

FORKED CREEK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

PRELIMINARY REPORT PHASE 1

**FOR:
SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
AND
SARASOTA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSION**

**APPLIED TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT, INC.
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7/27/2000 - Revisions made pages 7-11, Maps (Central Branch
Forked Creek, East Branch Forked Creek)

SARASOTA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

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APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, INC.
JANUARY 2000

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BACKGROUND

The Forked Creek basin is located in southern Sarasota County and discharges into Lemon Bay. The Forked Creek basin consists of a series of contiguous wetlands and mesic hammocks that extend from the creek's headwaters to its outfall. There are three branches within this basin: the eastern branch which is the main branch extending from SR776 north and east to the headwaters; the central branch which extends from the main confluence at SR776 north into the Dale Lakes area; and the western branch which extends north of Overbrook Road to Manasota Beach Road. This report will address only the eastern branch from SR776 north and east to the boundary line of the Taylor Ranch and the central branch from SR776 north to Dale Lakes. The eastern branch traverses mainly undeveloped range land and sparsely populated land, while the central branch traverses through two urban subdivisions and one sparsely populated section.

The flow characteristics of the creek have been greatly diminished because of the invasion of a variety of exotics, debris and storm damaged trees. Sarasota County has designated the Forked Creek basin as a regional stormwater facility requiring immediate attention.

OBJECTIVE

To facilitate Sarasota County's ability to maintain the stormwater conveyance capabilities of the Forked Creek branches, it has been recognized that the acquisition of access and maintenance easements along the natural stream channels is required.

From the survey data, aerial photographs, plats and other available information, recommendations will be formulated to locate proposed maintenance and access easements so the creek branches can be properly maintained.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

The preliminary investigation was divided into the following basic sections:

1. Evaluation and compilation of available information.
2. Survey, photogrammetry and maps.
3. Environmental Evaluation.
4. Identification of proposed easements.

Evaluation and compilation of available information

The initial study of the Forked Creek basin was prepared in the early 1960's by Smally, Wellford and Nalven, Consulting Engineers. The drawings prepared for that study are still available and copies were secured as part of this report, but a copy of the written report has not become available. The portion of Sarasota County that was within this study has changed so drastically over the past 35 years that any conclusions rendered would most probably be outdated.

The most recent study of the Forked Creek basin was prepared by Parsons Engineering Science, Inc., in 1996. The report was a comprehensive and detailed study of the entire basin including stormwater system modeling, water quality analysis and operation and maintenance recommendations. The operation and maintenance activities proposed were well presented but a problem area as noted was the lack of easements for maintenance and access to the creek.

Aerial photographs from Sarasota County, Digital Quarter-Section Maps, Recorded Plats and data from the County Appraisers office were used to obtain the property

owners names along the two branches of Forked Creek. Owner and Encumbrance Reports were also obtained and used for more detailed review of the legal descriptions and existing easements on the property.

Survey, photogrammetry and maps

Along with the available aerial photographs mentioned above, controlled aerals were flown to provide a more accurate basis for the surveyed property line information that would be included on the final maps. The property lines of all the parcels that crossed or were close to the studied branches of Forked Creek were surveyed and the actual top of bank of the creek was located. This information will be used for the easements that will be described in a later section. The controlled aerial photographs that were flown will be the base maps for the final product, which will show the property line data, top of waterway banks for the two branches and proposed maintenance and access easements.

Environmental Evaluation

The two branches of Forked Creek were traversed with members of County staff, one from the Natural Science Department, who had the expertise to evaluate the areas along the creek banks with respect to types of hammock areas and jurisdictional wetland limits.

Central Branch (See Maps C-1 and C-2)

The central branch runs through two developed areas and one undeveloped section approximately 1700 feet long. For 700 feet directly north of Overbrook Road, the creek traverses a subdivision with maintained lawns to the top of the creek bank. This section is maintained by the homeowners and has only a fringe of growth on each

sides of the creek. There are no environmental concerns in this area. The central portion of this branch contains a large mesic hammock area on the west side and only one small hammock area on the east side. The east side has been disturbed over the years and presents the best location for an easement. The third and northerly section again runs through a subdivision with maintained yards on the west side and open areas on the east, with no environmental concerns. The central branch contains very little environmentally sensitive area.

The central branch contains 0.9 acres of hammock area.

