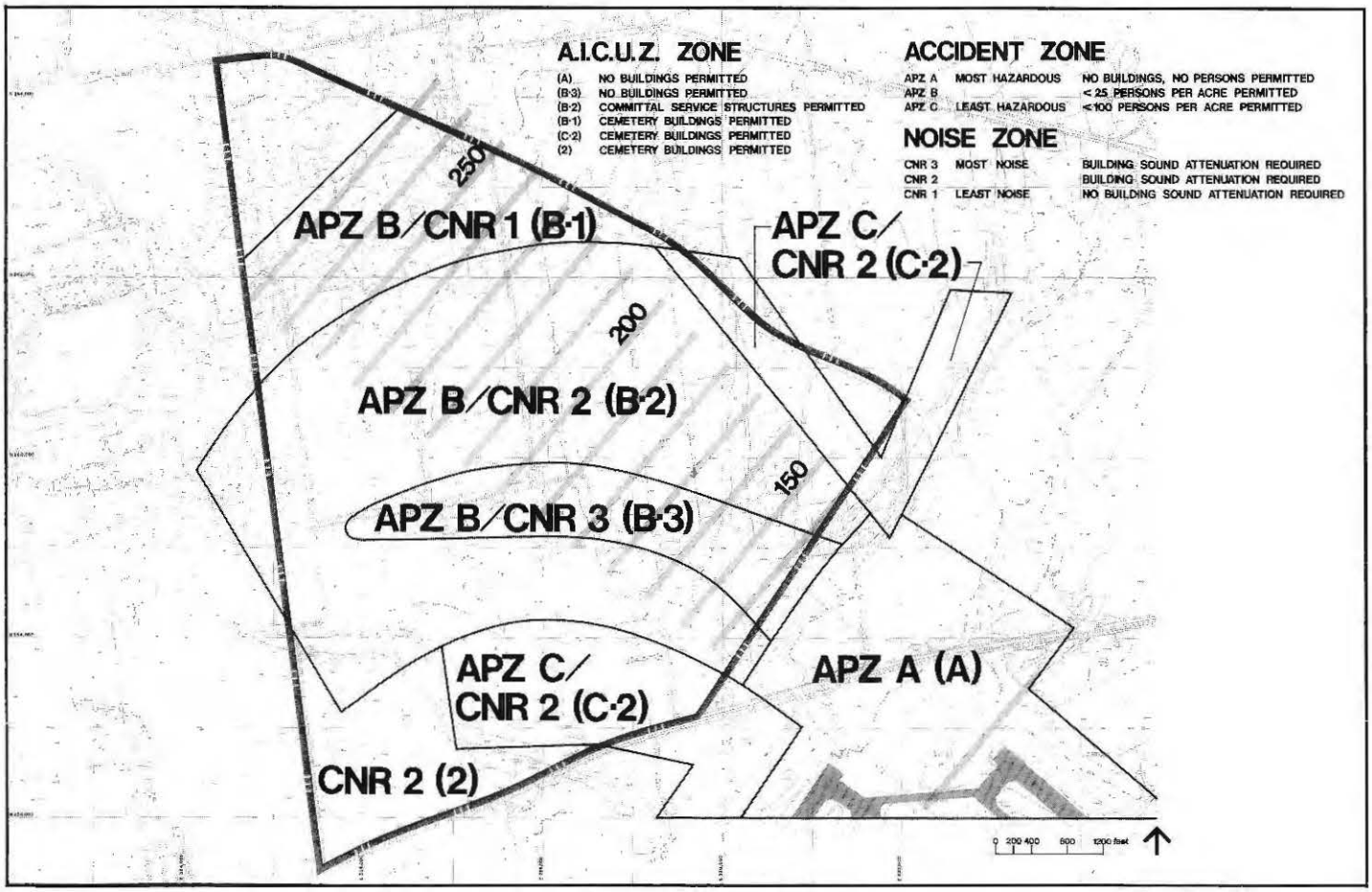
Inasmuch as the site is relatively flat only minor regrading will be necessary. This means that most of the deep moisture-retaining, cohesive loam layer now at the surface will remain in place. That, in turn, will help stabilize the ground, thereby making grave-digging operations more efficient, which together with the respreading of salvaged topsoil of good quality, bodes well for the quality of cemetery lawns that ought to be achieved. However, in view of the substantial areas of sandy base that occur, and the spotty summer rainfall, a supplemental irrigation system will be needed to guarantee that result.

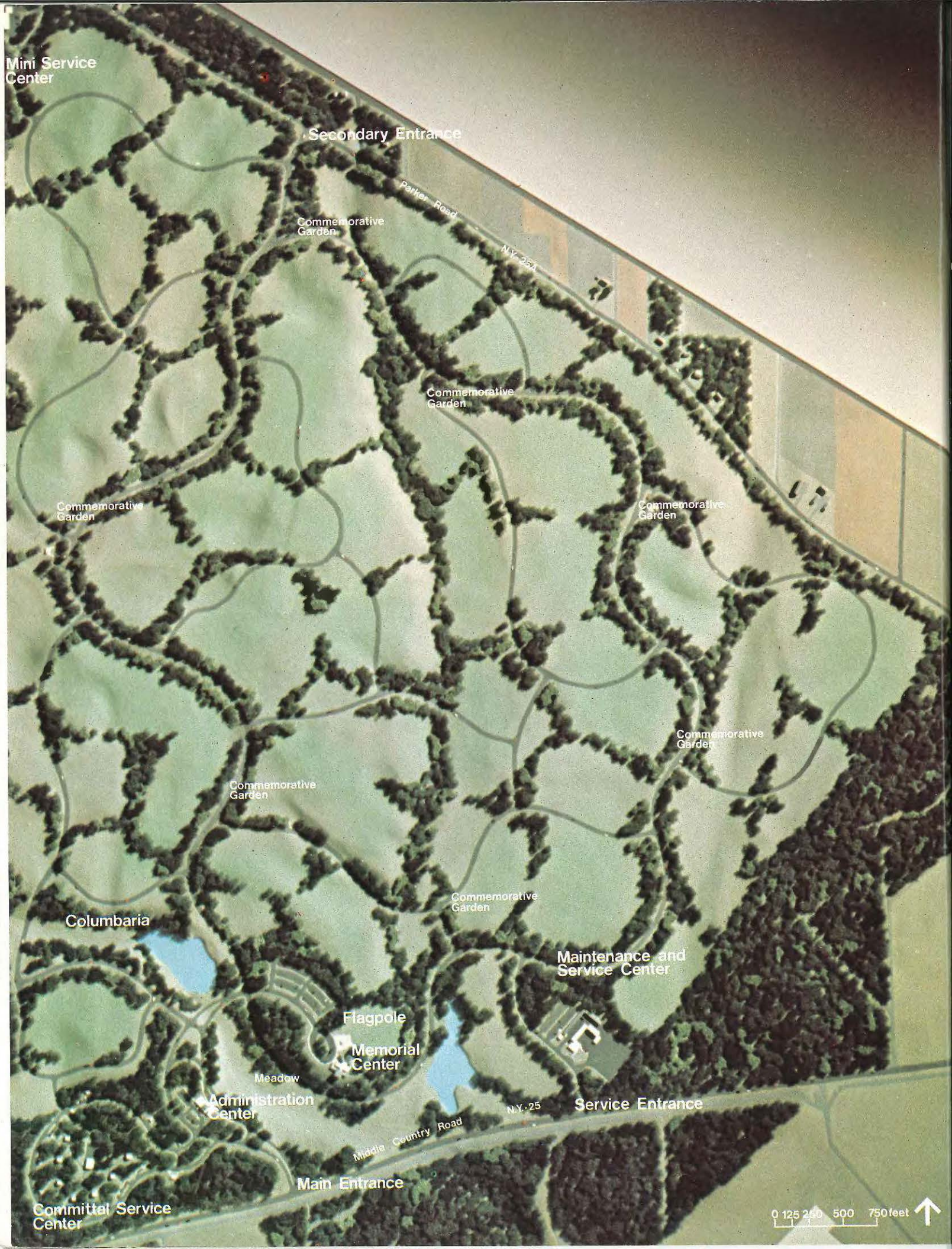
AICUZ

The Department of the Navy has adopted an Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) Plan as a means for achieving compatible development of lands abutting the airfield. The AICUZ plan relates permissible land uses to zones of high noise exposure, potential accident hazards and airspace requirements. Although the cemetery site is zoned industrial locally, the AICUZ restrictions make industrial use incompatible with the airfield operations. This land has been used and must continue to be used as a buffer area for the airfield runway approaches. The cemetery, as designed in this master plan, would fulfill the buffer use and comply with the AICUZ plan.

The restrictions of the AICUZ plan have a major impact on this site, even for a use such as a cemetery which is considered to be compatible. On approximately 60% of the site no buildings are permitted and no more than 25 persons can congregate per acre. However, the effect of the AICUZ plan on the master planning of the cemetery was not, as might be feared, a destructive one; on the contrary, it was influential in giving form to the design solution.

Air installation compatible use zones.




Mini Service Center
Secondary Entrance
Parker Road
N.Y. 25A
Commemorative Garden
Commemorative Garden
Commemorative Garden
Commemorative Garden
Commemorative Garden
Commemorative Garden
Commemorative Garden
Columbaria
Maintenance and Service Center
Flagpole
Memorial Center
Meadow
Administration Center
N.Y. 25
Service Entrance
Middle Country Road
Main Entrance
Committal Service Center
0 125 250 500 750 feet

Design

The master plan design for Calverton National Cemetery reflects a desire on the part of the Veterans Administration to depart from the formality and monumentality often associated with a national cemetery and to present a less rigid appearance to the public. The cemetery, as designed, endeavors to accomplish this by maintaining a natural woods and fields character which is also very much in keeping with its semi-rural surroundings.

Site Design

Two factors, one, the restrictions imposed on the use of the site by the AICUZ plan, and the other, the large number of daily burials (40-80), exerted a strong influence on the organization and layout of the cemetery facilities. For all practical purposes, the AICUZ plan limits cemetery buildings to a relatively narrow 1,000 foot wide corridor along NY 25, and also restricts the assembly of more than 25 persons per acre over most of the site.

The handling of 40 to 80 burials daily within a four-hour period requires careful planning to avoid conflicts between individual funeral services, and also between the services and the burial operations which take on certain aspects of heavy construction. The planning requirement was to produce a separation of the functions of the funeral service, and further to maintain individual privacy for the funeral services since up to seven services can be occurring simultaneously.

This is accomplished for Calverton National Cemetery in a way unique in the design of new national cemeteries by concentrating all funeral services in a group of permanent committal shelters located apart from the grave site areas in a quiet corner of the cemetery, each separated from the other by existing woods. There, funeral services can be held with dignity, out of the way of grave excavation and other distractions.

Three considerations had a pronounced effect on design; first, that a funeral party should be able to arrive at the cemetery, hold its service and depart without being required to pass through "acres" of gravesites; second, the visitors, unfamiliar with the cemetery road system, should be able, to arrive directly at the memorial (visitors) center with the least possibility of becoming lost; third, that the overall cemetery should be comprised of a group of smaller cemeteries, each of 15 to 20 acres, separated one from another by woods so as to avoid any sense of a vast expanse of graves.

Site conditions also had their effect upon the cemetery design. NY 25 became the principal approach to the cemetery for reasons of traffic handling and also because of its desirable appearance. Much of the land along NY 25 from William Floyd Parkway all the way to the cemetery and some distance beyond is in public ownership. The U.S. Naval Weapons Industrial Plant occupies all the land directly across NY 25 from the cemetery site, and is federal property which is well maintained and apt to continue indefinitely in its present use and condition. It was possible to locate the principal entrance to the cemetery opposite a densely wooded section of the Naval Weapons Industrial Plant in what is likely to remain a "clean" environment as far as can be seen in all directions.

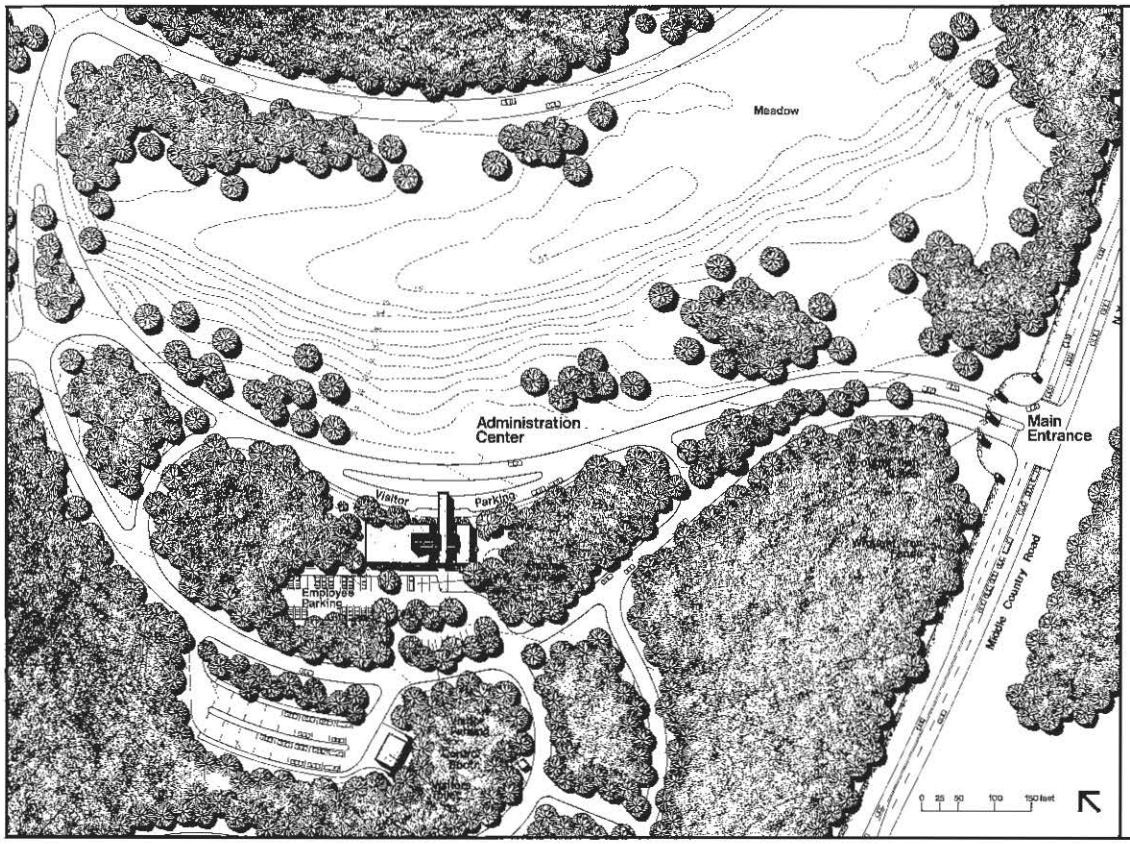
Entering the cemetery from NY 25, the entrance road follows the rim of a valley. This valley—the major topographic feature on the site—is utilized in the design of the cemetery as a focus around which the administration center and memorial center are sited. Its open meadow-like appearance framed by existing woods establishes the natural character and atmosphere of the cemetery immediately as one enters the site. Groups arriving for funeral services remain within this natural landscape atmosphere throughout their stay unless they choose to visit the burial areas.

The cemetery is served by a primary loop road system which connects with the main entrance road from NY 25 on the south and a secondary entrance road from NY 25A on the north. This primary loop road, 28 feet wide, intersects with narrower secondary roads which give access to all parts of the cemetery. From the primary loop road occasional views into the gravesite areas are obtained, but for the most part this road remains within a woodland corridor thus retaining the natural landscape character as the leading design element.

Building Design

Inspiration for the architecture at Calverton National Cemtery is found in the shed roof of the salt-box, an architectural style indigenous to Eastern Long Island whose origin goes back to early colonial days. The "shed" roof is recalled in the design of the administration and memorial center buildings. These buildings along with the committal shelters and visitors toilets, which are meant for public view, are proposed to be finished with green granite quarried in the New

Calverton National Cemetery when completed.



Legend

1 Vestibule
2 Reception
3 Women's Toilet
4 Men's Toilet
5 Mechanical Room
6 Work Room
7 Lunch Room
8 General Office
9 Record Room
10 Engineer's and Agronomist's Office
11 Administrative Assistant's Office
12 Secretaries
13 Superintendent's Office
14 Conference Room
15 Robing Room
16 Family Room

Main entrance and administration center.

York region. The building roofs are of terne-coated stainless steel with batten seams which weathers to a dull pewter color of great uniformity. The combination of granite and terne-coated stainless steel in structures of simple form produce an architecture of quiet dignity.

Entrance

A cemetery is more than just a burying ground and a national cemetery is more than just another cemetery. While all cemeteries impart a personal honoring of the deceased, a national cemetery takes on the added dimension of focusing national recognition and honor toward those buried there with the implication that they have made some special contribution to the national welfare.

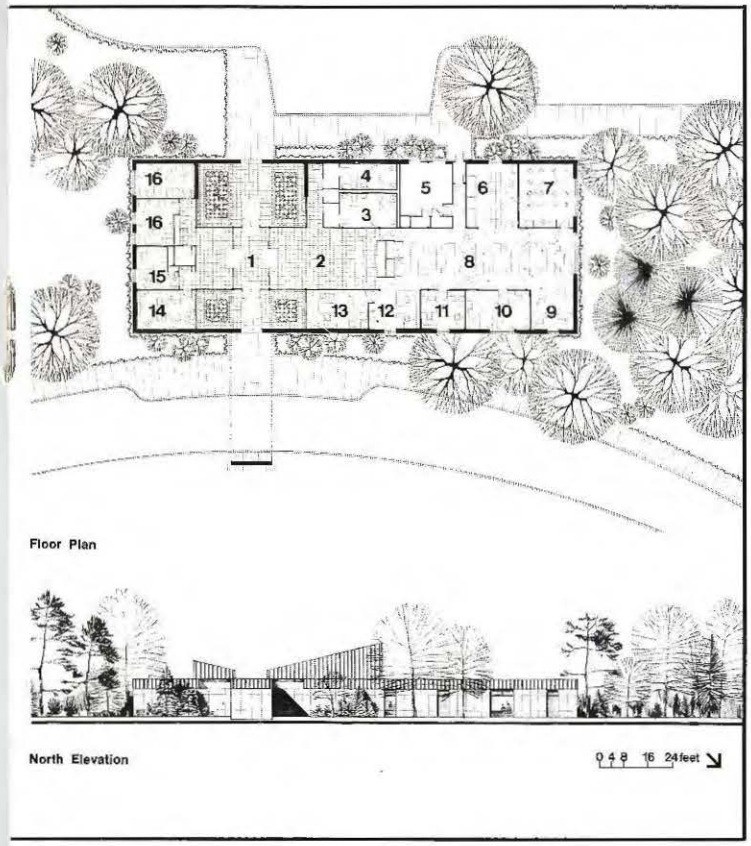
Hawthorne speaks of mountains as "earth's undying monuments." The sense of loss suffered by the living can make them reach out for that which is undying, causing them to build cemeteries and monuments, special places that express qualities of permanence and perpetuity.

In light of this, the entrance to a national cemetery must be more than a control point for visitors entering and leaving the site; it is the initial statement to the visitor that he has arrived at a special place and that what occurs within is important and special, not only to him personally, but to everyone, and that this special place is "undying" and will remain "forever" intact.

The entrance to Calverton National Cemetery would convey this message through colossal scale and a timeless geometric form. Massive granite columns, from which are hung great iron gates, flank the divided entrance road. A curving, iron fence connects the gate columns with lesser granite columns nearer the highway which bear the name of the cemetery in large raised letters. The forms of the entrance gate are as timeless as geometry, but the handling of the forms and the scale of the detail are entirely present day.

Administration Center

The entrance drive is a divided roadway whose lanes begin to diverge immediately past the entrance gates, creating at one point a 300 foot wide median of existing woods in which the administration building is sited. Because it is located within the median, the administration office is readily accessible to both inbound and outbound traffic; therefore, the building is designed to receive visitors equally well from both sides. Ample parking for visitors is provided near both building entrances, and in addition, on the outbound



Administration building.

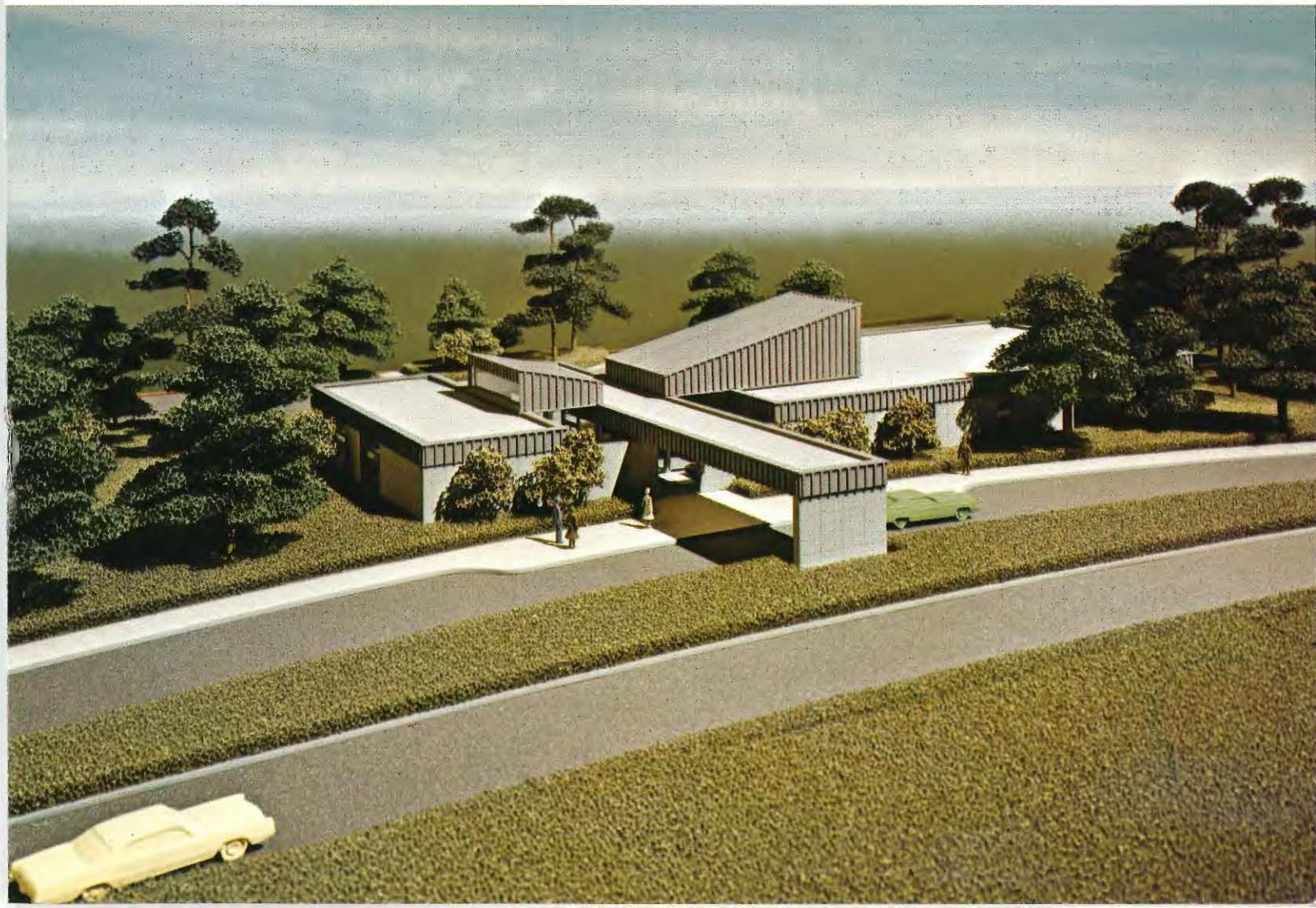
side, there is parking for funeral directors and employees.

