Draft Appendix C5 – National Environmental Policy Act Compliance and Public Review

River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
Feasibility Study

July 2020

US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Fort Worth District

1 Introduction

In accordance with 40 CFR §§1501.7, 1503, and 1506.6, the USACE initiated public involvement and agency scoping activities to solicit input on the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility, as well as identify appropriate measures, and identify significant issues related to the project. The USACE began its public involvement process with a public scoping meeting to provide an avenue for public and agency stakeholders to ask questions and provide comments. This public scoping meeting was held on 13 August 2019 at the Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209. The USACE, Fort Worth District, placed advertisements on the USACE webpage and social media prior to the public scoping meeting. A second public meeting was held on 3 December 2019 at the Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209. The USACE, Fort Worth District, placed advertisements on the USACE webpage and social media, as well as providing the public notice to email addresses provided during the first public meeting prior to the public meeting. A summary of public comments and USACE responses can be found below.

Table 1. Comments Received during Public Comment Periods and the USACE Response

Commenter	Comment Description	USACE Response
Public Comments		
Four (4)	Do not close or modify River Road.	Noted. The removal of River Road was evaluated as an alternative for the ecosystem restoration (ER) feasibility study. However, this alternative was not proven to be cost effective compared to other alternatives and is not included in the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).
One (1)	Limit movement of River Road to its current right-of-way (ROW).	Noted. Modification of River Road was evaluated during the ER feasibility study, but was not limited to its current ROW. If modification of River Road were to be implemented with the TSP, it would have be to reestablish the former alignment of Allison Drive. However, this option is not included in the TSP.
Two (2)	Recommended the restoration of River Road.	Concur in Part. The removal of River Road and reestablishment of Allison Drive was evaluated as an alternative for the ER study. This alternative would have replaced River Road with native soil and vegetation to expand the riparian zone of the San Antonio River. However, this alternative was not proven to be cost effective compared to other alternatives and is not included in the TSP.
One (1)	Are there other bank areas that are unseen from River Road?	Yes, there are several areas along the western boundary of the San Antonio River that cannot be seen from River Road.
Seven (7)	Recommendations regarding designated parking within the project area (stay out of the western boundary of the study area or within the northernmost section of Avenue A).	Noted. Additional designated parking locations were evaluated within the study area. However, there were no viable sites that would not impact restoration efforts and cultural resources on either boundary of the San Antonio River. Additional designated parking was screened out of further consideration.

		Parking will be facilitated to the existing Brackenridge Park location north of the study area.
One (1)	Add additional access to river from western boundary, unless it contributes to flooding.	Noted. The Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study has evaluated recreation components. However, most access opportunities identified and evaluated within the study were on the eastern boundary of the study area in order to focus recreation activities on features within the river.
One (1)	Recommend inspections of the study area after large rain events to understand accumulation of water in Davis Park and the acecia.	Noted. Davis Park has been considered during the feasibility study. Measures identified within the TSP are located within this park. In order to successfully implement restoration components within this area of the study area, monitoring and evaluation throughout the restoration process is important. Notation of the water accumulation within this portion of the study area will be a component of restoration design process.
Two (2)	Create areas in Davis Park that will allow for additional flood storage capacity or direct stormwater runoff.	Concur in part. Although retention ponds and bioswales will not be incorporated in Davis Park, it is important to note that the establishment of native vegetation will reduce impacts from stormwater runoff by reducing the speed in which it enters the river.
Six (6)	Close Avenue A to vehicular traffic.	Concur. USACE agrees that impacts from vehicular traffic on Avenue A, in combination with other impacts, contribute to the lack of native vegetative species and increased erosion and adverse sedimentation in the San Antonio River. USACE has evaluated alternatives that would incorporate the full or partial closure of Avenue A to vehicular traffic.
Two (2)	Remove Avenue A.	Concur in part. USACE has evaluated alternatives that would address either the partial removal or complete removal of Avenue A.

One (1)	What happened to the parks department plan to eliminate cars and only allow foot traffic?	The previous City of San Antonio plan to modify the use of Avenue A for pedestrian traffic has been used as a resource within the current feasibility study. Many of the alternatives evaluated, are similar to the previous plan.
Four (4)	Create pedestrian/biking trail from E Mulberry Avenue to low water crossing at E Woodlawn Avenue.	Concur. USACE agrees that a pedestrian/biking trail from East Mulberry Avenue to the low water crossing at East Woodlawn Avenue would be a beneficial recreation opportunity upon implementation of the full removal of Avenue A.
One (1)	Integrate signs to warn individuals about fish consumption and getting in the water.	Concur in Part. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) monitors fish for the presence of environmental contaminants and alerts the public through bans (closures) and advisories when a threat to human health may occur from the consumption of contaminated fish. In waters with consumption bans, both possession and consumption of fish and/or shellfish are prohibited. A consumption advisory is a recommendation to limit consumption to specified quantities, species and sizes of fish. A San Antonio city ordinance exists that prohibits individuals from swimming within the river. Swimmers who are caught can be fined up to $500.
One (1)	Plan needs to address human uses on site.	Concur. The Integrated Feasibility Report-Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates all components of the ecosystem, including human use and impacts. Urbanization is a major component of the problems within the San Antonio River and will be addressed appropriately.
One (1)	Evaluate the river in the dry season to see trash.	Noted. USACE and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will continue to monitor the study area throughout the feasibility, design, and construction phases of the project.

One (1)	Do not add additional recreation features or trails.	Nonconcur. Recreation is an important feature for ER feasibility studies within an urban setting. Recreation features can be implemented upon evaluation of their benefit and cost as a restoration technique that accounts for human interaction with natural resources.
Three (3)	Request for USACE and SARA to review plans set forth by SARA for Avenue A pedestrian trail.	Noted. USACE and SARA have reviewed the Avenue A pedestrian trail and have utilized the information to formulate an American with Disabilities Act compliant pedestrian path.
One (1)	Add lighting with walking trails.	Nonconcur. Artificial lighting is not a component or alternative under consideration for this study.
Four (4)	Do not include lighting with project.	Concur. Artificial lighting is not a component or alternative under consideration for this study.
One (1)	Recommend restoration plan increases vegetative light buffer from Broadway Avenue.	Noted. Restoration efforts in this feasibility study include widening of the eastern boundary of the San Antonio River's riparian zone with native species. Establishment of native species will naturally reduce adverse impacts from light over a period of 50 years.
Two (2)	Relocate access to the Brackenridge Park Golf Course for maintenance staff.	Concur in part. In conjunction with the complete removal of Avenue A, the Brackenridge Park Golf Course golf cart path will be widened to accommodate maintenance staff vehicles.
One (1)	Widen San Antonio River.	Nonconcur. It is not advisable to widen the channel of the San Antonio River within the study area due to its location. Habitable structures and cultural and historic resources could be adversely impacted by widening the channel of the San Antonio River.