East Branch (See Maps E-1 through E-5)

The east branch runs mainly through open range land and sparsely populated areas for most of its length but there is a Mobile Home Park located on the south side of the Creek at the State Route 776 bridge. The east branch contains numerous mesic hammock areas and two disturbed and impacted wetlands. The two wetlands have been impacted by routing the waterway through the wetlands and by placing spoil along the waterway within the boundary of the wetlands.

The east branch contains 15.5 acres of hammock area.

Wetland WL-1 contains 5.2 acres.

Wetland WL-2 contains 6.9 acres.

Identification of proposed easements and access

The width of the proposed easements will vary with the width of the creek. The easement will include the actual width of the creek from top of bank to top of bank, plus a minimum of 20 feet on the side where the maintenance easement will be designated.

The access points to the maintenance easements were determined primarily by the location of the nearest roadway or major existing easement, such as a large utility easement. In the identification of the proposed maintenance easements along the side of the creek, the hammock area and the proximity to access points were the determining factors as to which side of the creek would be used for maintenance work.

Central Branch

a. Overbrook Road to Keyway Road (See Map C-2)

This section of Forked Creek [1] passes through a subdivision with seven lots on the east side and six lots on the west side with maintained lawns to the top of bank of the creek.

This is an area of minor concern for maintenance and a proposed maintenance easement is not recommended for this section. Access could be from Overbrook Road on the south or Keyway Road on the north, both county rights-of-way.

b. Keyway Road to the south line of Blue Dolphin Estates and the south line of Lot 4. (See [2] on Map C-2)

The east side of the creek [3] is the recommended side for the maintenance easement as there is only one small hammock area and the proposed 20 foot maintenance easement will not impact the hammock. The access from the south will be Keyway Road, a County right-of-way and from the north, access across Lot 4 and around the retention pond [4] at the westerly end of the lot is recommended. Access to the retention pond from SR776 is presently existing, (See Map C-1).

c. South line of Blue Dolphin Estates [2] to the south line of Dale Lake Estates [5] (See Map C-1)

The west side of the creek consists of eight maintained lots and homes in Blue Dolphin Estates. The plat of Blue Dolphin Estates, Plat Book 23, Page 29 has set aside a 110 foot wide Drainage Easement the full length of the subdivision for this section of Forked Creek. The east side of the creek is the recommended side for a Maintenance Access Easement [6], as there are small, 45 foot wide, undeveloped lots set aside as accessory lots for Blue Dolphin Estates. There is an existing 25 foot wide access easement along the entire east side of these lots. The area has no environmental concerns. Access will be from the proposed easement around the retention pond on Lot 4 at the south [4] or from 5th Street at the north, a County right-of-way [5].

East Branch

- a. State Route 776 to the western line of Englewood Pines subdivision [7].
(See Map E-1).

This section of Forked Creek is approximately 1950 LF long, with the downstream portion being tidally influenced. A Mobile Home Park exists along the south side, with a number of wooden docks. Access to the Creek from the south side would not be recommended. The north side of the Creek [8] is the better location for the maintenance and access easement. There are four (4) small hammock areas along this north side but there are two (2) access points, 1st and 2nd Streets which are public rights-of-ways and would connect directly to this maintenance and access way. No additional access should be required for this section.

- b. West line of Englewood Pines subdivision [7] to Keyway Road crossing.[9].
(See Map E-2).

This section of Forked Creek is approximately 1800LF long with large hammock areas and subdivision homes on the south and the creek courses through the northerly part

of platted lots 7, 8 and 9 of Englewood Pines. The plat of Englewood Pines, Plat Book 24, Page 48 has set aside a 30 foot wide Drainage Easement measured northerly and perpendicular to the southerly top of bank of Forked Creek. Wilk's Estates, Plat Book 28, Page 22 sets aside a 30 foot wide Drainage Easement over the two lots in the subdivision. The north side of the creek [10] is the better location for the maintenance and access easement to this section. There are two (2) access points within this section, one at the east end of Keyway Road at the Waller property [9] and the second, a private driveway, approximately 500 feet to the west of the end point of Keyway Road [11]. The easement distance from this second access point to the most easterly access point in section a. above, the 2nd Street access is approximately 2200LF, but no other reasonable access point exists within this section.

c. Keyway Road crossing [9], to end of the project (westerly property line of the Taylor Ranch, [18]). See Maps E-2 through E-5).