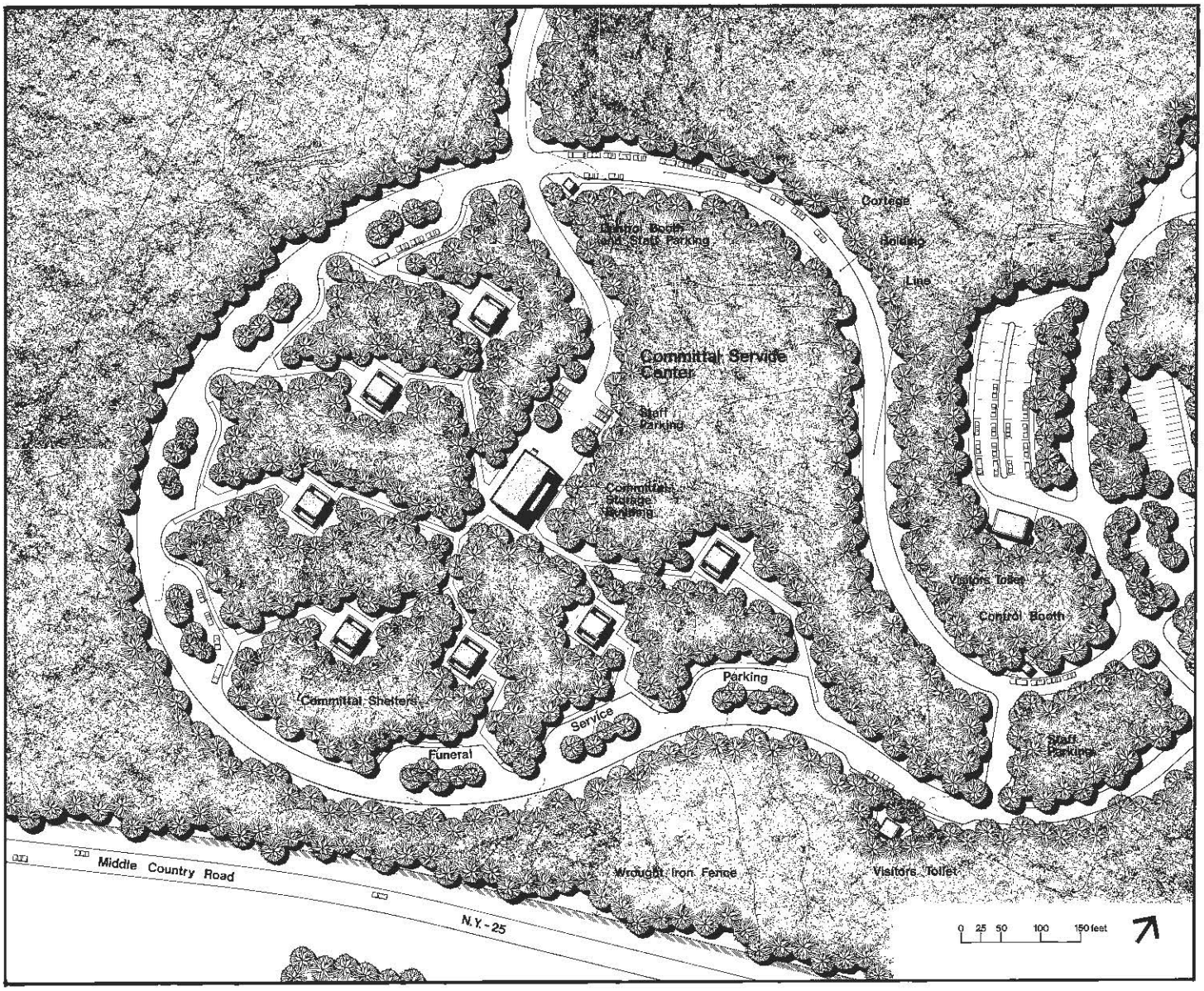
Inbound visitors stopping at the administration building arrive beneath a porte cochere. Ramps are provided wherever curbs occur to accommodate the handicapped. From the porte cochere the visitor enters a small stone-paved court containing seasonal flower displays. When inside the entry court the public portions of the building are visible through floor-to-ceiling glass walls. The stone paving continues into the interior of the building leading the visitor to the reception desk.

The administration building allows a separation of disparate functions. On the one hand it houses the administrative staff and provides information for a continual flow of visitors; on the other hand it provides a quiet waiting area for families of the deceased when the need arises. This is seen in the separation of these two areas by a central vestibule.

The building is sited on the southwest rim of the valley diagonally across from and with a clear view of the flagpole and the memorial center.

Administration building.





Committal service center.

Committal Service Center

The group of committal shelters and their ancillary facilities is referred to as the committal service center. They are located in a grove of woods at the southwest corner of the site in the AICUZ zone with the least noise exposure.

The committal shelters are permanent buildings with granite walls above which float flat roofs with terne-coated stainless steel fascias. They are open on two sides so that one is always aware of the surrounding woods. Each is oriented north-south so that available light will always be washing down the inside of the wall behind the location where the casket will be lying.

Each shelter has its own parking area and the several shelters are linked to each other and to the cemetery road system by a one-way ring road. The initial section of the ring road serves as a holding line for funeral corteges when all the shelters are in use. Up to ten, and in emergencies twenty, funerals can be accommodated in this holding line.

The committal shelters are grouped around a committal storage building which receives the caskets after the funeral services and from whence the caskets are transported to the burial site. Enclosed by the woods, the committal storage building is out of view from the committal shelters.

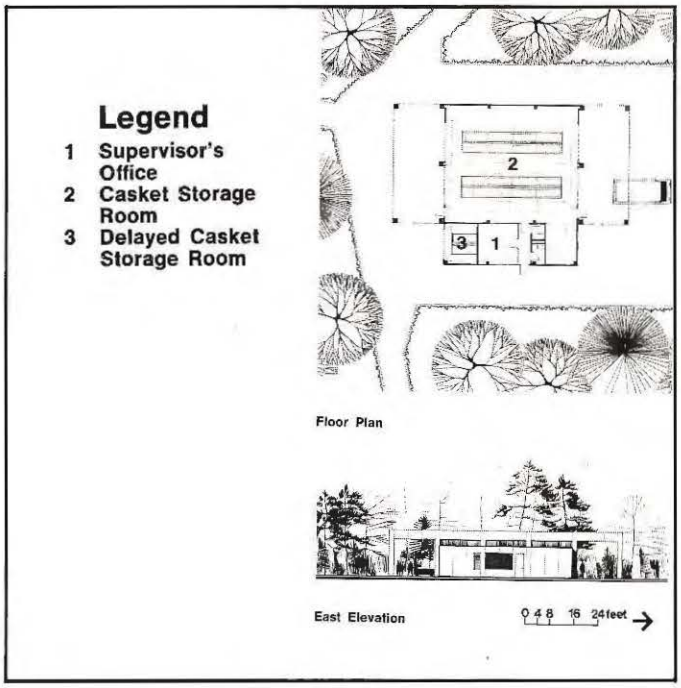
Funeral corteges arriving through the main entrance of the cemetery bear left just past the administration building and then turn off the existing roadway to arrive at the control booth for the committal service center. There, the funeral director riding in the hearse

pauses for a check of required documents while the remainder of the cortege proceeds to the holding area beyond for a brief wait until a committal shelter becomes available. A cemetery representative meets the cortege at the holding line when it has been rejoined by the hearse and conducts the cortege to the parking area of the assigned committal shelter where the funeral service will be held. A motorized bier meets the hearse at the parking area and the casket is transported from the hearse a short distance to the committal shelter for the service.

After a service is completed, which varies greatly in duration but tends to average twenty minutes, the funeral party returns to its cars while a cemetery employee bears the casket on the motorized bier in an opposite direction through the woods to the committal storage building. Under normal circumstances the funeral party does not see the casket again after paying last respects in the committal shelter.

From the committal shelter parking area, the ring road leads back to the exit drive where the funeral party has the choice of departing directly from the cemetery or proceeding into the cemtery to gravesite areas or the

Committal service center.



Committal storage building.

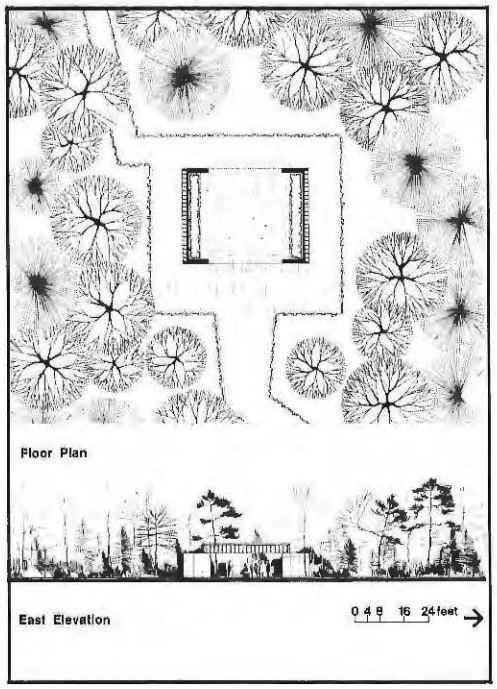
memorial center. The hearse would normally proceed to the flower disposal area near the maintenance and service center where floral displays in excess of those chosen by the family for placing on the grave would be deposited.

In the final phase of the cemetery, when all the gravesites are occupied with first burials, the committal service center can be converted to cemetery and columbaria use. That would be the ultimate use for the committal service center proposed in the master plan.

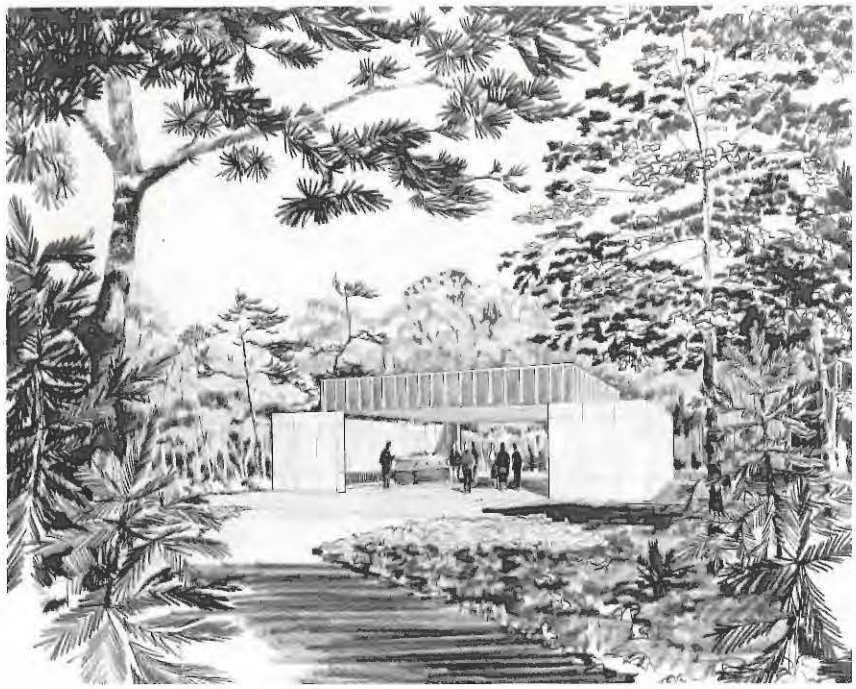
The walls of the committal shelters are designed with the necessary space and jointing of their stonework to accommodate this change. All that will be required is installation of the necessary hardware. The columbaria niches are located in the outside face of the opposing walls. The stone floor on which the shelter rests extends outward sufficiently beyond the walls to provide a walkway around the building wide enough to permit benches facing the columbaria niches.

The committal storage building, located in the middle of the committal service center area would be removed at the very end when all the gravesites in the cemetery are full. Its area, plus areas along the loop road serving the committal service center, would be converted to gravesites. These gravesite areas would be carved out of the existing woods. Their close proximity to the committal shelters makes it feasible for the casket to be taken direct from the service at the committal shelter to the gravesite.

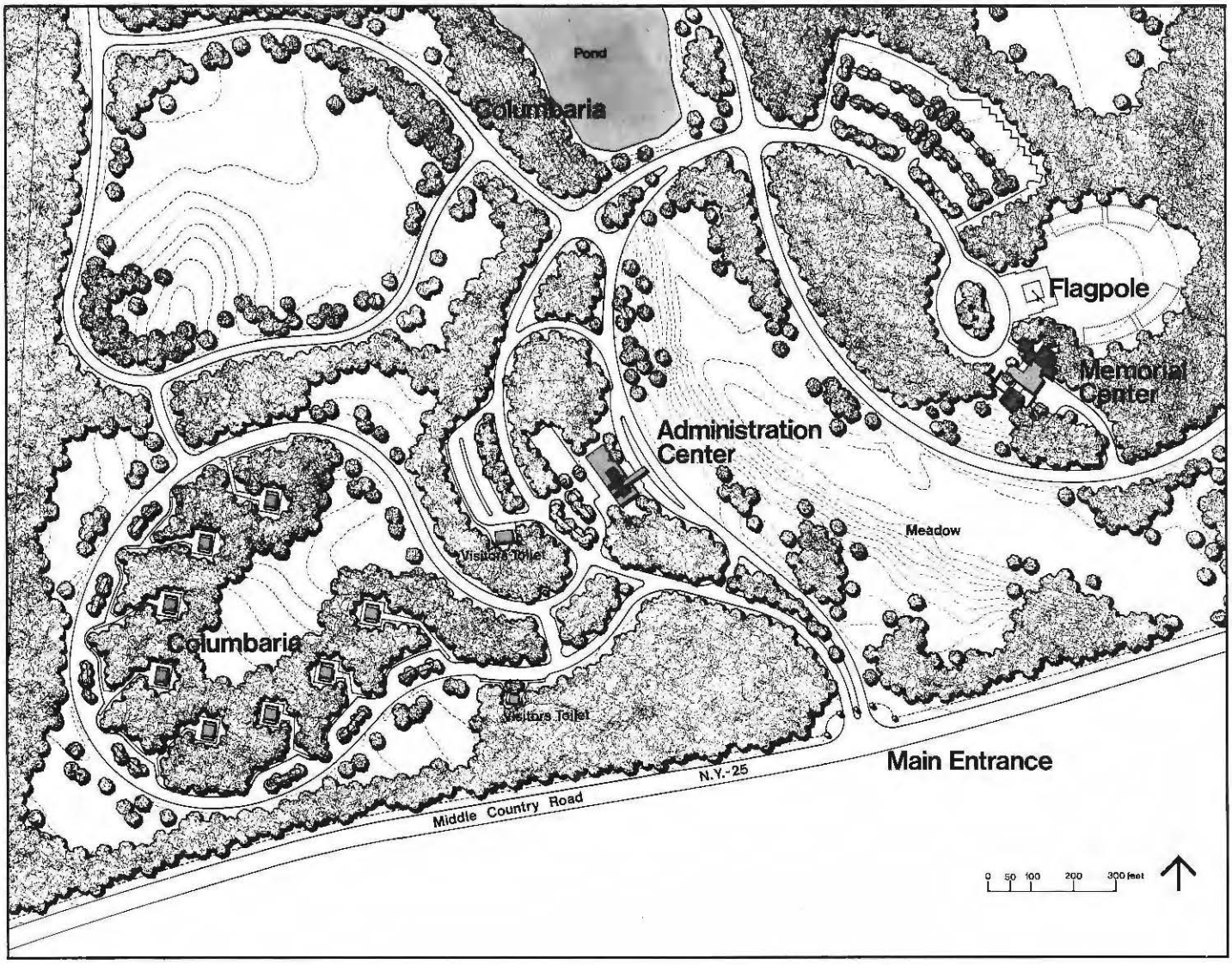
View within committal center site.



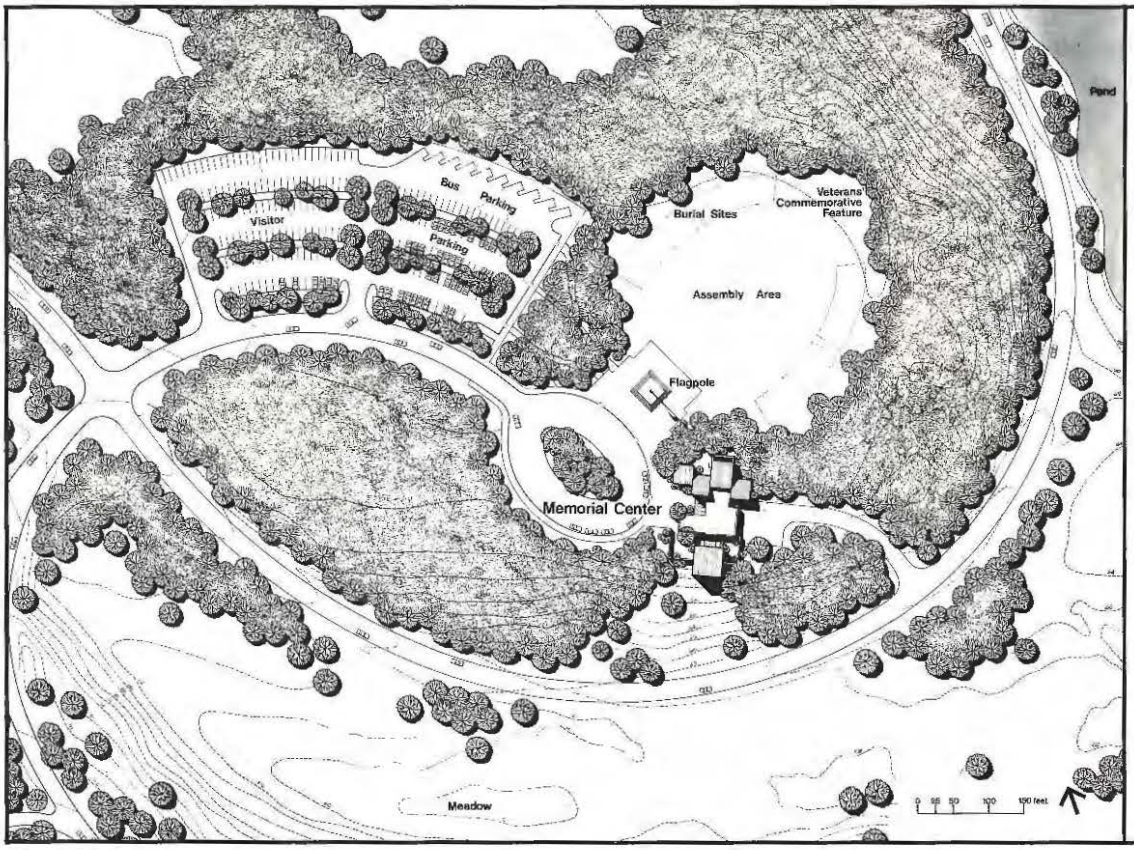
Committal shelter.



Committal shelter.



Committal service center after conversion to columbaria and gravesites.



Legend

1 Vestibule
2 Reception
3 Exhibit
4 Multi-Purpose Room
5 Storage and Rear Projection Room
6 Office Area
7 Men's Toilet
8 Women's Toilet
9 Mechanical Room
10 Memorial Chapel
11 Exhibit Court

Memorial center.

Memorial Center

From the main gate to the cemetery from NY 25 the divided entrance road passes the administration building, dips down into the valley, crosses the primary loop road and terminates in a grand ellipse in front of the flagpole and assembly area. A broad stone terrace surrounds the flagpole which rises from the center of a stepped stone platform. Beyond the flagpole, extending several hundred feet in length and breadth, is a great sweep of lawn enclosed by existing woods.

Around the perimeter of this elliptical clearing there are niches for memorials. Here may be held the special commemorative services that draw large numbers of people on special holidays, such as Memorial and Veterans Days, or because of a visit by a special group with a large congregation. The raised stone platform at the flagpole can function as a dias for these occasions.

