

**U S Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Huntington District

# Public Notice

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In reply refer to Public Notice No.

**LRH-2007-00698**

Issuance Date:

**16 August 2007**

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Stream:

**U/T Alum Creek**

Closing Date:

**15 October 2007**

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Please address all comments and inquiries to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. (*reference above*)

502 Eighth Street

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Phone: (304) 399-5210

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**PUBLIC NOTICE:** The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

**REGULATORY PROGRAM:** Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

**SECTION 10:** The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States (U.S.). The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

**SECTION 404:** The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**APPLICANT:** Columbus Regional Airport Authority  
4600 International Gateway  
Columbus, Ohio 43219

**LOCATION:** The proposed project is located within unnamed tributary of Alum Creek and within wetlands adjacent to this tributary within a +62-acre site located at the southeast corner of the intersection formed by North Cassady Avenue and Drake Road in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant has submitted an application requesting authorization for impacts to waters of the US associated with the construction of a consolidated rental car service area for the Port Columbus International Airport. The applicant has indicated the consolidated rental car facility (CRCF) is necessary in order to meet existing and projected future needs for additional rental car services and passenger parking at the airport. In order to construct the proposed rental car facility, the applicant has requested authorization for impacts to 4.24 acres of wetland as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1  
Proposed Wetland Impacts**

| <b>Wetland ID</b>            | <b>Wetland Acreage (ac)</b> | <b>Acreage of Impact (ac)</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wetland H                    | 0.09                        | 0.09                          |
| Wetland 1                    | 0.04                        | 0.04                          |
| Wetland 2                    | 4.09                        | 4.09                          |
| Wetland 3                    | 0.02                        | 0.02                          |
| <b>Total Wetland Impacts</b> |                             | <b>4.24 acres</b>             |

Implementation of the proposal would also impact 434 linear feet of one stream, referred to as Stream 1.

Construction of the proposed project would also include impacts to 1.4 acres of seven non-jurisdictional wetlands and 4.0 acres of one non-jurisdictional open water areas as shown in Table 2. Impacts to these wetlands and open water areas are not regulated by this office.

**Table 2  
Summary of Impacts to Non-Jurisdictional Waters**

| <b>Non-Jurisdictional Water</b> | <b>Resource Type</b> | <b>Acreage (ac)</b> | <b>Acreage of Impact (ac)</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wetland B                       | Wetland              | 0.08                | 0.08                          |
| Wetland C                       | Wetland              | 0.31                | 0.31                          |
| Wetland D                       | Wetland              | 0.01                | 0.01                          |
| Wetland E                       | Wetland              | 0.48                | 0.48                          |
| Wetland F                       | Wetland              | 0.03                | 0.03                          |
| Wetland G                       | Wetland              | 0.40                | 0.40                          |
| Wetland 4                       | Wetland              | 0.09                | 0.09                          |
| Area A                          | Open Water           | 4.0                 | 4.0                           |

Mitigation: The applicant is proposing to mitigate for the proposed stream and wetland impacts at one or more off-site locations within the Scioto River Watershed. The applicant is currently evaluating potential mitigation sites. According to their conceptual mitigation plan, the applicant proposes to restore 4.24 acres of wetland and further proposes to enhance and/or preserve an additional 4.24 acres of wetland within this watershed. The applicant's conceptual stream mitigation plan also states 195 linear feet of stream would be restored and an additional 456 lf of stream would be enhanced.

Alternatives Analysis: A total of 4.24 acres of jurisdictional wetland would be filled as a result of the proposal. Construction of the proposal does not require access to or siting within wetlands to fulfill its basic purpose and is considered a non-water dependent activity. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state that for non-water dependent activities, practicable alternatives that do not involve wetlands are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. All practicable alternatives not involving such discharges into special aquatic sites are presumed to have less adverse impacts to the aquatic system. The applicant is required to provide an alternative analysis that must overcome the presumption prior to receiving authorization for the placement of fill material.

**HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The proposed project area contains the Elam Drake House, which is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The applicant has performed a Phase I Archaeological Survey for the proposed project area. Three previously unidentified archaeological sites were identified. The report concludes these three sites (33-Fr2639-2641) and one previously identified archaeological site (33-Fr-1828) are not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. One historic building (FRA-9622-12) was also identified. The report concludes this building is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

The proposed project would adversely affect the Elam Drake House, a NRHP-listed property (NRHP 78002064). The applicant has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding this proposed adverse effect. The applicant is currently working with the SHPO and this office in order to develop potential mitigation options for the proposed adverse effect to this listed property.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the proposed adverse effect on this historic property. Should you wish to express your views on the undertaking's effects on historic properties, or provide comments or objections to the development of a Memorandum of Agreement that would detail proposed mitigation measures regarding this adverse effect, please forward this information to our office prior to the close of the comment period for this notice. Please indicate on any correspondence if you would like to continue as a consulting party for this proposal.

A copy of this public notice will be furnished to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review. Comments concerning archaeological sensitivity of the project area should be based on collected data.

**THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES:** This project is located within the known or historic range of the Indiana bat (endangered), Scioto madtom (endangered), northern riffleshell mussel (endangered), clubshell mussel (endangered), and rayed bean mussel (proposed candidate species).

The applicant has performed an Indiana bat Habitat survey for the site. This habitat survey indicates the site contains habitat that may be suitable for the Indiana bat. To determine if the proposed project would have any affect on threatened or endangered species, the applicant has consulted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Through letter dated January 18, 2006, the USFWS provided recommendations regarding the protection of existing on-site habitat that may be suitable for the Indiana bat habitat. Provided the applicant does not clear suitable habitat for the Indiana bat during the designated roosting period of April 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>, this office has preliminarily determined implementation of the proposal may affect, but would not adversely affect the Indiana bat.

Due to the nature and location of the project, this office has further determined there would be no affect on the Scioto madtom, northern riffleshell mussel, clubshell mussel, and rayed bean mussel. In their January 18, 2006, the USFWS stated the project, as proposed, should not impact these species or their habitat.

This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

**PUBLIC INTEREST:** Any person who has an interest, which may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity.

Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection

Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. Persons wishing to submit comments, objections or requests for public hearings concerning the Corps of Engineers permit should write:

