



Environmental Design & Research,
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February 10, 2017

Mr. Tim Bradley
Senior Associate
Stantec
61 Commercial Street, Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14614-1009
Sent via email to: tim.bradley@stantec.com

RE: Wetland Delineation Letter Report
MP 282.62, Bear Trap Creek, Salina, Onondaga County, New York (BIN 5510130)
EDR Project No. 16134

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) is pleased to provide you with this brief Wetland Delineation Letter Report for the above referenced project. As requested by Stantec (the Client), and on behalf of the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA), EDR conducted a wetland delineation within the Study Area, which is located at the intersection of New York State Thruway (I-90) and Bear Trap Creek in the Town of Salina, Onondaga County, New York (see Figures 1 and 2). The Study Area was defined by the Client. This letter report summarizes our review of background data, field visit, methodology, and findings. Supporting figures are attached.

Review of Background Data

A review of existing wetland and stream databases (National Wetland Inventory [NWI], New York State Department of Environmental Conservation [NYSDEC] mapped wetlands, and NYSDEC mapped streams) indicates the presence of one NWI mapped riverine resource, as well as Bear Trap Creek (a NYSDEC Class C(T) protected stream) within the Study Area. No NWI mapped or NYSDEC mapped wetlands are present within the Study Area. However, one NWI mapped wetland is present approximately 45 feet north of the northern Study Area boundary (See Figure 3).

Field Visit and Methodology

On November 16, 2016, EDR biologists conducted a site visit to determine if wetlands exist within the Study Area, and to delineate the extent of existing wetlands. The identification of wetland boundaries was made based on the methodology described in the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987). The determination of wetland boundaries was also guided by the methodologies presented in the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0)* (USACE, 2012). According to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) methodologies, wetland hydrology, when combined with a hydrophytic plant community and hydric soils, indicate the presence of a wetland. Attention was also given to the identification of potential hydrologic connections between wetlands and areas that could influence their jurisdictional status.

Wetland boundaries were defined in the field and mapped using a Trimble GeoXH 6000 GPS unit with reported sub-meter accuracy. As discussed with the Client, wetland data forms were not completed due to field work being conducted outside of the growing season. If the Client indicates that delineated wetlands may be impacted by proposed Project construction, EDR will confirm wetland boundaries and collect wetland data from sample plots within the delineated wetlands in the spring of 2017, and data will be recorded on Routine Wetland Data forms. The data collected will include vegetation, hydrology indicators, and soils characteristics.

Findings

Based on our field investigations, wetlands and a stream are present within the Study Area. This includes two palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands and one perennial stream (R3), Bear Trap Creek (a NYSDEC Class C(T) protected stream). The wetlands were characterized by hydrologic wetland indicators of soil saturation and surface water. Hydrophytic vegetation observed within the wetlands includes common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and canary reed grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Vegetation observations will need to be confirmed during the growing season if the wetlands may be disturbed. The wetlands and streams are listed below in Table 1 and locations of each wetland and stream are indicated in Figure 4.

A network of roadside ditches exists throughout the Study Area. These features collect surface water runoff from adjacent parking lots and roads, and appear to be created wholly in uplands for the purpose of controlling and conveying stormwater runoff from the surrounding impervious surfaces. At the time of the field work, flow was not present within these roadside ditches. According to the June 5, 2007 Clean Water Act jurisdiction guidance issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Army (DOA) following the Supreme Court's decision in *Rapanos and Carabell* (547 U.S., June 29, 2006), "Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only uplands and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water" are not considered jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. Therefore, because the ditches within the Study Area do not exhibit an ordinary high water mark or relatively permanent flow, and do not drain jurisdictional wetlands, in EDR's opinion, the network of roadside ditches found throughout the Study Area are not jurisdictional (subject to USACE concurrence).