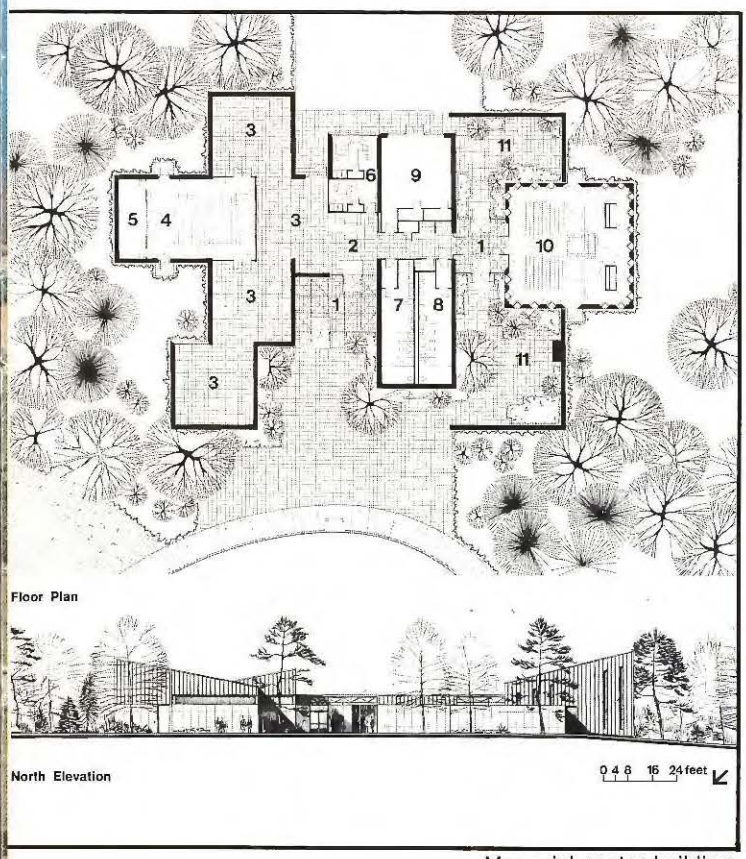
At the far end of the ellipse and adjacent to the flagpole terrace is the memorial center building overlooking the meadow directly across from the administration center. In the building, there is an interpretive center for visitors seeking information about the national cemetery programs and also exhibit space for art works by men and women confined to the Veterans Hospitals. In addition, there is a memorial chapel for quiet meditation that is also suitable for special services.

The main entrance to the memorial center is through an atrium vestibule which leads directly to a visitors reception desk. Immediately to the left are the exhibit areas and to the right are public rest rooms, the office area, and the memorial chapel.

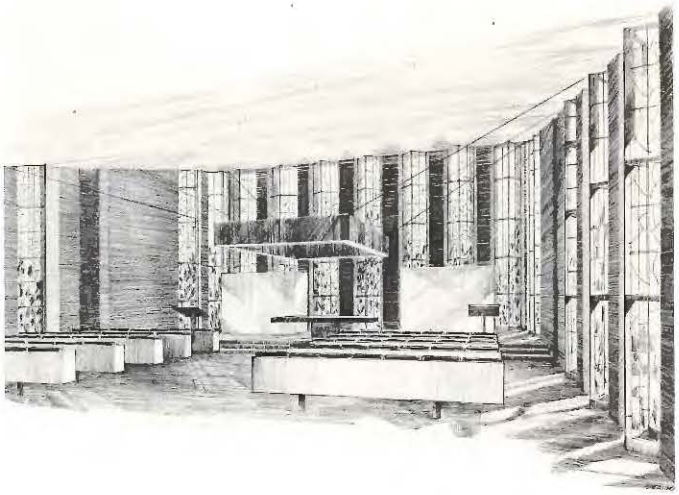
The interpretive section of the building has been designed as a series of inter-connected spaces allowing the flexibility of separate small exhibits or one or more, larger exhibits. A multi-purpose room is included where film and slide presentations may be made to a large audience.

Separated by its own entrance lobby within a private courtyard is the memorial chapel. The chapel, a meditation room, can upon certain occasions accommodate funeral services for any religious denomination. From the exterior, the steep sloping roof and the metal clad walls of the chapel give the impression of great solidity, especially when viewed from the entrance road across the meadow. Inside, however, the impression is one of sharp contrast—of light and color pouring through the faceted stained glass windows on all walls.

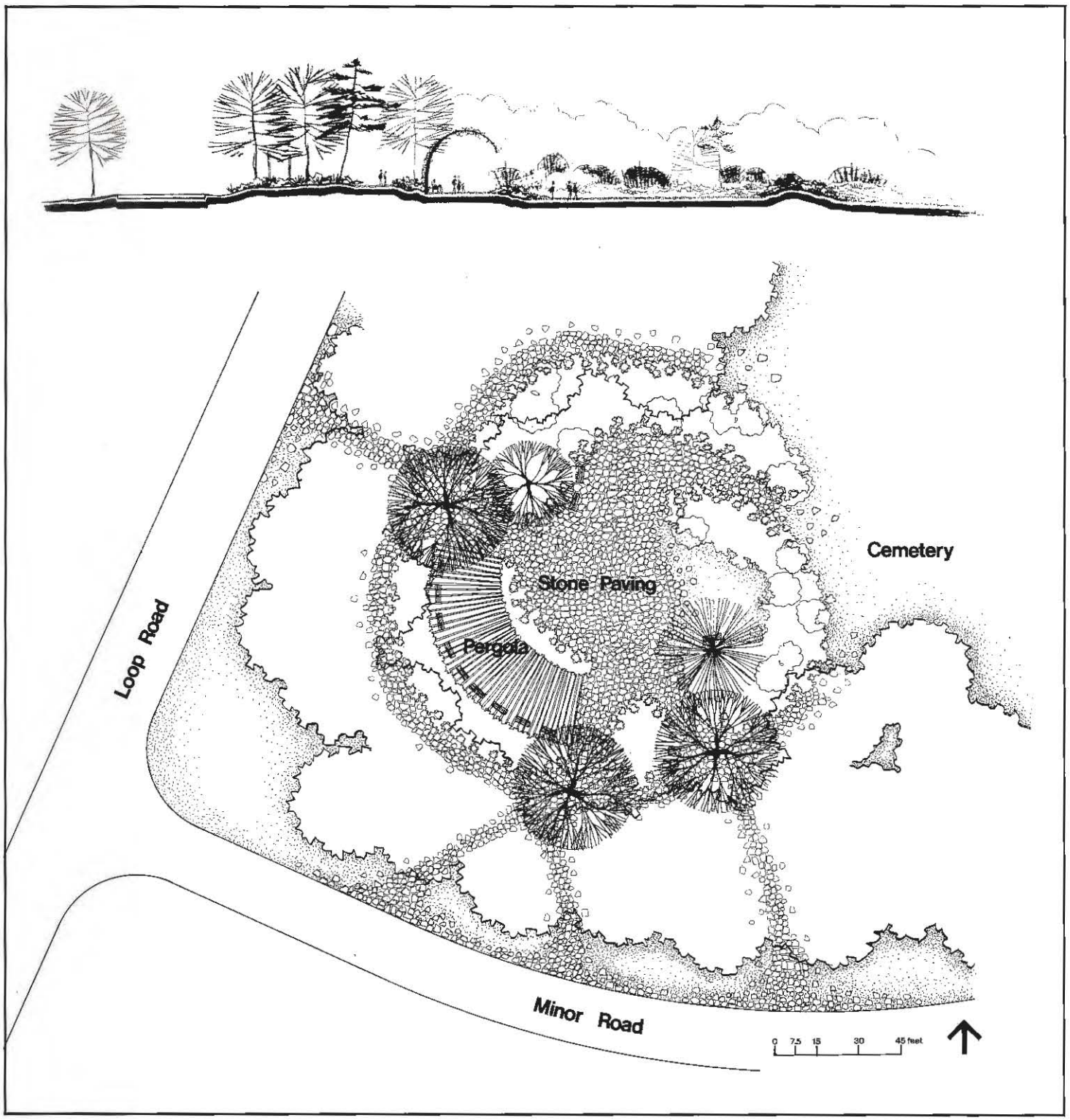
Memorial center building and flagpole.



Memorial center building.



Interior of memorial chapel.



Typical commemorative garden.

Commemorative Gardens

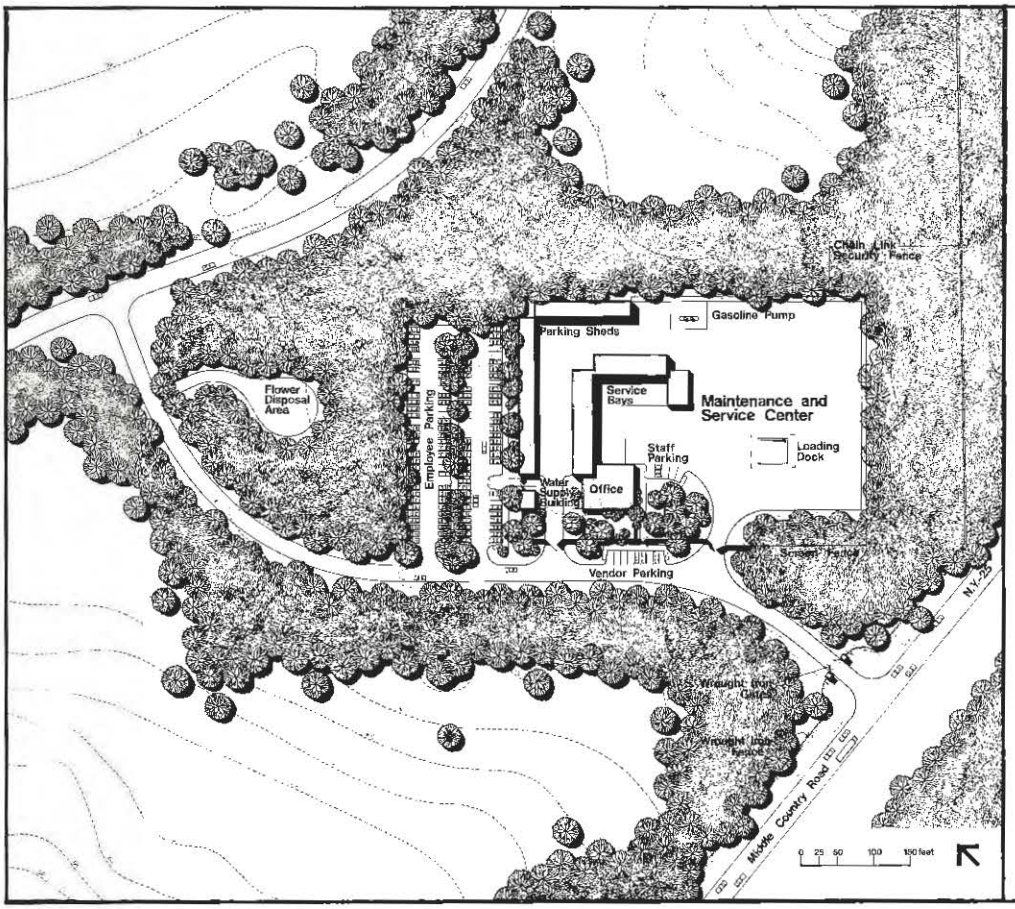
Along the primary loop road there are occasional points of interest where memorials and columbaria are located. Garden-like in character, they are places of particular charm and tranquility where one can sit in quiet contemplation and view the adjacent gravesite areas from a setting of personal scale.

These areas are treated with shrubbery and flower plantings in an informal design, with stone paving merging into grass; open, garden-type shelters with vines; and comfortable benches. Where columbaria are included, they are provided in low stone walls. There are seven of these commemorative gardens, two of which are close to visitors toilets and parking.

Columbaria

Overlooking the pond on the west side of the main entrance, there is a hillside devoted to columbaria. These columbaria are in addition to those in the commemorative gardens and ultimately in the committal shelters. A network of pathways, one above the other, laces the hillside; the paths are separated by low stone walls and natural planting. The columbaria are located in these walls. The pathways, besides providing access to the columbaria, afford the opportunity for a quiet stroll through natural woods with views of the pond and meadow.

Columbaria walk.



Legend

1 Office Area
2 Lunch Room
3 Women's Lockers, Showers and Toilets
4 First Aid Room
5 Men's Lockers, Showers and Toilets
6 Mechanical Room
7 Parts and Tool Storage Room
8 Vehicle Service Bay
9 Mechanical and Parts Storage Room
10 Welding Bay
11 Carpentry, Electrical and Plumbing Bay
12 Paint Bay
13 Wash Bay
14 Equipment Storage Room
15 Flammable Storage Room
16 Fertilizer and Insecticide Storage Room
17 Terrace

Maintenance and service center.

Maintenance and Service Center

Located in the southeast corner of the cemetery property and well screened by existing woods from the gravesite areas and the highway, the maintenance and service center is able to carry out its necessary functions unobserved by visitors or passersby. It has its own separate entrance from NY 25 so that trucks delivering supplies can come and go without using cemetery drives. A connection to the primary loop road gives access to all parts of the site for maintenance and interment vehicles.

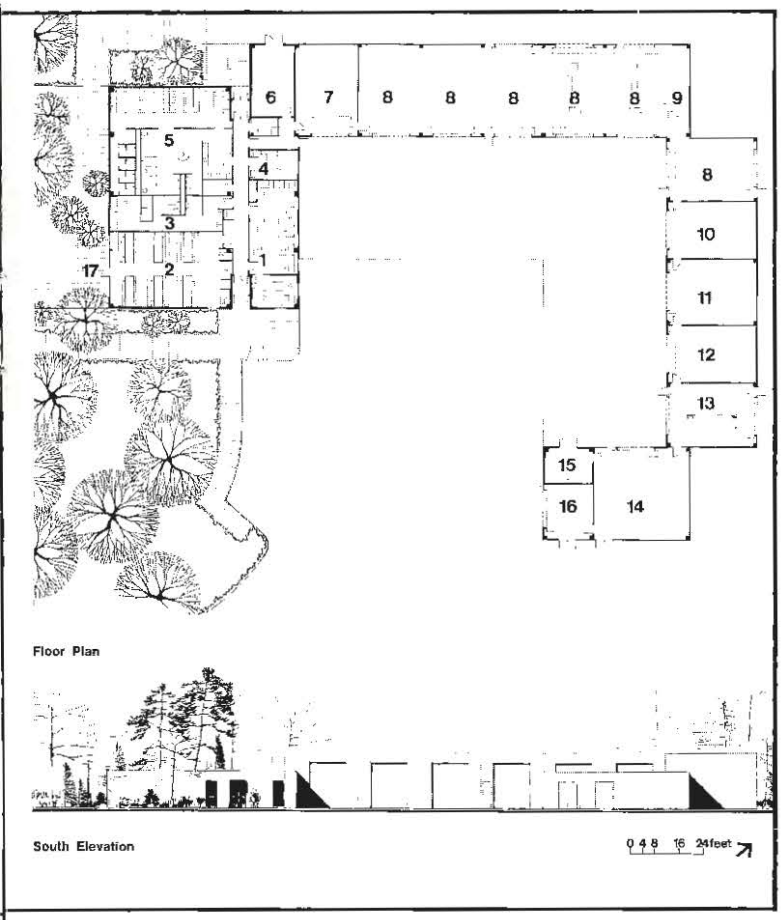
The buildings are constructed of insulated metal sandwich panels which are permanently prefinished. They include shops for vehicle maintenance and repair, sheds for parking and storage, and administration and employee facilities. The buildings are sited to protect outdoor work areas from prevailing winter winds.

A large paved area is provided for storing bulk materials and equipment. An employee parking lot for 150 cars and another small lot for vendors, both with stalls for handicapped drivers, are provided. With the exception of the parking lots, the entire maintenance and service center is fenced for security.

Cemetery Layout

Individual cemetery sections will have an informal landscape appearance, each bounded by curving roadways that follow the natural topography and stands of trees at their perimeters. In the wooded areas, the sections are carved out of the woods; in the open fields, trees are planted at the perimeter to form the enclosure. Specimen trees are spotted among the gravesites. Grading of the natural surface will be minimal so that it should be possible to identify and preserve trees of specimen quality where they occur within the space otherwise cleared for gravesites.

Each cemetery section will be laid out to produce the most efficient plan for its development while also meeting the necessary requirements of the spray irrigation systems. Each gravesite will be six feet wide and ten feet long, wide enough to permit a veteran and spouse to be interred side by side. As a general rule, irrigation laterals will run perpendicular to an irrigation main in the shoulder of the road and, in turn,



Maintenance and service building.

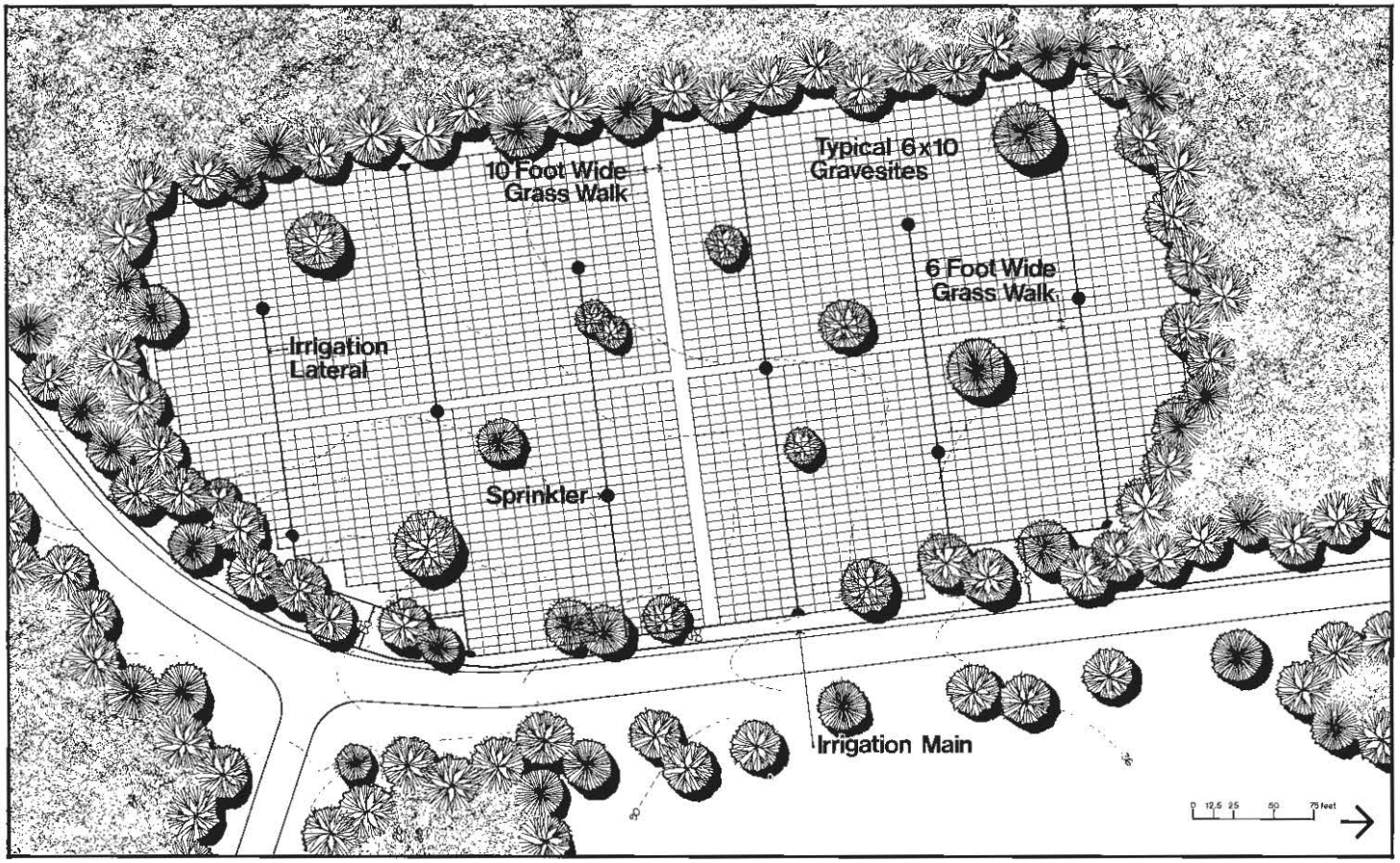
the long dimension of the gravesite will be perpendicular to the laterals. Each lateral will lie below a row of gravemarkers in a space that will not be disturbed by burial operations.

The orientation of the gravesites and their markers will vary from section to section, constantly changing in rythym with the topography and roads.

Utilities

There are no public utilities other than electric and telephone at present in the roads bounding the cemetery site and there is no gas service in the area. Water supply, sewage disposal and storm drainage can be provided for by utilizing the natural resources of the site itself.

Typical gravesite layout.



Storm Drainage

Environmental considerations have a strong impact on the master plan for cemetery development. All the storm runoff from watersheds on the property and watersheds to the north of NY 25A that drain onto the property have in the past percolated down through the sandy low areas of the site without passing downstream. Present environmental regulations demand that any additional runoff created by development of the cemetery be similarly retained and allowed to percolate downward, recharging the ground water locally and preventing downstream erosion.

In order to handle the fairly substantial increase in runoff that can be expected to occur, a dual strategy is proposed. Most of the runoff from the gravesite areas that reaches roadside swales will be intercepted by catch basins and discharged underground locally through large diameter precast concrete seepage rings called leaching pools.

All other runoff not so intercepted will find its way down the principal north-south drainage ways on the site, which are being preserved, to large recharge areas in the low lying zone adjacent to NY 25. Portions of two of these areas will be developed as permanent naturalistic ponds which, in addition to their enhancing the landscape, will protect the recharge areas lying below them from serious silting.

These provisions for the storage and disposal of storms of great severity remove those areas from use for burial purposes but provide a very worthwhile environmental benefit at minimum cost.

Water Supply and Irrigation

The domestic water supply demand of the cemetery will be light but the lawn irrigation supply demand will be heavy, even though the irrigation system will be designed only to supplement natural rainfall at the rate of one-half inch per week during summer drought periods. Domestic water needs are concentrated in the southern portion of the site where all the principal buildings are located. No public water supply exists or has been planned to serve that area. Accordingly, on-site wells will have to meet both domestic and irrigation needs.

Eleven deep wells are planned, to be installed in phases within the high yielding Upper Glacial acquifer. Seven are for irrigation, three for domestic water and one for fire control. Various irrigation zones will be established and will be automatically-operated so that manpower requirements may be minimal. Under the system, watering can be pre-timed to avoid waste. Watering of lawns would usually be concentrated in the early evening hours following closing and in the early morning hours prior to opening to the public.

