
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

August 15, 2019e

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRSe
425 NW I STREET, ROOM 6W417Be
WASHINGTON, DC 20001e

RE: ER01-179 Great Lakes Veterans National Cemetery, 2019 Phase 2 Expansion, 4200 Belford Avenue,e
Sec. 10, T5N, R7E, Holly, Oakland County (VA)e

Dear Mr. Fernandez:e

Under the authority of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we have reviewed the above-cited undertaking at the location noted above. Based on the information provided for our review, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs with the determination of the VA that **no historic properties are affected** within the area of potential effects of this undertaking.e

This letter evidences the VA's compliance with 36 CFR § 800.4 "Identification of historic properties," and the fulfillment of the VA's responsibility to notify the SHPO, as a consulting party in the Section 106 process, under 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1) "No historic properties affected." **If the scope of work changes in any way, or if artifacts or bones are discovered, please notify this office immediately.**

We remind you that federal agency officials or their delegated authorities are required to involve the public in a manner that reflects the nature and complexity of the undertaking and its effects on historic properties per 36 CFR § 800.2(d). The National Historic Preservation Act also requires that federal agencies consult with any Indian tribe and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) that attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by the agency's undertakings per 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2)(ii).e

The State Historic Preservation Office is not the office of record for this undertaking. You are therefore asked to maintain a copy of this letter with your environmental review record for this undertaking.e

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Grennell, Cultural Resource Management Coordinator, at 517-335-2721 or by email at GrennellB@michigan.gov. **Please reference our project number in all communication with this office regarding this undertaking.** Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment, and for your cooperation.e

Sincerely,e



Brian G. Grennell
Cultural Resource Management Coordinatore

for Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

BGG:SAT:lrpe

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

300 North Washington Square | Lansing, MI 48913 | 888.522.0103e



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420

June 26, 2019

Mr. Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer
Michigan State Historic Preservation Office
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Conway,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC; thus, extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

As required by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), VA has completed the SHPO Application for Section 106 Review documentation, which is enclosed with this letter.

If you have any questions please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Edward Hooker, III". The signature is written in a cursive style.

W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Enclosure:

State Historic Preservation Office Application for Section 106 Review

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Application for Section 106 Review**

SHPO Use Only					
<input type="checkbox"/> IN	Received Date	___ / ___ / ___	Log In Date	___ / ___ / ___	
<input type="checkbox"/> OUT	Response Date	___ / ___ / ___	Log Out Date	___ / ___ / ___	
	Sent Date	___ / ___ / ___			

Submit one copy for each project for which review is requested. This application is required. Please type. Applications must be complete for review to begin. Incomplete applications will be sent back to the applicant without comment. Send only the information and attachments requested on this application. Materials submitted for review cannot be returned. **Due to limited resources we are unable to accept this application electronically.**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

THIS IS A NEW SUBMITTAL THIS IS MORE INFORMATION RELATING TO ER#

- a. Project Name: Great Lakes National Cemetery, Phase 2 Expansion
- b. Project Address (if available): 4200 Belford Avenue, Holly, Michigan 48442
- c. Municipal Unit: Holly (63-1090) County: Oakland
- d. Federal Agency, Contact Name and Mailing Address (*If you do not know the federal agency involved in your project please contact the party requiring you to apply for Section 106 review, not the SHPO, for this information.*): Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM; Mr. Fernando Fernández; 425 I Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C. 20001
- e. State Agency (if applicable), Contact Name and Mailing Address:
- f. Consultant or Applicant Contact Information (if applicable) *including mailing address*: Same as above

II. GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITY (INCLUDING EXCAVATION, GRADING, TREE REMOVALS, UTILITY INSTALLATION, ETC.)

DOES THIS PROJECT INVOLVE GROUND-DISTURBING ACTIVITY? YES NO (If no, proceed to section III.)

Exact project location must be submitted on a USGS Quad map (portions, photocopies of portions, and electronic USGS maps are acceptable as long as the location is clearly marked).

- a. USGS Quad Map Name: Davisburg 42083G5 (see Figure 1)
- b. Township: 005N Range: 007E Section: 010
- c. Description of width, length and depth of proposed ground disturbing activity: Ground disturbing activities will cover approximately 30 acres and involve grading, road construction, and installation of pre-placed crypts. Ground disturbance will not reach a depth greater than 8-feet below surface. See Attachment 1 for additional detail.
- d. Previous land use and disturbances: The majority of the proposed Phase 2 expansion area has been under continuous agricultural production for decades. Other disturbances include a gravel maintenance roadway.
- e. Current land use and conditions: Agricultural (plowed for legume production), forest, landscaped grass areas for future use as cemetery burial sections.
- f. Does the landowner know of any archaeological resources found on the property? YES NO
Please describe: Please see Attachment 2 - Phase I Archaeological Survey Report.

III. PROJECT WORK DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE)

Note: Every project has an APE.

- a. Provide a detailed written description of the project (plans, specifications, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), etc. **cannot** be substituted for the written description): Please see the detailed project description provided in Attachment 1 - Project Description.
- b. Provide a localized map indicating the location of the project; road names must be included and legible.
- c. On the above-mentioned map, identify the APE.

- d. Provide a written description of the APE (physical, visual, auditory, and sociocultural), the steps taken to identify the APE, and the justification for the boundaries chosen. Please see Attachment 2 - Phase I Archaeological Survey Report for a description of the APE. Figure 1-1 in Attachment 2 identifies the APE.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- a. List and date **all** properties 50 years of age or older located in the APE. If the property is located within a National Register eligible, listed or local district it is only necessary to identify the district: No properties are over 50 years of age. APE is within the Great Lakes National Cemetery.
 - b. Describe the steps taken to identify whether or not any **historic** properties exist in the APE and include the level of effort made to carry out such steps: Please see the information regarding previous archaeological survey efforts provided in Attachment 2 - Phase I Archaeological Survey Report.
 - c. Based on the information contained in "b", please choose one:
 Historic Properties Present in the APE
 No Historic Properties Present in the APE
 - d. Describe the condition, previous disturbance to, and history of any historic properties located in the APE: No historic properties are known to have been located in the APE. See Attachment 2 - Phase I Archaeological Survey Report. Photographs required under Section V below are also included in Attachment 2.
-

V. PHOTOGRAPHS

Note: All photographs must be keyed to a localized map.

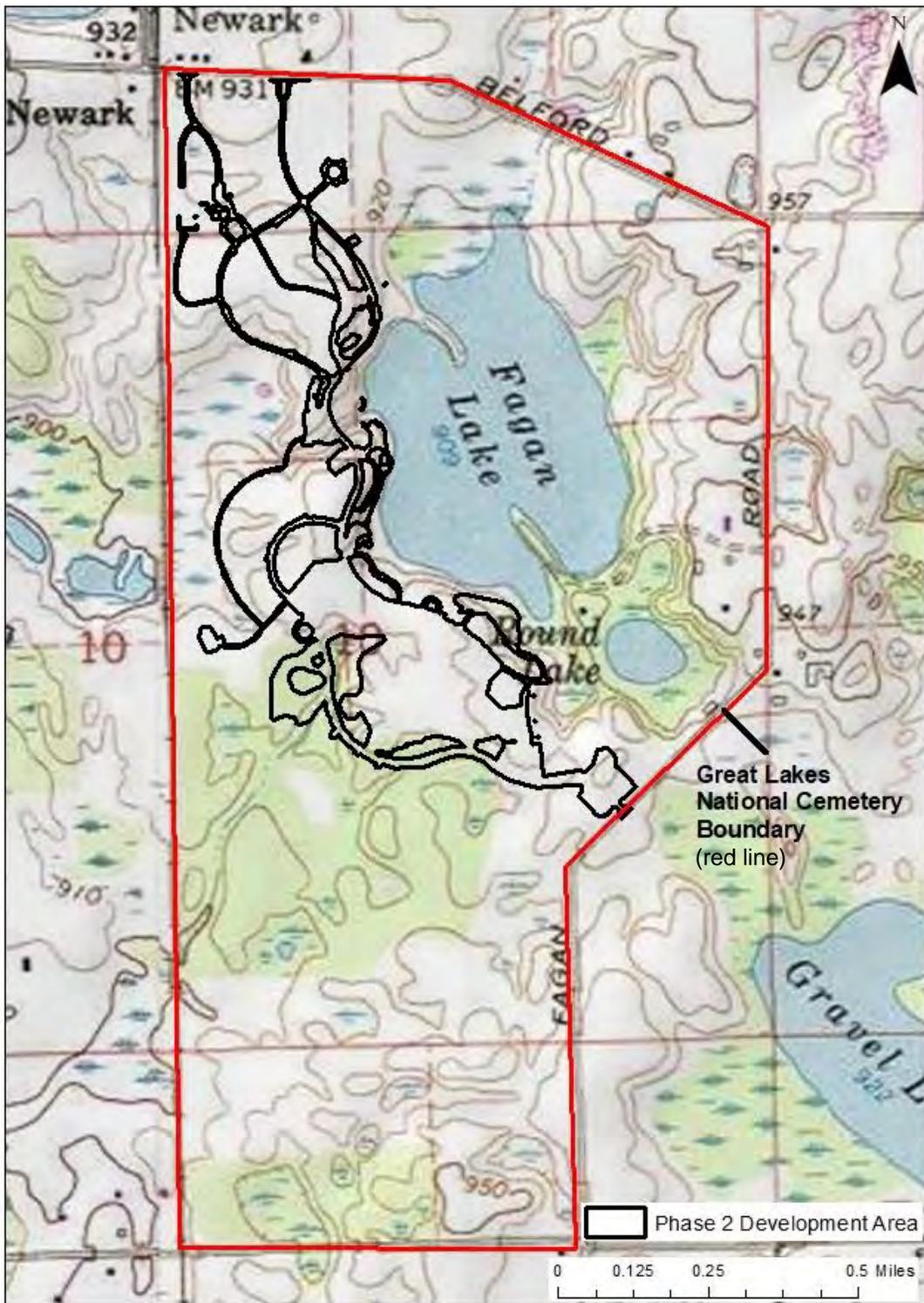
- a. Provide photographs of the site itself.
 - b. Provide photographs of all properties 50 years of age or older located in the APE (faxed or photocopied photographs are not acceptable).
-

VI. DETERMINATION OF EFFECT

- No historic properties affected based on [36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)], please provide the basis for this determination.
Please see Attachment 3 - Basis of Determination of Effect.
- No Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties, explain why the criteria of adverse effect, 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1), were found not applicable.
- Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d)(2)] on historic properties, explain why the criteria of adverse effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1)], were found applicable.

