

# SECTION 4(f) RESOURCE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Gibson Drive  
Project Development and Environment Study

From Fern Hill Drive to US 301  
Hillsborough County  
WPI Segment No. 450438-1  
ETDM Number: 14493

December 2023

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022 and executed by FHWA and FDOT.*

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Seven, in coordination with Hillsborough County, is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study along Gibson Drive from Fern Hill Drive to U.S. Highway 301 (US 301) in Hillsborough County. A project location map is shown in **Figure 1**. The objective of the PD&E study is to assist the FDOT's Office of Environmental Management in reaching a decision on the type, location, and conceptual design of the proposed improvements for the widening of Gibson Drive, including stormwater management facility (SMF) and floodplain compensation (FPC) sites. This PD&E study documents the need for the improvements as well as the procedures utilized to develop and evaluate various improvements, including elements such as proposed typical sections, preliminary horizontal alignments, and intersection enhancements.

The PD&E study satisfies all applicable requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act, to qualify for federal-aid funding of subsequent development phases (design, right of way acquisition, and construction). This project was screened through the FDOT's Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process as ETDM Project No. 14493. The ETDM Programming Screen Summary Report was published on October 27, 2022, containing comments from the Environmental Technical Advisory Team on the project's effects on various natural, physical, and social resources. The Alafia Scrub Nature Preserve was identified as a potential Section 4(f) resource within the project buffer area. A Type 2 Categorical Exclusion is the class of action for this PD&E study.

This *Section 4(f) Resource Technical Memorandum* has been prepared to document the location of any potential resource present within the project corridor that may be protected under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966.

## Section 4(f) Resource: Alafia Scrub Nature Preserve

**Facility Type:** County preserve with hiking trails and scenic overlook for the Alafia River Property

**Classification:** Park/Recreation Area

**Address and Coordinates** (See **Figure 2** for Location of Resource):

Address: 10243 Elbow Bend Rd, Riverview, FL, 33578, USA

Latitude: 27.86099 Longitude: -82.33640



*Entrance Sign located along Elbow Bend Road and Parking/Trailhead*

**Description of Property:** The Alafia Scrub Nature Preserve is approximately 79.3 acres. It is located along the north side of Gibsonton Drive to the east of I-75, and abuts the Alafia River on the west/northwest side of the property, Hagadorn Road on the east and Elbow Bend Road on the north. Approximately 300 feet of the southeastern boundary of the property abuts Gibsonton Drive, just west of Hagadorn Road. The preserve has diverse habitats including hammock, scrub, creeks, ravines, riverine shoreline and tidal marsh. There are marked hiking trails that include a 0.8-mile loop and 1.3-mile loop. There is a scenic overlook on the Alafia River that is a half-mile from the trailhead. The trailhead is located about 230 feet west of Hagadorn Road along Elbow Bend Road and is open for public access from sunrise to sunset. The entrance/access to the Alafia Scrub Preserve is located along Elbow Bend Road. See **Figure 3** for location of preserve entrance, trails, and facilities within the property.

See **Figure 4** for the proposed Gibsonton Drive improvements in relation to the Preserve property. The Preserve access/entrance is not located along Gibsonton Drive, so Gibsonton Drive improvements will not impact access to the Preserve. The Preserve entrance along Elbow Bend Road connects to Hagadorn Road which intersects as a side-street to Gibsonton Drive and that access will remain as it currently exists. Patrons of the Preserve utilize walking trails within the

Preserve boundaries which are shown on **Figure 3**. There are no trail amenities including picnic tables, trail tables, kiosks, observation decks adjacent to Gibsonton Drive. The Gibsonton Drive improvements will not directly impact any element within the Preserve property. A *Noise Study Report* was prepared for this project and determined that noise mitigation is not cost reasonable to construct for traffic noise generated from vehicles along Gibsonton Drive in relation to the Preserve property, thus no noise barrier will be constructed as part of the project. There are no off-site SMF nor FPC sites proposed within the limits of the Preserve. **No acquisition or occupation of land from the protected properties, on either a temporary or permanent basis, will occur. Additionally, there are no meaningful proximity impacts to the protected properties, and there will be no impacts to the access and usage of the protected properties. Therefore, the project will have No Use of this recreational Section 4(f) resource.**