Table 1. Delineated Wetlands and Streams

Wetland/Stream ID	Community Type	Area or Length ¹	Federal Jurisdiction ²	State Jurisdiction ²
A	PEM	0.02	Yes	No
B	PEM	0.11	Yes	No
Stream 1	R3	320	Yes	Yes – Article 15

¹ Area is expressed in acres, streams are expressed in feet, and both are specific to the Study Area only.

² Based on agency mapping and field observations of hydrologic connections. Final jurisdiction will be determined by the USACE and/or NYSDEC.

Conclusion

EDR delineated two PEM wetlands and one perennial stream within the Study Area. The wetlands were identified based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology and total approximately 0.13 acre within the Study Area. Portions of Bear Trap Creek were delineated as Stream 1, which is a NYSDEC Class C(T) protected stream. Bear Trap Creek totals approximately 320 linear feet within the Study Area. Total surface area of wetlands and streams within the Study Area is approximately 0.24 acre.

Wetland B appears to have a direct surface water connection to Bear Trap Creek, while wetland A appears to continue downslope, off-site, likely connecting to other waters of the United States, and therefore both the wetlands and stream are likely to be considered jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Due to the distance from the nearest NYSDEC regulated wetland (approximately 0.2 mile) and lack of continuous hydrologic or significant habitat connectivity, in EDR's opinion these wetlands should not be regulated under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). However, Bear Trap Creek is a NYSDEC protected stream and is expected to be regulated under Article 15 of the ECL. Final determination of the jurisdictional status of all wetlands must be made by the USACE and NYSDEC.

If wetlands may be impacted by proposed Project construction, EDR plans to confirm wetland boundaries and collect wetland data in the Spring of 2017 when plants can be identified prior to mowing and maintenance activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare this review. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact us at (315) 471-0688 or cgraff@edrdpc.com.

Sincerely,



Carin LeFevre
Environmental Analyst



Michael Kopansky, PWS, CAE
Project Manager



Caitlin Graff
Project Manager

List of Attachments:

- Figure 1. Regional Project Location
- Figure 2. Project Site
- Figure 3. Mapped Wetlands and Streams
- Figure 4. Delineated Wetland
- Photos of Representative Wetland and Stream Communities

References

Environmental Laboratory. 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual*. Technical Report Y-87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Waterways Experiment Station; Vicksburg, MS.

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 2012. *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region*. ERDC/EL TR-12-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.



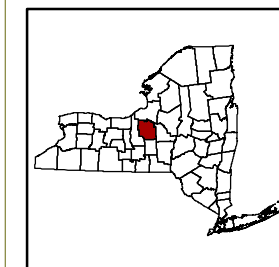
Replacement of Syracuse Division Bridges

Town of Salina,
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**Figure 1. Regional
Project Layout -
Bear Trap Creek,
Salina, NY,
MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)**