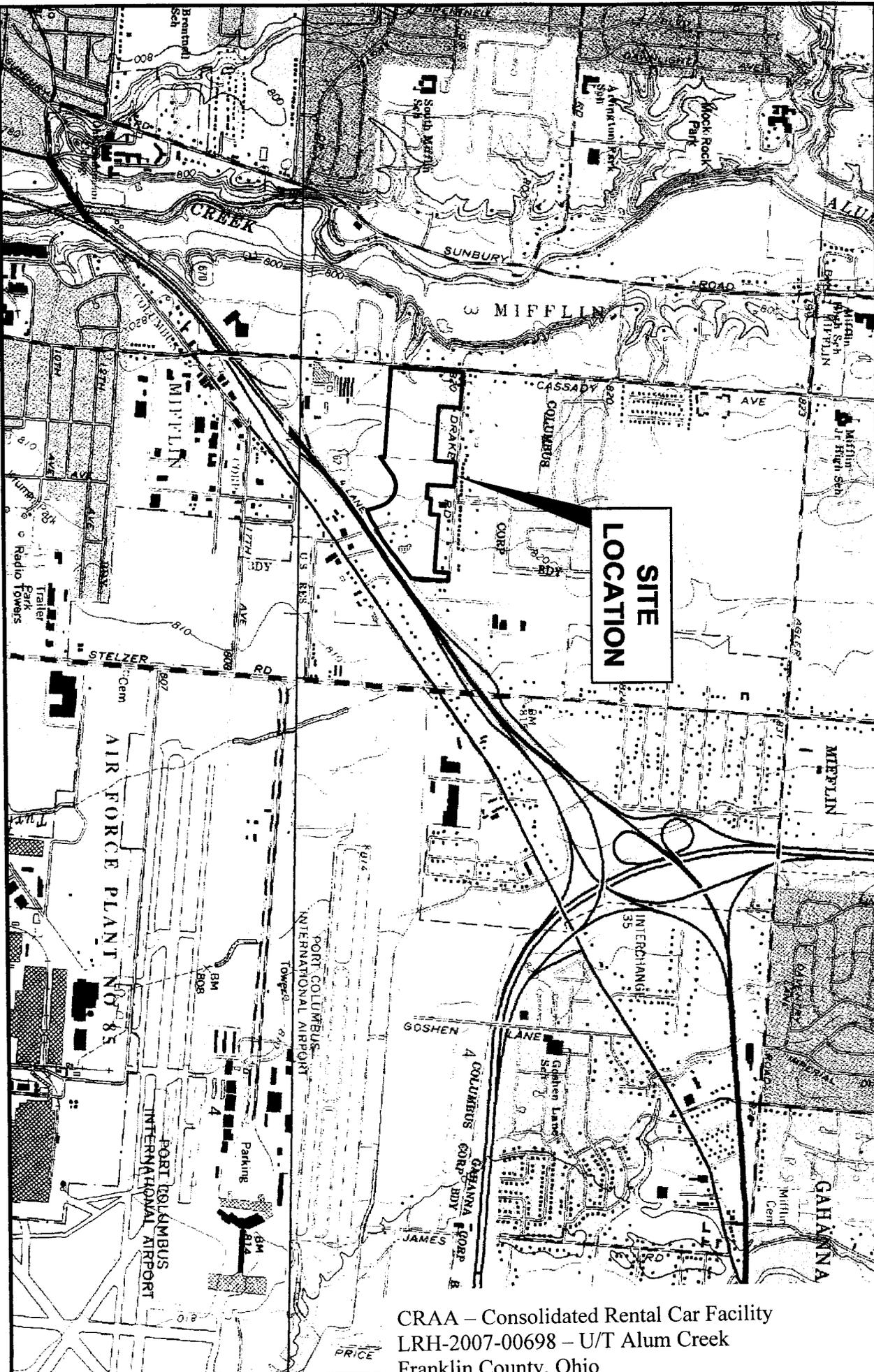
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. LRH-2007-00698  
502 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Please note, the names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice become part of our administrative record and, as such, are available to the public under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please call Ms. Susan A. Fields of my staff at 304-399-5210.

  
Ginger Mullins, Chief  
Regulatory Branch

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CRAA – Consolidated Rental Car Facility  
 LRH-2007-00698 – U/T Alum Creek  
 Franklin County, Ohio  
 Location Map, Sheet 1 of 3

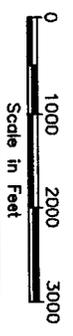
**Port Columbus International Airport  
 Consolidated Rental Car Facility**