This last section of Forked Creek is approximately 6400LF long running through range land and with only three (3) large lot dwellings on the extreme south end adjacent to Keyway Road. From Keyway Road north approximately 430LF, it is recommended that the maintenance and access easement be on the east side of the creek [12], the west side has a hammock over the entire length. Access to this area will be from Keyway Road [9] and across private driveways on the north [13] and south [9], (See Map E-3). The remainder of the Forked Creek maintenance and access easement to the beginning of the Taylor Ranch boundary, approximately 6000LF, should be on the west side of the creek [14]. The hammock areas are almost entirely on the east side of the creek and the one hammock area on the west will allow access without any encroachment. Wetland WL-1

and WL-2 have, over the years, been subjected to major impacts in cutting the creek through the wetlands and leaving spoil piled along the western side of the creek, (See Map E-4). The wetlands appear to still be viable but are not pristine at this time. The maintenance and access easement through the wetlands should allow for the required access without any additional encroachments into the wetlands. There is a utility easement [15] along the east side of the section line running north of the Keyway Road crossing for approximately 3000LF. This easement could be used for north-south access, (See Map E-3 and E-4). Stoner Road [16] should be the main east-west access point for this most northerly section of Forked Creek. There is an existing dirt road [17] crossing Forked Creek approximately 1800LF north of Stoner Road, on the Boynton property which will provide an additional access point to the Creek maintenance and access easement, (See Map E-4).

Note:

Symbol [] with a number, included within this write up correspond to a similar number on the aerial maps in the following section.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for the Maintenance & Access Easements for the Central and Eastern branches of Forked Creek and for the Access Easements to Forked Creek are as follows:

Central Branch

- a. Overbrook Road to Keyway Road – No Maintenance & Access Easement recommended [1].
- b. Keyway Road to Blue Dolphin Estates – Maintenance & Access Easement on east side of the Creek [3]. Access from Keyway Road on the south & through Lot 4 on the north around the retention area [4].
- c. Blue Dolphin Estates to Dale Lakes. – There is an existing 110 foot wide Drainage Easement over this section of Forked Creek. Access Easement for this existing Drainage Easement should be on the east side of the creek [6]. Access from Lot 4, around the retention area [4], on the south and 5th Street on the north [5].

East Branch

- a. State Road 776 to Englewood Pines – Maintenance & Access Easement on the north side of the creek [8]. Access from 1st and 2nd Streets.
- b. Englewood Pines to Keyway Road – There is a 30 foot wide Drainage Easement platted on Lots 7, 8 and 9 of the Englewood Pines Subdivision measured northerly from the south top of bank of Forked Creek and a 30 foot wide Maintenance and Drainage Easement platted on Lots 3 and 4 of the

Wilk's Estates Subdivision. The access Easement for these existing Drainage Easements should be on the north side of Forked Creek [10]. Access from Keyway Road [9] and private driveway 500 feet west of the end of Keyway Road [11].

- c. Keyway Road to the Taylor Ranch property line. The Maintenance and Access Easements are recommended as follows:
 - i. 430 feet north of Keyway Road- Maintenance & Access Easement on the east side of the creek[12]. Access from private driveway at extension of Keyway Road on the south [9] and private driveway on the north [13].
 - ii. From above point to the end of the project at the Taylor Ranch property- the Maintenance & Access Easement on the west side of the creek [14] with access along the 3100LF on the north-south utility easement [15]. East-west access to the Creek by an extension of Stoner Road [16] on the McElmurray property and an access 1800 feet north of Stoner Road on the Boynton property [17].

LIST OF MAPS

CENTRAL BRANCH

- C-1 Dale Lakes to south line of Blue Dolphin Estates
- C-2 South line of Blue Dolphin Estates to Overbrook Road

EAST BRANCH

- E-1 SR776 to Englewood Pines
- E-2 Englewood Pines to Stoner Road
- E-3 Keyway Road to Wetland WL-1
Overlap between E-2 and E-3
- E-4 Wetland WL-1 to Wetland WL-2
- E-5 Wetland WL-2 to Taylor Ranch property line