***Please print and mail completed form and required information to:
State Historic Preservation Office, Cultural Resources Management and Planning Section,
735 East Michigan Avenue, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, MI 48909***

Figure 1 – USGS Topographical Map



ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR THE PROPOSED PHASE 2 EXPANSION AT THE GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

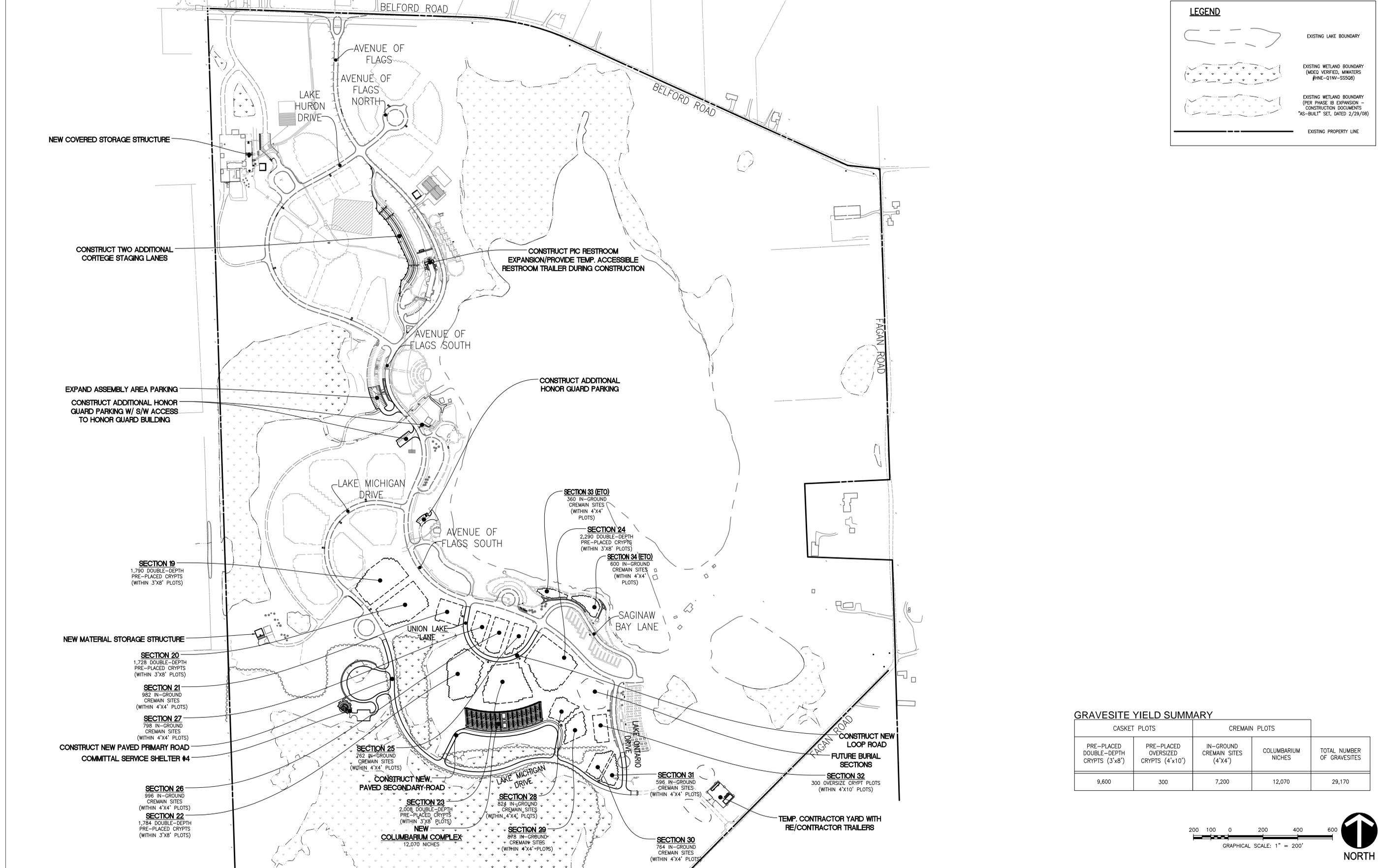
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate the Phase 2 expansion at the Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC) in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan. The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC; thus, extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

The Phase 2 expansion would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (see Drawing Number GI100). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which have been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and associated roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the existing Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system.

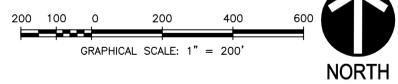
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, VA is currently preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for the Phase 2 expansion.

Drawing GI100 – Phase 2 Expansion Development Plan

LEGEND	
	EXISTING LAKE BOUNDARY
	EXISTING WETLAND BOUNDARY (MDEQ VERIFIED, M1WATERS #19E-Q1W-SS528)
	EXISTING WETLAND BOUNDARY (PER PHASE IIB EXPANSION - CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS "AS-BUILT" SET, DATED 2/29/08)
	EXISTING PROPERTY LINE



CASKET PLOTS		CREMAIN PLOTS		TOTAL NUMBER OF GRAVESITES
PRE-PLACED DOUBLE-DEPTH CRYPTS (3'x8')	PRE-PLACED OVERSIZED CRYPTS (4'x10')	IN-GROUND CREMAIN SITES (4'x4')	COLUMBARIUM NICHES	
9,600	300	7,200	12,070	29,170



Revisions: Date:	CONSULTANT			ARCHITECT/ENGINEER OF RECORD		STAMP	Office of Construction and Facilities Management VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Drawing Title OVERALL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	Phase CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS 1	Project Title GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY PHASE II DEVELOPMENT	Project Number 923PC2006
	The LA Group (518) 587-8100	Aqua Engineering, Inc. (970) 372-8104	OCMI (202) 607-7575	 PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SURVEY AND MAPPING SECURITY CONSULTING 148 S. Queen Street, Suite 201 Martinsburg, WV 25401 Phone: 304-725-8456 www.gordon.us.com							
	rvi (512) 480-0032	Miller-Remick LLC. (856) 429-4000	MEGA (517) 223-3512								
	The Onyx Group (703) 548-6699	ECS Midwest LLC. 847-279-0366	GIS, Inc. (205) 941-0442								
Location OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN											
Issue Date JANUARY 25, 2019		Checked JPG	Drawn BJS	Drawing Number G1100		Dwg. 06 of 219					

ATTACHMENT 2

**PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PHASE 2 EXPANSION
AT THE GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY, JUNE 2019**

*(Note: See Appendix A in this SEA for a copy of the
Phase 1 Archaeological Survey report dated June 2019.)*

ATTACHMENT 3

BASIS OF DETERMINATION OF EFFECT FOR THE PHASE 2 EXPANSION AT THE GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY

As documented in the Phase I Archaeological Survey Report (include as Attachment 2 in this submission), no new or previously identified archaeological resources were encountered within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area. Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), the proposed Phase 2 expansion would result in no effects to any cultural resources or historic properties within the APE.

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THPO

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
Tribal Historic Preservation Office

6650 EAST BROADWAY, MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

PHONE (989) 775-4751 • FAX (989) 775-4767

July 11, 2019

Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, DC

RE: Phase 2 Expansion of Great Lakes National Cemetery

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is in response to the above referenced project.

At this time we do not have any information concerning the presence of any Indian Traditional Cultural Properties, Sacred Sites or other Significant Properties to the projected project area(s). This is not to say that such a site may not exist, just that this office does not have any available information of the area(s) at this time.

This office would be willing to assist if in the future or during the construction there is an inadvertent discovery of Native American human remains or burial objects. Feel free to call my office if you have any questions or requests at 989-775-4751.

We thank you for including this Tribe in your plans.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jones

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan



Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

3410 P St. NW, Miami, OK 74354 • P.O. Box 1326, Miami, OK 74355
Ph: (918) 541-1300 • Fax: (918) 542-7260
www.miamination.com



August 8, 2019

Mr. Fernando Fernandez
Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service
Washington, DC 20420

Re: Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery – Comments of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

Aya, kikwehsitoole – I show you respect. My name is Diane Hunter, and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Federally Recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In this capacity, I am the Miami Tribe's point of contact for all Section 106 issues.

The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-mentioned project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, as this site is within the aboriginal homelands of the Miami Tribe, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966 or by email at dhunter@miamination.com to initiate consultation.

The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.

Respectfully,

Diane Hunter

Diane Hunter
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Subject:

From: Melissa Wiatrolik <MWiatrolik@LTBBODAWA-NSN.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Fernandez, Fernando L. (CFM) <Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Section 106 Phase 2 GLNC expansion

Hello,

The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians concur with the SHPO findings and recommendations regarding the expansion of the GLNC cemetery.

Your interest in protecting Michigan's cultural and historic properties is appreciated.

Any questions feel free to contact me below or by email: mwiatrolik@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov

***Melissa Wiatrolik
The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Interim Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
NAGPRA Representative
MACPRA Treasurer
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
Phone: (231)-242-1408***

Confidentiality Notice:

The information contained in this message and any attachments may contain confidential or proprietary material and is intended solely for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of this communication and any attachments. Warning: Although reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure no viruses are present in this email, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Mr. Kenneth Meshigaud
Chairperson
Hannahville Indian Community
N14911 Hannahville B1 Road
Wilson, MI 49896

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Meshigaud,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Hannahville Indian Community pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, VA is currently preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Phase 2 expansion. VA has also completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Phase 2 expansion area in May 2019. The following sections summarize prior cultural resource investigations performed at GLNC, as well as the findings from the 2019 Phase I survey.

Background – Prior Cultural Resource Investigations

GLNC is located approximately 50 miles northwest of downtown Detroit. GLNC borders Fagan Lake, and is located on a portion of an 1836 land grant from the Federal government to Terrance Fagan. The property served as farmland until it was acquired by the National Cemetery Administration in 2002.