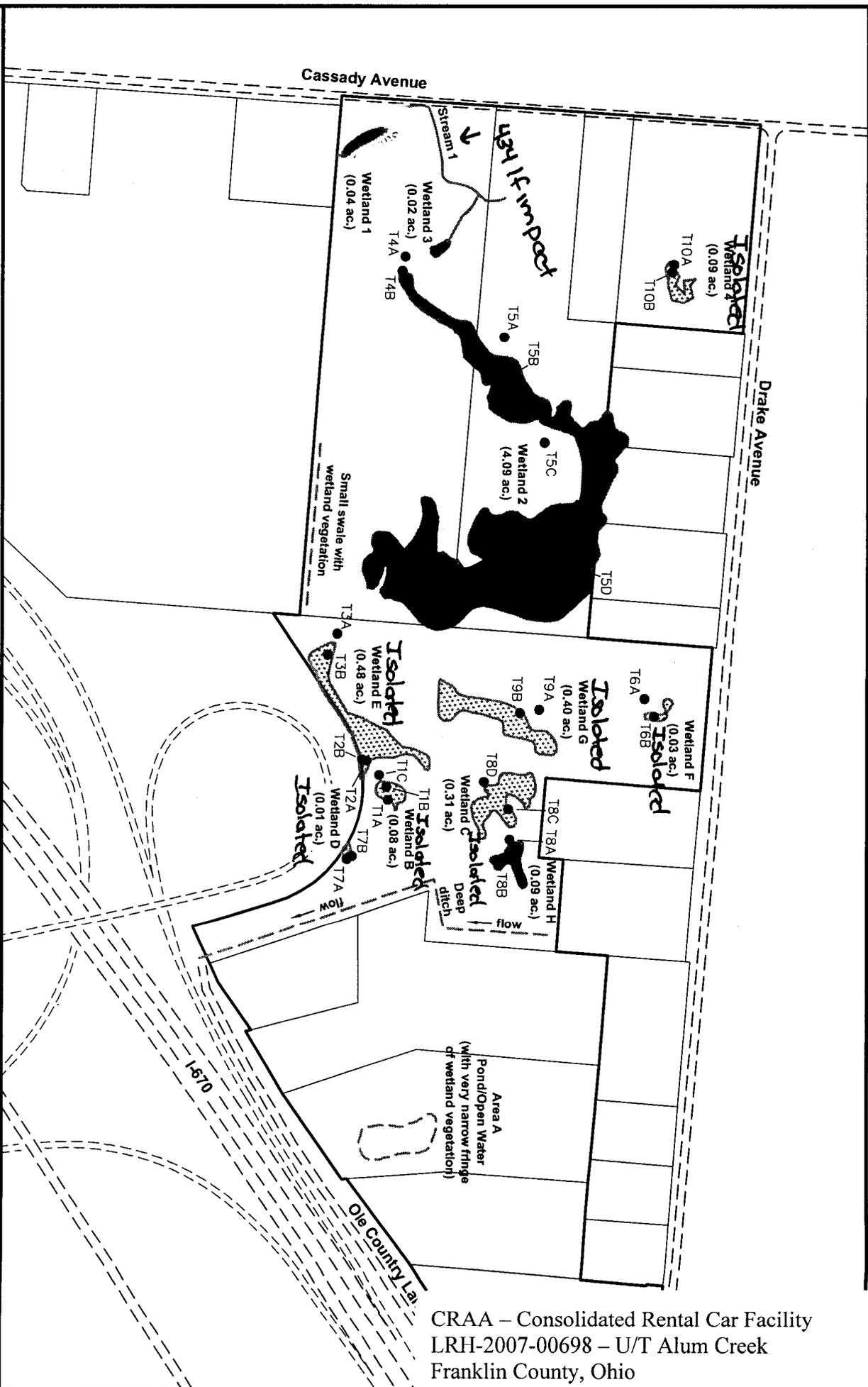
Burgess and Niple, Inc. Engineers & Architects

Source: USGS Quadrangle Maps  
 SE Columbus, NE Columbus

**Site Location Map**

Jan. 2007





CRAA – Consolidated Rental Car Facility  
LRH-2007-00698 – U/T Alum Creek  
Franklin County, Ohio  
Wetland and Stream Location Map, Sheet 2 of 3