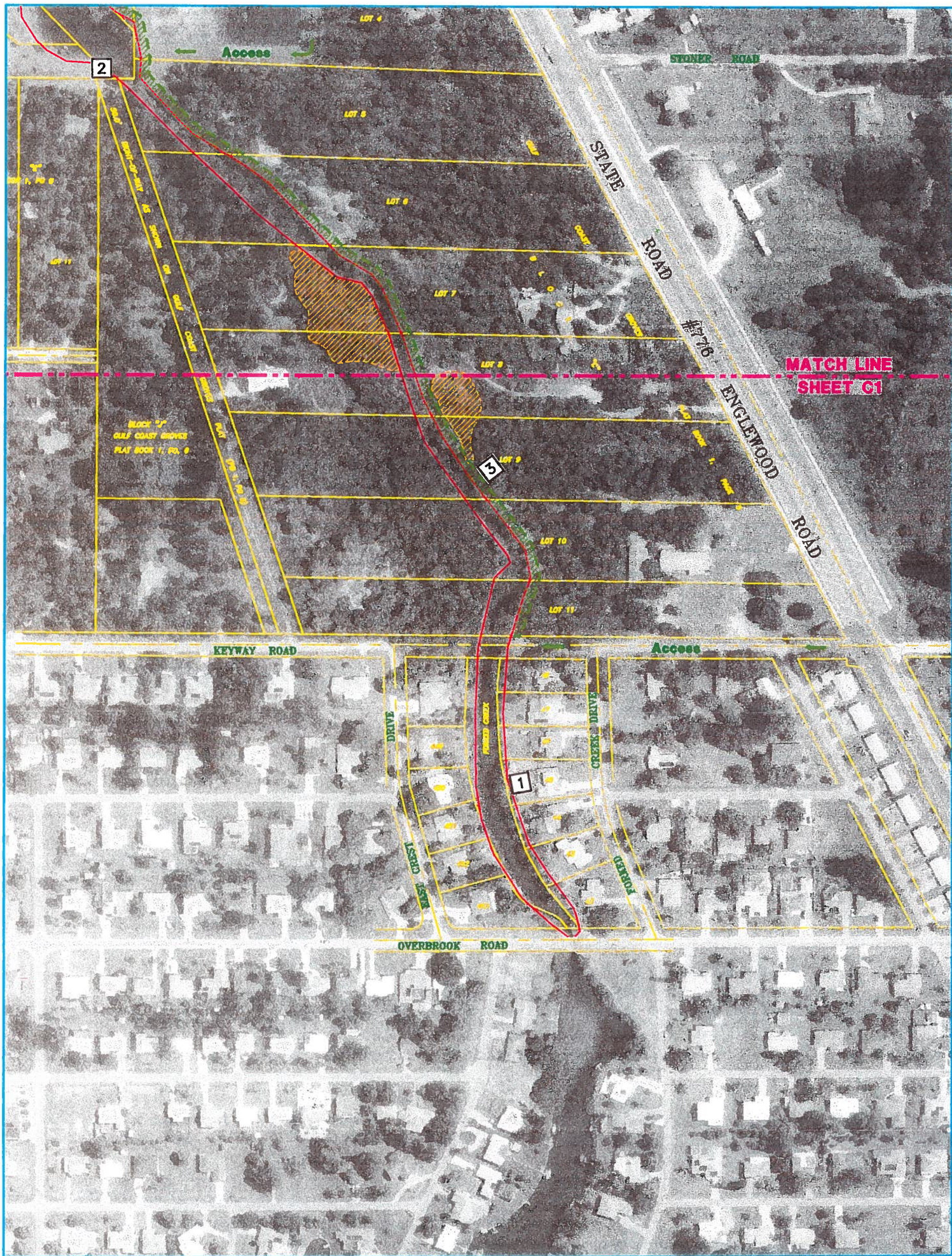
 Hammock

 Boundary Line

 Proposed Maintenance & Access Easement

 Top of Creek Bank

4
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Legend:

- Hammock
- Boundary Line
- Proposed Maintenance & Access Easement
- Top of Creek Bank