In 2004, Phase I and Phase II archaeological surveys were conducted within the GLNC Phase 1 cemetery area and in the northern portions of what is now the proposed Phase 2 expansion area. The investigations consisted of background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, geomorphological evaluation, and archaeological subsurface surveys. Subsurface surveys in the Phase 1 and northern portions of the Phase 2 expansion areas recovered 613 artifacts and identified three prehistoric sites, three historic sites, eight prehistoric isolated finds, and one historic isolated find (Figures 3 and 4). One site, 20OK487, was recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A second site, 20OK488, was recommended as potentially eligible but was not evaluated because VA has committed to preserve it in place. No further investigation was recommended for the other identified cultural resources. In a letter dated 02 November 2004 (ER-01-179), the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (MI SHPO) concurred with VA's findings that site 20OK487 was eligible and site 20OK488 was potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP; MI SHPO suggested avoiding the sites in all development plans. In concurrence with the recommendations of MI SHPO, these sites were avoided and will not be affected by the proposed Phase 2 expansion or any future expansion phases.

One prehistoric site, 20OK492, was located within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area and was determined not to be eligible.

May 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey

Based on background research, VA determined that the southern portion of the Phase 2 expansion area had a moderate to high potential for containing archaeological resources (Figure 5). Accordingly, in May 2019, VA conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey within the unsurveyed portions of the proposed Phase 2 expansion area to identify archaeological sites that may be present within this area (Figure 6). Survey efforts covered approximately 46 acres at GLNC and included background research, project area reconnaissance, and Phase I subsurface shovel testing at 15-meter intervals. Locations and results of the subsurface shovel testing are provided in Figure 7. All work was conducted in accordance with the guidelines and specifications established in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, Standards, and Guidelines for Identification*, the NHPA, and the Michigan Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). No new or previously identified archaeological resources were encountered within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

Additional Consultations

VA is also initiating consultation with the MI SHPO and the following additional federally recognized tribes: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, Forest County Potawatomi Community Wisconsin, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, Little Traverse Bay Bands of

Odawa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

VA will separately notify you once the draft SEA is available for review. Please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Enclosures:

- Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map
- Figure 2 – Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Development Plan
- Figures 3 and 4 – Archaeological Sites and Isolated Finds from 2004 Phase I/II Archaeological Survey
- Figure 5 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Cultural Resource Sensitivity
- Figure 6 – 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey Project Area
- Figure 7 – 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey Results

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location



MICHIGAN

Site Location

Great Lakes National Cemetery

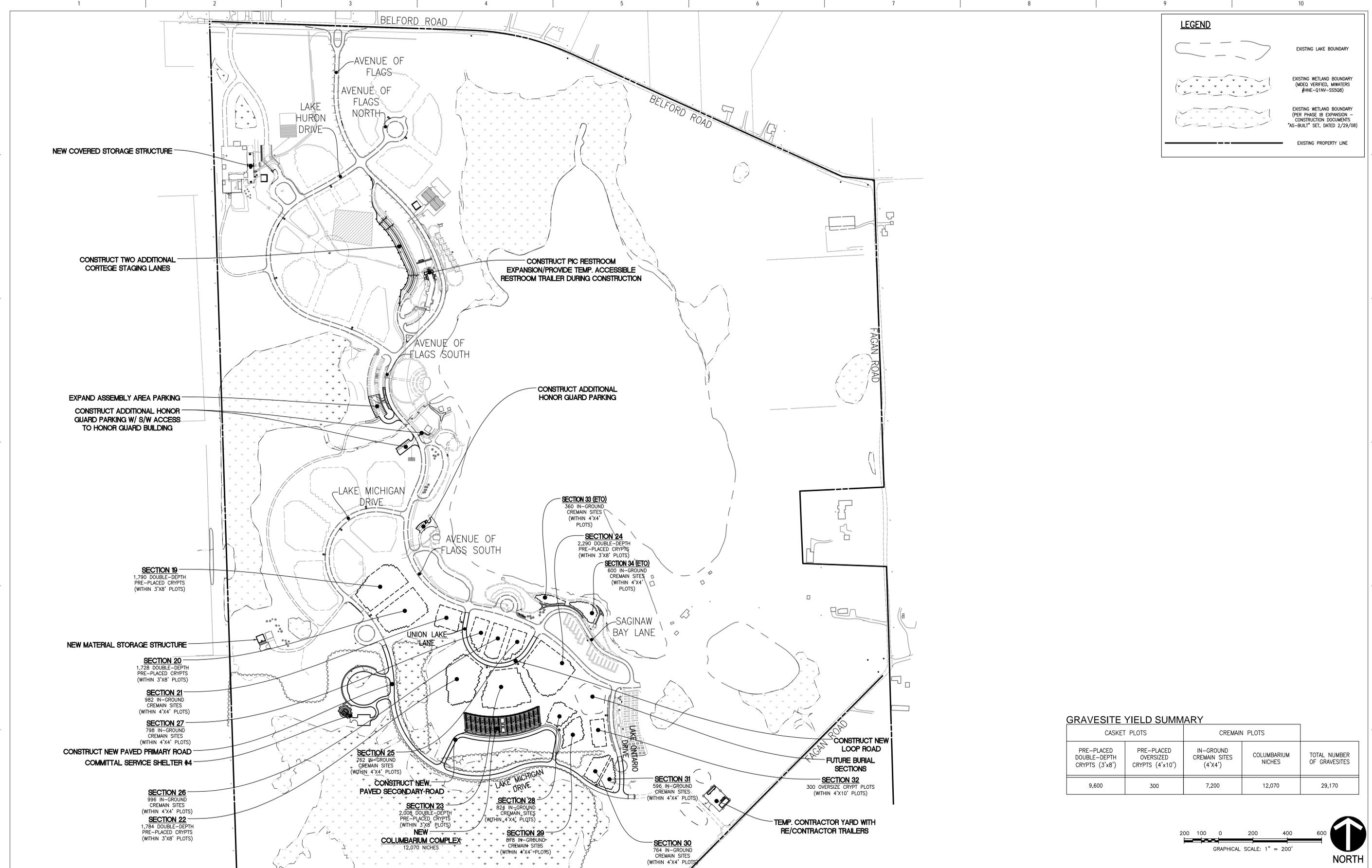
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



FIGURE 2 – Proposed Phase 2 Expansion

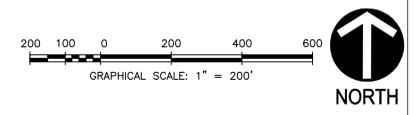
LEGEND

- EXISTING LAKE BOUNDARY
- EXISTING WETLAND BOUNDARY (MDEQ VERIFIED, MIMWATERS #19E-Q1WV-SS528)
- EXISTING WETLAND BOUNDARY (PER PHASE II EXPANSION - CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS "AS-BUILT" SET, DATED 2/29/08)
- EXISTING PROPERTY LINE



GRAVESITE YIELD SUMMARY

CASKET PLOTS		CREMAIN PLOTS		TOTAL NUMBER OF GRAVESITES
PRE-PLACED DOUBLE-DEPTH CRYPTS (3'x8')	PRE-PLACED OVERSIZED CRYPTS (4'x10')	IN-GROUND CREMAIN SITES (4'x4')	COLUMBARIUM NICHES	
9,600	300	7,200	12,070	29,170



Revisions: Date:	CONSULTANT			ARCHITECT/ENGINEER OF RECORD		Office of Construction and Facilities Management VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs	Drawing Title OVERALL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	Phase CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS 1	Project Title GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY PHASE II DEVELOPMENT	Project Number 923PC2006
	The LA Group (518) 587-8100	Aqua Engineering, Inc. (970) 372-8104	OCMI (202) 607-7575	Gordon PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SURVEY AND MAPPING SECURITY CONSULTING 148 S. Queen Street, Suite 201 Martinsburg, WV 25401 Phone: 304-725-8456 www.gordon.us.com	STAMP					
	rvi (512) 480-0032	Miller-Remick LLC. (856) 429-4000	MEGA (517) 223-3512							
	The Onyx Group (703) 548-6699	ECS Midwest LLC. 847-279-0366	GIS, Inc. (205) 941-0442							

FIGURES 3 and 4 – Archaeological Sites and Isolated Finds from 2004 Phase I/II Archaeological Survey

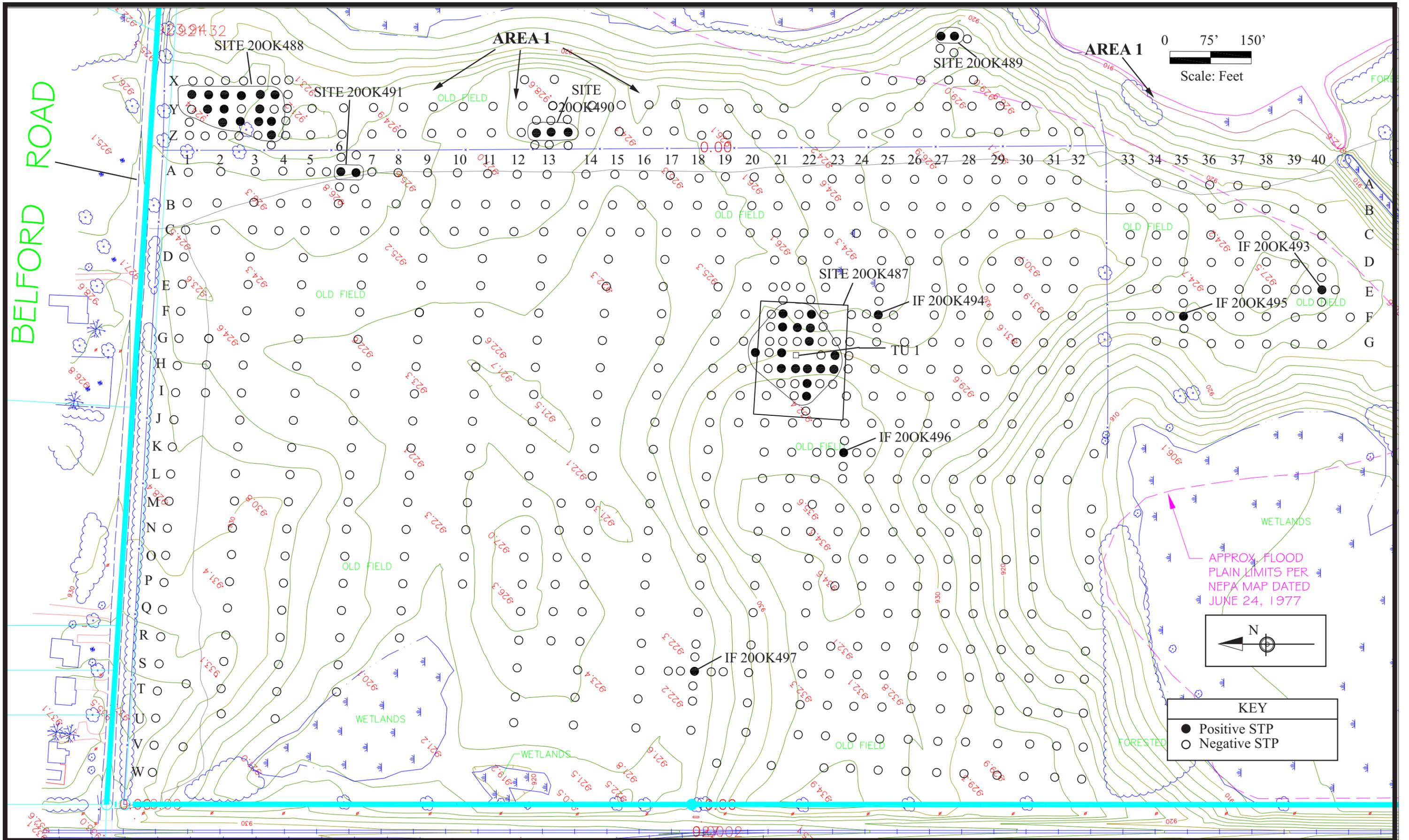


Figure 4.3 Map of Project Area (Phase 1 and Portions of Phase 2) Showing Phase I Shovel Test Pit Locations, Identified Sites, and Isolated Finds Within Area 1.