**Owner/Official with Jurisdiction:** Hillsborough County

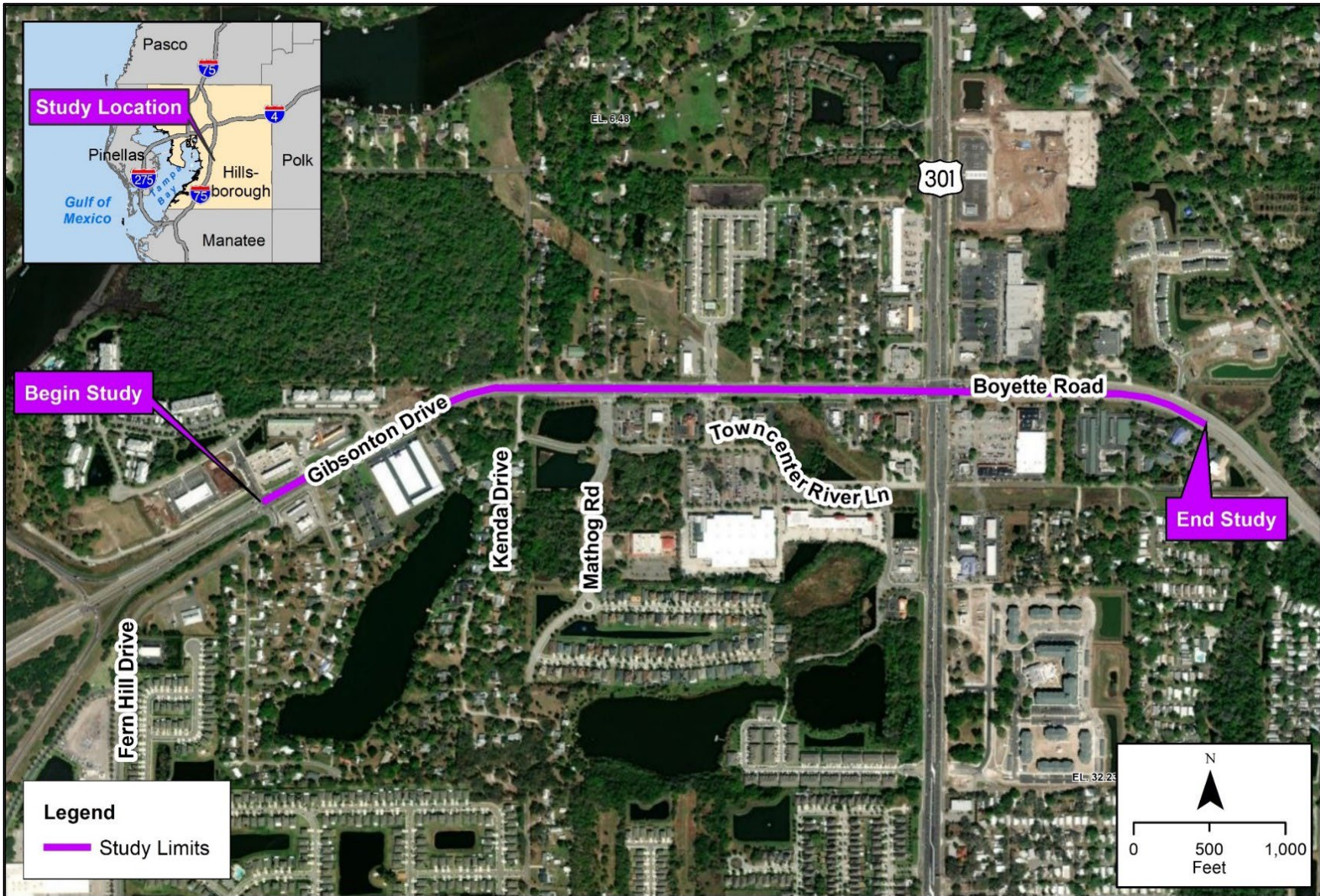
**Relationship Between the Property and the Project**