Electric and Telephone

An overhead pole line exists along the south side of NY 25A that brings 13.2 kilovolts electric service and telephone to the northern boundary of the site. A 13.2 KV electric service exists also along NY 25 up to a point 4500 feet west of the site. That service will be extended on poles eastward to the south boundary of the cemetery. At that point, the electric line will be placed underground to avoid having a pole line close to the ends of the airfield runways. That would represent a positive esthetic benefit with respect to the development of the cemetery's main entrance. The connection to the new service in NY 25 will place the most critical cemetery load centers on line immediately after the service enters the cemetery, making for the best available reliability.

Telephone service to all cemetery facilities will follow the same underground route as the primary electric service. Emergency signal links will be established, using the telephone lines, with the local fire department and the security watch at the Naval Weapons Industrial Plant.

Sanitary Disposal

There are no public sewers in the vicinity of the cemetery. Sanitary wastes will be disposed of underground in precast concrete leaching pools similar to those used for storm drainage disposal. While the buildings are concentrated in the southern zone of the cemetery, they are actually widely separated and make underground disposal entirely practical. After its treatment in a septic tank near each building, or group of buildings, the effluent will discharge into underground leaching pools and there filter slowly through the medium to the fine sands prevalent throughout the site.

Staging

Under the master plan, the construction of Calverton National Cemetery would be accomplished in eight phases. The sectors proposed for each construction phase, taken together with an initial development of 38 acres, constitute the complete development of the cemetery property. The 38 acres are required immediately for gravesites in order to reduce to a minimum the length of interruption in the first-burials handled by Long Island National Cemetery, now virtually full.

The selection of the first 38 acres and Phase 1 sector was based largely on the evaluations made during the site analysis study in anticipation of the critical time requirements and available funding. The succeeding construction phase limits were selected as logical additions of segments of the facilities required to serve the sections of gravesites being built in each phase. One goal in that selection was to permit the fields in the northeast quarter that are being farmed to continue in that practice as long as it is feasible.

In the initial development for the 38 acres of immediately needed gravesites, temporary buildings and committal service facilities are provided for the operation of the cemetery. The construction of the permanent administration center and maintenance and service center follow quickly under Phase 1, which also includes approximately 50 acres of gravesites. Phase 2 then follows with about 100 acres of gravesites and the permanent committal service center. The temporary committal service facilities would continue to be used until the permanent committal service center is constructed but an early completion requirement would be incorporated in the Phase 2 construction contract to assure that that facility would be put into use as soon as possible. The flagpole and assembly area of the memorial center would also be constructed in Phase 2. The interpretive center for visitors is deferred to a later phase.

Approximately 62% of the site will eventually be developed with gravesites and columbaria. The remaining land is required for buildings and roads; preserved drainage ways and areas required for storing and recharging drainage; and the existing woods or plantings that define individual cemeteries and preserve the essential character of the land as it was found. When development is completed, the total number of graves and columbaria will be approximately 404,000. It is estimated that the rate of first burials at Calverton National Cemetery will be 800 per month continued over 42 years. Thereafter, Calverton will continue to handle reopenings of graves for an indeterminate period.

Credits

Skyviews Survey, Inc.	Aerial photograph, page 8
Todd and Chapin	Models
Louis Checkman	Photographs of models
Leo. J. Carroll, P.E., L.S.	Photomosaic, page 9
Zabel Brothers Co., Inc.	Printing
Clarke & Rapuano, Inc.	
Gerhard Stossier	Brochure design
Frank C. Marcellino	Perspective sketches

Appendix B Environmental Studies

Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
5 Alfred Circle
Bedford, MA 01730-2318
Tel. 781-275-6050
Fax. 781-275-5651
info@mabbett.com
www.mabbett.com

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

To: Daniel Hayes, PE, PMP, Senior Project Manager, Gordon

From: Andrew Glucksman, Project Manager, Mabbett & Associates, Inc.

Date: September 14, 2018

Re: Calverton National Cemetery
Potential Impacts to Freshwater Wetlands and Endangered/Threatened/Protected Species

All proposed work sites at the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC) requiring disturbance to natural vegetation were inspected to determine the presence or absence of freshwater wetlands and potential impacts to endangered, threatened, or protected wildlife and plant species or their habitats. Field investigations were completed by the Mabbett Team on September 7, 2018.

1. Ecological Communities

The ecological communities present at the improvement locations involving clearing of natural vegetation were characterized according to the Ecological Communities of New York State (Edinger et al, 2014). The proposed improvements at the Maintenance Complex and the Committal Shelters will require disturbance and clearing of coastal oak-heath forests. At these sites, these forests are dominated by scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) with a well-developed shrub layer comprised of lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinum angustifolium* and *Vaccinium pallidum*) and black huckleberry (*Gaylusscia baccata*) and lesser abundance of other species such as bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). The proposed improvements in the vicinity of Burial Sections 49-50, 54, 56-57, and 62-65 require disturbance to successional old fields and coastal oak-heath forests. The successional old fields are dominated by various grasses such as orchard grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), green foxtail (*Setaria viridis*), broom sedge (*Andropogon virginicus*), crabgrass (*Digitaria sp.*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) and abundant native and invasive forbs including Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia gramnifolia*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), vetch (*Vicia sp.*), small white aster (*Symphyotrichum lateriflorum*), lady's thumb (*Persicaria maculosa*), wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*), and common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*). Brambles, particularly dewberry (*Rubus flagellaris*), and dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*) are common in these successional fields and scattered autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*) and eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) are present. The coastal oak-heath forests present at the burial section improvements are similar in species composition to those of and the Maintenance Complex and Committal Shelters. No hydrophytic vegetation or indicators of wetland hydrology were observed at any of these improvement locations.

2. Freshwater Wetlands

A desktop review of the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Inventory and the National Wetland Inventory Maps indicated that no freshwater wetlands are expected to be found on the cemetery property (Appendix A). Deep Pond (NYS ID# W-1) and Scuttle Hole (NYS ID# W-17) are located approximately 500 and 1,400 feet, respectively, to the west of the CNC and approximately 3,500 feet from the nearest proposed work area at the Committal Shelters. As described previously, the natural vegetation and ecological communities at the improvement sites consist of coastal oak-heath forests and successional old fields. No hydrophytic vegetation (i.e. plants with a wetland indicator classification of FACW or OBL) or indicators of wetland hydrology were observed. The coastal oak-heath forests and successional old fields present at the proposed improvement areas do not contain freshwater wetlands following New York State and Federal wetland delineation manuals (Browne et al, 1995; Environmental Laboratory, 1987; US Army Corps of Engineers, 2011) . The dominant plant species in these oak-heath forests and successional fields do not consist of 50% or more of plant species with wetland indicator classifications of FAC or wetter. Accordingly, the hydrophytic vegetation criteria for these delineation manuals is not met and no freshwater wetlands are present. Therefore, the proposed improvements will not result in any adverse impacts to freshwater wetlands and, furthermore, no Federal or New York State permits are required pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Article 24 (Freshwater Wetlands Act) of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law.

3. Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species

A desktop review of New York State and Federal on-line databases was conducted to determine if endangered, threatened, or protected wildlife or plant species may potentially occur on or in the vicinity of the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC). New York State's on-line resources indicated that northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), common sanddragon (*Progomphus obscurus*), and Herodias underwing (*Catocala herodias gerhardi*) may occur on or in the vicinity of the project site (http://www.dec.ny.gov/eafmapper/). A request for confirmation of the on-line data was submitted to the New York Natural Heritage Program on September 6, 2018. The US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (iPaC) tool was utilized for the Calverton National Cemetery (www. https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac) and an iPaC report indicating six (6) species listed as Federally endangered and threatened and 20 species of migratory birds was generated (Appendix B). The potential for the proposed improvements at the CNC to adversely impact each of these Federal or New York State protected species is discussed below.

a. Federal and State-Listed Species

Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Federal-Threatened, New York State-Threatened:
The project site contains habitat that could be utilized by the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) during the summer months. The northern long-eared bat was listed in 2016 as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The northern long-eared bat can utilize a wide variety of upland woodland and forest types (NYNHP, 2016), but are typically associated with mature interior forest (Carroll et al, 2002) and tend to avoid woodlands with significant edge habitat (Yates and Muzika 2006). Northern long-eared bats roost during the day in dead or live trees under loose bark, or in cavities and crevices (US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2013).

Due to the presence of summer habitat at the site and documentation of northern long-eared bat foraging over various habitat types throughout eastern Suffolk County (NYSDEC, 2018), any clear-cutting of trees should occur during the winter months (between November 1 and March 31) to avoid any potential take of this protected species. Similarly, the demolition of structures at the 25A Decommissioning Site should also occur between November 1 and March 31 to avoid potential impacts to any bats using these structures as day roosts.

Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Federal-Threatened, New York State-Endangered:
Red knot (*Calidris canutus*), Federal-Threatened:
Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Federal-Endangered, New York State-Endangered:

These three species were included in the iPaC report generated for the CNC (Appendix B). These three shorebirds inhabit coastal beaches, intertidal habitats, and nearshore waters. No impacts to these species will result from this project.

Seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), Federal-Threatened, New York State-Threatened:
Seabeach amaranth was included in the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This plant species is found only on maritime beaches between the spring high water line and the foredune and in overwash areas (NYNHP, 2017a). No impacts to this species will result from this project.

Sandplain gerardia (*Agalinis acuta*), Federal-Endangered, New York State-Endangered:
Sandplain gerardia was included in the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B), but not in the New York Natural Heritage Program data for the property. Sandplain gerardia is known to occur in four, small, isolated populations on Long Island (none in the vicinity of the project area) in remnant grasslands (NYNHP, 2017b). The meadows located on the Calverton National Cemetery property are not similar to the high-quality, native, maritime grasslands dominated by little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium)*, Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and poverty grass (*Danthonia spicata*) with a diversity of forbs needed to provide suitable habitat for sandplain gerardia. Accordingly, no impacts to this species will result from this project.

b. New York State-Listed Species

Eastern tiger salamander (*Ambystomata tigrium*), New York State-Endangered:
The eastern tiger salamander is listed as an endangered species in New York State. Tiger salamanders breed in small ponds and woodland pools in the winter months and spend much of the remainder of the year in surrounding upland forests. The freshwater wetlands located to the west of the cemetery are the nearest potential salamander breeding ponds. The correspondence requested from the New York Natural Heritage Program should provide confirmation of this location of the nearest tiger salamander breeding pond to the CNC.

NYSDEC restrictions related to development adjacent to tiger salamander breeding ponds include 1) preserving 100% of the existing upland forest habitat within 535 feet of a breeding pond and 2) preserving a minimum of 50% of the adjacent upland area within 1,000 feet of breeding ponds in contiguous blocks of suitable habitat. The nearest potential tiger salamander breeding pond is 500 feet from the property boundary and 3,500 feet from the nearest proposed improvements involving clearing of natural vegetation. Accordingly, no impacts to tiger salamanders are expected to result from this project and no New York

State permit is required pursuant to Article 11 (New York Endangered Species Act) for potential impacts to tiger salamanders.

Short-eared owl (*Asio fallmeus*), New York State-Endangered:
The short-eared owl is a New York State-endangered species that is known to utilize grasslands in the Calverton area as wintering habitat. Open habitats such as grasslands, hayfields, fallow farm lands, pastures, and freshwater and salt water may be used during the winter months by short-eared owls (NYNHP, 2017c). Short-eared owls are not known to breed in Suffolk County (McGowan and Corwin, 2008); accordingly, the project will not adversely impact short-eared owl breeding. Observations of this species are well-documented in the grasslands located to the south of Route 25 on the EPCAL property (www.ebird.org). The mowed turfgrass and degraded meadows at the Calverton National Cemetery provides less suitable habitat for this species than the native grasslands at EPCAL. However, the proposed conversion of forested areas to open turf grass and bordering fields would result in a minor benefit to short-eared owls.

Common sanddragon (*Progomphus obscurus*), New York State Species of Special Concern:
The common sanddragon is one of the rarest dragonflies in New York State and is listed as a Species of Special Concern. This species is known to breed at two coastal plain ponds in northern Suffolk County (NYNHP, 2018). No coastal plain ponds or freshwater wetlands are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this species will result from the proposed project.

Herodias underwing (*Catocala herodias gerhardi*), New York State Species of Special Concern:
This New York State Species of Special Concern is found only in pitch pine-scrub oak forests and woodlands and other pine barrens habitats with an abundance of scrub oak (NYNHP, 2017d). The larvae of this moth feed almost exclusively on scrub oak and the adults typically rest near the base of scrub oak or other bushes (NYNHP, 2017d). There is little scrub oak in the oak-heath forests within the locations of the proposed improvements. Due to the absence of suitable habitat for this species; no significant impacts to Herodias underwing will result from the proposed project.

c. Migratory Birds:

The following bird species protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 may occur at or in the vicinity of the project site based on US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (iPaC) report generated for the Calverton National Cemetery (Appendix B).

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This shorebird is found on beaches comprised of sand, gravel, or shells; salt marshes and dunes, marsh islands, and mudflats. The available habitat at the Calverton National Cemetery is not suitable for this species and the proposed project will have no effect on this coastal species.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*):
In addition to Federal protection under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, bald eagles are listed by New York State as a threatened species. Bald eagle habitat includes undisturbed forests near large rivers, large lakes and reservoirs, estuaries, and marshes and

swamps. They nest in forests along the shorelines of river, lakes, estuaries, or oceans and, in the Northeast, spend the winter months along major river systems (New York Natural Heritage Program, 2017e). Bald eagles sightings in the Calverton area are centered along the Peconic and Carmans Rivers. The absence of large tracts of forested shoreline habitat at the Calverton National Cemetery indicates that no impacts to this species will result from the proposed project.

Bobolink (*Doliochonyx oryzivorus*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). The bobolink is known to utilize grasslands in the Calverton area in the spring and fall months (www.ebird.org). Bobolink are not known to breed in the Calverton area based on McGowan and Corwin (2008); accordingly, the project will not adversely impact bobolink breeding. Observations of this species are well-documented in the grasslands located to the south of Route 25 on the EPCAL property. The mowed turfgrass and degraded meadows at the Calverton National Cemetery provide less suitable habitat for this species than the native grasslands at EPCAL, but the existing meadows on site may be used by bobolink as habitat during migration. The conversion of forests to mowed turfgrass and marginal meadows would improve habitat conditions for bobolink at Calverton National Cemetery, but the conversion of existing meadows to mowed turf areas would somewhat offset this benefit by degrading some of the available habitat for bobolink. Accordingly, no significant adverse impacts to bobolink shall result from the proposed project and a small benefit to bobolink may result.

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). The Canada warbler nests in cool, moist, deciduous and mixed forests with a dense shrub understory (Banner and Schaller, 2001) and is not known to nest in the Towns of Brookhaven or Riverhead (McGowan and Corwin, 2008). Canada warbler uses a wide variety of habitats during migration including shrub edges near parks and developed areas, woodland edges, swamps, and stream thickets (Conway 1999). The Calverton National Cemetery provides habitat for Canada Warbler during migration periods and will continue to do so under the proposed conditions. Accordingly, no impacts to the breeding of this species and inconsequential impacts on the availability of migratory habitat for this species will result from the project.

Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This secretive wading bird is found in vegetated coastal wetlands. The available habitat at the Calverton National Cemetery is not suitable for this species and the proposed project will have no effect on this coastal species.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpine arcticola*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This shorebird can be found during the migration periods and winter months found in mudflats, estuaries, marshes, flooded fields, sandy beaches, and shores of lakes and ponds. The available habitat at the Calverton National Cemetery is not suitable for this species and the proposed project will have no effect on this coastal species.

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species is listed as threatened in New York State, but was not included in New York Natural Heritage Program data for this property. This shorebird nests on sandy beaches and spit and forages for fish in estuarine and coastal waters. The available habitat at the Calverton National Cemetery is not suitable for this species and the proposed project will have no effect on this coastal species.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This wading bird can be found in Long Island's freshwater and tidal marshes during migration periods. The available habitat at the Calverton National Cemetery is not suitable for this species and the proposed project will have no effect on this coastal species.

Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelson*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species inhabits brackish and tidal marshes in coastal areas. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to Nelson's sparrow will result from this project.

Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). The prairie warbler nests in shrublands and scrub-shrub habitats in mixed pine-oak barrens, old pastures and fields, and dry hillsides. Large openings surrounding or containing clumps of shrubs are typical components of breeding habitat (Bannon and Schaller, 2002). Prairie warbler are abundant in Long Island's Central Pine Barrens in the vicinity of Calverton National Cemetery (www.ebird.org). The species is expected to be present on or near the CNC during the breeding season. However, the improvement locations do not contain open habitats with abundant shrubs; accordingly, no adverse impacts to prairie warbler breeding or availability of breeding habitat are expected to result from this project.

Purple sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species can be found on Long Island's coast during migration and wintering periods on rocky intertidal shores. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to purple sandpiper will result from this project.

Red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). In New York State, red-headed woodpeckers are classified as a Species of Special Concern. These birds are found in the open areas with scattered trees (e.g., parks, golf courses, roadsides); open swamps and river bottoms with dead, standing trees; pitch pine-oak forests; pitch pine-scrub oak barrens; and silver maple swamps (Levine 1998; McGowan and Corwin 2008; NYNHP 2017f). The species may be present on or near the CNC during the

breeding season. However, the improvement locations do not contain the preferred breeding habitat with large dead trees in forest gaps or woodlands. Accordingly, no adverse impacts to red-headed woodpecker breeding or availability of breeding habitat are expected to result from this project.

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species can be found on Long Island's coast during wintering periods in marine waters. No impacts to red-throated loon will result from this project.

Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species can be found on Long Island's coast during migration on rocky and sandy beaches and mudflats. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to ruddy turnstone will result from this project.

Rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). Winter habitats for this species include wooded wetlands, swamps and wet margins, lawns and open pastures, and agricultural areas predominantly in the southeastern United States (USFWS, 2015). The species may be present on or near the CNC during the migration and wintering periods. However, the improvement locations do not contain the preferred wintering habitats for this species including forested wetlands and swamps. The improvement locations will result in conversion of some oak forests to more open turfgrass areas and meadows. Accordingly, the project will not have any adverse impacts to rusty blackbird and may result in a minor improvement in habitat availability for this species at CNC.

Saltmarsh sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species is only found in tidal marshes in coastal areas. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to saltmarsh sparrow will result from this project.

Semi-palmated sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species can be found on Long Island's coast during migration periods on mudflats, sandy beaches, lake and pond shorelines, and wet meadows. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to semi-palmated sandpiper will result from this project.

Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species can be found during the winter months on open beaches and dunes. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to snowy owl will result from this project.

Wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). The wood thrush breeds in shaded, cool, mesic mixed or deciduous forests with an abundance of saplings and shrub understory, often near swamps or water (Bannon and Schaller, 2001c). The species is present in the vicinity of the Calverton National Cemetery, especially in and near the wet forests in the headwaters of the Peconic River in Calverton and other freshwater wetland complexes in Calverton and Wading River. However, the forests that will be cleared at improvement locations are too dry with insufficient tall understory and sub-canopy vegetation to provide preferred breeding habitat for wood thrush. Accordingly, no adverse impacts to wood thrush breeding or availability of breeding habitat are expected to result from this project.

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*):
This species is protected under the Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918 and is listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern, according to the iPaC report for the property (Appendix B). This species nests in brackish and tidal marshes on Long Island's bays and barrier islands. Suitable habitat for this species is not present on the CNC property or at the improvement locations; accordingly, no impacts to willet will result from this project.