CENTRAL BRANCH FORKED CREEK



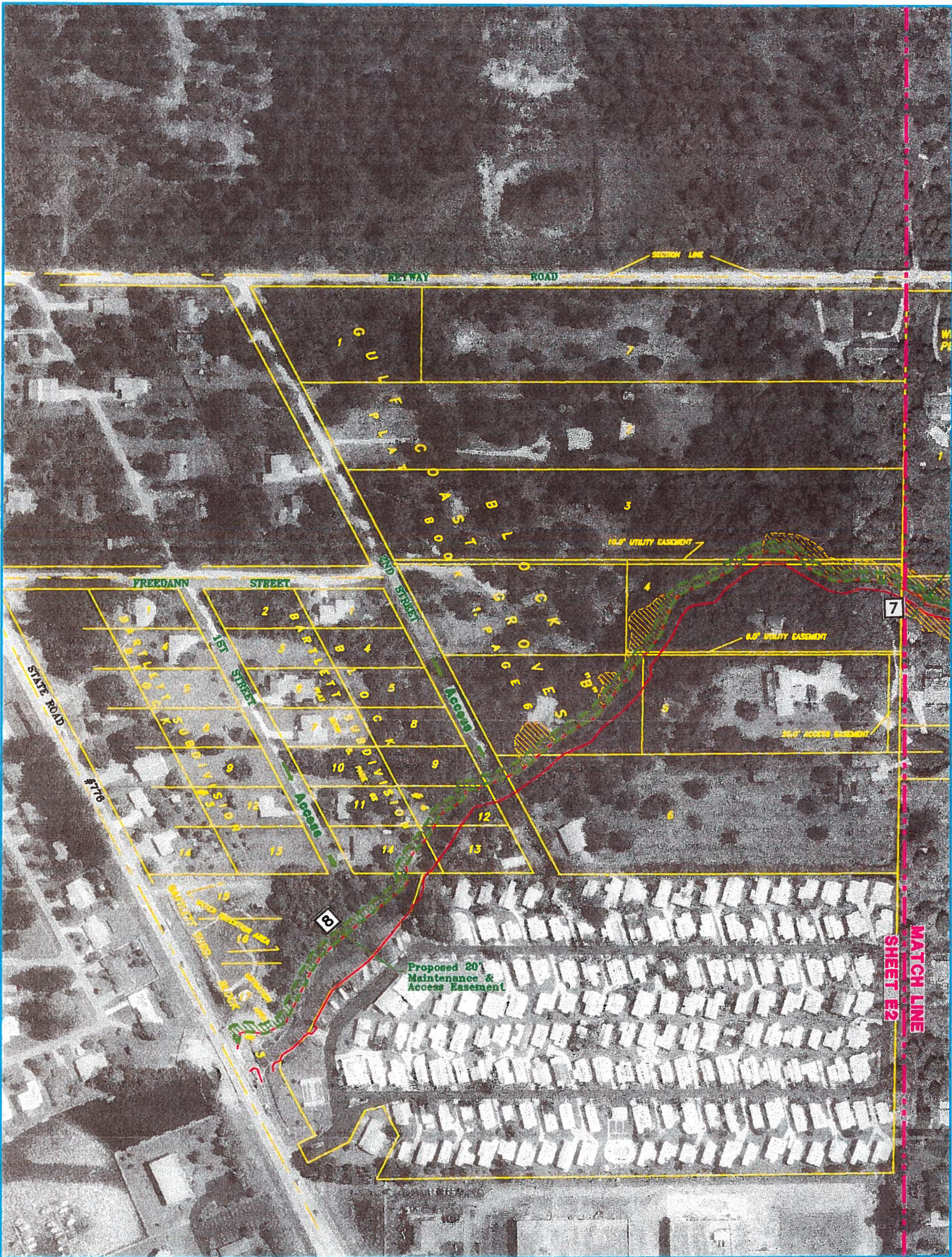
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C2

Applied Technology & Management, Inc.
ATM
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STAFF	STAFF	WEN
DATE: 4/13/99		
JOB NO. 98-183		
SCALE: 1"=400'		


REV.	DATE	CHANGED BY	CHANGED BY	REMARKS




- Legend:
- Hammock
 - Boundary Line
 - Proposed Maintenance & Access Easement
 - Top of Creek Bank


EAST BRANCH FORKED CREEK



 Hammock

 Boundary Line

 Proposed Maintenance & Access Easement

 Top of Creek Bank

EAST BRANCH FORKED CREEK



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THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO
O.R.B. 1860 PAGE 2037

WL-2

MATCH LINE
SHEET E6

Proposed 20' Maintenance & Access Easement

17

14

RICHARD BOYNTON

15

WL-1

MATCH LINE
SHEET E8

Legend:

-  Hammock
-  Boundary Line
-  Proposed Maintenance & Access Easement
-  Top of Creek Bank

EAST BRANCH
FORKED CREEK



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TAYLOR
RANCH

RICHARD BOYNTON

RICHARD BOYNTON





OF CHICAGO
E 2037

14

18

MATCH LINE
SHEET E4

Legend:

-  Hammock
-  Boundary Line
-  Proposed Maintenance & Access Easement
-  Top of Creek Bank

EAST BRANCH
FORKED CREEK

REDUCED COPY

E5

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Applied Technology & Management, Inc.



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