(see **Figure 4** for Project Improvements Adjacent to Resource)

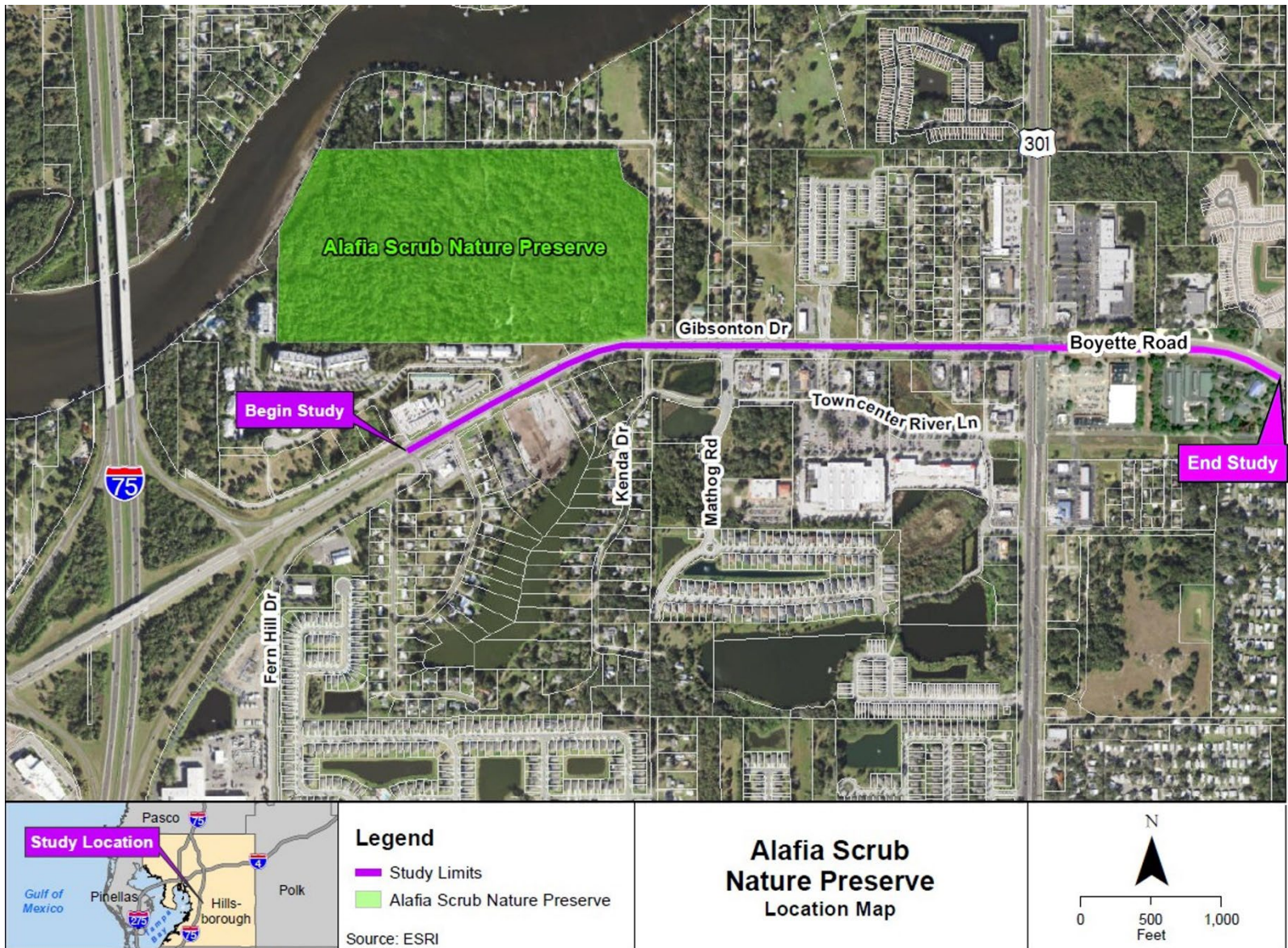
**Yes      No**

Will the property be “used” within the meaning of Section 4(f)?