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 Study Area

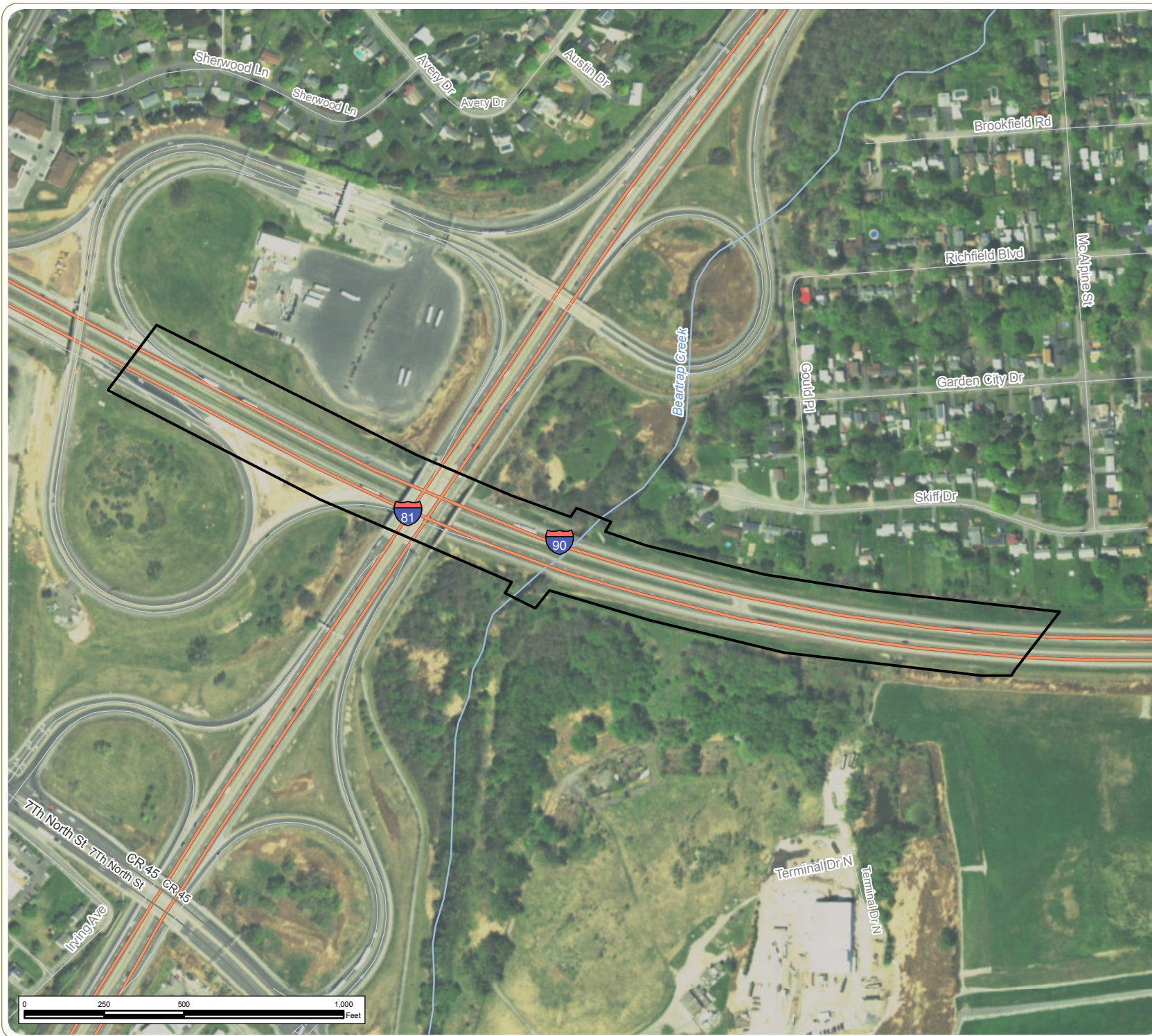


Notes:

1. Basemap: ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Street Map" Map Service.
2. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data.