# Port Columbus International Airport Consolidated Rental Car Facility

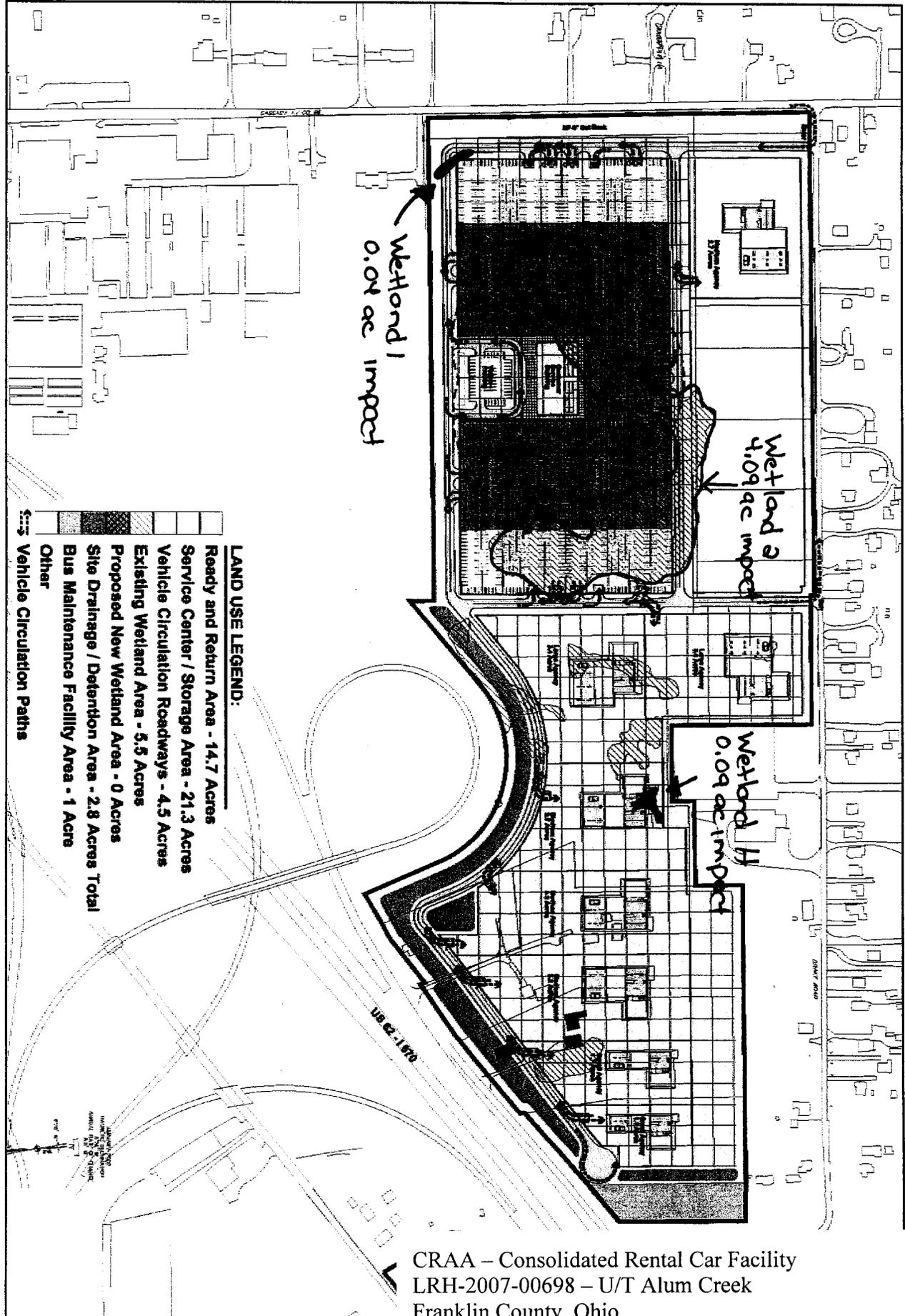
# Wetlands Delineation Map

Burgess and Niple, Inc. Engineers & Architects

4.28 ac impact to Wetlands H1, 2, 3.

Jan. 2007





- LAND USE LEGEND:**
- Ready and Return Area - 14.7 Acres
  - Service Center / Storage Area - 21.3 Acres
  - Vehicle Circulation Roadways - 4.5 Acres
  - Existing Wetland Area - 5.5 Acres
  - Proposed New Wetland Area - 0 Acres
  - Site Drainage / Detention Area - 2.8 Acres Total
  - Bus Maintenance Facility Area - 1 Acre
  - Other
  - Vehicle Circulation Paths

CRAA – Consolidated Rental Car Facility  
 LRH-2007-00698 – U/T Alum Creek  
 Franklin County, Ohio  
 Plan View, Sheet 3 of 3

**Port Columbus International Airport  
 Consolidated Rental Car Facility**