FIGURE 5 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Cultural Resource Sensitivity

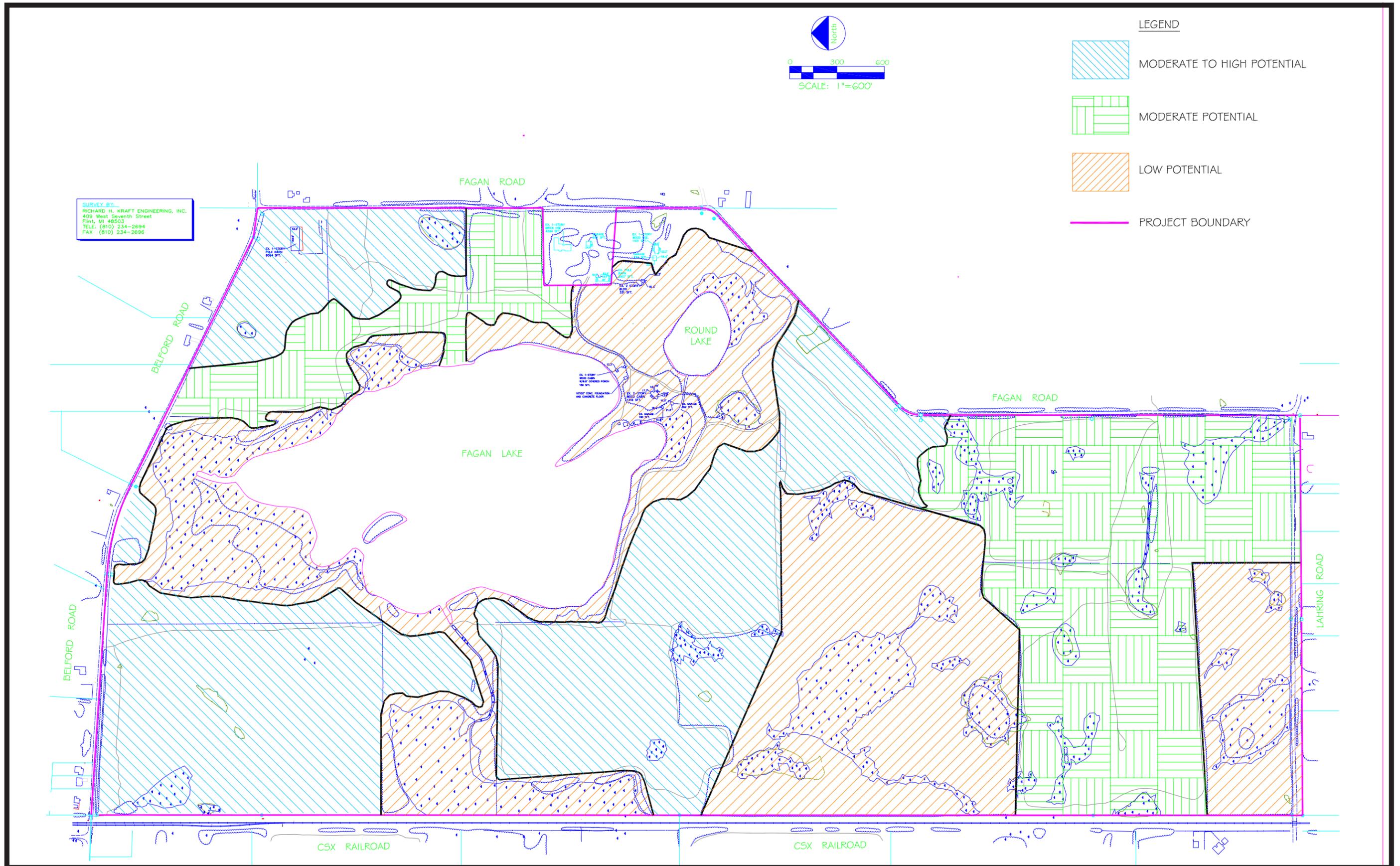
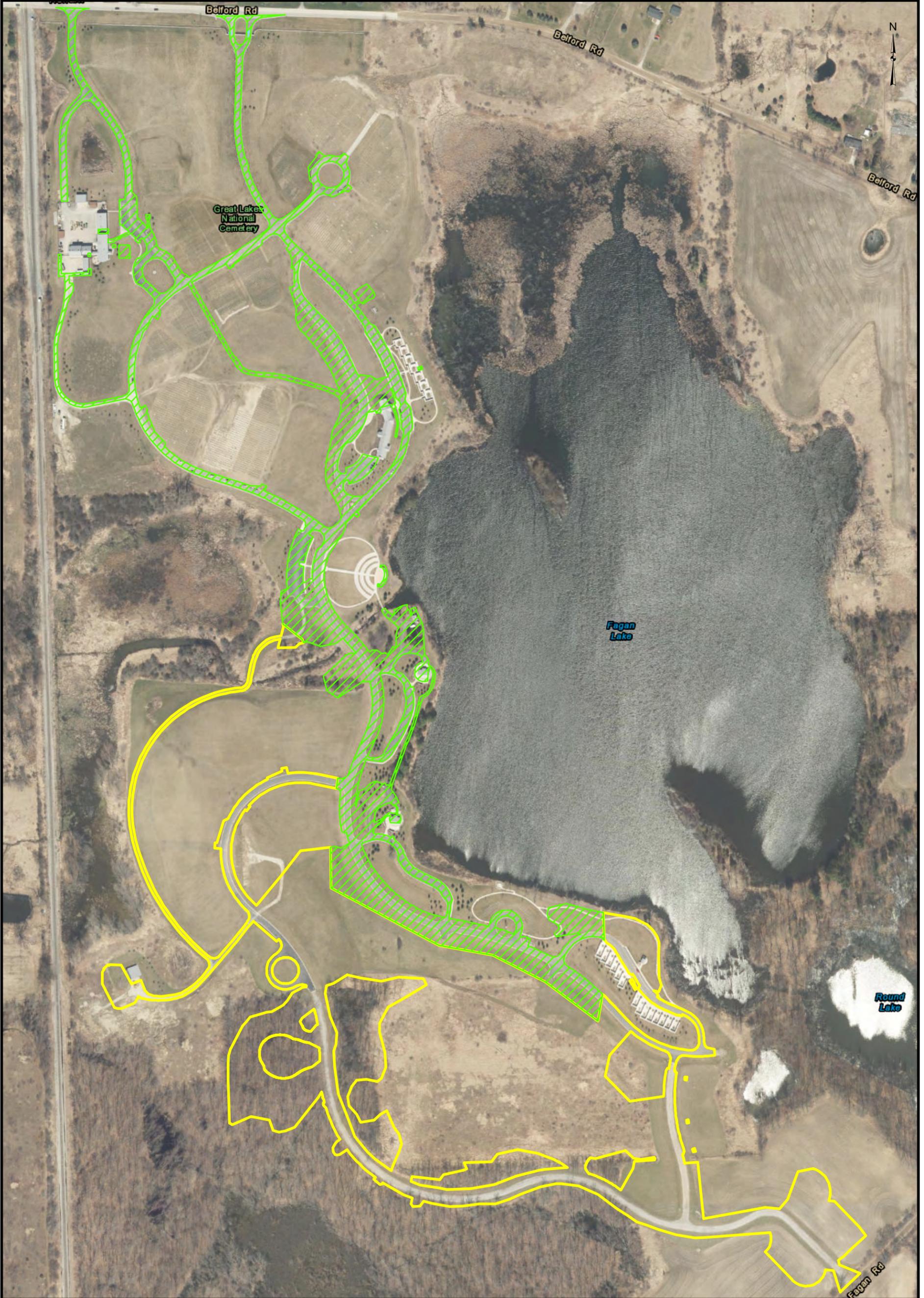


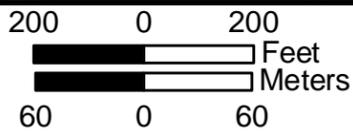
Figure 4.2 Map of Project Area Showing Cultural Resource Sensitivity.