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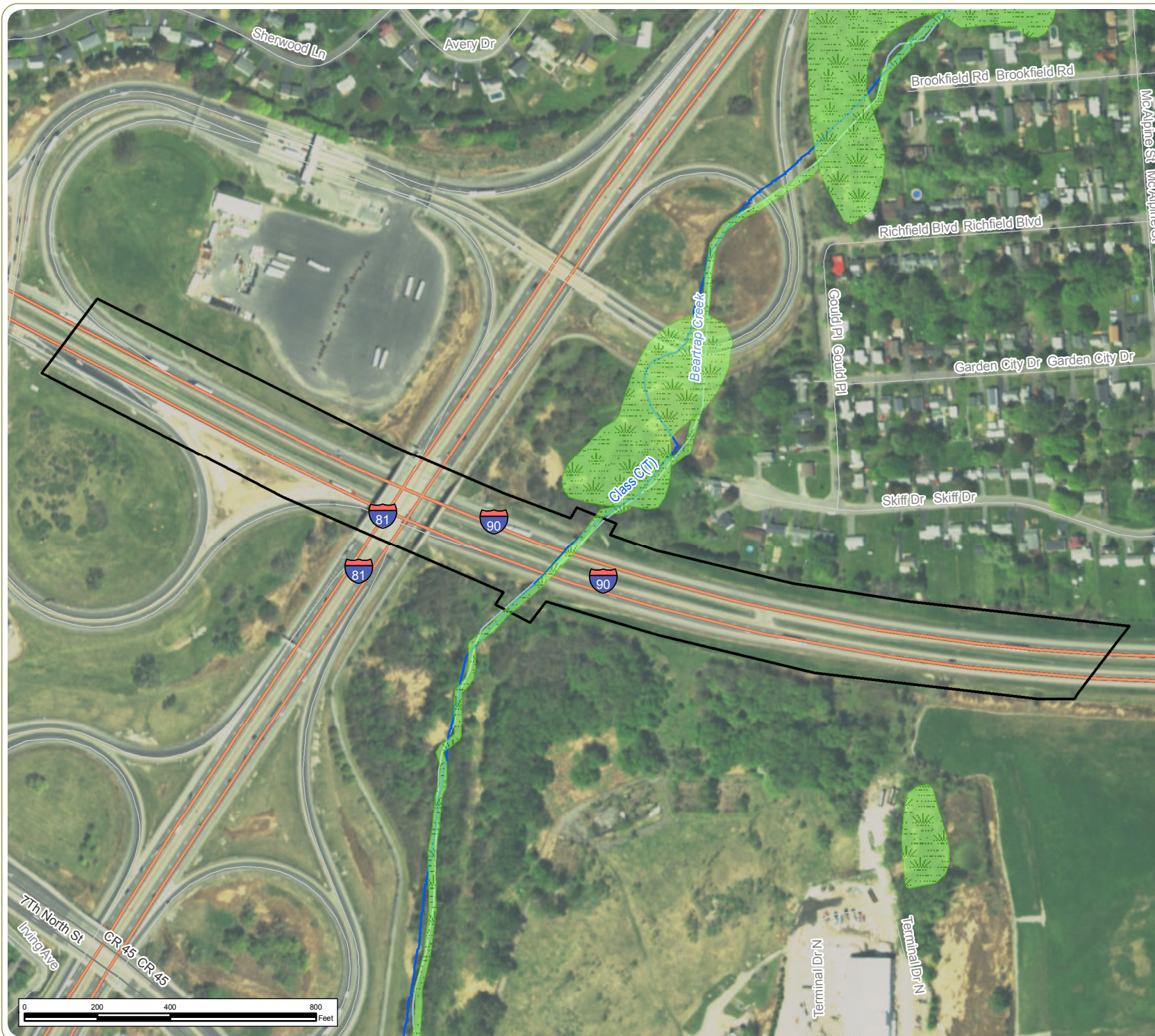
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**Figure 2. Study Area -
Bear Trap Creek,
Salina, NY,
MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)**