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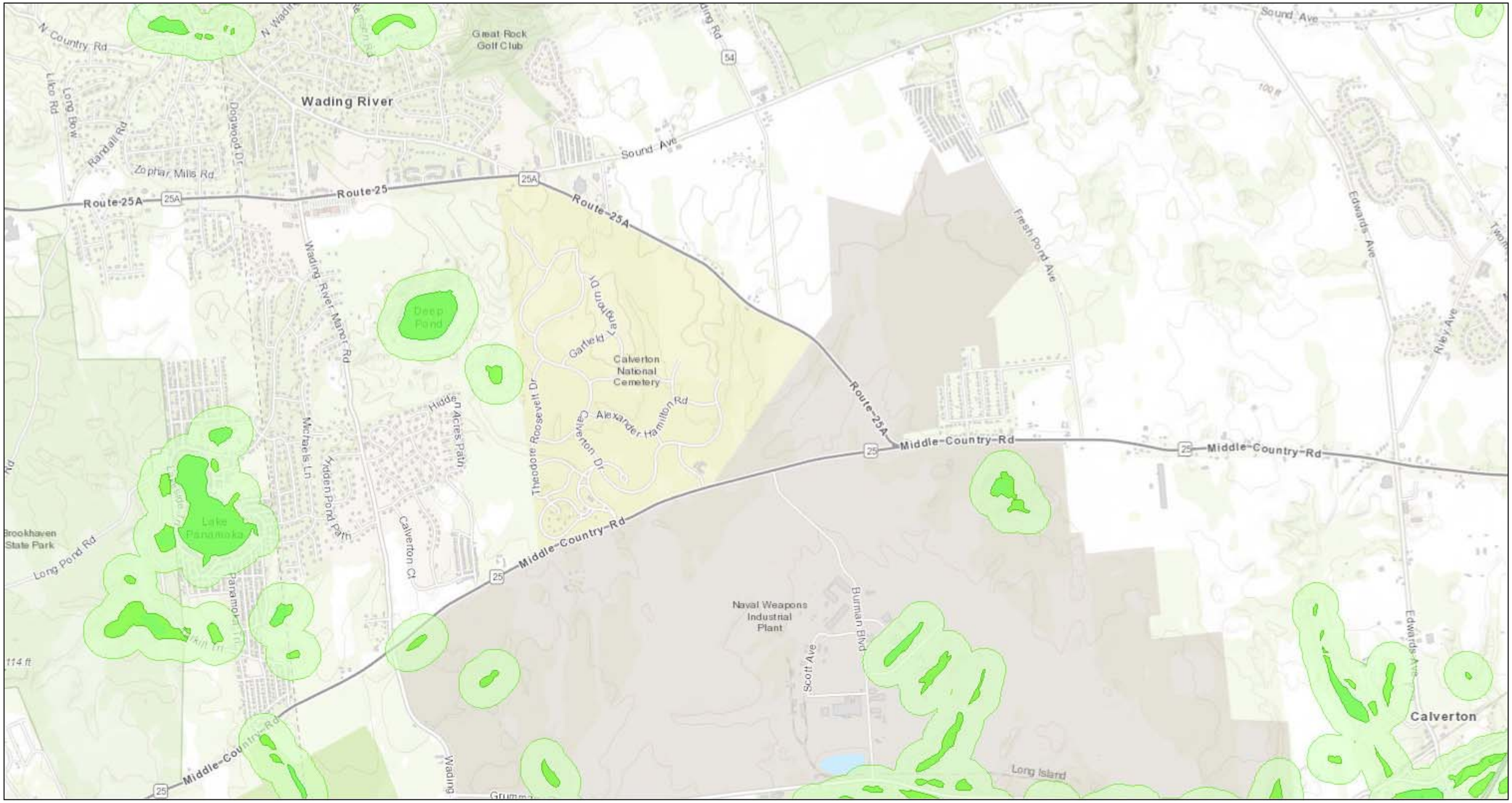
APPENDIX A:
New York State and National Wetland Inventory Maps

Calverton National Cemetery



September 14, 2018

1:36,112

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 mi

0 0.5 1 2 km

Sources: Esri, HERE , Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong K ong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Not a legal document

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

Calverton National Cemetery

September 14, 2018

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake

Other

- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

APPENDIX B:
United States Fish and Wildlife Service iPaC Report

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Location

Suffolk County, New York

Local office

Long Island Ecological Services Field Office

- (631) 286-0485
- (631) 286-4003

340 Smith Road
Shirley, NY 11967-2258

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population, even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species

[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information.
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover Charadrius melodus There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Red Knot Calidris canutus rufa No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Roseate Tern Sterna dougallii dougallii No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2083	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Sandplain Gerardia Agalinis acuta No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8128	Endangered
Seabeach Amaranth Amaranthus pumilus No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8549	Threatened

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Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

---

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

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NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8935	Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 31
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Oct 15 to Aug 31
Bobolink *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31
Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 20 to Aug 10
Clapper Rail *Rallus crepitans* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Apr 10 to Oct 31
Dunlin *Calidris alpina arcticola* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Least Tern *Sterna antillarum* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 10

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679	Breeds elsewhere
Nelson's Sparrow Ammodramus nelsoni This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Sep 5
Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
Purple Sandpiper Calidris maritima This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 10 to Sep 10
Red-throated Loon Gavia stellata This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Ruddy Turnstone Arenaria interpres morinella This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds elsewhere
Rusty Blackbird Euphagus carolinus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Saltmarsh Sparrow Ammodramus caudacutus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 15 to Sep 5
Semipalmated Sandpiper Calidris pusilla This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere
Snowy Owl Bubo scandiacus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

Willet Tringa semipalmata — Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina — Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures and/or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the E-bird Explore Data Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets .

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide, or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

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What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

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Facilities

Wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries

REFUGE AND FISH HATCHERY INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN WETLANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

October 13, 2018

Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
10 Dorrance Street, Suite 700
Providence, RI 02903
attn: Andrew Glucksman

Re: Calverton National Cemetery (Wading River, Town of Riverhead)
New York Natural Heritage Program
Report on New York State-listed Plants, Animals, and Ecological Communities

Dear Mr. Glucksman:

I recently received the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) Report on New York State-listed Plants, Animals, and Ecological Communities for the gravesite development and improvements project at the Calverton National Cemetery. A few State-listed plants, animals, and ecological communities are documented in this report that were not included in the information sources reviewed for the previously prepared impact assessment (dated September 14, 2018). The additional analysis below is provided as an update to the original assessment to include the additional species and communities included in the NYNHP Report.

Additional State-Listed Species and Ecological Communities include the following:

Red-banded Hairstreak (*Calycopis cecrops*): This butterfly species is included in the NYNHP reported dated October 9, 2018. This species is not listed as endangered, threatened, or special concern by New York State or the US Fish and Wildlife Service and, accordingly, this species is not protected at either the State or federal levels. The species was documented at Deep Pond located 0.25 miles to the west of the Calverton National Cemetery. According to the NYNHP, this species is associated with various oak-dominated forests (oak-heath, oak-laurel, and oak- forests), pine-oak forests, mowed lawns, and successional fields (NYNHP, 2017). All of these habitat types are present at the Calverton National Cemetery and in/adjacent to the sites of the proposed improvements. Therefore, the site provides suitable habitat for red-banded hairstreak. After project completion, the project areas will still be comprised of a mixed composition of these various suitable habitats with an increased in mowed lawn habitats. Accordingly, no significant impacts to this unprotected species are expected as red-banded hairstreak will still be able to utilize the project areas as habitat after project completion.

Atlantic Bluet (*Enallagma doubledayi*): This damselfly is not listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species in New York State, but the NYNHP has assigned this species with a Conservation Status of "critically imperiled". This species is known to breed in coastal plain ponds located to the west of Calverton National Cemetery. No coastal plain ponds or freshwater wetlands are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this species will result from the proposed project.

Martha's Pennant (*Celithemis martha*): This dragonfly is not listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species in New York State, but the NYNHP has assigned this species with a Conservation Status of "imperiled". This species is known to breed in coastal plain ponds located to the west of Calverton National Cemetery. No coastal plain ponds or freshwater wetlands are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this species will result from the proposed project.

Coastal Plain Pond Shore: This significant ecological community is classified as a "rare community type" by the NYNHP. Deep Pond is located approximately 0.25 miles to the west of the Calverton National Cemetery and features this coastal plain pond shore community. No coastal plain ponds or freshwater wetlands are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this ecological community will result from the proposed project.

Rough Hedge Nettle (*Stachys hyssopifolia*): This NYS-Threatened wildflower inhabits coastal plain pond shores and other open habitats with wet sandy soils (NYNHP, 2017a). No coastal plain ponds or other suitable habitats are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this species will result from the proposed project.

Rose Coreopsis (*Coreopsis rosea*): This wildflower is classified as rare in New York State and inhabits coastal plain pond shores (NYNHP, 2017b). No coastal plain ponds or other suitable habitats are present on the cemetery property or within the proposed improvement areas. Accordingly, no impacts to this species will result from the proposed project.

Slender Pinweed (*Lechea tenuifolia*): This NYS-Threatened plant inhabits dry, sandy, or grassy openings (either natural or artificial) in coastal oak forests or pine-scrub oak barrens (NYNHP, 2017c). In the vicinity of Calverton National Cemetery, slender pinweed is typically found in the dry, sandy soils and edges of firebreaks and trails in pine barrens or pine- or oak-dominated forests. The locations of the proposed gravesite locations and other improvements do not contain any open, sandy, maintained firebreaks where slender pinweed is typically observed. Accordingly, no impacts to this species are expected to result from the proposed project.

Literature Cited:

New York Natural Heritage Program. 2017. Red-banded Hairstreak Conservation Guide. New York Natural Heritage Program. Albany, NY. 6 pgs.
New York Natural Heritage Program. 2017a. Rough Hedge Nettle Conservation Guide. New York Natural Heritage Program. Albany, NY. 6 pgs.
New York Natural Heritage Program. 2017b. Rose Coreopsis Conservation Guide. New York Natural Heritage Program. Albany, NY. 6 pgs.
New York Natural Heritage Program. 2017c. Slender Pinweed Conservation Guide. New York Natural Heritage Program. Albany, NY. 7 pgs.

Kindly contact me at (631) 727-2400 or wbowman@landuse.us with any further questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Bowman, PhD
Senior Scientist

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, Fifth Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4757
P: (518) 402-8935 | F: (518) 402-8925
www.dec.ny.gov

October 9, 2018

Lauren Sidor
Land Use Ecological Services, Inc.
570 Expressway Drive South, Suite 2F
Medford, NY 11763

Re: Calverton National Cemetery - Gravesite Developments and Improvements Project
County: Suffolk Town/City: Riverhead

Dear Ms. Sidor:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

Enclosed is a report of rare or state-listed animals and plants, and significant natural communities that our database indicates occur in the vicinity of the project site.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our database. We cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

Our database is continually growing as records are added and updated. If this proposed project is still under development one year from now, we recommend that you contact us again so that we may update this response with the most current information.

The presence of the plants and animals identified in the enclosed report may result in this project requiring additional review or permit conditions. For further guidance, and for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the NYS DEC Region 1 Office, Division of Environmental Permits at dep.r1@dec.ny.gov, 631-444-0365.

Sincerely,

Heidi Krahling
Environmental Review Specialist
New York Natural Heritage Program

1030

The following state-listed animals have been documented in the vicinity of the project site.

The following list includes animals that are listed by NYS as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern; and/or that are federally listed or are candidates for federal listing.

For information about any permit considerations for the project, please contact the Permits staff at the NYSDEC Region 1 Office at dep.r1@dec.ny.gov, 631-444-0365.

The following species has been documented within 150 yards of the project site.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	FEDERAL LISTING	
Amphibians				
Tiger Salamander	*Ambystoma tigrinum*	Endangered		5565

The following species has been documented within 200 yards of the project site.

Birds				
Short-eared Owl *Nonbreeding*	*Asio flammeus*	Endangered		13216

The following species has been documented within 0.75 mile of the project site. Additional locations have been documented within 1.5 miles. Individual animals may travel 1.5 miles from documented locations. The main impact of concern with bats is the cutting or removal of potential roost sites.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	FEDERAL LISTING	
Mammals				
Northern Long-eared Bat *Non-winter location*	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Threatened	Threatened	14541

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the listed animals in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, and from NYSDEC at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7494.html.

The following rare plants, rare animals, and significant natural communities have been documented at the project site, or in its vicinity.

We recommend that potential impacts of the proposed project on these species or communities be addressed as part of any environmental assessment or review conducted as part of the planning, permitting and approval process, such as reviews conducted under SEQR. Field surveys of the project site may be necessary to determine the status of a species at the site, particularly for sites that are currently undeveloped and may still contain suitable habitat. Final requirements of the project to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential impacts are determined by the lead permitting agency or the government body approving the project.

The following animals, while not listed by New York State as Endangered or Threatened, are rare in New York and are of conservation concern.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*
Butterflies			
Red-banded Hairstreak	*Calycopis cecrops*	Unlisted	Status Uncertain
Documented within 0.2 mile west of the project site. Deep Pond. 2000-08-29: The habitat is sandy and populated by scattered herbs and graminoids.			11275
Dragonflies and Damselflies			
Atlantic Bluet	*Enallagma doubledayi*	Unlisted	Critically Imperiled in NYS
Documented within 0.25 mile west of the project site. 2009-07-04: The habitat is seven ponds, many of them coastal plain ponds in Brookhaven and Riverhead.			14720
Martha's Pennant	*Celithemis martha*	Unlisted	Imperiled in NYS
Documented within 0.25 mile west of the project site. 2009-07-13: The habitats are mainly coastal plain ponds.			14736
Common Sanddragon	*Progomphus obscurus*	Special Concern	Critically Imperiled in NYS
Documented within 0.5 mile west of the project site. Deep Pond. 2008-06-10: The pond is a large, round, sandy kettle with shallow shores.			13234

The following natural community is considered significant from a statewide perspective by the NY Natural Heritage Program. By meeting specific, documented criteria, the NY Natural Heritage Program considers this community to have high ecological and conservation value.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*
Wetland/Aquatic Communities			
Coastal Plain Pond Shore			Rare Community Type
Documented within 0.25 mile west of the project site at Deep Pond.			6337

The following plants are listed as Endangered or Threatened by New York State, and/or are rare in New York State, and so are a vulnerable natural resource of conservation concern.

COMMON NAME	*SCIENTIFIC NAME*	*NY STATE LISTING*	*HERITAGE CONSERVATION STATUS*
Vascular Plants			
Rough Hedge Nettle	*Stachys hyssopifolia var. hyssopifolia*	Threatened	Imperiled in NYS
Documented within 0.25 mile west of the project site at Deep Pond. 2000-08-29: This is a coastal plain pond shore, mostly narrow, but here and there widened artificially to form beaches. It is surrounded by pine-oak woods.			4516
Rose Coreopsis	*Coreopsis rosea*	Rare	Vulnerable in NYS and Globally Uncommon
Documented within 0.25 mile west of the project site at Deep Pond. 2000-08-29: A very round, steep sided pond with a narrow margin and surrounded by pine-oak woods.			5253
Slender Pinweed	*Lechea tenuifolia*	Threatened	Imperiled in NYS
Documented within 0.5 mile south of the project site. 1986-10-10: Bulldozed mounds along firebreak.			4099

This report only includes records from the NY Natural Heritage database. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted, and we cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species. Depending on the nature of the project and the conditions at the project site, further information from on-site surveys or other sources may be required to fully assess impacts on biological resources.

If any rare plants or animals are documented during site visits, we request that information on the observations be provided to the New York Natural Heritage Program so that we may update our database.

Information about many of the rare animals and plants in New York, including habitat, biology, identification, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org, from NatureServe Explorer at www.natureserve.org/explorer, and from USDA's Plants Database at http://plants.usda.gov/index.html (for plants).

Information about many of the natural community types in New York, including identification, dominant and characteristic vegetation, distribution, conservation, and management, is available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/97703.html for Ecological Communities of New York State.

Soil Report
Proposed Expansion Areas
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, Suffolk County, New York

Prepared for:
US Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Construction and Facilities Management (003C4B)
425 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

and

Gordon
4501 Daly Drive, Suite 200
Chantilly, VA 20151

Prepared by:
Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
5 Alfred Circle
Bedford, MA 01730

November 21, 2018

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Appendices

Appendix A: West Expansion Area Agricultural Laboratory Analytical Results and Recommendations
Appendix B: East Expansion Area Agricultural Laboratory Analytical Results and Recommendations
Appendix C: South Expansion Area Agricultural Laboratory Analytical Results and Recommendations
Appendix D: Metals and Soil Physical Property Results
Appendix E: Percolation Testing Results

1 Introduction

This Soil Report has been prepared by Mabbett & Associates, Inc. (Mabbett®) for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposed expansion project at the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC), located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York (Figure 1). The purpose of the expansion project is to create new burial capacity and other physical infrastructure improvements within the current CNC boundary. Doing so would extend the longevity of the CNC for veterans and their eligible family members in the New York City metropolitan area.

The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the agricultural soil investigation of the current soil conditions within the proposed expansion areas, allowing the VA to determine the type and quantity of potential soil amendments needed to support the health of future trees or grasses planted within the proposed expansion areas. Additionally, this report presents the findings of percolation tests conducted within the proposed expansion areas and in the 25A Maintenance Yard.

2 Description of the Project Study Area

The CNC covers approximately 902 acres and is designed to serve veterans in the New York City metropolitan area (Figure 1). A Master Plan developed in 1977 laid out a phased development plan for the CNC property; initial development and the first burials began in 1978. The most recent expansion of the CNC was completed in 2008. It covered a 40-acre area and provided additional burial capacity that is anticipated to last through 2019.

The Proposed Action would provide approximately 26,592 new internment areas and infrastructure improvements to existing roadways, buildings, and other areas within the existing CNC property. Specifically, seven new burial sections (S1 through S7) in three primary areas (West Area, East Area, South Area) covering a total of approximately 44 acres would be created in the eastern portion of the CNC, adjacent to existing burial sections along Colonel Frances Gabreski Way and Calverton Drive (Figure 2). These new burial sections are anticipated to provide an additional 10 years of burial capacity. Additionally, the 25A Maintenance Yard located in the northern portion of the property would be decommissioned, graded, and revegetated; the area would then be available as a potential future burial section.

2.1 Geological Setting

Long Island was formed during the last period of glaciation (the Wisconsinan) which started approximately 85,000 years ago, and ended approximately 11,000 years ago. Long Island itself marks the southern-most advance of the glacial sheet and is primarily comprised of two, roughly parallel terminal moraines that run from west to east with two outwash plains, located south of the terminal moraines. Bedrock is at a depth of approximately 1,300 feet and is covered by layers of glacial, fluvial and beach sediment. The CNC is located on the northerly outwash plain located in-between the two terminal moraines.

2.2 Site Topography

The CNC topography is gently rolling to relatively flat, with about 90% of the property having slopes of less than 5%. The majority of the 44-acre expansion area has already been cleared of trees and partially graded, with the exception of approximately 7 acres that would require clearing of hardwood and coniferous trees.

3 Current Soil Conditions

Suffolk County soils are described and mapped in the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey of Suffolk County, New York. The survey identifies the dominant soil unit in the expansion areas as Riverhead sandy loam. This unit is characterized by very deep, well drained soils that are sandy loam in the upper part and gravelly loamy sand or stratified coarse sand to gravelly sand in the lower part. Within the proposed expansion areas, the USDA NRCS identified five main soil map units (Figure 3); a description of each unit is provided in the following list.

- **Carver and Plymouth sands, 3 to 15% slopes (CpC):** The Carver and Plymouth sands consist of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in coarse sandy glaciofluvial deposits and acid sandy glaciofluvial or deltaic deposits. They are nearly level through moderately sloping soils on moraines and outwash plains. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is very high throughout for Carver sands and high or very high in the mineral solum and very high in the substratum for Plymouth sands. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent. Mean annual precipitation is 45 to 50 inches and mean annual air temperature is 50 to 54 degrees Fahrenheit (°F).
- **Haven loam, 0 to 2% slopes (HaA):** The Haven loam consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in loamy glaciofluvial deposits over sandy and gravelly glaciofluvial deposits. They are nearly level soils on outwash plains. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the mineral solum and very high in the substratum. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. Mean annual precipitation is 45 to 50 inches and mean annual air temperature is 50 to 54°F.
- **Plymouth loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes (PlA):** The Plymouth loamy sand consists of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in acid sandy glaciofluvial or deltaic deposits. They are nearly level soils on moraines and outwash plains. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high in the mineral solum and very high in the substratum. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent. Mean annual precipitation is 45 to 50 inches and mean annual air temperature is 50 to 54°F.
- **Plymouth gravelly loamy sand, 3 to 8% slopes (PmB3):** The Plymouth gravelly loamy sand consists of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in acid sandy glaciofluvial or deltaic deposits. They are nearly level through moderately sloping soils on moraines and outwash plains. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high in the mineral solum and very high in the substratum. Slopes range from 3 to 8 percent. Mean annual precipitation is 45 to 50 inches and mean annual air temperature is 50 to 54°F.
- **Riverhead sandy loam, 0 to 15% slopes (RdA, RdB, RdC):** The Riverhead sandy loam consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in loamy glaciofluvial deposits overlying stratified sand and gravel. They are nearly level through moderately sloping soils on moraines and outwash plains. Slope ranges from 0 to 15 percent. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high in the solum and very high in the substratum. Mean annual precipitation is 45 to 50 inches and mean annual air temperature is 50 to 54°F.

Table 1 presents a summary of the area of each soil unit within the proposed expansion areas. Table 1 also summarizes the capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water for each soil type, as published in the USDA NRCS Soil Survey of Suffolk County, which ranged from a low of 1.98-inches per hour to a high of 19.98-inches per hour.

Table 1. USDA-NRCS Soil Units Mapped within the Proposed Expansion Area

Proposed Expansion Area	Soil Map Unit	Soil Map Unit Name	Natural Drainage Class (*Ksat*[1])	Hydric
S1, S2, S3	HaA	Haven loam, 0 to 2% slopes	Well drained (0.2-1.98 inches/hour)	No
S5	CpC	Carver and Plymouth sands, 3 to 15% slopes	Excessively drained (0.2-5.95 inches/hour)	No
S6, S7	PIA	Plymouth loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes	Excessively drained (5.95-19.98 inches/hour)	No
S4	PmB3	Plymouth gravelly loamy sand, 3 to 8% slopes, eroded	Excessively drained (5.95-19.98 inches/hour)	No
S6	RdA	Riverhead sandy loam, 0 to 15% slopes	Well drained (1.98-5.95 inches/hour)	No

Notes:
Ksat – USDA-NRCS reported capacity of the most limiting soil layer to transmit water.

4 Soil Sampling Methodology

4.1 Agricultural Soil Investigation

On September 7, 2018, Mabbett conducted the agricultural soil sampling event at the proposed expansion areas (Figure 3). For each distinct soil unit to be developed within an expansion area, approximately four increments per acre were collected. The soil samples were collected from 0- to 6-inches below grade, which is the depth horizon were most plant roots are present in these soils.

Soil increments were collected using a clean, stainless steel micro-pushprobe equipped with a 6-inch long, 1-inch diameter open barrel. Soil increments collected from a given soil unit were homogenized using a clean stainless-steel spoon in a clean, plastic 5-gallon bucket. Table 2 summarizes the number of increments that were collected and homogenized per soil unit. Figure 3 depicts the soil units within the approximate proposed expansion boundary where soil samples were collected.

Table 2. Project Study Area Field Sampling Summary

Proposed Expansion Area	Predominant Soil Series in Expansion Area	Sample ID (Lab Report Number)	Approximate acres to be developed	Number of increments per sample
West Area (S1 and S2)				
S1 and S2	Haven loam 0-2% slope (HaA)	Area 1 (859371RC)	9	36
East Area (S3, S4, S5)				
S5	Carver and Plymouth sands, 3 to 15% slopes (CpC)	Area 2 Seg 57 CPC (859373RC)	1.5	15
S4	Plymouth gravelly loamy sand, 3 to 8% slopes (PmB3)	Area 2 Seg 56 (859372RC)	2	15
S3	Haven loam 0-2% slope (HaA)	Area 2 Seg 54 (859374RC)	2.2	15
South Area (S6 and S7)				
S6	Riverhead sandy loam, 0 to 3% slopes (RdA)	Area 3 12:15 (859376RC)	0.5	5
	Plymouth loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes (PIA)		2.0	15
S7	Plymouth loamy sand, 0 to 3% slopes (PIA)	Area 3 PLA (859375RC)	2.5	20

Collected soil samples were placed in double-lined plastic bags, labeled, and shipped under chain-of-custody procedures to Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc. (Waters Lab), in Camilla, Georgia, for the following physical and chemical analyses and recommendations for amendments based on proposed plantings of trees and grasses:

- **Physical properties:** Organic matter; gradation of sand, silt, and clay content; deleterious material.
- **Chemical and nutrient properties:** Cation exchange capacity; sodium absorption ratio; pH; mineral and plant-nutrient content, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, and percent base saturation of cation elements.
- **Heavy metals:** Boron, zinc, aluminum, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, and vanadium.