FIGURE 6 - Phase I Archaeological Survey Project Area



LEGEND

-  Previous Survey
-  Project Area

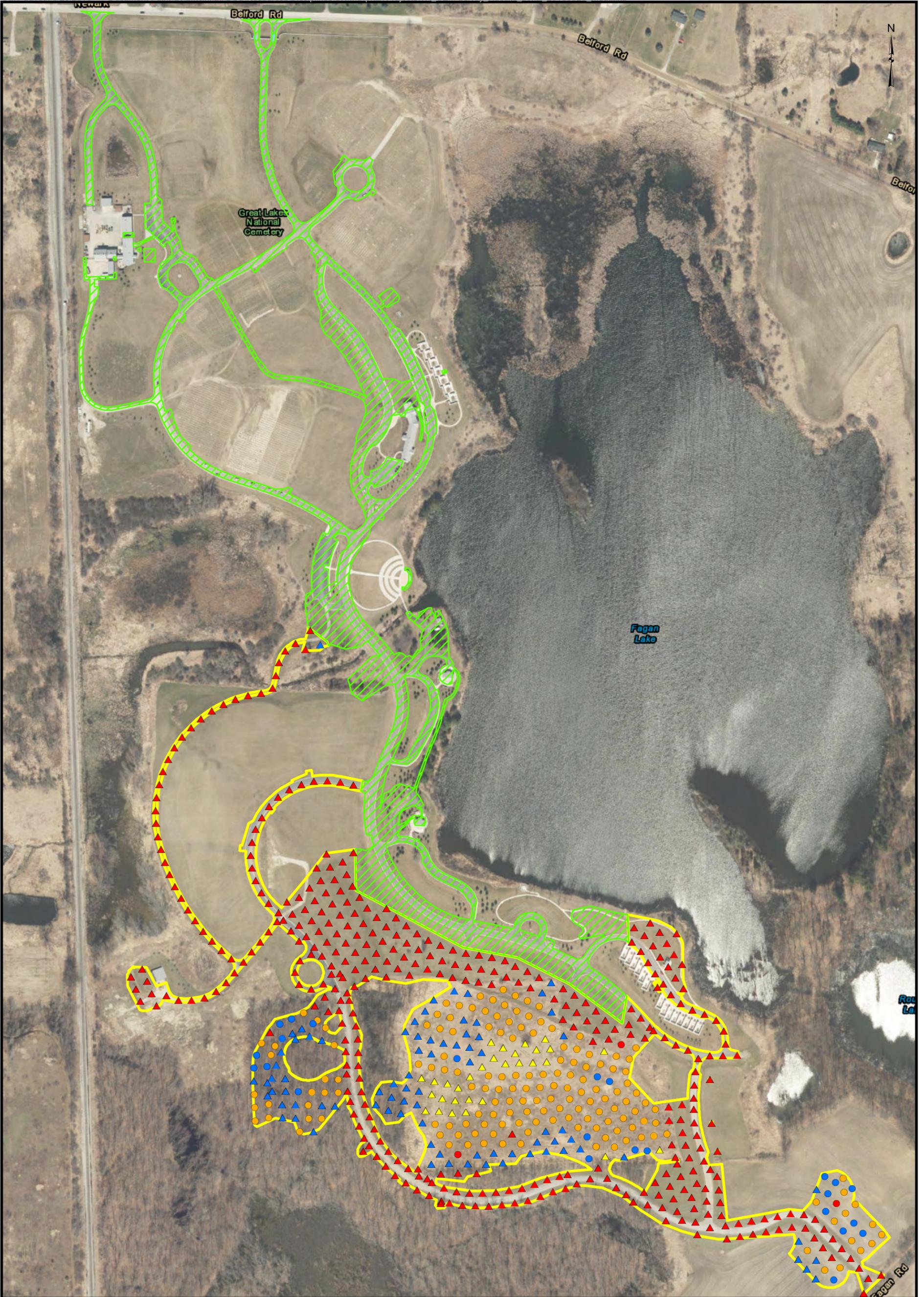


Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors
Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Figure 1-2.
Detroit Area National Cemetery,
Phase 2 Expansion

FIGURE 7 – Phase I Archaeological Survey Results



LEGEND

	Previous Survey	SL (Sample loc) Type	
	Project Area		Ped (Pedestrian)
			Ped, Disturbed
			Ped, Wet
			ST (Shovel Test)
			ST, Disturbed
			ST, Wet

200 0 200 Feet
60 0 60 Meters

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Figure 6-2.
Phase I Archaeological Survey
Results, Phase 2 Expansion

JOB NO. **AECOM**



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Mr. William Tarrant
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seneca-Cayuga Nation
PO Box 45322
Grove, OK 74345

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Tarrant,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Seneca-Cayuga Nation pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, VA is currently preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Phase 2 expansion. VA has also completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Phase 2 expansion area in May 2019. The following sections summarize prior cultural resource investigations performed at GLNC, as well as the findings from the 2019 Phase I survey.

Background – Prior Cultural Resource Investigations

GLNC is located approximately 50 miles northwest of downtown Detroit. GLNC borders Fagan Lake, and is located on a portion of an 1836 land grant from the Federal government to Terrance Fagan. The property served as farmland until it was acquired by the National Cemetery Administration in 2002.

In 2004, Phase I and Phase II archaeological surveys were conducted within the GLNC Phase 1 cemetery area and in the northern portions of what is now the proposed Phase 2 expansion area. The investigations consisted of background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, geomorphological evaluation, and archaeological subsurface surveys. Subsurface surveys in the Phase 1 and northern portions of the Phase 2 expansion areas recovered 613 artifacts and identified three prehistoric sites, three historic sites, eight prehistoric isolated finds, and one historic isolated find (Figures 3 and 4). One site, 20OK487, was recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A second site, 20OK488, was recommended as potentially eligible but was not evaluated because VA has committed to preserve it in place. No further investigation was recommended for the other identified cultural resources. In a letter dated 02 November 2004 (ER-01-179), the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (MI SHPO) concurred with VA's findings that site 20OK487 was eligible and site 20OK488 was potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP; MI SHPO suggested avoiding the sites in all development plans. In concurrence with the recommendations of MI SHPO, these sites were avoided and will not be affected by the proposed Phase 2 expansion or any future expansion phases.

One prehistoric site, 20OK492, was located within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area and was determined not to be eligible.

May 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey

Based on background research, VA determined that the southern portion of the Phase 2 expansion area had a moderate to high potential for containing archaeological resources (Figure 5). Accordingly, in May 2019, VA conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey within the unsurveyed portions of the proposed Phase 2 expansion area to identify archaeological sites that may be present within this area (Figure 6). Survey efforts covered approximately 46 acres at GLNC and included background research, project area reconnaissance, and Phase I subsurface shovel testing at 15-meter intervals. Locations and results of the subsurface shovel testing are provided in Figure 7. All work was conducted in accordance with the guidelines and specifications established in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, Standards, and Guidelines for Identification*, the NHPA, and the Michigan Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). No new or previously identified archaeological resources were encountered within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

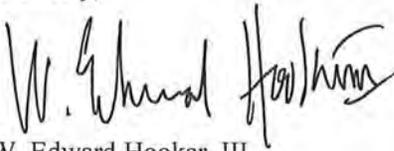
Additional Consultations

VA is also initiating consultation with the MI SHPO and the following additional federally recognized tribes: Hannahville Indian Community, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin,

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma.

VA will separately notify you once the draft SEA is available for review. Please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Enclosures:

- Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map
- Figure 2 – Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Development Plan
- Figures 3 and 4 – Archaeological Sites and Isolated Finds from 2004 Phase I/II Archaeological Survey
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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Mr. Steve Pego
Chief
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
Tribal Office, 7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Pego,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

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Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

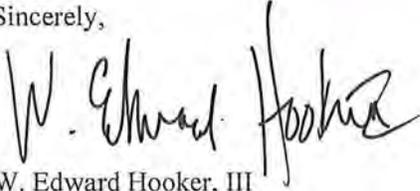
Additional Consultations

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of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

VA will separately notify you once the draft SEA is available for review. Please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Ms. Colleen Medicine
Cultural Repatriation Specialist
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan
531 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Ms. Medicine,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

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Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

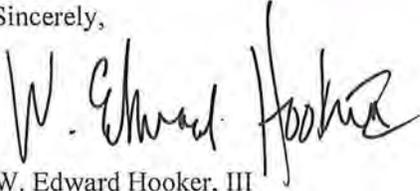
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W. Edward Hooker, III
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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Mr. Harold Frank
Chairman
Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin
PO Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Frank,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

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Determination of Findings

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
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Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Ms. Melinda Young
Tribal Preservation Officer

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin
PO Box 67
Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Ms. Young,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

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Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Mr. Wesley Andrew
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Andrew,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, VA is currently preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Phase 2 expansion. VA has also completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Phase 2 expansion area in May 2019. The following sections summarize prior cultural resource investigations performed at GLNC, as well as the findings from the 2019 Phase I survey.

Background – Prior Cultural Resource Investigations

GLNC is located approximately 50 miles northwest of downtown Detroit. GLNC borders Fagan Lake, and is located on a portion of an 1836 land grant from the Federal government to Terrance Fagan. The property served as farmland until it was acquired by the National Cemetery Administration in 2002.

In 2004, Phase I and Phase II archaeological surveys were conducted within the GLNC Phase 1 cemetery area and in the northern portions of what is now the proposed Phase 2 expansion area. The investigations consisted of background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, geomorphological evaluation, and archaeological subsurface surveys. Subsurface surveys in the Phase 1 and northern portions of the Phase 2 expansion areas recovered 613 artifacts and identified three prehistoric sites, three historic sites, eight prehistoric isolated finds, and one historic isolated find (Figures 3 and 4). One site, 20OK487, was recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A second site, 20OK488, was recommended as potentially eligible but was not evaluated because VA has committed to preserve it in place. No further investigation was recommended for the other identified cultural resources. In a letter dated 02 November 2004 (ER-01-179), the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (MI SHPO) concurred with VA's findings that site 20OK487 was eligible and site 20OK488 was potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP; MI SHPO suggested avoiding the sites in all development plans. In concurrence with the recommendations of MI SHPO, these sites were avoided and will not be affected by the proposed Phase 2 expansion or any future expansion phases.

One prehistoric site, 20OK492, was located within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area and was determined not to be eligible.

May 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey

Based on background research, VA determined that the southern portion of the Phase 2 expansion area had a moderate to high potential for containing archaeological resources (Figure 5). Accordingly, in May 2019, VA conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey within the unsurveyed portions of the proposed Phase 2 expansion area to identify archaeological sites that may be present within this area (Figure 6). Survey efforts covered approximately 46 acres at GLNC and included background research, project area reconnaissance, and Phase I subsurface shovel testing at 15-meter intervals. Locations and results of the subsurface shovel testing are provided in Figure 7. All work was conducted in accordance with the guidelines and specifications established in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, Standards, and Guidelines for Identification*, the NHPA, and the Michigan Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). No new or previously identified archaeological resources were encountered within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

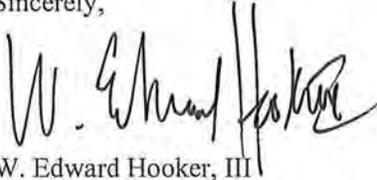
Additional Consultations

VA is also initiating consultation with the MI SHPO and the following additional federally recognized tribes: Hannahville Indian Community, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, Lac du

Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

VA will separately notify you once the draft SEA is available for review. Please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Enclosures:

- Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map
- Figure 2 – Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Development Plan
- Figures 3 and 4 – Archaeological Sites and Isolated Finds from 2004 Phase I/II Archaeological Survey
- Figure 5 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Cultural Resource Sensitivity
- Figure 6 – 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey Project Area
- Figure 7 – 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey Results



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Ms. Diane Hunter
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Ms. Hunter,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, VA is currently preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Phase 2 expansion. VA has also completed a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Phase 2 expansion area in May 2019. The following sections summarize prior cultural resource investigations performed at GLNC, as well as the findings from the 2019 Phase I survey.