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 Study Area

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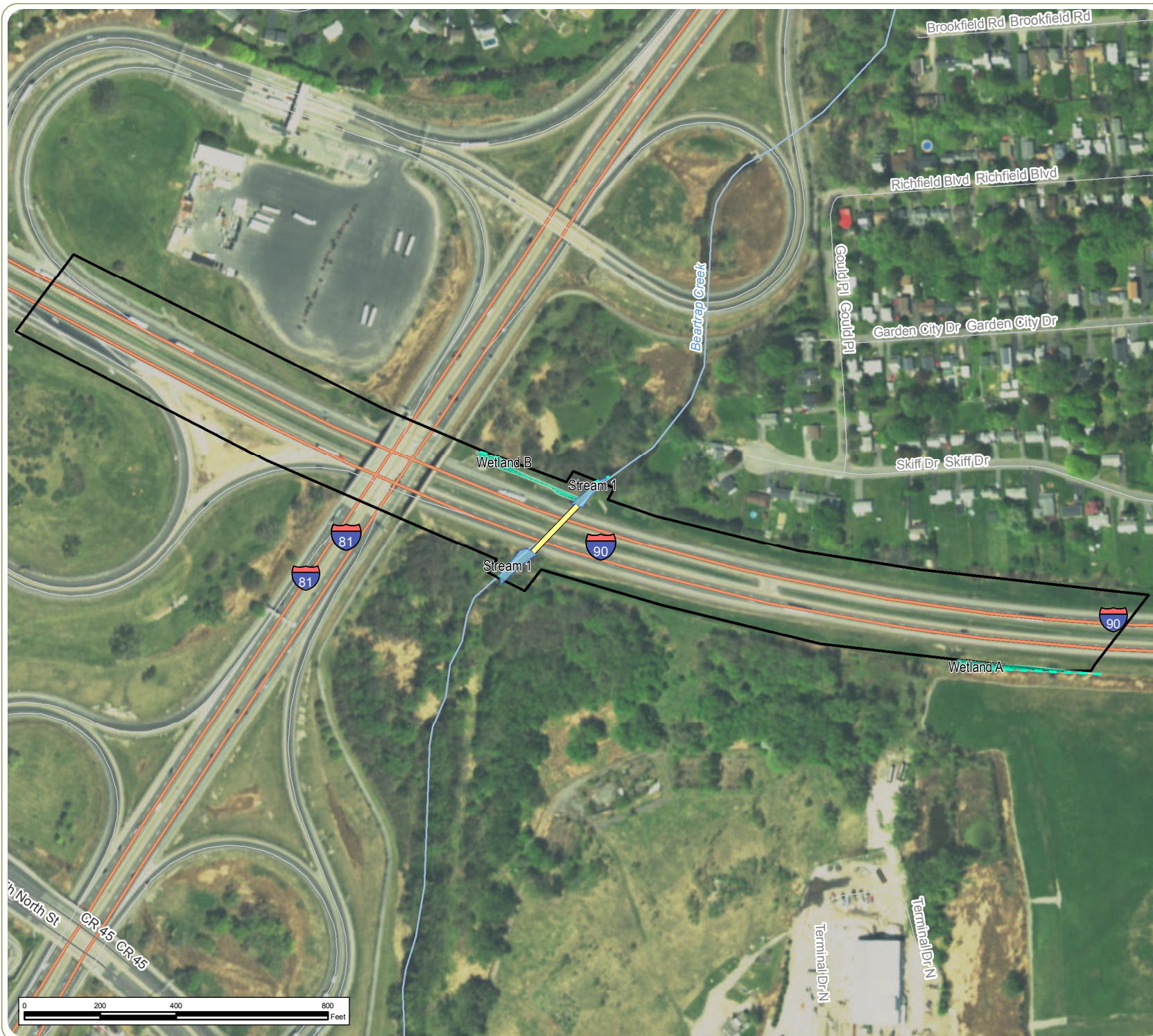
Town of Salina,
Onondaga County, New York

**Figure 3. Mapped
Wetlands and Streams -
Bear Trap Creek,
Salina, NY,
MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)**

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- Study Area
- NWI Wetland
- NYSDEC Stream Classification**
- NYS Protected Stream

Notes:
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Figure 4. Delienated Wetlands and Streams - Bear Trap Creek, Salina, NY, MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)

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- Study Area
- Delineated Wetland
- Delineated Stream
- Wetland Continue
- Culvert Connection






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**Site Photograph
Locations -
Bear Trap Creek,
Salina, NY,
MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)**

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-  Photo Locations
-  Study Area
-  Delineated Wetland
-  Delineated Stream
-  Wetland Continue

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Photo 1

Wetland A, view to the west.



Photo 2

Wetland B, view to the east.

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Site Photographs - Bear Trap Creek, Salina, NY, MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)

Sheet 1 of 2



Photo 3

Stream 1, view to the north.

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Site Photographs - Bear Trap Creek, Salina, NY, MP 282.62 (BIN 5510130)

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