Six (6)	Avoid increased flood risk.	Concur. One of the constraints of the feasibility study is that an alternative cannot increase flood risk to the neighborhood within or outside of the study area. A hydraulic and hydrologic analysis will be conducted by SARA and USACE engineers during the design phase of the project to ensure that the recommended alternative does not increase the base flood elevations within the residential areas of the River Road reach of the San Antonio River. Initial hydraulic analysis has identified that the changes in base flood elevations throughout the projects for each alternatives. The TSP balances the goals of the project while limiting increases in base flood elevations to the non-residential areas of the reach.
One (1)	Open low water crossing at E Woodlawn to vehicular traffic.	Nonconcur. Opening the low water crossing at East Woodlawn Avenue is not a component or alternative under consideration for this study and is not advisable under ecosystem restoration.
Five (5)	Do not remove or modify low water crossing at E Woodlawn Avenue.	Nonconcur in Part. The feasibility study has evaluated the options of leaving low water crossings in place, modifying low water crossings, or replacing the low water crossings. In the interest of ecosystem restoration, the low water crossings will be removed and replaced by pedestrian bridges. This alternative will have beneficial impacts on erosion, sedimentation, and native vegetation. The selection of this alternative was dependent upon a cost and benefit analysis conducted by USACE.
Thirteen (13)	Maintain access across river (stepping stones, constructed foot bridge).	Concur. Access across the San Antonio River will not be impacted by this study. One of the constraints upon this study is the requirement to maintain access across the river for recreationalists within the project area. Upon implementation of the project, the low water crossings will be removed and replaced with pedestrian bridges.

One (1)	How will fishing continue, while limiting impacts to banks and vegetation?	Fishing opportunities will continue to exist within the study area. The project area will not be closed to the public. Recreation features, such as fishing piers, have been considered for project implementation in order to focus the general public into areas that will not impact restoration efforts but afford opportunities to recreate.
One (1)	What is the status of the river bank as it flows by River Road and (down from) Anastacia Place?	The section of the San Antonio River near Anastacia Place has an incredibly thin riparian zone, approximately 20 feet, and is the only shield in place to prevent River Road from being adversely impacted by the river.
Three (3)	Recommends implementation of measures that will address erosion or restrict activities that can cause additional erosion.	Concur in Part. Restricting activities that may cause erosion cannot be implemented by USACE and will be left to the City of San Antonio to enforce. USACE will implement a variety of measures that can restore the aquatic ecosystem of the San Antonio River that will have the ancillary benefit of bank protection and erosion control.
Two (2)	Retain "waterfall" feature of the low water crossing at East Woodlawn Avenue.	Noted. The TSP includes options to retain “waterfall-like” instream structures. The structures, which include pool, riffle, run features, rock vanes, and j-hooks can mimic the auditory and visual aspects of a low water crossing, without negatively impacting the natural stream bed channel.
Three (3)	Recommend the use of low impact hydraulic strategies for stream and riverbank protection.	Concur. The TSP includes instream structures. Instream structures would address protection of stream banks and the geomorphology of the stream.
One (1)	Do not remove sediment.	Concur in Part. USACE evaluated a variety of measures for aquatic ecosystem restoration, which included the removal of adverse sediment in the northernmost section of the study area. However, this measure was screened from further

		evaluation early in the study process. USACE does not intend to remove sediment from the San Antonio River.
Four (4)	Maintain natural setting of the area.	Concur. The focus of this feasibility study is restoration of aquatic and riparian habitats. The TSP will incorporate a variety of measures that will restore the natural setting of the area through native species establishment, non-native invasive species management, and removal of manmade features that have adversely affected the study area.
Eight (8)	Use native plants during implementation of project (drought tolerant, site-specific).	Concur. The restoration plan includes the planting of site-specific native vegetation. Locally sourced seeds, saplings, and container plants would be collected and planted as part of the restoration project. Native herbaceous and shrub species would be incorporated into the planting design to mimic the successional progression of the vegetative community and provide fish and wildlife habitat as the restored area matures.
Seven (7)	Implement program to deal with feral cats (feeding stations, relocation).	Nonconcur. Currently, there is not a Federal policy or guidance on the management or control of feral cats. Management of feral cats rests with local governments, however; USACE will continue to work with local entities to examine ways that would use existing local programs to control feral cat populations in the long-term.

Two (2)	Only manually remove non-native invasive species.	Nonconcur. Manual removal is a labor-intensive effort that is a major component of non-native invasive plant management. Some non-native invasive species are able to spread through leftover biomass in the soil. The use of this method may result in adverse soil impacts through the displacement and disturbance of the soil through their roots. Manual and mechanical removal may not be appropriate in all areas due to disturbance to soils and impacts to nontarget vegetation. Various methods of non-native invasive species management are advisable and will be considered during design and construction of the project.
Two (2)	Remove non-native invasive species.	Concur. Executive Order 13112 requires that a Council of Departments dealing with invasive species be created to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. It is the policy of the United States to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species, as well as to eradicate and control populations of invasive species that are established.
Six (6)	Staged removal of non-native invasive species (avoid migratory bird patterns).	Noted. The control and management of invasive species is a component of all of the ecosystem restoration alternatives. The invasive species management methodologies proposed for the restoration will be based on the best available science and will utilize an integrated pest management approach. Due to the site-specific construction and cost restraints, the phased construction of restoration measures may not feasible.

One (1)	Is there an effective way to remediate Ligustrum without using chemicals?	Hand removal in small areas can be effective; however, broken root fragments have to be removed because of their ability to re-sprout. Mowing and cutting can also be effective in controlling the species, but will not control its spread. Stems should be cut as close to the ground as possible. Mechanical removal using bulldozers and heavy equipment can be more effective in the early stages of establishment. However, special consideration should be taken in order to avoid adverse impacts to the soil.
One (1)	If Ligustrum is quickly removed, how will the soil be stabilized while the natives are being established?	Native plants should be established immediately after the removal of non-native invasive vegetation to prevent further erosion on site.
Four (4)	Implement habitat structure such as bird boxes, bat boxes, and other housing structures.	Concur. Restoration measures under consideration would incorporate the installation of habitat features such as bird nest boxes, bat houses, tree snags, instream structures for fish habitat, etc.
Three (3)	Recommend minimal and careful use of herbicides and pesticides during implementation of the project.	Noted. For all of the restoration alternatives, the use of herbicides, in concert with other integrated pest management methods, would only be used for the control of non-native invasive and native noxious plant species. Any use of herbicides would follow federal regulations and label recommendations. Herbicides would be applied by a licensed applicator and all herbicides would be approved for aquatic use.
Six (6)	Mitigate and decrease non-point source pollution from Brackenridge Park Golf Course and surrounding areas.	Nonconcur in part. USACE is not the delegated Federal authority to address water quality issues. However, the restoration measures currently being evaluated, such as increasing the width of the riparian corridor, provides water quality benefits addressing non-point source pollution.