Background – Prior Cultural Resource Investigations

GLNC is located approximately 50 miles northwest of downtown Detroit. GLNC borders Fagan Lake, and is located on a portion of an 1836 land grant from the Federal government to Terrance Fagan. The property served as farmland until it was acquired by the National Cemetery Administration in 2002.

In 2004, Phase I and Phase II archaeological surveys were conducted within the GLNC Phase 1 cemetery area and in the northern portions of what is now the proposed Phase 2 expansion area. The investigations consisted of background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, geomorphological evaluation, and archaeological subsurface surveys. Subsurface surveys in the Phase 1 and northern portions of the Phase 2 expansion areas recovered 613 artifacts and identified three prehistoric sites, three historic sites, eight prehistoric isolated finds, and one historic isolated find (Figures 3 and 4). One site, 20OK487, was recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A second site, 20OK488, was recommended as potentially eligible but was not evaluated because VA has committed to preserve it in place. No further investigation was recommended for the other identified cultural resources. In a letter dated 02 November 2004 (ER-01-179), the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (MI SHPO) concurred with VA's findings that site 20OK487 was eligible and site 20OK488 was potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP; MI SHPO suggested avoiding the sites in all development plans. In concurrence with the recommendations of MI SHPO, these sites were avoided and will not be affected by the proposed Phase 2 expansion or any future expansion phases.

One prehistoric site, 20OK492, was located within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area and was determined not to be eligible.

May 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey

Based on background research, VA determined that the southern portion of the Phase 2 expansion area had a moderate to high potential for containing archaeological resources (Figure 5). Accordingly, in May 2019, VA conducted a Phase I Archaeological Survey within the unsurveyed portions of the proposed Phase 2 expansion area to identify archaeological sites that may be present within this area (Figure 6). Survey efforts covered approximately 46 acres at GLNC and included background research, project area reconnaissance, and Phase I subsurface shovel testing at 15-meter intervals. Locations and results of the subsurface shovel testing are provided in Figure 7. All work was conducted in accordance with the guidelines and specifications established in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, Standards, and Guidelines for Identification*, the NHPA, and the Michigan Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). No new or previously identified archaeological resources were encountered within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

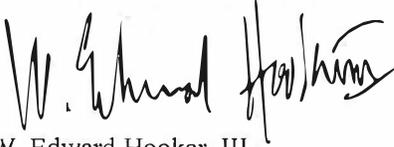
Additional Consultations

VA is also initiating consultation with the MI SHPO and the following additional federally recognized tribes: Hannahville Indian Community, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin,

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

VA will separately notify you once the draft SEA is available for review. Please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Enclosures:

- Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map
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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 1, 2019

Mr. David Grignon
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
PO Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for the Phase 2 Expansion at Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC)

Dear Mr. Grignon,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is initiating Section 106 consultation with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 for the referenced project in Holly, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The Phase 2 expansion would address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit area.

VA has defined the undertaking as the Phase 2 expansion which would include clearing and grading activities associated with the development of approximately 30 acres of land within GLNC; no new property would be acquired (Figure 2). These activities would convert existing land, the majority of which has been under continual agricultural use for several decades, to burial sections and connecting roadways. The Phase 2 expansion would also include improvements to existing physical infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the Phase 1 cemetery, including improvements to the existing administration building and the maintenance complex, associated landscaping, site furnishings, drainage, and the irrigation system. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the total Phase 2 development area (approximately 50 acres) because the Phase 2 expansion activities have no reasonable means or methods to directly or indirectly influence cultural resources beyond where ground disturbance and other improvements would occur.

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Determination of Findings

Therefore, based on the results of the May 2019 survey, previous archaeological surveys at GLNC, and VA's commitment to not disturb site 20OK488, VA has determined that pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) the proposed Phase 2 expansion would not result in any adverse effects to any cultural resources within the APE. If you would like to comment on this finding of no effect, VA respectfully requests your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If the Tribe knows of any unidentified resources of cultural or religious significance which may be adversely effected by this undertaking, please feel free to contact VA and we will discuss under appropriate federal confidentiality regulations.

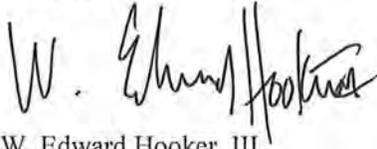
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Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.

VA will separately notify you once the draft SEA is available for review. Please direct all correspondence to Mr. Fernando Fernández at fernando.fernandez@va.gov or 202-632-5529.

Sincerely,



W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

Enclosures:

- Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map
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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6360



IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 9, 2019

Mr. Fernando Fernandez
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service
Washington, D.C. 20420

Re: Informal Section 7 Consultation
Great Lakes National Cemetery, Proposed Phase 2 Expansion
Oakland County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

Thank you for your letter of July 16, 2019, requesting consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for the proposed Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC) Phase 2 Expansion Project (Project) in Holly Township, Oakland County, Michigan. The purpose of the Project is to address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase I portion of the GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit metropolitan area for approximately the next 10 years.

According to your description, the Project will develop an approximately 30-acre area, largely comprised of an agricultural field and a smaller wooded area, into new burial sections in the central western portion of the GLNC. Development will involve clearing, grading, and construction for 28,570 new burial sites, including new casket and in-ground cremation sites, a new columbarium complex, a new committal service shelter, and extending the existing roadway to the new burial areas. Additionally, associated improvements will be made to existing infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the existing Phase I cemetery, including to the public information center/administration building, the assembly area, the memorial walk, maintenance complex, irrigation systems, and site furnishings. Construction will occur during an approximately 24-month period.

As part of a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) completed a biological survey to assess potential impacts to wildlife. The biological survey was performed within a "Project Study Area" that encompassed the approximately 30-acre area of disturbance and the 20-acre infrastructure improvement area within the Phase I cemetery. Following a review of federally protected species that may occur within the Project area, pedestrian surveys were conducted on May 10, 2019 to identify potential habitat for seven federally listed species as well as the federally protected bald eagle (*Haliaeetus*

leucocephalus). During the survey, one active bald eagle nest (located at approximately 42.848484, -83.613230) was observed in a woody area adjacent to Round Lake and near Fagan Road. The proposed Phase 2 expansion area construction activities, including staging of construction equipment and materials, will be located approximately 500 feet southwest of the nest, and the new burial areas and roadway will be approximately 850 feet west of the nest. A July 5, 2019 discussion with Chris Mensing of this office indicated that the proposed Project activities are unlikely to disturb nesting eagles.

Suitable habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; NLEB) was also identified during the pedestrian survey. To avoid impacts to federally listed bats, tree clearing will be limited to the inactive season (October through March). You have determined that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Indiana bats and NLEB, and you are requesting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) concurrence with your determination.

Indiana Bat

In Michigan, summering Indiana bats roost in trees in riparian, bottomland, and upland forests from approximately April through September. Indiana bats may summer in a wide range of habitats, from highly altered landscapes to intact forests. Roost trees vary considerably in size. Although trees used by Indiana bat maternity colonies are typically greater than 9 inches dbh, those used by males and non-reproductive females or as alternate roosts for maternity colonies may be as small as 5 inches dbh. Indiana bats typically roost beneath peeling bark but may also use cracks or crevices. As such, roost trees tend to be dead or dying trees with some bark remaining, or live trees with naturally exfoliating bark, such as shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). Rarely, Indiana bats roost in structures, such as barns, sheds, or bridges. During winter, Indiana bats hibernate in caves, abandoned mine portals or similar structures.

NLEB

During the summer, NLEBs typically roost singly or in colonies underneath bark or in cavities, crevices, or hollows of both live and dead trees and/or snags (typically ≥ 3 inches dbh). On occasion, NLEBs will roost in structures, such as barns and sheds, when suitable tree roosts are unavailable. These bats forage for insects in upland and lowland woodlots and tree-lined corridors. During the winter, NLEBs hibernate predominantly in caves and abandoned mine portals.

On April 2, 2015, a final rule was published in the *Federal Register* listing the NLEB as threatened, along with an interim species-specific rule under section 4(d) of the Act, which lessens ESA restrictions that do not provide conservation benefit for the bat. On January 14, 2016, a final species-specific 4(d) rule was published in the *Federal Register*, further reducing restrictions that do not provide conservation benefit to the species. Federal agency actions that involve incidental take not prohibited under the final 4(d) rule may result in effects to individual NLEBs. Per section 7 of the Act, if a federal agency's action may affect a listed species, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is required. This requirement does not change when a 4(d) rule is implemented. For this 4(d) rule, however, the Service has

established a framework to streamline formal section 7 consultations when federal actions may affect NLEB but will not result in prohibited take. Federal agencies have the option to rely upon the finding of the programmatic biological opinion for the final 4(d) rule and to fulfill their project-specific section 7 responsibilities by using the established framework. For projects that may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect the species, agencies may follow typical consultation procedures.

Conclusion

We concur that the Project is not likely to adversely affect Indiana bats or NLEB for the following reasons:

- Removal of suitable trees/forested habitat will be limited to the bats' inactive season (October through March).
- No more than 10% of the forested area within a half-mile buffer of the Project area will be removed.

Based on the above, Project activities will avoid direct effects to listed bats, and any effects of winter tree removal will be insignificant.

This precludes the need for further action on this Project as required by the Act. If Project plans change or new information about the Project becomes available that indicates protected species or habitats may be affected in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, you should reinitiate consultation with this office.

We appreciate the opportunity to cooperate with you in conserving federally protected species. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Jenny Wong, of this office, at (517) 351-7261 or Jennifer_Wong@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Acting For, Scott Hicks
Field Supervisor

cc: Dan Kennedy, MDNR, Wildlife Division, Lansing



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION
Design and Construction Service
Washington DC 20420**

July 16, 2019

Mr. Scott Hicks
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Ecological Services Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823

RE: Informal Section 7 Consultation
Great Lakes National Cemetery, Proposed Phase 2 Expansion
Oakland County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Hicks,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is proposing to construct and operate an expansion (“Phase 2 expansion”) at the Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC), located in Holly Township, Oakland County, Michigan (Figure 1). The purpose of the Phase 2 expansion is to address the depletion of gravesites remaining in the Phase 1 portion of GLNC, thereby extending the longevity of GLNC for Veterans and their eligible family members in the greater Detroit metropolitan area for approximately the next 10 years.