4.2 Percolation Testing

Ten (10) soil percolation tests were conducted within the seven proposed expansion areas and the 25A Yard. These locations are depicted on Figures 3 and 4. The testing was performed utilizing the method specified on New York State Department of Health Form DOH-1327. On November 8, 2018, ten test pits were dug to a depth of 12- to 26-inches below existing grade, by 1.3- to 2.0-feet wide, and were roughly equivalent to a 15-gallon size planting. The soil texture in each hole was evaluated. The holes were saturated with water to within one inch of the ground surface and allowed to presoak for 24 hours. Testing was performed on November 9, 2018. During testing, each hole was re-saturated with water up to one inch of the ground surface, and the percolation rate was measured in minutes and seconds per inch and converted into inches per hour.

5 Results and Recommendations

5.1 Agricultural Soil Investigation

The laboratory reported chemical and physical analysis results are provided in Appendices A, B, and C, for the West, East, and South Expansion Areas, respectively. The results are further separated for hardwood/shade trees and for mixed grasses. Metals and other physical soil results are presented in Appendix D. None of the detected metals concentrations exceeded US Environmental Protection Agency soil screening levels for worker exposure.

Based on the existing soil chemistry and nutrient quantities, the Waters Lab agronomist developed recommendations for soil treatments and amendments (lbs/acre) and lime (tons/acre) to be incorporated into each soil unit for the purposes of growing hardwood/shade trees or mixed grasses in landscaped portions of the proposed expansion areas. It is noted that these recommendations are only applicable to the soil horizons tested.

5.1.1 West Expansion Area

The West Expansion Area includes phases S1 and S2. The predominant soil in this area is the Haven loam with a 0-2% slope (HaA). Soil in this area has very high phosphorus, medium to adequate potassium, magnesium, and calcium, but low boron and zinc levels.

Complete laboratory analytical results and recommendations for the West Expansion Area (phases S1 and S2) can be found in Appendix A.

5.1.1.1 Fertilizer Recommendations for Trees

Based on the laboratory analytical results, the fertilizer requirements for hardwood/shade trees are 30 lbs/acre of nitrogen and 50 lbs/acre of potash. The lime application rate for this area is 2.0 tons/acre.

5.1.1.2 Fertilizer Recommendations for Grasses

Based on the laboratory analytical results, the fertilizer requirements for grasses are 20 lbs/acre of nitrogen, 70 lbs/acre of potash, and 2.0 lbs/acre of boron. The lime application rate recommendation for grasses is 2.9 tons/acre.

5.1.2 East Expansion Area

The East Expansion Area includes the phases S3, S4, and S5. The soils in this area include Haven loam with 0-2% slopes (HaA), Plymouth gravelly loamy sand with 3 to 8% slopes (PmB3), and Carver and Plymouth sands with 3 to 15% slopes (CpC). These soils have very high phosphorous levels, low to adequate potassium, magnesium, and calcium levels, and generally low boron and zinc levels.

Complete laboratory analytical results and recommendations for the East Expansion Area (phases S3, S4, and S5) can be found in Appendix B.

5.1.2.1 Fertilizer Recommendations for Trees

Based on the laboratory analytical results, the fertilizer requirements for hardwood/shade trees are generally similar across the three soil units within the East Expansion Area. For hardwood/shade trees, 30 lbs/acre of nitrogen and 60-70 lbs/acre of potash are recommended. Additionally, 0.2-0.3 lbs/acre of boron is recommended for the Plymouth gravelly loamy sand and Carver and Plymouth sands. No boron is recommended for Haven loam. Zinc is recommended at 1.0 lb/acre for Plymouth gravelly loamy sand only. The lime application rate recommendations range from 1.4-2.2 tons/acre for Carver and Plymouth sands and Haven loam. Lime is not recommended for Plymouth gravelly loamy sand.

5.1.2.2 Fertilizer Recommendations for Grasses

Based on the laboratory analytical results, the fertilizer requirements for grasses are highly similar across the three soils units present within the East Expansion Area. For grasses, 20 lbs/acre of nitrogen, 70 lbs/acre of potash, and 2.0 lbs/acre of boron are recommended across all three soil units present in the East Expansion Area. The lime application rates range from 1.9-3.1 tons/acre for grasses for the soil units present in the East Expansion Area. Zinc is recommended at 1.0 lbs/acre for Plymouth loamy sand.

5.1.3 South Expansion Area

The South Expansion Area includes phases S6 and S7. The soils in this area include Plymouth loamy sand with 0-3% slopes (PIA) and Riverhead sandy loam with 0-3% slopes (RdA). These soils have very high levels of phosphorus, medium to adequate levels of potassium, magnesium, and calcium, and low levels of boron and zinc.

Complete laboratory analytical results and recommendations for the South Expansion Area can be found in Appendix C.

5.1.3.1 Fertilizer Recommendations for Trees

Based on the laboratory analytical results, the fertilizer requirements for hardwood/shade trees are generally similar across the two soil units present within the South Expansion Area. For hardwood/shade trees, 30 lbs/acre of nitrogen and 60 lbs/acre of potash are recommended. For Plymouth loamy sand, boron is recommended at 0.2 lbs/acre, zinc at 1.0 lbs/acre, and magnesium at 10 lbs/acre. Lime application rate recommendations range from 0.9 to 2.2 tons/acre for hardwood/shade trees for the South Expansion Area to offset the slightly acidic pH of these soils.

5.1.3.2 Fertilizer Recommendations for Grasses

Based on the laboratory analytical results, the fertilizer requirements for grasses are generally similar across the two soil units present in the South Expansion Area. For grasses, 20 lbs/acre of nitrogen, 70 lbs/acre of potash and 2.0 lbs/acre of boron. No zinc is recommended for grasses in Plymouth loamy sand, and 1.0 lb/acre of zinc is recommended for Riverhead sandy loam. The largest discrepancy in fertilizer requirements for grasses within the South Expansion Area is that 10 lbs/acre of magnesium is recommended for Plymouth loamy sand, and none is recommended in Riverhead sandy loam. Lime application rate recommendations range from 1.8 to 3.1 tons/acre.

5.2 Percolation Testing

The percolation test results for the locations within the proposed expansion areas and the 25A Maintenance Yard are summarized in Table 3. The locations of the percolation tests are depicted on Figure 3. Detailed percolation test run results and descriptions of the soil profile observed in each percolation test hole are provided in Appendix D.

Table 3. Percolation Test Results Summary

Test Hole No.	Depth to bottom (inches below grade)	Average Result (minutes-seconds/inch)	Average Result (inches/hour)
1	22	3 minutes, 22 seconds	17.34
2	19	1 minute, 45 seconds	34.28
3	22	92 minutes	0.6521
4	14	No percolation after 24 hours	
5	12	No percolation after 24 hours	
6	24	15 minutes, 24 seconds	3.89
7	22	No percolation after 24 hours	
8	26	16 minutes, 48 seconds	3.57
9	18	335 minutes	0.179
10	24	6 minutes, 50 seconds	8.77

As previously noted in Table 1, the capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water for the soils tested ranges from a low of 1.98-inches per hour to a high of 19.98-inches per hour. The measured percolation rates were generally similar to these rates with several exceptions.

Test hole number two (2) had the highest infiltration rate at 34.28 inches per hour, which was associated with a sandy soil that appeared to be associated with a fill material previously placed in this expansion area. Likewise, hole number one (1) also had a relatively high infiltration rate, associated with a similar sandy soil/fill material. These soils are likely to dry very quickly, but may not hold nutrients for very long.

In contrast, test holes three (3) and nine (9) had percolation rates that were markedly less than the expected rates. This can likely be explained by a compacted layer of sandy silt through much of the test hole. Additionally, an extremely dense compact layer of soil was encountered in holes four (4), five (5), and seven (7). No data was recorded for these holes, as the water that was used to presoak the holes overnight had no measurable drainage even after 24 hours. Prior human activities on the ground surface, such as equipment staging or extensive agricultural use of the land in these areas, can result in extensive compaction of soil as encountered in these test holes. Soils with low percolation rates can become waterlogged and suffocate plant roots.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Agricultural Soil Investigation

An agricultural soil investigation was conducted for each of the five dominant soil units identified by USDA-NRCS within the seven proposed expansion areas on September 7, 2018. Representative soil samples were separately collected and analyzed by an agricultural analytical laboratory to assess soil quality and agronomic fertilizer recommendations for planting zones for grasses and for hardwood/shade trees. Soil types require generally similar lime and fertilizer application rates, relative to plant type and expansion Area. None of the heavy metals

The agricultural soil samples were collected from the 0-6-inch depth horizon, where most plants will root in these soil types. However, it is noted that this soil horizon would be removed during excavation for pre-placed crypts. If the tested soil horizon is not returned to the graded surface and used to support plantings, then these fertilizer recommendations may not be applicable. Agricultural testing of the final constructed soil horizon would be required to obtain location-specific results and recommendations

6.2 Percolation Testing

Percolation testing was conducted at each of the seven proposed expansion areas and within the 25A Yard on September 8 and 9, 2018. The percolation test results were within the range anticipated for well-drained native sandy loams and loamy sand soils in selected Project Study Areas. Percolation rates were higher than anticipated in the two proposed expansion areas that had previously been filled with sand. Soils with high percolation rates (generally greater than 1-inch per hour) can be amended with loam or clay to decrease percolation rates, if needed. However, for in-ground crypt fields, a high percolation rate is generally desirable, as surface water would quickly infiltrate throughout the soil horizon with little to no ponding on the ground surface. Soils with a high infiltration rate are also easier to excavate during freeze cycles, as the soil is generally drier and contains little to no ice. In contract, percolation rates were lower than anticipated in selected proposed expansion areas that had been highly compacted by prior human activities, such as agricultural activities or equipment staging. Soils with low percolation rates (generally less than 0.1 inch per hour) can be corrected by mechanical disruption (tilling, excavating) of the dense soil horizon and adding loam, sand, or organic matter. As previously described, higher percolation rates are preferable for in-ground crypt fields. Soils with moderate percolation rates between 0.1- and 1-inch per hour, are generally most suitable for holding water and nutrients to support plant growth without becoming waterlogged.

These percolation test results are applicable to the soil horizons tested. If these soils horizons are disturbed during construction or if fill is placed over these soils, then the reported percolation test results may no longer be applicable. Percolation testing of the final constructed soil horizon would be required to obtain location-specific results.

FIGURES

Figure 1. Calverton National Cemetery Location

Figure 2. Site Detail Map

Figure 3. Proposed Expansion Areas with Soil Units and Percolation Test Locations

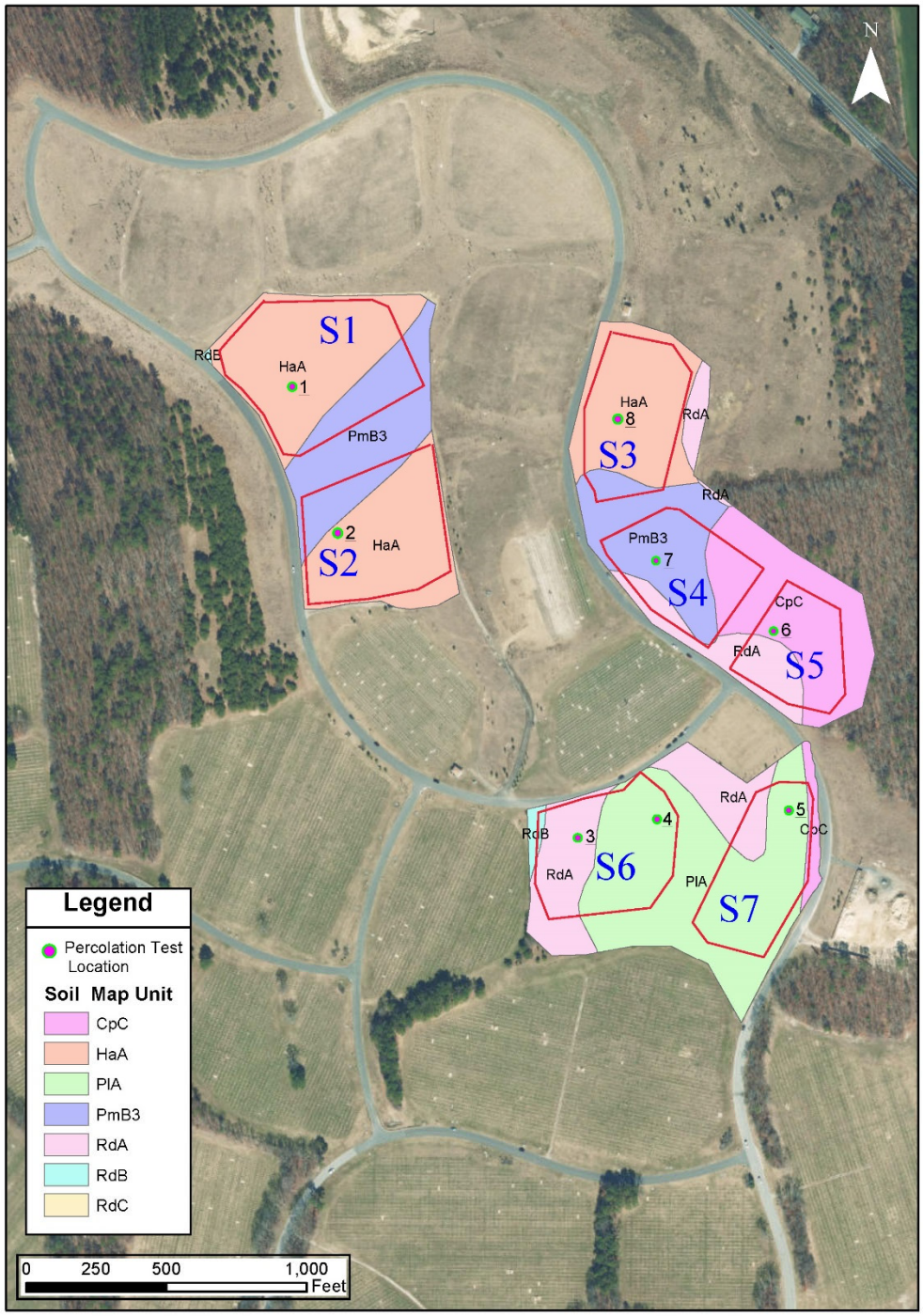
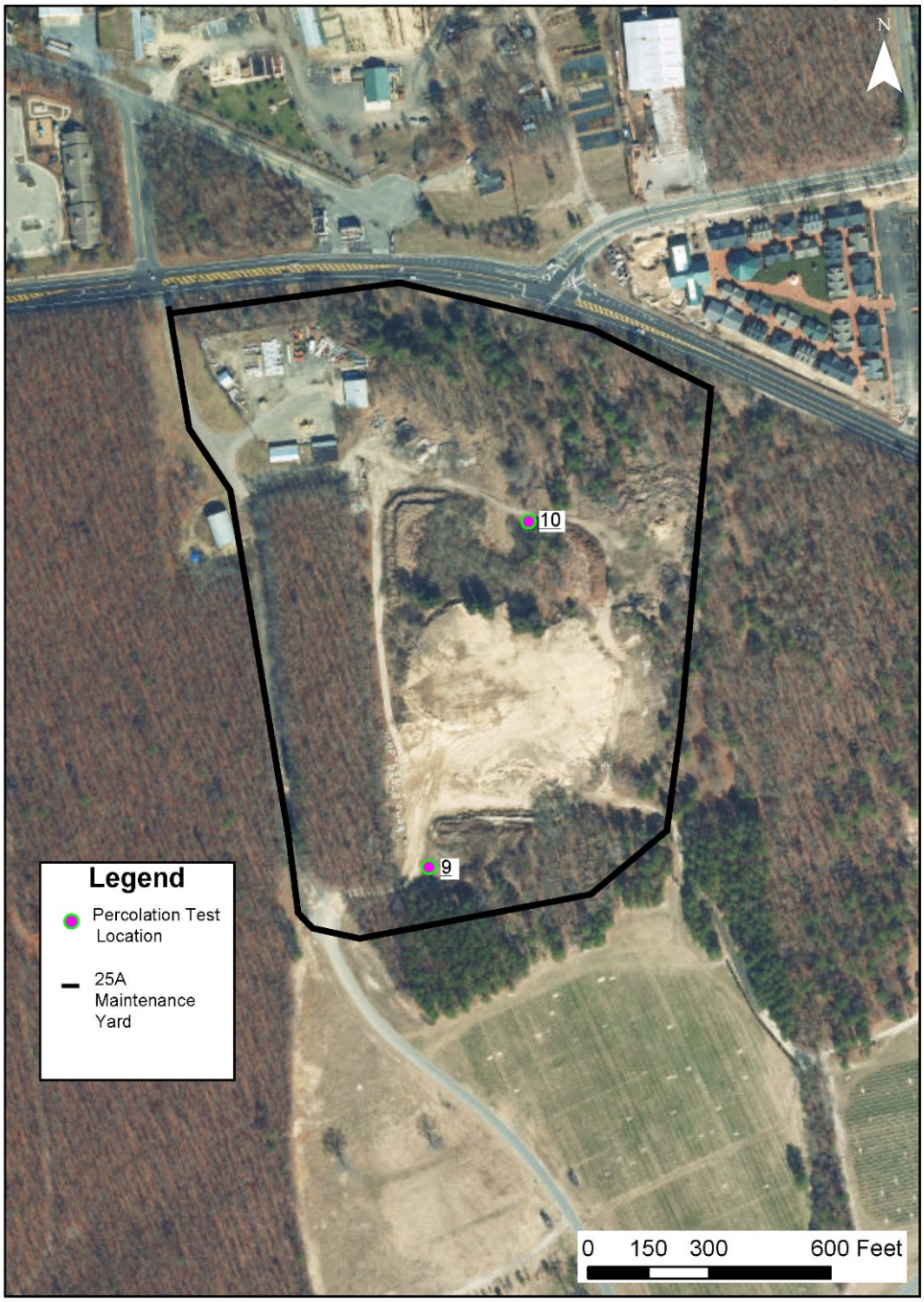


Figure 4. 25A Maintenance Yard Percolation Test Locations



APPENDIX A

West Expansion Area (Phases S1 and S2)

AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY ANALYTICAL RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC	**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN	**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE	**Sample ID:**	AREA 1 12:00	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730				

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859371RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

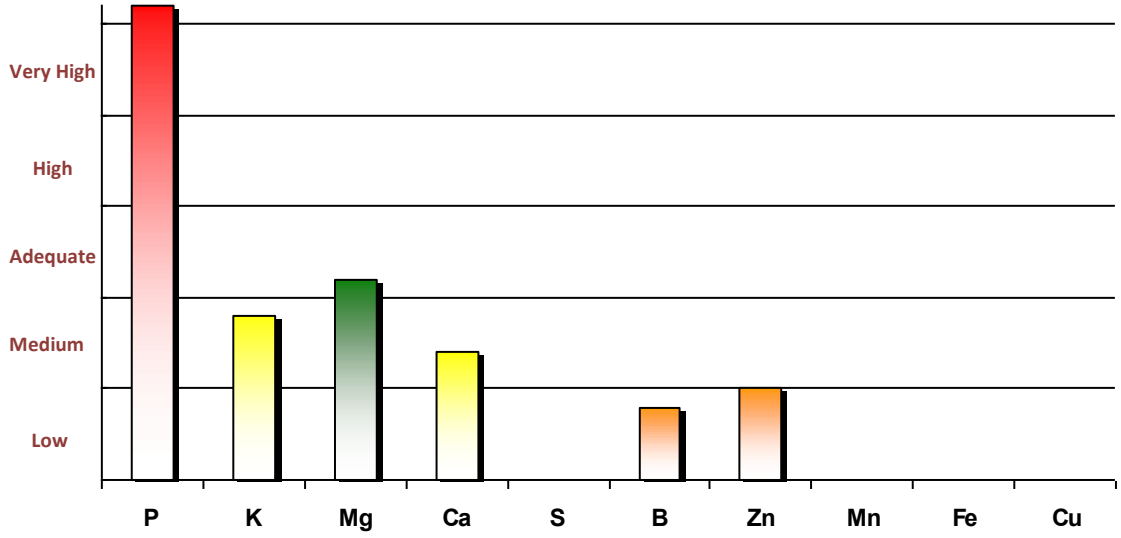
P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
713 VH	202 M	159 A	734 M	5.3	7.35		0.70 L	3.9 L			
Aluminum	**Sodium**	**Nitrate N**	**Soluble Salts**	**Organic Matter**	**ENR**	**Molybdenum**	**NH4**	**Nickel**	**BiCarbs**		
			0.06 mmhos/cm	2.47 %	49.4	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	8.0	meq/100g

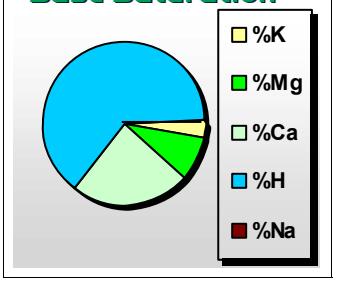
Base Saturation

K:	3.3	%
Mg:	8.3	%
Ca:	23.1	%
H:	65.4	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: HARDWOOD/SHADE TREES

Yield: MAX

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
2.0		30		50 *							

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

c

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC	**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN	**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE	**Sample ID:**	AREA 1 12:00	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730				

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859371RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