Four (4)	Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to maintain integrity of existing site.	Concur. BMPs will be implemented during the construction of the restoration to avoid any unnecessary impacts to the project area are under consideration. To ensure the success of the ecosystem restoration project, the TSP will also include mitigation of any anticipated impacts which cannot be avoided. The best means and methods for BMPs will be developed after selection of the TSP.
Three (2)	Recommend the restoration of native habitat to encourage an increase in diversity of reptile, amphibian, and bird species.	Concur. Sites within the project area will be restored through a variety of measures, such as native species plantings, non-native invasive species management, and instream structures. This will restore native habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species.
One (1)	How will project be managed through golf course?	The boundaries of the study area extend approximately 50-100 feet onto the Brackenridge Park Golf Course from the banks of the San Antonio River. Measures enacted are restricted to the boundaries of the study area.
Six (6)	Allow public to review plan and funding.	Concur. The IFR-EA provides the necessary information for the public to understand the TSP and the funding associated with Section 206 Continuing Authorities Programs. The maximum federal expenditure per project is $5 million, including feasibility study, design, and construction costs. The study is initiated with up to $100,000 in federal funds. Costs exceeding $100,000 are cost shared 50 percent Federal and 50 percent Non-Federal Sponsor (NFS). The sponsor's cost share may include cash, work-in-kind or a combination of both. Costs are shared 65 percent Federal and 35 percent NFS during the design and construction phases. The NFS is responsible for all project operation and maintenance costs when the project is completed.

One (1)	Recommend use of San Antonio's Administrative Directive (AD) 10.1.	Nonconcur. As a federal agency USACE follows the spirit and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the processes of meeting NEPA requirements. Many of the tools to engage with the public are the same with using NEPA or AD 10.1. USACE will follow the guidelines and procedures of NEPA as mandated by Federal law.
One (1)	Engage City of San Antonio during planning process.	Concur. The non-Federal sponsor (NFS), the SARA, has partnered with the City of San Antonio to ensure an open line of communication regarding the ER feasibility study.
Three (3)	Will SARA or the Parks Dept. maintain the area as the new plants become established?	An Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual that documents the maintenance and management of the ecosystem restoration will be developed by USACE and the Non-Federal Sponsor during the Design and Construction Phases of the project. The USACE program requires that the Non-Federal Sponsor agree to maintain the project area in order to ensure function of the restoration measures.
Three (3)	Select competent company to do the study make sure it is adequately vetted.	Concur. USACE has established procedures for the selection of a contractor that will be responsible for the construction of the aquatic ecosystem restoration project. The selection of a contractor is based on qualifications including a documented record of previous restoration experience and previous performance on other USACE projects.

One (1)	Does not approve of USACE and SARA as the implementers of this project.	Nonconcur. USACE is comprised of approximately 30,000 civilian and military personnel, making it the world's largest public engineering, design and construction management agency. Although generally associated with flood risk management, the environmental mission is a main function of the organization. The USACE works to restore degraded ecosystems to a more natural condition through large-scale ecosystem restoration projects, such as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration, Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration, Chesapeake Bay Oyster Recovery, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (restoration of marsh critical to the endangered Whooping Crane), and Houston Ship Channel Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (marsh restoration in Galveston Bay), and by employing system-wide watershed approaches to problem solving and management for smaller ecosystem restoration projects. USACE and SARA have partnered on several projects in the San Antonio area over the last decade with successful results that continue to improve the aquatic ecosystem of the San Antonio River.
Four (4)	Do not implement a project.	Nonconcur. The No Action Alternative was evaluated and considered during the feasibility study. However, it is an ineffective plan that does not address the problems plaguing the study area.
Bexar County Audubon Society		
	Any alteration of the current habitat should give strong weight to the needs of birds, and particularly migrating birds who use the river habitat as a stopover to feed and rest.	Concur. Migratory birds are nationally significant; therefore, they are one of the first components considered when evaluating restoration methods. USACE Civil Works projects are mandated to follow federal laws and regulations, one example is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

	Avenue A needs to either be eliminated or confined to eliminate damage to this thin strip of habitat and parking placed near East Mulberry Street.	Concur in part. USACE has evaluated alternatives that would address either the partial removal or complete removal of Avenue A. Designated parking locations were evaluated within the study area. However, there were no viable sites that would not impact restoration efforts and cultural resources on either boundary of the San Antonio River. Additional designated parking was screened out of further consideration. Parking will be facilitated to the existing Brackenridge Park location north of the study area.
	Access for Golf course maintenance vehicles should not be a consideration.	Nonconcur. The City of San Antonio is the fee property owner and a partner in the implementation of this project. Constraints placed upon the project by the City should be considered and evaluated accordingly.
	The low water crossing at East Woodlawn Avenue should either stay, be improved, or replaced with something more suitable to the river bank habitat improvements under consideration in this project.	Concur. The feasibility study has evaluated the options of leaving low water crossings in place, modifying low water crossings, or replacing the low water crossings. In the interest of ecosystem restoration, the low water crossings will be removed and replaced with pedestrian bridges. This alternative will have beneficial impacts on erosion, sedimentation, and native vegetation. The selection of this alternative was dependent upon a cost and benefit analysis conducted by USACE.
	All work should be scheduled to avoid peak migration seasons in both Fall and Spring.	Noted. All efforts will be made to avoid adverse impacts to migratory birds during nesting and migration season. However, some construction may not be completely avoidable during these times, such as establishing native vegetation.
	Habitat restoration should occur in phases and be careful not to eliminate existing native plants. Care should be taken to retain understory habitat throughout the restoration process.	Concur in part. Habitat restoration will have to occur in phases due to the overwhelming presence of non-native invasive species. It will be necessary to remove non-native invasive species before implementing native vegetation establishment. Care will be taken to avoid impacts to existing native vegetation through field evaluation and site selection.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department		
	As riparian restoration efforts progress, I would hope that the feral cat colonies in the area could be addressed, since natural areas should be managed for the benefit of native species.	Nonconcur. Currently, there is not a Federal policy or guidance on the management or control of feral cats. Management of feral cats rests with local governments, however; USACE will continue to work with local entities to examine ways that would use existing local programs to control feral cat populations in the long-term.
	Revegetation efforts should look at existing native species that currently occur in the area and once a baseline has been established, then invasives could be removed and native plants restored with input from local experts and organizations willing to assist. Please take time to conduct thoughtful replantings using native species specific to the area.	Noted. Physical and biological condition surveys of the project area will be used to more precisely allocate project resources to maximize restoration efforts and identify existing stands of beneficial vegetation, such as mature trees that should be left undisturbed. Areas supporting quality habitat will be avoided when selecting planting sites to minimize disturbances in those areas.