The Phase 2 expansion would develop an approximately 30-acre area, largely comprised of an agricultural (soybean) field and a smaller wooded area, into new burial sections in the central western portion of the GLNC. Development would involve clearing, grading, and construction for 28,570 new burial sites, including new casket and in-ground cremation sites; a new columbarium complex; a new committal service shelter; and extending the existing roadway to the new burial areas. Additionally, associated improvements would be made to existing infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre portion of the existing Phase 1 cemetery, including to the public information center/administration building, the assembly area, the memorial walk, maintenance complex, irrigation systems, and site furnishings. Construction would occur during an approximately 24-month period. Figure 2 depicts the Phase 2 expansion plan.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code § 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, VA is currently preparing a Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Phase 2 expansion. As a component of the SEA, VA completed a biological survey to assess potential impacts to wildlife and their habitat. The biological survey was performed within a “Project Study Area” that encompassed the approximately 30-acre area of disturbance and the 20-acre infrastructure improvement area within the Phase 1 cemetery (Figure 3).

Prior to conducting the survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database was searched on 3 May 2019 for federally protected species, listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, with the potential to occur within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area. Seven federally listed species were identified as potentially occurring within the GLNC property (Attachment 1). Accordingly, pedestrian surveys of the proposed Phase 2 expansion area were conducted on 10 May 2019 to identify potential suitable habitat for the seven federally listed species. Suitable habitat was identified for two of the seven federally listed species: the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*); however, no individuals of either species were documented during the survey. Further, there are no known northern long-eared bat maternity roosting trees within the proposed Phase 2 expansion area nor any hibernacula within 0.25 mile of GLNC. The survey results are provided in Attachment 1 to this letter.

To minimize or avoid any potential impacts to Indiana bats and northern-long eared bats during this proposed expansion, VA would adhere to time of year restrictions for tree clearing. Specifically, VA would avoid tree clearing between 1 April and 15 October to avoid impacts to both species.

With the implementation of the tree clearance restrictions, VA has determined that the proposed expansion **may affect but is not likely to adversely affect** the Indiana bat and the northern long-eared bat.

Bald Eagles

During the pedestrian survey conducted on 10 May 2019, one active bald eagle nest (located at approximately 42.848484 E, -83.613230 N) was observed in a wooded area adjacent to Round Lake and near Fagan Road (Figure 3). The nest was first established and occupied by a pair of eagles in early 2019.

The nest is approximately 50-feet north of an active agricultural (soybean) field and approximately 500-feet east of existing active Phase 1 cemetery burial areas (a columbarium wall with surrounding landscaped grounds). The presence of these features and on-going activities in these areas have been tolerated by the eagles occupying the nest. The nest is visible only from the southernmost columbarium and agricultural field bisected by the restricted access maintenance leading to Fagan Road.

The proposed Phase 2 expansion area construction activities, including temporary staging of construction equipment and materials, would be located approximately 500-feet southwest from the eagle nest. The new Phase 2 expansion area burial areas and roadway, as well as the operational maintenance activities of these features, would occur approximately 850-feet west of the eagle nest (Figure 3).

VA reviewed the USFWS Bald Eagle Permit: Incidental Take Step-by-Step Guidance and recommendations to avoid incidental take. On July 3, 2019, VA informed the USFWS Michigan Ecological Services Field Office of Midwest Region of VA's intention to comply to the extent practicable with the USFWS recommendations for avoiding the incidental take of bald eagles during construction or development activity for bald eagle nests that are visible from the project site. On July 5, 2019, USFWS representative Mr. Chris Mensing confirmed that the bald eagles are not expected to be disturbed by the Proposed Action. A signed the form documenting VA's commitment to implement these USFWS recommendations to avoid the incidental take of bald eagles during construction and operation of the proposed Phase 2 expansion to the extent practicable is included in Attachment 2.

As noted above, VA respectfully requests that you review the finding of **may affect but is not likely to adversely affect** for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat and provide your concurrence on this determination. Please provide your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter via email to Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov or telephone at (202) 632-5529. VA appreciates your attention and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

FERNANDO L.

FERNANDEZ 336237

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L. FERNANDEZ 336237
Date: 2019.07.17 09:36:15
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Fernando L. Fernández, REM
Environmental Engineer
Construction and Facilities Management Office

Enclosures:

- Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map
- Figure 2 – Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Development Plan
- Figure 3 – Bald Eagle Nest at GLNC
- Attachment 1 – Threatened and Endangered Species Survey Report
- Attachment 2 – Documentation of USFSW Bald Eagle Avoidance Measures

Enclosures

Figure 1 – Great Lakes National Cemetery Site Location Map



Figure 2- Proposed Phase 2 Expansion Development Plan

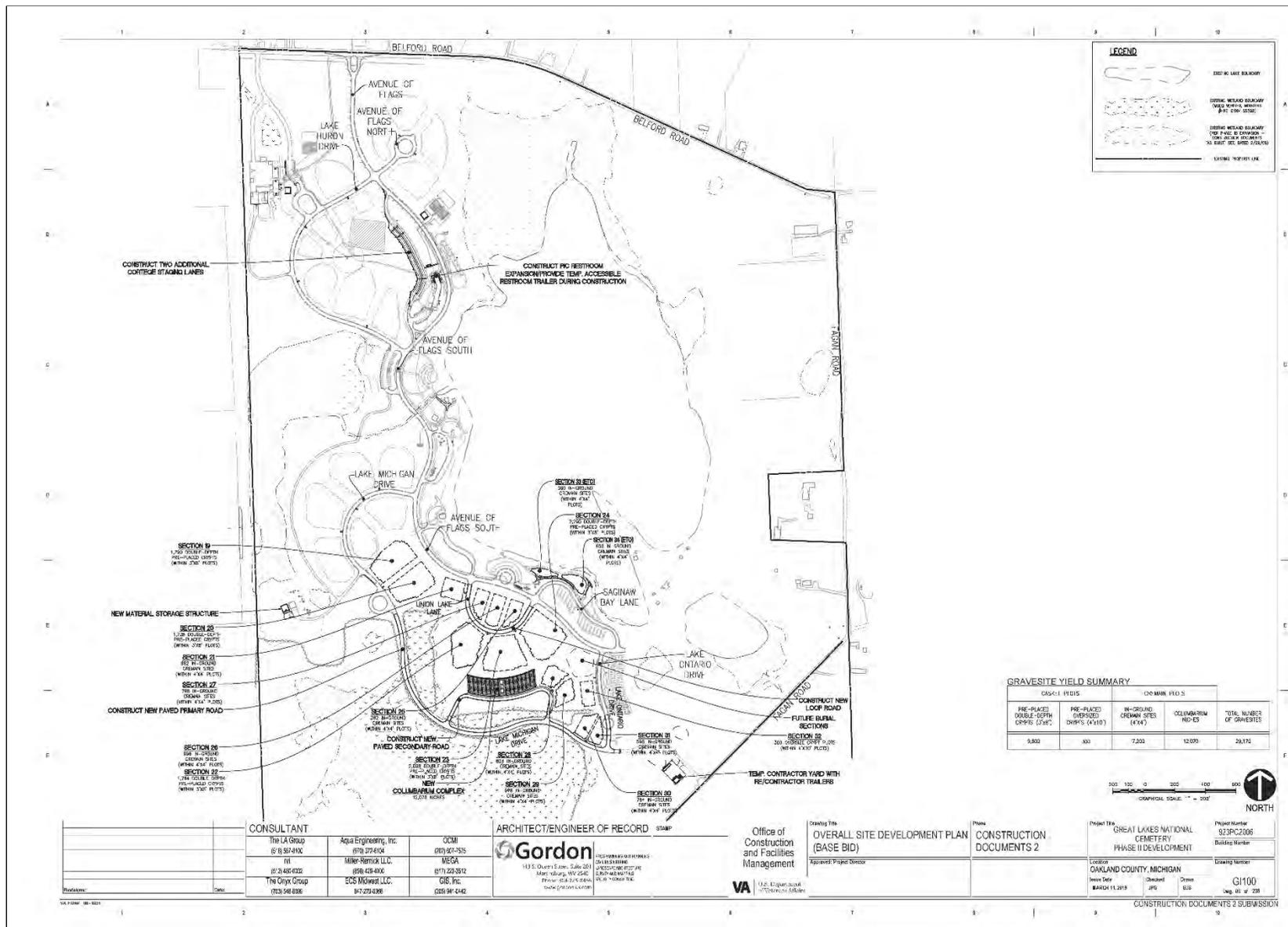
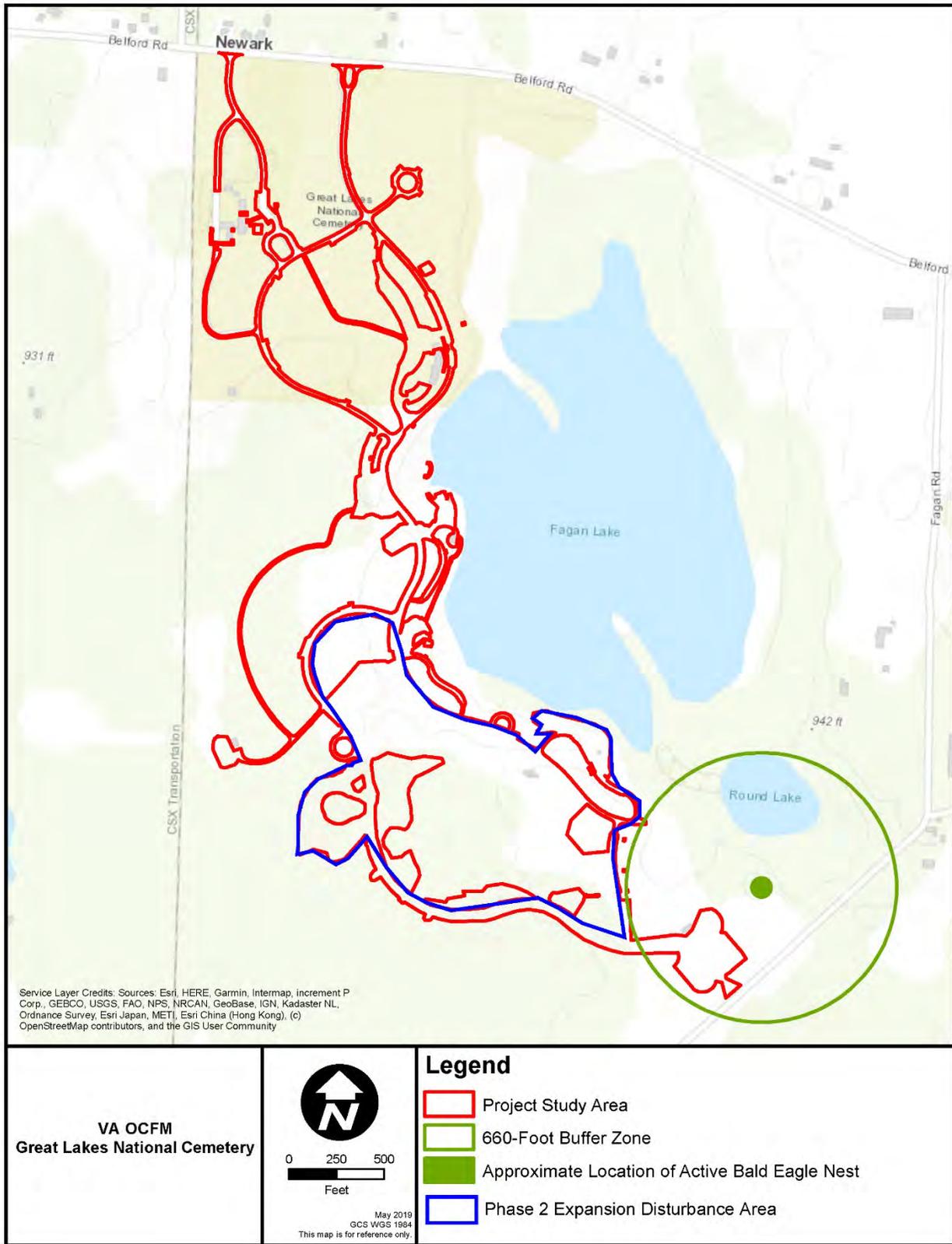