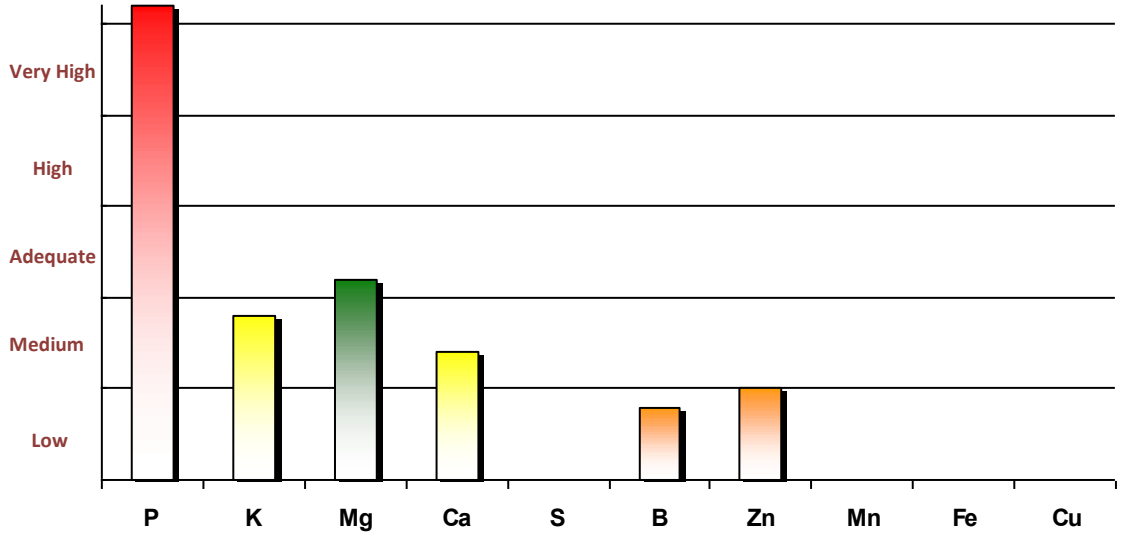
P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
713 VH	202 M	159 A	734 M	5.3	7.35		0.70 L	3.9 L			
Aluminum	**Sodium**	**Nitrate N**	**Soluble Salts**	**Organic Matter**	**ENR**	**Molybdenum**	**NH4**	**Nickel**	**BiCarbs**		
			0.06 mmhos/cm	2.47 %	49.4	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	8.0	meq/100g

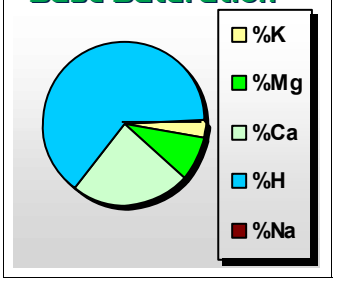
Base Saturation

K:	3.3	%
Mg:	8.3	%
Ca:	23.1	%
H:	65.4	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: Mix Grass Est

Yield:

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
2.9		20		70 *			2.0				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

PLANT SAMPLES SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE GROWING SEASON. ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRIENTS MAY BE NEEDED.

c

APPENDIX B
East Expansion Area (Phases S3, S4, and S5)

AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY ANALYTICAL RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC	**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN	**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE	**Sample ID:**	AREA 2 SEG 54 CPC	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730				

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859374RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

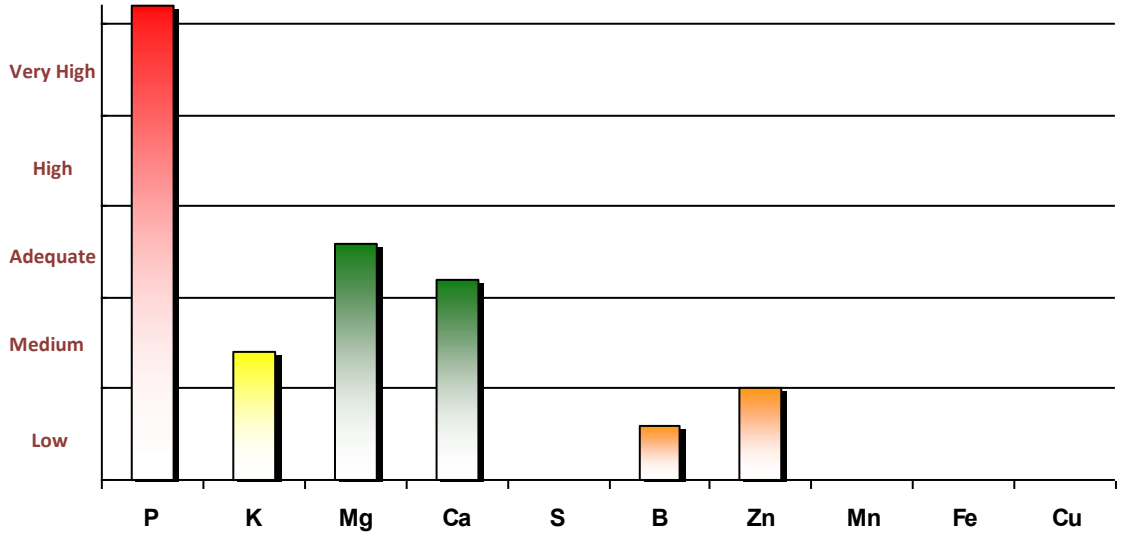
P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
764 VH	159 M	196 A	1045 A	5.6	7.40		0.49 L	3.9 L			
Aluminum	**Sodium**	**Nitrate N**	**Soluble Salts**	**Organic Matter**	**ENR**	**Molybdenum**	**NH4**	**Nickel**	**BiCarbs**		
			0.05 mmhos/cm	2.17 %	43.4	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity 8.4 meq/100g

Base Saturation

K:	2.4 %
Mg:	9.7 %
Ca:	31.0 %
H:	56.9 %
Na:	%

Soil Analysis Ratings



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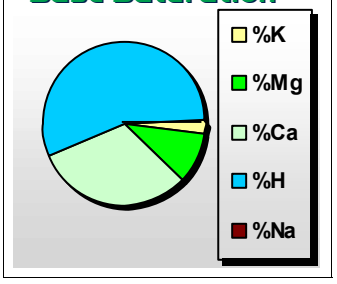


Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: HARDWOOD/SHADE TREES

Yield: MAX

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
1.4		30		60 *			0.0				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

c

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC		**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN		**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE		**Sample ID:**	AREA 2 SEG 54 CPC	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730					

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859374RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

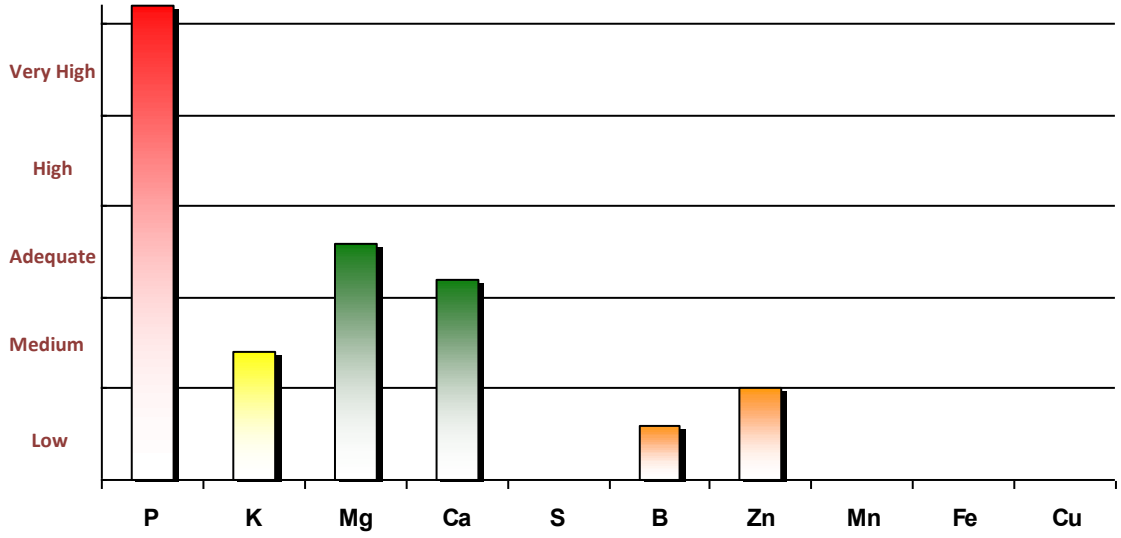
P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
764 VH	159 M	196 A	1045 A	5.6	7.40		0.49 L	3.9 L			
Aluminum	**Sodium**	**Nitrate N**	**Soluble Salts**	**Organic Matter**	**ENR**	**Molybdenum**	**NH4**	**Nickel**	**BiCarbs**		
			0.05 mmhos/cm	2.17 %	43.4	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	8.4	meq/100g

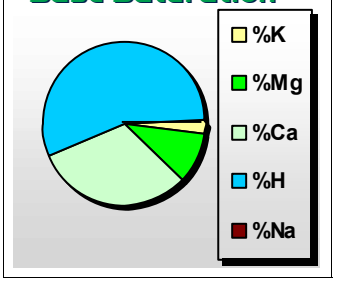
Base Saturation

K:	2.4	%
Mg:	9.7	%
Ca:	31.0	%
H:	56.9	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: Mix Grass Est

Yield:

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
2.3		20		70 *			2.0				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

PLANT SAMPLES SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE GROWING SEASON. ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRIENTS MAY BE NEEDED.

c

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P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC		**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN		**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE		**Sample ID:**	AREA 2 SEG 56	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730					

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859372RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
682 VH	141 M	237 A	926 M	5.8	7.45		0.34 L	3.6 L			

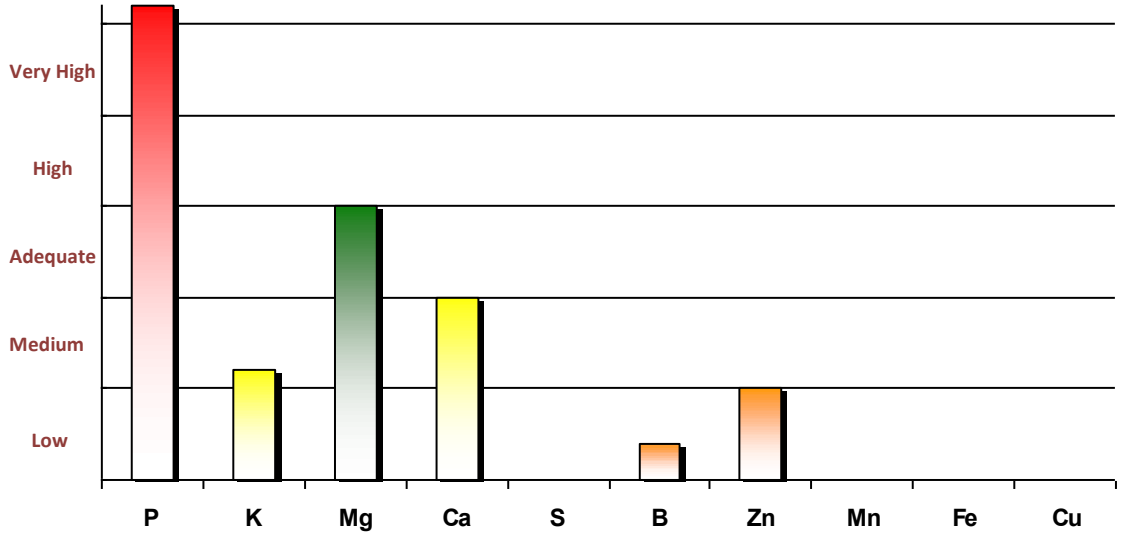
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.04 mmhos/cm	2.25 %	45	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	7.9	meq/100g

Base Saturation

K:	2.3	%
Mg:	12.5	%
Ca:	29.4	%
H:	55.8	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



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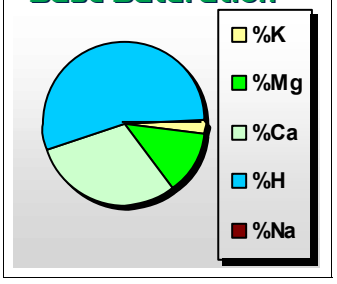


Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: HARDWOOD/SHADE TREES

Yield: MAX

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
0.0		30		60 *			0.2	1.0			

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

c

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC	Grower:	VA OCFM	Received:	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN	Farm ID:	CALVERTON NATIONAL	Processed:	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE	Sample ID:	AREA 2 SEG 56	Account #:	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730				

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859372RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
682 VH	141 M	237 A	926 M	5.8	7.45		0.34 L	3.6 L			

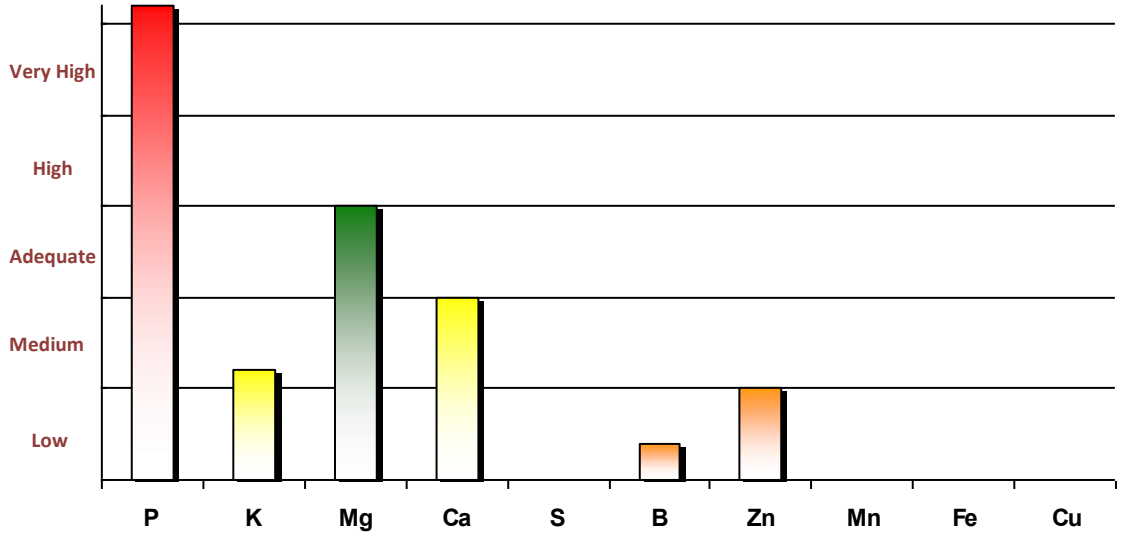
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.04 mmhos/cm	2.25 %	45	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity 7.9 meq/100g

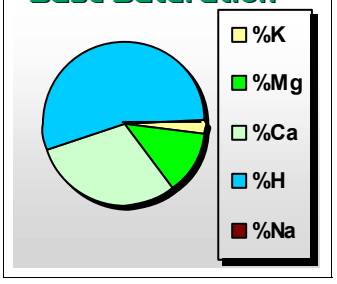
Base Saturation

K:	2.3 %
Mg:	12.5 %
Ca:	29.4 %
H:	55.8 %
Na:	%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: Mix Grass Est

Yield:

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
1.9		20		70 *			2.0	1.0			

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

PLANT SAMPLES SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE GROWING SEASON. ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRIENTS MAY BE NEEDED.

c

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P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC		**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN		**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE		**Sample ID:**	AREA 2 SEG 57 CPC	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730					

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859373RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
584 VH	123 L	186 A	712 M	5.3	7.30		0.24 L	4.1 M			

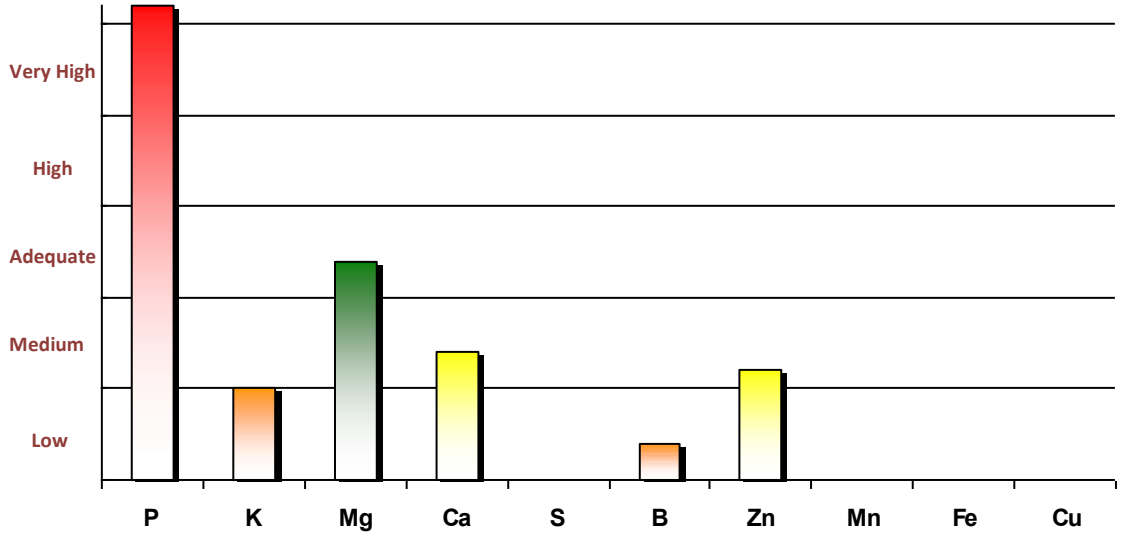
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.04 mmhos/cm	2.62 %	52.4	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	8.3	meq/100g

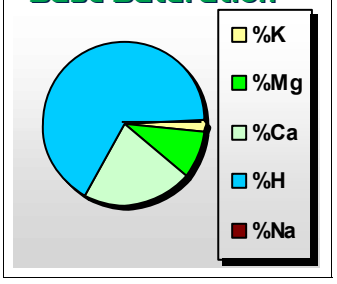
Base Saturation

K:	1.9	%
Mg:	9.3	%
Ca:	21.4	%
H:	67.4	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: HARDWOOD/SHADE TREES

Yield: MAX

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
2.2		30		70			0.3				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

C

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC	Grower:	VA OCFM	Received:	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN	Farm ID:	CALVERTON NATIONAL	Processed:	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE	Sample ID:	AREA 2 SEG 57 CPC	Account #:	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730				

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859373RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
584 VH	123 L	186 A	712 M	5.3	7.30		0.24 L	4.1 M			

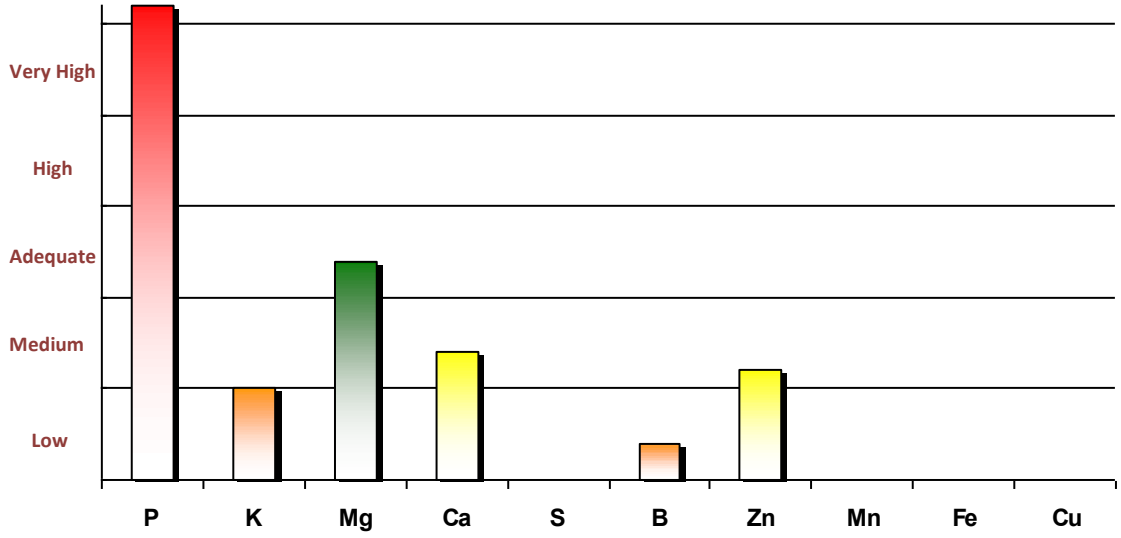
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.04 mmhos/cm	2.62 %	52.4	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity 8.3 meq/100g

Base Saturation

K:	1.9 %
Mg:	9.3 %
Ca:	21.4 %
H:	67.4 %
Na:	%

Soil Analysis Ratings



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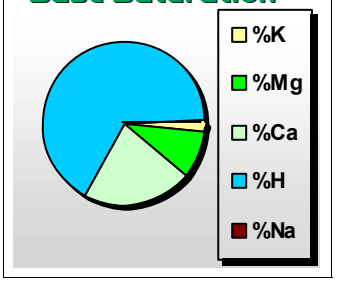


Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: Mix Grass Est

Yield:

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
3.1		20		70 *			2.0				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

PLANT SAMPLES SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE GROWING SEASON. ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRIENTS MAY BE NEEDED.

c

APPENDIX C
South Expansion Area (Phases S6 and S7)

AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY ANALYTICAL RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC	**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN	**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE	**Sample ID:**	AREA 3 12:15	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730				