	There is a “dam” that exists along this section of river and in an effort to reinstate the river to a more natural setting, this “dam” may be removed and replaced with large boulders, rocks, or square pavers possibly that are spaced out so that natural ripples can be brought back into this area getting rid of the pooling of water around this section and possibly other sections of the river. I would encourage consideration of the social aspects that this river offers to neighbors and visitors and hopefully restore the river to a more natural state, but also create a safe way for rocks to be placed so that people can still cross from one side to the other to discourage people from climbing the embankments that are trying to be restored in an effort to get from one side to the other or to fish.	Concur. The modification or removal of three low water crossings was evaluated as a project alternative. Careful consideration has been shown to the social aspects of the river. The feasibility study has evaluated pedestrian bridges in order to allow all individuals to take part in recreation opportunities created by the proposed project. Other recreation aspects have been evaluated during this study including bird blinds and fishing piers in order to protect and maintain the restoration efforts while also providing recreational opportunities.
	I would encourage USACE & affiliates to reach out to local partners for assistance if needed.	Concur. USACE begins communication efforts with state and federal resource agencies to comply with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958. Communication continues throughout the study process, along with public meetings to receive information about project concerns, wants, needs, etc. The NFS maintains communication with local sponsors and stakeholders and relays information through those channels. USACE is partnered with a local source.

Attachments

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10711 Burnet Rd, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758

Dear Mr. Zerrenner:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), in partnership with the non-Federal sponsor, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), has initiated the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study. This aquatic ecosystem restoration study is being conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-33). The ER study will develop alternatives to restore function and structure to the degraded aquatic ecosystem.

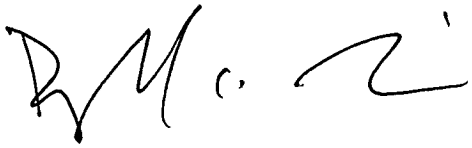
The study area is located on the San Antonio River, San Antonio, Texas between East Mulberry and US 281 (see enclosure). This reach of the San Antonio River is one of the last unchannelized segments remaining. The river within the study area exhibits excessive erosion and sedimentation. Two roads (River Road and Avenue A) parallel the banks, where cut banks are eroding the remaining riparian corridor. Urban development, through the narrowing of riparian habitats, and low water dams have altered the hydrology of the river over time, leading to imbalanced sediment transport. This imbalance has triggered the formation of gravel sand bars, and river head cuts. In addition to reduced size, the riparian corridor has been invaded by non-native species and surrounded by planted non-native Bermudagrass (*Cynodon spp*.).

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508 and USACE Engineering Regulation 200-2-2), an Environmental Assessment will be prepared to describe aquatic ecosystem restoration alternatives and the affected environment, as well as analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects.

In accordance with Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and other applicable laws and regulations, the USACE held a Resource Agency meeting at San Antonio River Authority, 600 E Euclid Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78212, on 11 June 2019 to introduce the River Road Aquatic ER Feasibility Study along with the general USACE study processes and schedule.

Our office would like to solicit any input you may have with respect to the River Road area in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and other applicable laws and regulations to assist us as we progress through the NEPA process. We would also like to invite you to serve as a cooperating agency for this project. We ask that you respond in writing to confirm or deny your participation by 15 September 2019. We will assume your agency as cooperating if no response is received. Please note, we will accept new information and comments throughout the process. Please contact Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300; by telephone at (817) 886-1828; or by email at Justyss.A.Watson@usace.army.mil with comments, questions, or the need for further information.

Sincerely,



Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

Laura Zebehazy
Program Leader
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Wildlife Division
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

Dear Ms. Zebehazy:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), in partnership with the non-Federal sponsor, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), has initiated the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study. This aquatic ecosystem restoration study is being conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-33). The ER study will develop alternatives to restore function and structure to the degraded aquatic ecosystem.

The study area is located on the San Antonio River, San Antonio, Texas between East Mulberry and US 281 (see enclosure). This reach of the San Antonio River is one of the last unchannelized segments remaining. The river within the study area exhibits excessive erosion and sedimentation. Two roads (River Road and Avenue A) parallel the banks, where cut banks are eroding the remaining riparian corridor. Urban development, through the narrowing of riparian habitats, and low water dams have altered the hydrology of the river over time, leading to imbalanced sediment transport. This imbalance has triggered the formation of gravel sand bars, and river head cuts. In addition to reduced size, the riparian corridor has been invaded by non-native species and surrounded by planted non-native Bermudagrass (*Cynodon spp*.).

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Our office would like to solicit any input you may have with respect to the River Road area in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and other applicable laws and regulations to assist us as we progress through the NEPA process. We would also like to invite you to serve as a participating agency for this project. We ask that you respond in writing to confirm or deny your participation by 15 September 2019. We will assume your agency as participating if no response is received. Please note, we will accept new information and comments throughout the process. Please contact Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, by telephone at (817) 886-1828, or by email at Justyss.A.Watson@usace.army.mil with comments, questions, or the need for further information.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

Robert Houston
Staff Director
Office of Communities, Tribes and Environmental Assessment
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 (ORACN)
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Houston:

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The study area is located on the San Antonio River, San Antonio, Texas between East Mulberry and US 281 (see enclosure). This reach of the San Antonio River is one of the last unchannelized segments remaining. The river within the study area exhibits excessive erosion and sedimentation. Two roads (River Road and Avenue A) parallel the banks, where cut banks are eroding the remaining riparian corridor. Urban development, through the narrowing of riparian habitats, and low water dams have altered the hydrology of the river over time, leading to imbalanced sediment transport. This imbalance has triggered the formation of gravel sand bars, and river head cuts. In addition to reduced size, the riparian corridor has been invaded by non-native species and surrounded by planted non-native Bermudagrass (*Cynodon spp*.).

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508 and USACE Engineering Regulation 200-2-2), an Environmental Assessment will be prepared to describe aquatic ecosystem restoration alternatives and the affected environment, as well as analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects.

In accordance with Section 1005 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and other applicable laws and regulations, the USACE held a Resource Agency meeting at San Antonio River Authority, 600 E Euclid Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78212, on 11 June 2019 to introduce the River Road Aquatic ER Feasibility Study along with the general USACE study processes and schedule.

Our office would like to solicit any input you may have with respect to the River Road area. We would also like to invite you to serve as a cooperating agency for this project, to assist us as we progress through the NEPA process. We ask that you respond in writing to confirm or deny your participation by 15 September 2019. We will assume your agency as cooperating if no response is received. Please note, we will accept new information and comments throughout the process. Please contact Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300; by telephone at (817) 886-1828; or by email at Justyss.A.Watson@usace.army.mil with comments, questions, or the need for further information.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

Charles Kneuper
State Resource Conservationist, Acting
USDA-NRCS
101 South Main Street
Temple, TX 76501

Dear Mr. Kneuper:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), in partnership with the non-Federal sponsor, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), has initiated the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study. This aquatic ecosystem restoration study is being conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-33). The ER study will develop alternatives to restore function and structure to the degraded aquatic ecosystem.

The study area is located on the San Antonio River, San Antonio, Texas between East Mulberry and US 281 (see enclosure). This reach of the San Antonio River is one of the last unchannelized segments remaining. The river within the study area exhibits excessive erosion and sedimentation. Two roads (River Road and Avenue A) parallel the banks, where cut banks are eroding the remaining riparian corridor. Urban development, through the narrowing of riparian habitats, and low water dams have altered the hydrology of the river over time, leading to imbalanced sediment transport. This imbalance has triggered the formation of gravel sand bars, and river head cuts. In addition to reduced size, the riparian corridor has been invaded by non-native species and surrounded by planted non-native Bermudagrass (*Cynodon spp*.).