Figure 3 –Bald Eagle Nest at GLNC



Attachment 1
Threatened and Endangered Species Survey Report

(Note: See Appendix A of this SEA for a copy of the "Final Threatened and Endangered Species Survey Report for the Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for the Great Lakes National Cemetery – Phase 2 Expansion Holly, Michigan, June 28, 2019")

Attachment 2

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recommendations for
Avoiding the Incidental Take of Bald Eagles**



[Conserving the nature of America](#)

[USFWS Midwest Home](#)

[Midwest Bald Eagle Home](#)

[Midwest Migratory Birds](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Bald Eagle Permit: Incidental Take

Step-by-Step Guidance

Determining Whether Construction or Development Activities May Cause the Incidental Take of Bald Eagles

Step 4. Documentation

You may document that you are following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recommendations for avoiding the Incidental take of bald eagles by printing this page, then signing and dating it for your records.

Your activity is a construction project or development activity. The bald eagle nest ([active or inactive](#)) can be seen from the project site.

You will adopt the following recommendations to avoid the Incidental take of eagles and their young.

- (1) Maintain a [buffer](#) of at least 660 feet (200 meters) between all your activities and the nest (including active and inactive nests) unless a [similar activity](#) is closer than 660 feet, then you may maintain a distance buffer as close to the nest as the existing tolerated activity.
- (2) Restrict all clearing, external construction, and landscaping activities within 660 feet of the nest to **outside the nesting season** (i.e., outside the nesting season is from August through mid-January in the Midwest).
- (3) maintain any established landscape buffers.

Therefore, incidental take of bald eagles is unlikely to occur.

Signature: FERNANDO L. FERNANDEZ 336237 Digitally signed by FERNANDO L. FERNANDEZ 336237
Date: 2019.07.17 09:54:57 -04'00'

Date: _____

These recommendations are valid only for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

[Back](#)

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From: [Fernandez, Fernando L. \(CFM\)](#)
To: [Mensing, Chris](#)
Cc: [Glucksman Andrew](#); [Martino, David \(CFM\)](#); [Fernandez, Fernando L. \(CFM\)](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] VA OCFM - Great Lakes National Cemetery - Bald eagle inquiry
Date: Friday, July 05, 2019 2:04:38 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Chris, our organization greatly appreciates your expeditious review on this very important matter.

Have a great weekend.

Fernando L. Fernández REM

Office: 202.632.5529

Cell: 202.876.7608

From: Mensing, Chris <chris_mensing@fws.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 1:57 PM
To: [Glucksman Andrew <glucksman@mabbett.com>](mailto:glucksman@mabbett.com)
Cc: [Fernandez, Fernando L. \(CFM\) <Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov>](mailto:Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov); [Martino, David \(CFM\) <David.Martino@va.gov>](mailto:David.Martino@va.gov)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] VA OCFM - Great Lakes National Cemetery - Bald eagle inquiry

Andrew,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the presence of a bald eagle nest in the vicinity of the Great Lakes National Cemetery. Based upon your description of the area and your avoidance/minimization measures, I would not expect the eagles to be disturbed by the proposed activity.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Chris

Chris Mensing, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Michigan Ecological Services Field Office

2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101

East Lansing, MI 48823

517-351-8316 (office)

517-351-1443 (fax)

chris_mensing@fws.gov

On Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 2:28 PM [Glucksman Andrew <glucksman@mabbett.com>](mailto:glucksman@mabbett.com) wrote:

Hi Chris,

I am a contractor supporting the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and have a question regarding bald eagle incidental take recommendations. I left a VM with same on Monday.

Briefly, VA owns and operates the Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC) in Oakland County, Michigan. The first of several planned phases of the cemetery opened in 2005. Although the property is owned by VA, they do lease some portions to a local soybean farmer.

Currently, VA is proposing to implement the next planned expansion (Phase 2) WITHIN existing GLNC property.

Within the past 6 months, a pair of eagles built a nest approximately 500 feet from the active Phase 1 cemetery and about 50 feet from one of the active soybean plots. These eagles have tolerated all activities occurring at GLNC, including mowing, memorial salutes, vehicle traffic, and farming. It is also noted that Oakland County maintains Fagan Road, which is located approximately 275 feet from the nest. An informal figure depicting these features is attached.

Under the proposed Phase 2 expansion, VA would place a construction trailer approximately 400 feet from the nest and also re-gravel an existing roadway (installed in ~2005) that is approximately 400 feet from the nest.

We reviewed the Bald Eagle Permit: Incidental Take Step-by-Step Guidance and the three recommendations to avoid incidental take. As noted above, routine activities occur less than 660 feet from the nest but have been tolerated and would continue under the normal GLNC maintenance and operation schedule. Additionally, the existing wooded area in which the nest was constructed would NOT be cleared or modified in any way. However, external construction activities (the re-graveling of the roadway, placement of the construction trailer, and movement of construction vehicles along the re-graveled roadway) would occur for 18-24 months to build the Phase 2 expansion (which is approximately 850 feet and further from the nest).

If possible, could we please get clarification on whether any additional measures to avoid incidental take are recommended by USFWS?

Thank you,

Andrew

Andrew Glucksman, LEED AP
Sr. Environmental Scientist
Project Manager

Mabbett & Associates, Inc.



Existing Phase 1 cemetery area

Phase 2 expansion area (proposed)

Eagle nest

Soybean field*

Existing road to be re-graveled

Construction trailer pad area (proposed)

Fagan Rd

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FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request July 22, 2019				
Name of Project Great Lakes National Cemetery		Federal Agency Involved Dept. of Veterans Affairs / OCFM				
Proposed Land Use National Cemetery		County and State Oakland County, Michigan				
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS				
PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		30				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		0				
C. Total Acres In Site		544				
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland						
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland						
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted						
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value						
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)						
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use	(15)	15		1		
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use	(10)	10		2		
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	(20)	1		3		
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government	(20)	0		4		
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area	(15)	10		5		
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	(15)	0		6		
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	(10)	10		7		
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland	(10)	0		8		
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	(5)	5		9		
10. On-Farm Investments	(20)	10		10		
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	(10)	0		11		
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	(10)	0		12		
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	61	0	0	0
PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	61	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)		260	61	0	0	0
Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>				
Reason For Selection:						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form:					Date:	

(See Instructions on reverse side)

Summary of Comments on Microsoft Word - M_440_523_F_AD-1006.rtf

Page: 1

- Number: 1 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/8/2019 3:47:28 PM
Estimated that over 90% of land within 1 mile radius is non-urban

- Number: 2 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/8/2019 3:47:35 PM
Estimated that 100 percent of the approximately 4 mile perimeter borders non-urban land

- Number: 3 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 6/18/2019 2:41:29 PM
Estimated that approximately 114 acres of GLNC currently farmed. 114/544 total acres = 21%

- Number: 4 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 6/18/2019 2:44:49 PM
Assumed site not protected under State or local farm laws due to it being federal lands.

- Number: 5 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 6/18/2019 2:45:33 PM
Estimated that the site is more than 1 mile but less than 2 miles from an urban built up area

- Number: 6 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 6/18/2019 3:05:09 PM
Assumed all local facilities and services are within 1/2 mile of the site due to residential areas within 1/2 mile

- Number: 7 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/8/2019 3:48:45 PM
Average farm size in Oakland County Michigan is 59 acres (2012 Census of Agriculture). Estimated approximately 114 farmland acres at GLNC

- Number: 8 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 6/18/2019 3:24:18 PM
If the site is developed, only the 30 farmable acres will be converted, the remaining currently farmed areas will not be changed

- Number: 9 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/8/2019 3:17:29 PM
Assumed farmland services are available to the site within a reasonable distance.

- Number: 10 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/8/2019 3:19:21 PM
Assumes moderate level of on-farm investments based on the presence of some (irrigation, drainage, etc.) but not all mentioned services.

- Number: 11 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/22/2019 10:04:19 AM
No significant reduction in demand for support services is anticipated because only a 30-portion of the expansion area is used as farmland, and other agricultural fields at GLNC will remain under agricultural production for the foreseeable future.

- Number: 12 Author: hep Subject: Sticky Note Date: 7/8/2019 3:37:06 PM
Proposed used as an expansion of the existing cemetery would not convert surrounding farms to non-agricultural uses and the use as a cemetery is compatible with surrounding farms, as evidenced by the farm lease on site which has been compatible with the existing Phase 1 cemetery.