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

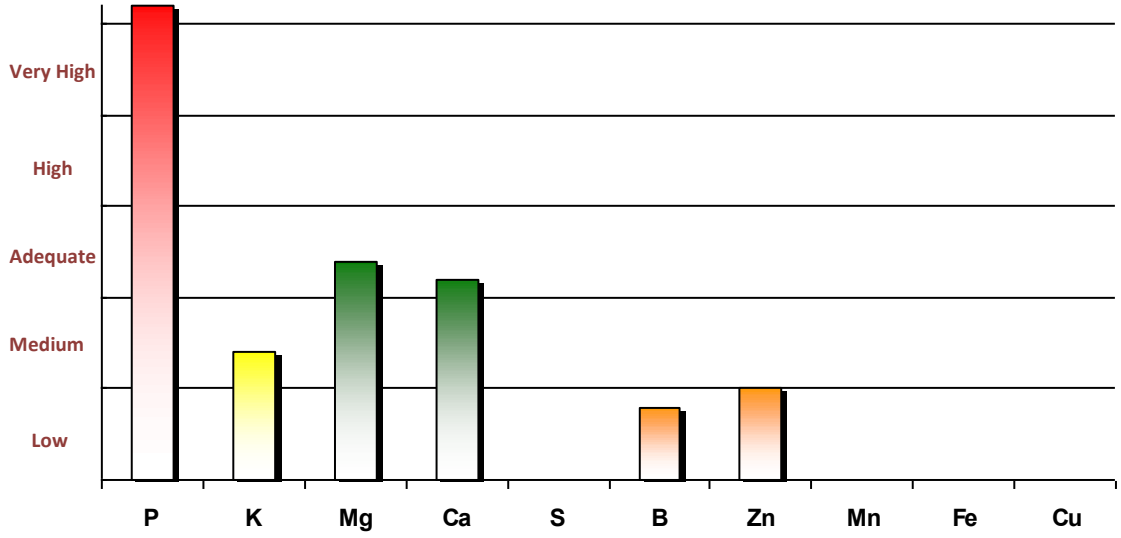
Lab Number: 859376RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
744 VH	160 M	182 A	1020 A	5.2	7.65		0.67 L	3.5 L			

Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.06 mmhos/cm	2.36 %	47.2	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Soil Analysis Ratings

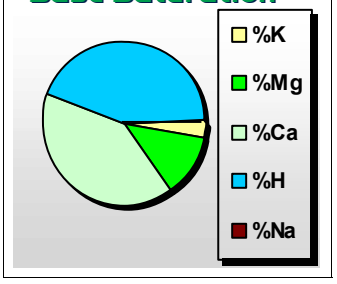


Cation Exchange Capacity	6.3	meq/100g

Base Saturation

K:	3.2	%
Mg:	12.0	%
Ca:	40.4	%
H:	44.3	%
Na:		%

Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: HARDWOOD/SHADE TREES

Yield: MAX

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
0.9		30		60 *				1.0			

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

c

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC		**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN		**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE		**Sample ID:**	AREA 3 12:15	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730					

Lab Number: 859376RC

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
744 VH	160 M	182 A	1020 A	5.2	7.65		0.67 L	3.5 L			

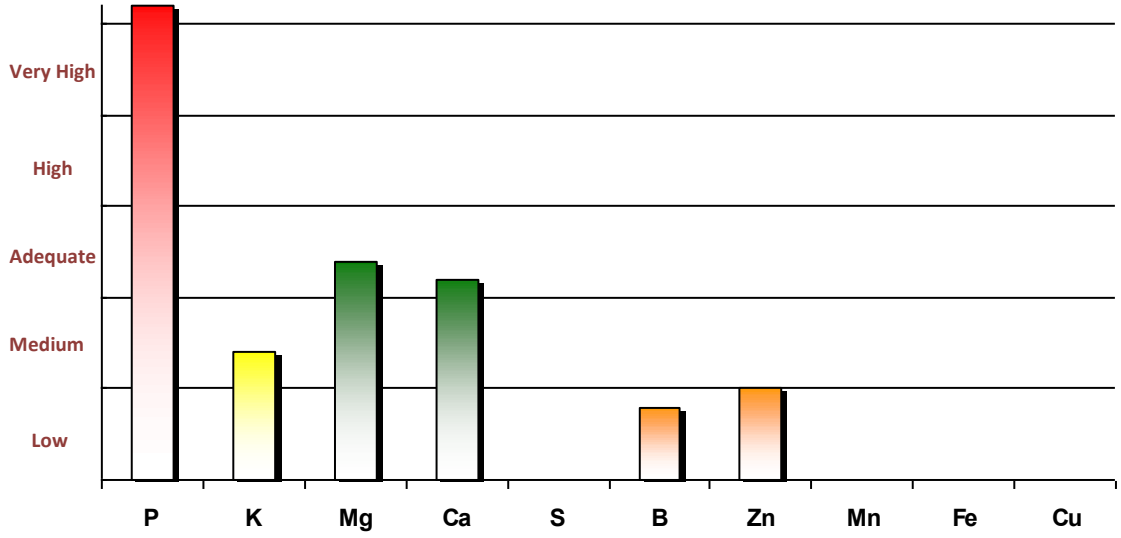
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.06 mmhos/cm	2.36 %	47.2	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	6.3	meq/100g

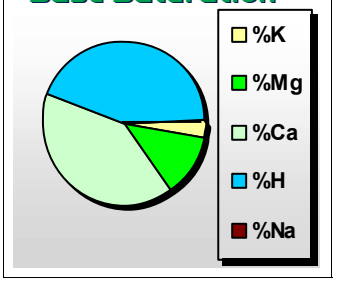
Base Saturation

K:	3.2	%
Mg:	12.0	%
Ca:	40.4	%
H:	44.3	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: Mix Grass Est

Yield:

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
1.8		20		70 *			2.0	1.0			

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

PLANT SAMPLES SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE GROWING SEASON. ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRIENTS MAY BE NEEDED.

c

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC		**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN		**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE		**Sample ID:**	AREA 3 PLA	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730					

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859375RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
647 VH	139 M	131 M	971 M	5.3	7.30		0.33 L	3.9 L			

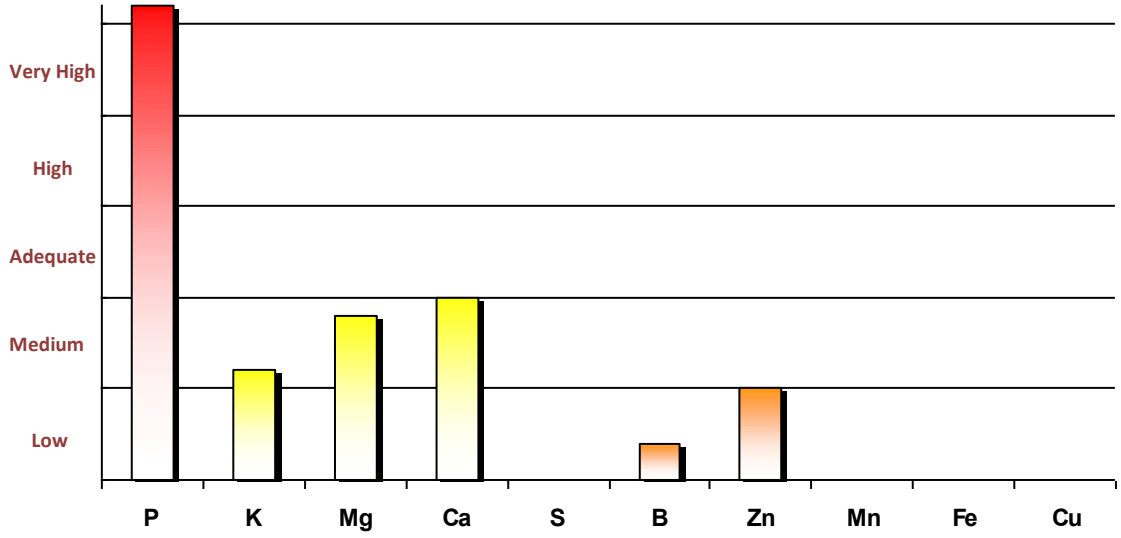
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.06 mmhos/cm	2.61 %	52.2	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	8.8	meq/100g

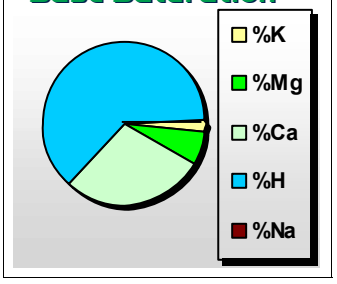
Base Saturation

K:	2.0	%
Mg:	6.2	%
Ca:	27.7	%
H:	64.0	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: HARDWOOD/SHADE TREES

Yield: MAX

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
2.2		30		60 *	10		0.2				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

If Dolomite Lime has been applied recently - Magnesium recommendation can be cut in half.

c

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
P.O. Box 382 257 Newton Hwy Camilla, GA 31730
(229) 336-7216 FAX (229) 336-7967

Soil Analysis

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC		**Grower:**	VA OCFM	**Received:**	09/25/2018
ANDREW GLUCKSMAN		**Farm ID:**	CALVERTON NATIONAL	**Processed:**	09/27/2018
5 ALFRED CIRCLE		**Sample ID:**	AREA 3 PLA	**Account #:**	60500
BEDFORD, MA 01730					

Lab Results
lbs. per Acre

Lab Number: 859375RC

Target pH: 6.5
Test Method: Mehlich III

P Phosphorus	K Potassium	Mg Magnesium	Ca Calcium	Soil pH	Buffer pH	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
647 VH	139 M	131 M	971 M	5.3	7.30		0.33 L	3.9 L			

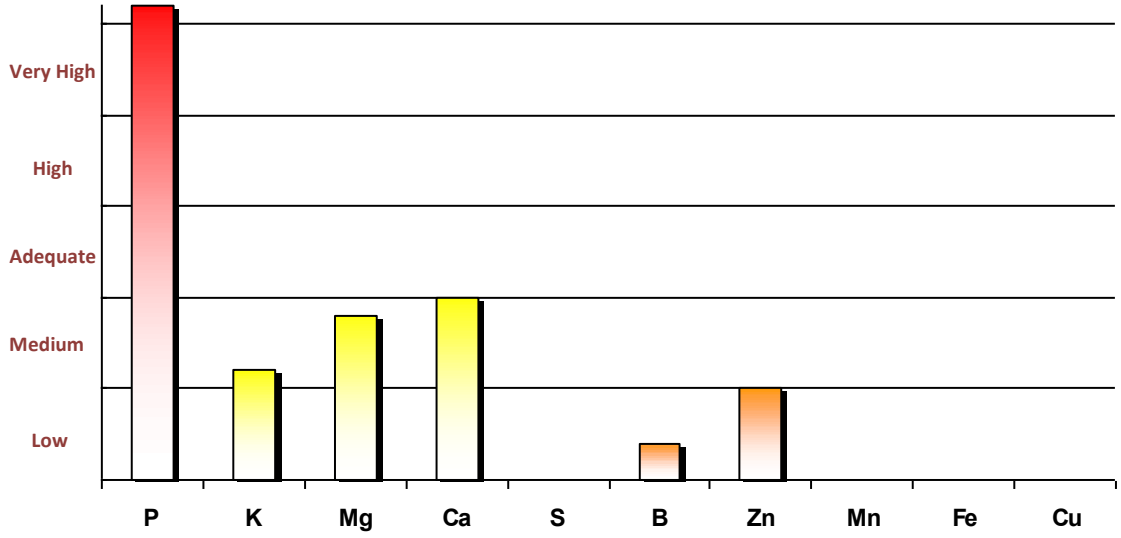
Aluminum	Sodium	Nitrate N	Soluble Salts	Organic Matter	ENR	Molybdenum	NH4	Nickel	BiCarbs		
			0.06 mmhos/cm	2.61 %	52.2	ppm		ppm	meq/l		

Cation Exchange Capacity	8.8	meq/100g

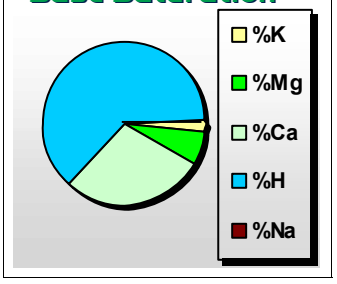
Base Saturation

K:	2.0	%
Mg:	6.2	%
Ca:	27.7	%
H:	64.0	%
Na:		%

Soil Analysis Ratings



Base Saturation



Fertility Recommendations
lbs. per Acre

Crop: Mix Grass Est

Yield:

Lime Tons/Acre	Gypsum Tons/Acre	N Nitrogen	P2O5 Phosphate	K2O Potash	Mg Magnesium	S Sulfur	B Boron	Zn Zinc	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Cu Copper
3.1		20		70 *	10		2.0				

* = Maintenance Recommendation

Comments:

PLANT SAMPLES SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE GROWING SEASON. ADDITIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRIENTS MAY BE NEEDED. If Dolomite Lime has been applied recently, Magnesium recommendation can be cut in half.

c

APPENDIX D
Metal and Physical Soil Property Results for All Expansion Areas

AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY ANALYTICAL RESULTS

Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.
257 Newton Highway * P.O. Box 382
Camilla, Georgia 31730-0382
(229) 336-7216 fax (229) 336-0977

METALS and PHYSICAL SOIL PROPERTIES RESULTS

Expansion Phase	Arsenic	Barium	Vanadium	Lead	Cadmium	Cobalt	Chromium	Aluminum	Soil Type	% Silt + Clay	% Sand	% Clay	% Silt	Soluble Salt
	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm						mmhos/cm
S1, S2	22.3	19.9	35.7	20.7	0.053	2.8	18.5	11600	sandy loam	38	62	8.4	29.6	0.058
S4	38.4	24.3	27.2	24.2	ND	2.83	20.5	14700	sandy loam	44.4	55.6	10.4	34	0.043
S5	34.5	23.1	27	26.1	ND	2.1	22.1	14200	sandy loam	44	56	10.4	33.6	0.035
S3	25.8	22.4	24	22.9	ND	2.4	20.7	13100	sandy loam	36.8	63.2	8.4	28.4	0.046
S7	20.8	23.7	23.3	23.6	ND	2.2	19.3	12700	sandy loam	38	62	10.4	27.6	0.055
S6	23.4	20.8	23.1	22.7	ND	0.317	2.6	328.1	sandy loam	36.8	63.2	8.4	28.4	0.064

ppm = parts per million

mmhos/cm Millimhos per centimeter

APPENDIX E

PERCOLATION TEST RESULTS

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Percolation Test Data
(see instructions on reverse side)

Development Site: Calverton National Cemetery (T/V/C): Riverhead County: Suffolk

Date: 11/9/18 Tests Conducted By: Shawn M. Barron

Weather Conditions: 50' overcast, drizzle

Test Hole No.	Test Hole Depth (inches)	Lot No.	Soil Profile Description and Groundwater Depth (if identified)	Presoaking Date & Time	Time	Percolation Test 1	2	3	4	5	6
1	22"		0" - 10" Silt loam (ML) 10" - 22" Loamy sand with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	3:15	3:46	3:22			
					Begin	0	0	0			
					Result	3:15	3:46	3:22			
2	19"		0"- 8" Silt loam (ML) 8" - 19" Loamy sand (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	1:25	2:04	1:46			
					Begin	0	0	0			
					Result	1:25	2:04	1:46			
3	22"		0" - 11" Silt loam (ML) 11" - 22" Silty sand with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	93	88	95			
					Begin	0	0	0			
					Result	93	88	95			
4	14"		0" - 10" - Silt loam (ML) 10" - 14" Compacted sandy silt with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End						
					Begin						
					Result						
5	12"		0" - 9" - Silt loam (ML) 9" - 12" Compacted sandy silt with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End						
					Begin						
					Result						
6	24"		0" - 12" Silty sand (SM) 12" - 24" Loamy sand with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	14:55	15:33	15:45			
					Begin	0	0	0			
					Result	14:55	15:33	15:45			

Begin time, end time, and result in minutes for a water elevation change from 6" to 5" above the bottom of the test hole.

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Percolation Test Data
(see instructions on reverse side)

Development Site: Calverton National Cemetery (T/V/C): Riverhead County: Suffolk

Date: 11/9/18 Tests Conducted By: Shawn M. Barron

Weather Conditions: 50's, overcast, drizzle

Test Hole No.	Test Hole Depth (inches)	Lot No.	Soil Profile Description and Groundwater Depth (if identified)	Presoaking Date & Time	Time	Percolation Test 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	22"		0" - 18" Silt loam (ML) 18" - 22" Sandy silt with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End						
					Begin						
					Result						
8	26"		0-15" Silt loam (ML) 15" - 26" - Sandy silt with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	17:05	16:22	16:58			
					Begin	0	0	0			
					Result	17:05	16:22	16:58			
9	18"		0" - 18" Compacted sandy silt with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	335					
					Begin	0					
					Result	335					
10	24"		0" - 12" Silt loam (ML) 12" - 24" Sandy loam with gravel (SM)	11/8/18 Overnight	End	6:39	7:10	6:42			
					Begin	0	0	0			
					Result	6:39	7:10	6:42			
					End						
					Begin						
					Result						
					End						
					Begin						
					Result						

Begin time, end time, and result in minutes for a water elevation change from 6" to 5" above the bottom of the test hole.

Appendix C Public Involvement Documents

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Project

Calverton National Cemetery

Calverton, Suffolk County, New York

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) hereby gives Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for the VA's Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Project for the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC) located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York, 11933. Under the Proposed Action, and in general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, new burial sections would be constructed within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment areas (24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains). Additionally, infrastructure improvements would be made to existing roadways, buildings, and other areas at the CNC to improve maintenance operations and increase the solemnity of memorial services. The Proposed Action would provide an additional 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area.

The Draft SEA was prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA implementing regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

This NOA starts the 30-day review period for the Draft SEA. The Draft SEA is available for review in print at the Calverton National Cemetery Public Information Center, at the Riverhead Free Library, 330 Court St., Riverhead, NY 11901, and may be electronically downloaded at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. Comments received during the 30-day review period will be documented and addressed in the Final SEA.

All comments on the Draft SEA are requested within 30 days following the publication of this NOA. For further information or to request a copy of the Draft SEA, please contact: Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, DC, 20001; fax to (202) 632-5879; or e-mail at glenn.elliott@va.gov. Please reference "Calverton National Cemetery" in any correspondence.

NEWSDAY
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES, INC.
40 OLD LOUISQUISSET PIKE, SUITE 200
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI 02896

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:SS.:
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

Darryl Murphy of Newsday Media Group., Suffolk County, N.Y., being duly sworn, says that such person is, and at the time of publication of the annexed Notice was a duly authorized custodian of records of Newsday Media Group, the publisher of NEWSDAY, a newspaper published in the County of Suffolk, County of Nassau, County of Queens, and elsewhere in the State of New York and other places, and that the Notice of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in the following editions/counties of said newspaper on the following dates:

Sunday	February 24, 2019	Suffolk
Tuesday	February 26, 2019	Suffolk

SWORN to before me this
26 Day of February, 2019.

CHRISTOPHER LAWSON
Notary Public – State of New York
No. 01LA6348406
Qualified in Suffolk County
My Commission Expires September 26, 2020

Ad Content

Legal Notice # 21469356
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Project
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, Suffolk County, New York

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NEWSDAY PROOF

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Price:	$800.00	Date:	2/20/2019		
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Signature of Approval: _____ Date: _____

STATE OF NEW YORK,
ss:
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,

MICHAEL LEONARDI of Patchogue, NY in said County, being duly sworn, says that she is Principal Clerk of the **SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS** a Weekly Newspaper, published at Sayville, in the Town of Islip, County of Suffolk, and State of New York, and that the Notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, was published in said Newspaper on the 28th day of February 2019

Sworn to before me this 28th day of February 2019,

Notary Public
VICKI ANN MORALES
Notary Public, State of New York
01M04968036, Suffolk County Commission
Expires April 19, 2022

STATE OF NEW YORK,
ss:
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK,

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Project
Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, Suffolk County, New York

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The Draft SEA was prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA implementing regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

This NOA starts the 30-day review period for the Draft SEA. The Draft SEA is available for review in print at the Calverton National Cemetery Public Information Center, at the Riverhead Free Library, 330 Court St., Riverhead, NY 11901, and may be electronically downloaded at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp. Comments received during the 30-day review period will be documented and addressed in the Final SEA.

All comments on the Draft SEA are requested within 30 days following the publication of this NOA. For further information or to request a copy of the Draft SEA, please contact: Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, DC, 20001; fax to (202) 632-5879; or e-mail at glenn.elliott@va.gov. Please reference "Calverton National Cemetery" in any correspondence.

SCN, 38667, 2/28 |

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 2018 GRAVESITE
DEVELOPMENT AND CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS PLAN
CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
CALVERTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announces the availability of the Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the VA's Proposed Action to implement the 2018 Gravesite Development and Cemetery Improvements Plan for the Calverton National Cemetery (CNC) located at 210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, Suffolk County, New York, 11933. Under the Proposed Action, and in general accordance with the 1977 Master Plan, new burial sections would be constructed within the existing CNC property to provide approximately 26,592 new interment areas (24,242 standard pre-placed crypts, 175 oversized pre-placed crypts, 175 triple depth pre-placed crypts, and 2,000 in-ground cremains). Additionally, infrastructure improvements would be made to existing roadways, buildings, and other areas at the CNC to improve maintenance operations and increase the solemnity of memorial services. The Proposed Action would provide an additional 10 years of burial capacity for the Veteran population in the New York City metropolitan area.

Prior to the Final SEA, VA completed a Draft SEA to document the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action. The Draft SEA identified avoidance and management measures incorporated into the Proposed Action that would ensure potential minor adverse impacts would not increase to a significant adverse level during construction and operation. A Notice of Availability (NOA) published in *Newsday* and *Suffolk County News* informed the public of the availability to review and comment on the Draft SEA from February 24, 2019, to March 26, 2019. Additionally, VA mailed letters to regulatory agencies to notify them of the 30-day review and comment period. No comments from the public were received. Comments received from NY State Dept. Environmental Conservation and Suffolk County were not opposed to the Proposed Action and have been incorporated and addressed in the Final SEA.

The Draft and Final SEA were prepared according to the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 ([NEPA]; 42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

Upon review of the Final SEA, VA concludes that implementing the Proposed Action would not constitute a major federal action that would have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA of 1969. Accordingly, VA has signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which incorporates the Final SEA by reference in its entirety, and concludes that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The Final SEA and FONSI complete the NEPA review process for this Proposed Action. The Final SEA and FONSI are available for review in print at the CNC Public Information Center; the Riverhead Free Library, 330 Court St, Riverhead, NY 11901; and for downloaded at http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp.

For additional information, contact: Mr. Fernando Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email at fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529.