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Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

John MacFarlane
Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
10101 Hillwood Parkway
Fort Worth, TX 76177

Dear Mr. MacFarlane:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), in partnership with the non-Federal sponsor, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), has initiated the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study. This aquatic ecosystem restoration study is being conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-33). The ER study will develop alternatives to restore function and structure to the degraded aquatic ecosystem.

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Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

Peter Schaefer, MC 150
TCEQ
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Schaefer,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), in partnership with the non-Federal sponsor, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), has initiated the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study. This aquatic ecosystem restoration study is being conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-33). The ER study will develop alternatives to restore function and structure to the degraded aquatic ecosystem.

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Our office would like to solicit any input you may have with respect to the River Road area. We would also like to invite you to serve as a participating agency for this project, to assist us as we progress through the NEPA process. We ask that you respond in writing to confirm or deny your participation by 15 September 2019. We will assume your agency as participating if no response is received. Please note, we will accept new information and comments throughout the process. Please contact Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, by email at Justyss.A.Watson@usace.army.mil, or by telephone at (817) 886-1828 with comments, questions, or the need for further information.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

June 25, 2019

Public Notice

River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Initiation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), in partnership with the non-Federal sponsor, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), has initiated the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study. This aquatic ecosystem restoration study is being conducted under the authority of the Continuing Authorities Program Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-33). The ER study will develop alternatives to restore function and structure to the degraded aquatic ecosystem.

The study area is located on the San Antonio River, San Antonio, Texas between East Mulberry and US 281 (see enclosure). This reach of the San Antonio River is one of the last unchannelized segments remaining. The river within the study area exhibits excessive erosion and sedimentation. Two roads (River Road and Avenue A) parallel the banks, where cut banks are eroding the remaining riparian corridor. Urban development, through the narrowing of riparian habitats, and low water dams have altered the hydrology of the river over time, leading to imbalanced sediment transport. This imbalance has triggered the formation of gravel sand bars, and river head cuts. In addition to reduced size, the riparian corridor has been invaded by non-native species and surrounded by planted non-native Bermudagrass (*Cynodon spp*.).

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Our office would like to solicit any input you may have with respect to the River Road area, to assist us as we progress through the NEPA process. We look forward to receiving your comments. Please contact Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, by email at Justyss.A.Watson@usace.army.mil, or by

telephone at (817) 886-1828 with comments, questions, or the need for further information.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

July 10, 2019

Public Notice

River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Public Scoping Meeting

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), hereby informs the public of the public scoping meeting to be held for the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study, San Antonio, Texas.

The ER feasibility study will develop and analyze ecosystem restoration alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, to restore degraded ecological structure and function to aquatic and riparian habitat on the River Road reach of the San Antonio River between East Mulberry Avenue and US 281.

A public scoping meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on August 13, 2019 at Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209. General information about the ER feasibility study and its process will be available for review. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments about the project. USACE staff will be on site to answer any questions and/or address concerns about the project.

A 30-day public comment period begins Tuesday, August 13, 2019 and ends September 12, 2019. Comments may be submitted at the public meeting, mailed to Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, or emailed to RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Lane

Angela M. Lane
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

October 31, 2019

Public Notice

River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Public Meeting

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (USACE), hereby informs the public of the public meeting to be held for the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (ER) Feasibility Study, San Antonio, Texas.

Ecosystem restoration measures have been developed for the ER feasibility study to restore degraded ecological structure and function to aquatic and riparian habitat on the River Road reach of the San Antonio River between East Mulberry Avenue and US 281.

A public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on December 3, 2019 at Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209. Information about the ER feasibility study and the developed measures will be available for review. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments about the project. USACE staff will be on site to answer any questions and/or address concerns about the project.

A 30-day public comment period begins Tuesday, December 3, 2019 and ends Friday, January 3, 2020. Comments may be submitted at the public meeting, mailed to Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, or emailed to RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Amanda McGuire

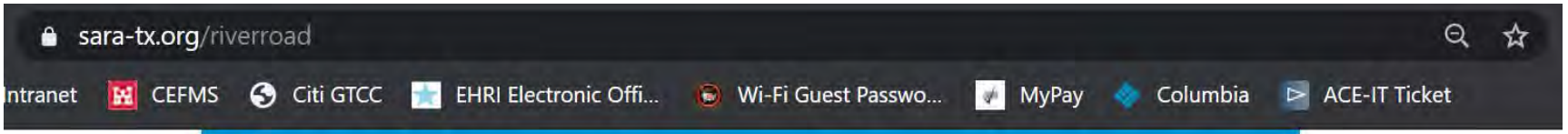
Amanda (Mandy) McGuire
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

From:	Marcus Machemehl (Aviation)
To:	Watson, Justyss A CIV USARMY CESWD (USA); Steven Southers (Aviation)
Cc:	Joshua Heiss (Aviation); John MacFarlane (john.macfarlane@faa.gov); Allen, Daniel L CIV USARMY CESWF (USA)
Subject:	[Non-DoD Source] RE: FAA consultation - Potential Effects of Ecosystem Restoration --- USACE River Road, San Antonio River, San Antonio, TX (View in HTML) - NEPA
Date:	Friday, January 24, 2020 9:57:21 AM

Justyss,

Thank you for the information. I feel that your project will not cause us any problems. Please keep me informed of any change and status of the project.

Thank you
Marcus



SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

Related Projects

Escondido Creek Parkway

San Pedro Creek

Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project

Mission Reach Prescribed Burning

River Road Restoration

MAJOR

In an effort to restore and sustain the native life in this section of the river, Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, the River Authority, and the US Corps of Engineers (USACE) are conducting the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in order to identify potential projects, as well as scientifically evaluate these projects for their impact and cost-effectiveness. This feasibility study will bring together experts from various state and federal natural resource agencies in order to collect field data on the current condition of the area and apply habitat models to predict the future conditions of each project scenario. This is a critical step towards the potential funding of the design and construction of a restoration project. This study is being conducted under a USACE program that can potentially provide future funding for ecosystem restoration strategies such as bank stabilization, invasive species removal, park amenities, and reconfiguration of vehicular and pedestrian access. As a local sponsor, the River Authority is facilitating the public input process to develop the ecosystem restoration plan and implement a potential future project.