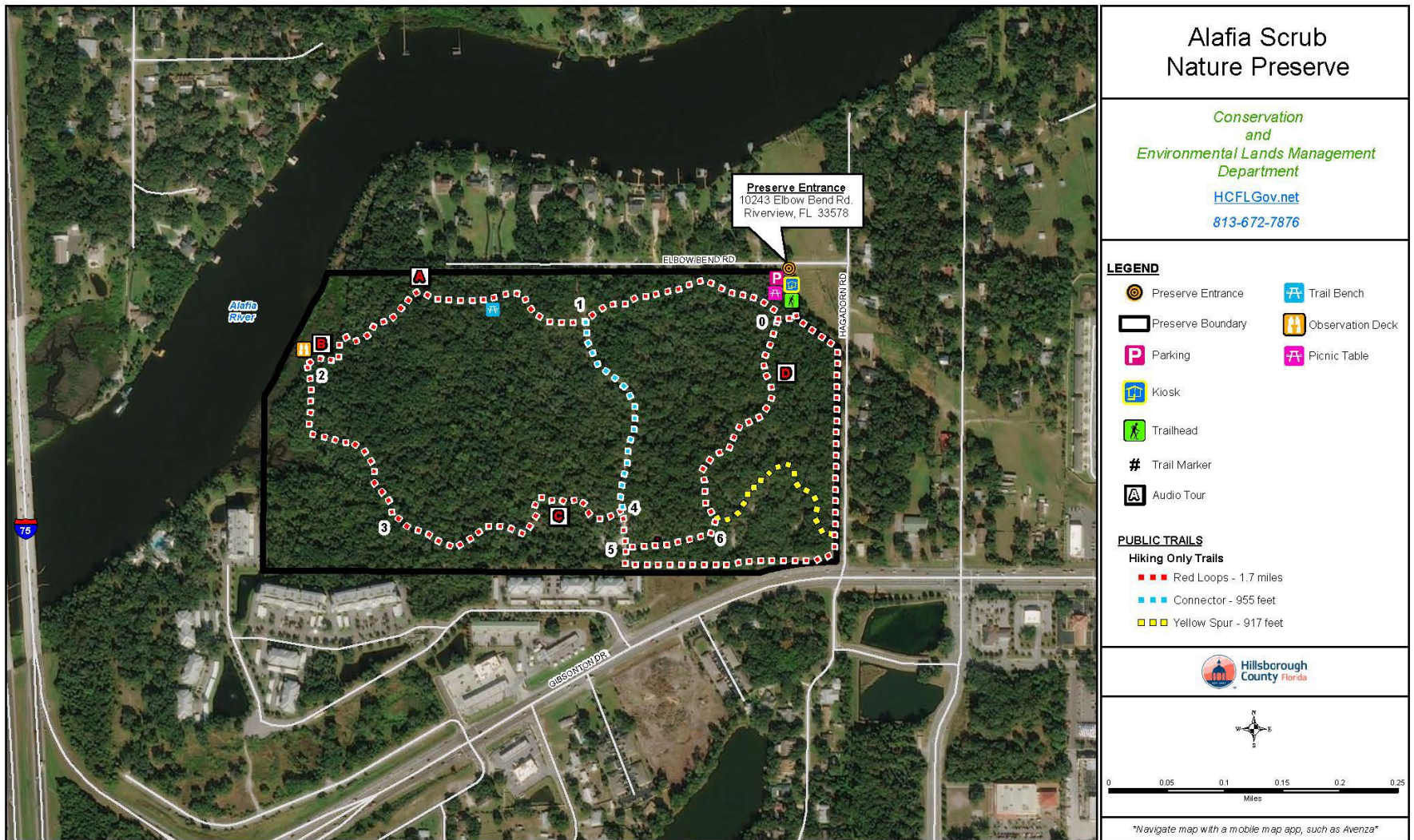
**Recommended Outcome:** No Use



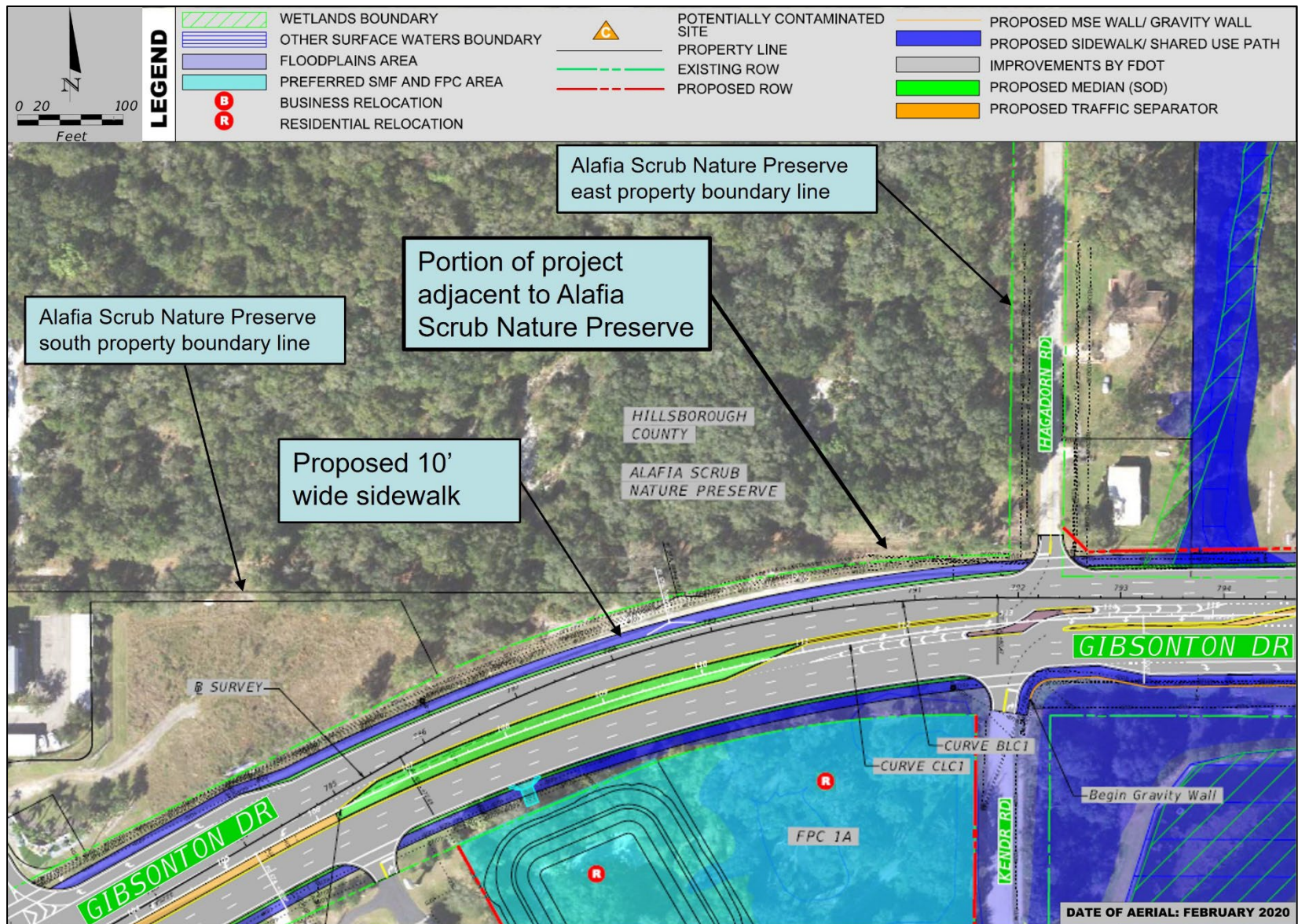
**Figure 1 Project Location Map**



**Figure 2 Resource Location Map**



**Figure 3 Preserve Map Showing Access Entrance and Facilities**



**Figure 4 Project Improvements Adjacent to Resource**