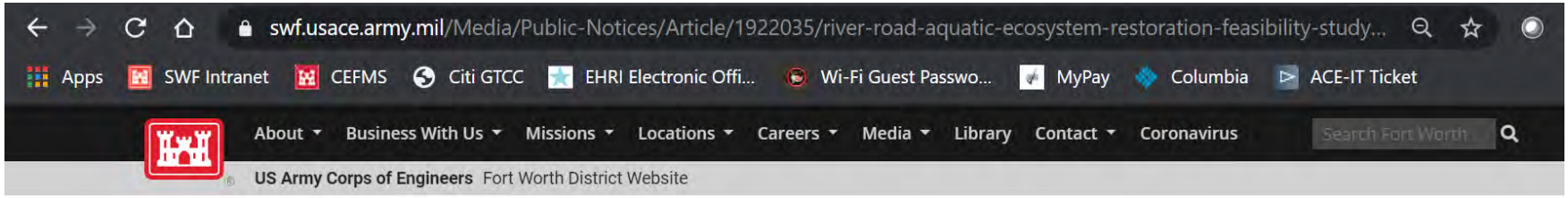
Partners

THE STATE OF TEXAS · COUNTY OF BEXAR

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

US Army Corps of Engineers



Public Notices by Year

- 2020 (7)
- 2019 (33)
- 2018 (23)
- 2017 (19)
- 2016 (19)
- 2015 (25)
- 2014 (40)
- 2013 (56)
- 2012 (10)

River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Public Scoping

Published July 31, 2019 / Expiration date: 9/12/2019

PRINT | E-MAIL

View full public notice

The Ecosystem Restoration (ER) feasibility study will develop and analyze ecosystem restoration alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, to restore degraded ecological structure and function to aquatic and riparian habitat on the River Road reach of the San Antonio River between East Mulberry Avenue and US 281.

Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Published by Clay Church · July 31, 2019 ·

San Antonio River: River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study scoping meeting and comment period. See public notice for more information:
https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/.../river-road-aquatic-ecosys.../

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- 2014 (41)
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- 2012 (43)
- 2011 (3)
- 2010 (1)

San Antonio River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study public meeting announced

SWF USACE

Published Nov. 4, 2019

PRINT | E-MAIL

San Antonio, Texas --*FORT WORTH*, Texas – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials from the Fort Worth District announced earlier today a public meeting to be held for the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in San Antonio, Texas on Tuesday, December 3 at 6 p.m.

Ecosystem restoration measures have been developed for the ER feasibility study to restore degraded ecological structure and function to aquatic and riparian habitat on the River Road reach of the San Antonio River between East Mulberry Avenue and US 281.

The public meeting will be held at 6 p.m., December 3, at Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209. Information about the ER feasibility study and the developed measures will be available for review. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments about the project. USACE staff will be on site to answer any questions and/or address concerns about the project.

A 30-day public comment period begins Tuesday, December 3, 2019 and ends Friday, January 3, 2020. Comments may be submitted at the public meeting, mailed to Justyss Watson, Biologist, Environmental Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, or emailed to RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil.

-30-

About the Fort Worth District: The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and SWF Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/usacefortworth/.

Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Published by Clay Church [?] · November 4, 2019 ·

San Antonio River Road public meeting:

A public meeting will be held for the River Road Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in San Antonio, Texas on Tuesday, December 3 at 6 p.m. at Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center, 2809 Broadway Street, San Antonio, TX 78209. Ecosystem restoration measures have been developed for the ER feasibility study to restore degraded ecological structure and function to aquatic and riparian habitat on the River Road reach of the San A... See More

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Neighbors navigate SA River project

by LUCILLE SIMS THOMAS

A POTENTIAL PROJECT to restore the San Antonio River's wetlands ecosystem in Brackenridge Park is prompting both concerns and cautious optimism from a nearby neighborhood.

The San Antonio River Authority is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department to examine the feasibility of an aquatic and riparian ecosystem restoration project along the river between Mulberry Avenue and U.S. 281 North.

A public meeting was held to introduce the project and then a second session was convened to solicit suggestions and opinions, primarily from the adjacent River Road Historic District, local businesses and cultural institutions.

Aarin Teague, senior engineer with SARA, said the community seems mostly in favor of the project, but noted a wide variety of opinions have been expressed.

"The community has long been asking for the restoring of habitat, for us to take care of some of the erosion and address other challenges that the river is experiencing to improve the sustainability and resilience of the river through this stretch," Teague said.

Planners welcome the community's views, he added.

"We want to go ahead and improve it, but we don't want to make it so stylized that it loses its qualities that make it unique," said Arlene Fisher, who serves on the Parks and River Committee of the River Road Neighborhood Association. She said her neighborhood's unique layout is one of the reasons she has loved living there since 2006.

"I guess the River Authority and the Corps of Engineers have had different priorities for use of funds other than this section of the river," she said. "We're hoping to go ahead and move forward this time. I think this area of the river warrants the attention."

The River Road neighborhood is a long-established, secluded enclave with homes ranging from bungalows to Tudor Revival cottages. Within its boundaries lies one of the last remaining natural, unchanneled portions of the San Antonio River.

The neighborhood, which borders the river, 281 and the Brackenridge Park Golf Course, has wanted some help with the waterway for quite awhile, but a lack of funding has kept any plans from moving forward, neighbors said.

According to SARA's website, the portion of the river being studied is excellent for birding and fishing with catfish, largemouth bass and spotted gar. But, erosion has become a problem as well as some invasive species of flora and fauna that threaten the natural habitat.

Planners are cognizant of the impact the project could have on the neighborhood, said Justyss<cq> Watson, a biologist with the Corps of Engineers.

"We do have constraints on the project. We don't want to make anything negatively impact the neighborhood," Watson said. "With this project, there is going to be an environmental assessment, so there shouldn't be significant impact to the neighborhood from what we can tell for now," she said.

Fisher said the main issues that concern her are the river's erosion, the sedimentation and flooding from rains. She also worries about drainage, maintaining the integrity of the river and keeping it as natural as possible.

Fisher and the committee also don't want the low-water crossing replaced with a bridge or changes that might interfere with migratory birds.

"It's got a lot of natural amenities that typically you don't have in an inner-city neighborhood," Fisher said.

Longtime resident William Sibley said he and most of his neighbors deeply care about the river and want to be good stewards of the waterway.

"I'm not opposed to some thoughtful pruning of non-native

PROJECT continues on pg. 15

LOWDOWN continues from pg. 10

employees' philanthropy club. The program provides foster and foster-to-adopt services across Texas. The money is to help the San Antonio location fund its Bridge the Gap program, which includes summer camp, back-to-school and holiday initiatives.

NORTH STAR MALL IS OFFERING A FIESTA MEDAL commemorating the legacy of the late Bob Wade, artist of the World's Largest Boots, the 35-foot-tall sculpture fronting the mall. Wade died Dec. 24 at age 76. It was 1979 when he was contacted by the Washington Project for the Arts to create a Texas-themed sculpture to install on an empty lot in Washington, D.C., near the White House. The giant boots instantly became such a sensation that a Houston company and the Rouse Co., then-owners of North Star Mall, mounted a bidding war for the sculpture. Rouse bought the landmark for $20,000. The effort to relocate the boots inspired a song and a documentary film about the move.

A 24-MEMBER TASK FORCE WILL HELP THE San Antonio Independent School District research a potential bond referendum in November. The group will provide feedback on existing district facilities and educational needs, input on priority projects, and present a long-range plan recommendation to trustees late this summer.

TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS OBSERVED HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK Jan. 27-31, thanks in part to the efforts of Woodridge Elementary School teacher Lisa Barry and three daughters of Holocaust survivors, Varda Ratner, Sharon Scharff and Ginny Wind. The four women went to the state Capitol to push for legislation that requires Texas public school curriculum to include a history of the Holocaust. A fifth-grade teacher in the Alamo Heights Independent School District, Barry incorporates the Holocaust into classroom lessons about bullying, tolerance and empathy. Students were also working to collect 6 million pennies – a tribute to the estimated 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust – that will be donated to local nonprofits and charities such as David's Legacy Foundation, Child Advocates San Antonio, and the San Antonio Holocaust Memorial Museum.

THE SAN ANTONIO BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FEB. 17 REVERSED A RULING by the Historic and Design Review Commission, which had approved a controversial townhome project in the River Road neighborhood. The BOA sided with resident John Hertz's appeal of HDRC's decision in December to grant a certificate of appropriateness to a project proposing 24 two- and three-story townhomes in six buildings at 335 Trail St. Despite efforts by the developer, MNO Partners, to appease neighbors, several residents continued to voice concerns with the proposed buildings' heights and sizes. Neighbors argued the project was incompatible with River Road Historic District guidelines.

Find Local Lowdown at www.localcommunitynews.com.

PROJECT continues from pg. 13

species along the river banks, but I love the low-water crossing and feel its elimination will terminate the pooling that allows a summertime dwelling for fish, ducks, turtles, birds, etc.," Sibley said.

He also supports closing off the golf course maintenance road from Mulberry – provided there is adequate parking at the entrance for walkers, fishers and nature lovers. However, Sibley said he doesn't want to see a new accessway through Allison Drive/Davis Park and the closing of the longtime entrance at Mulberry, adjacent to the river.

Watson said several options are being weighed.

"Measures depend on the project, but some of the measures that we've looked at are planting native vegetative species, removing invasive species and modifying or removing the low-water crossing within that (part) of the river," Watson said.

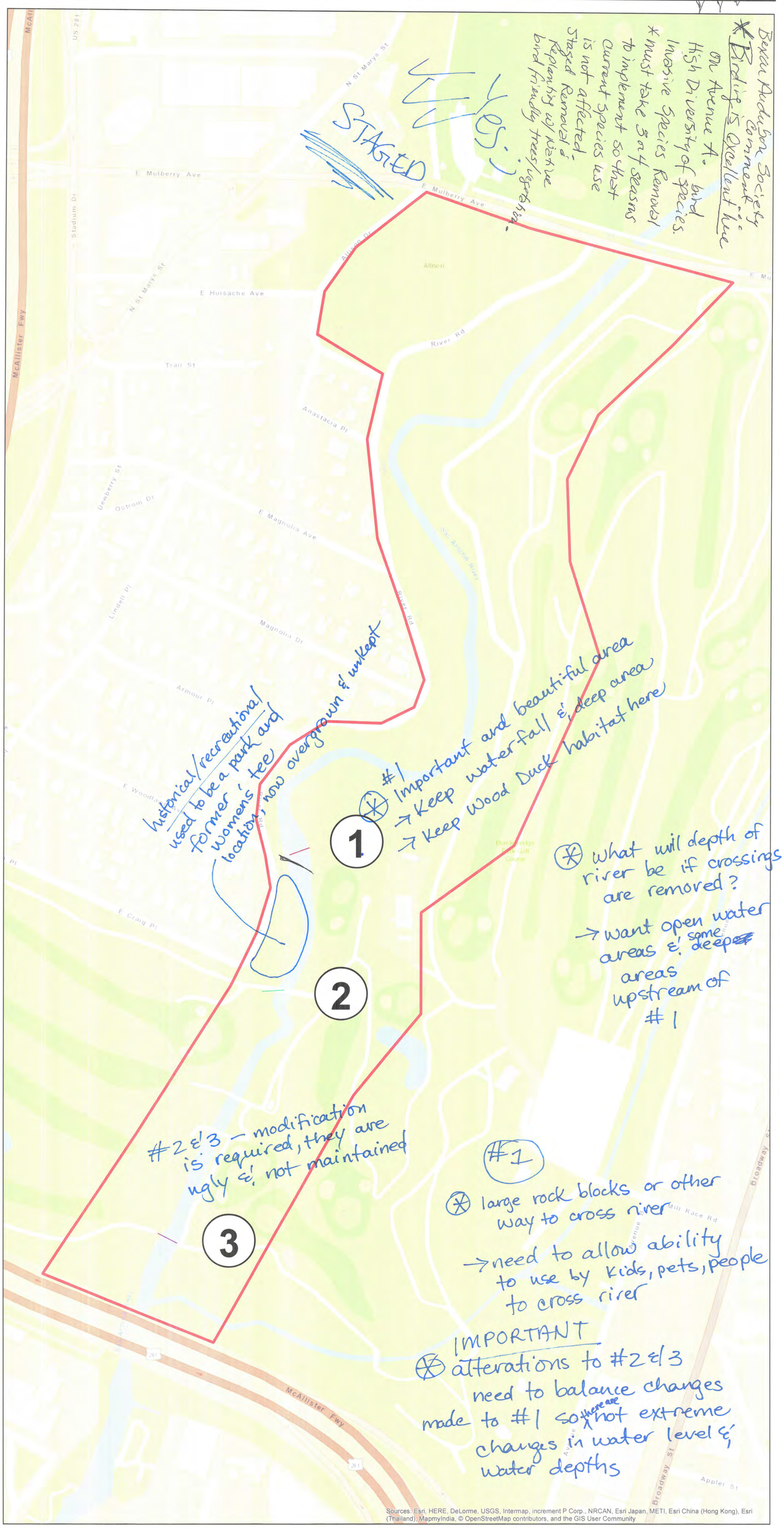
The corps is working with the golf course, but is mostly staying out of that area except the part of the river to plant native species about 50 feet along the banks.

The corps is funding a large component of the feasibility study with a local match from SARA. The study is not expected to be finished until the end of this year or early 2021. Another public meeting will follow.

Find this story and more at www.localcommunitynews.com.

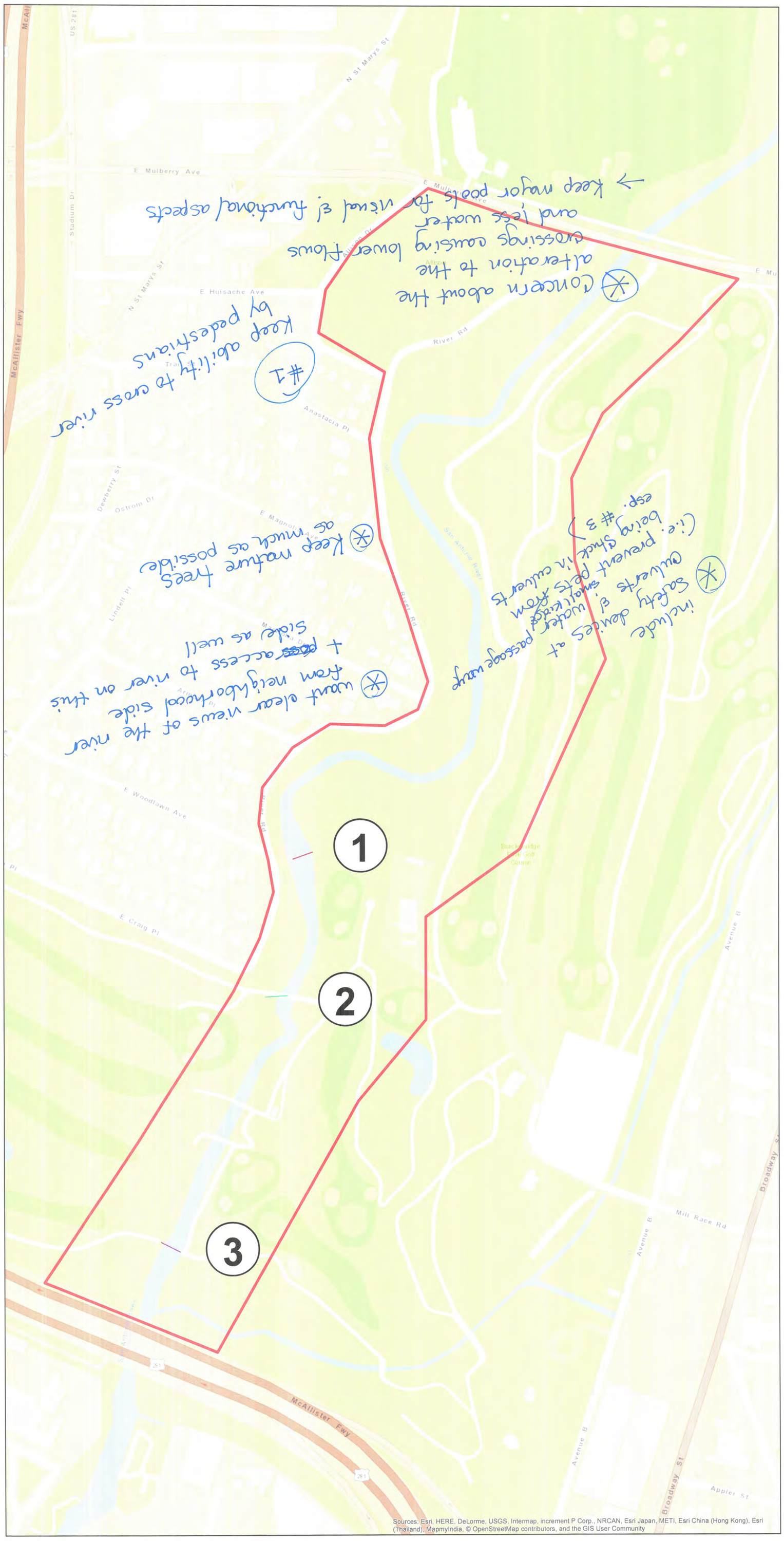
Alternative 1:
Modification and/or Replacement of Low Water Crossings

Modification or replacement of three low water crossings with pedestrian bridges in order to restore stream flow and function.



Alternative 1: Modification and/or Replacement of Low Water Crossings

Modification or replacement of three low water crossings with pedestrian bridges in order to restore stream flow and function.



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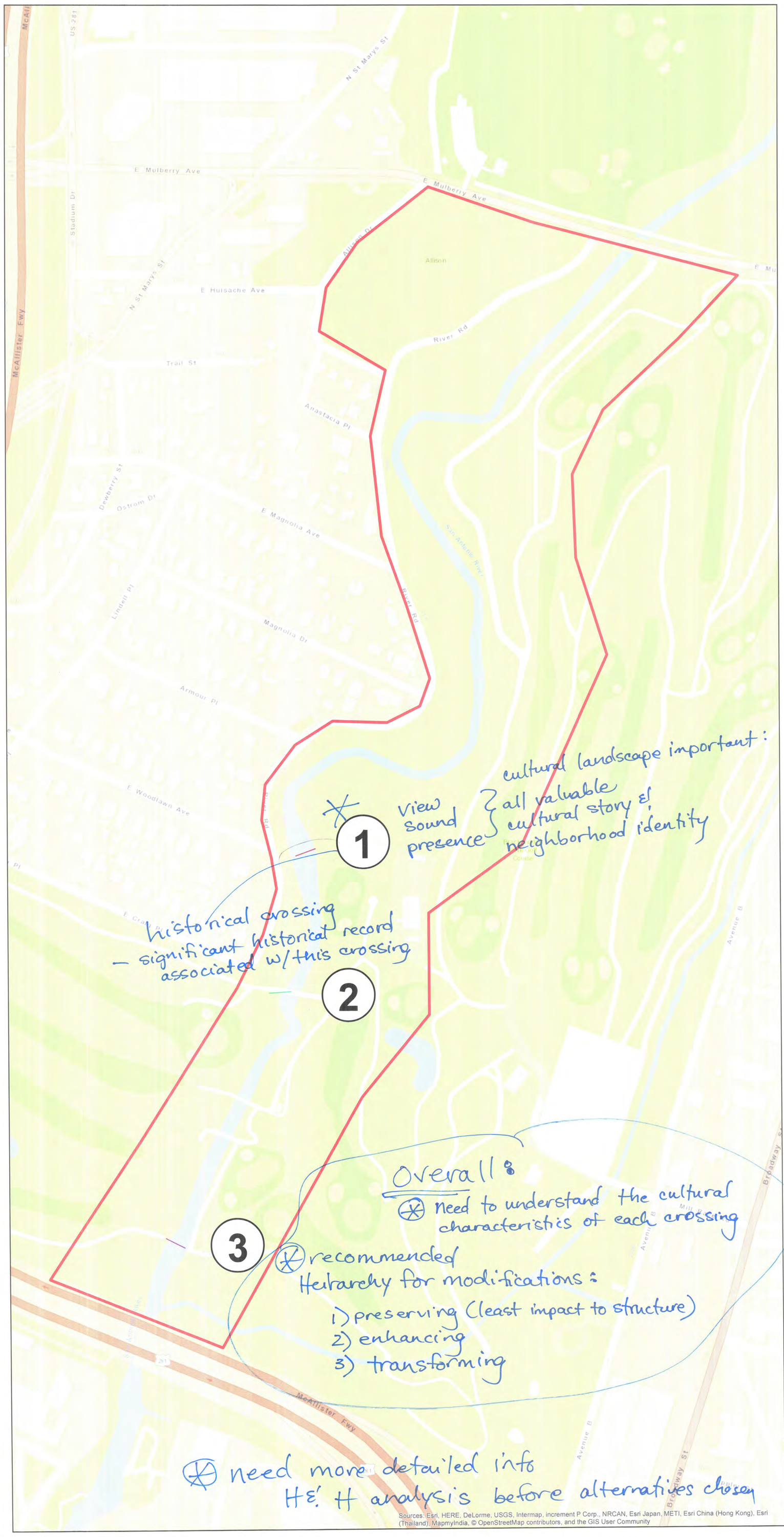

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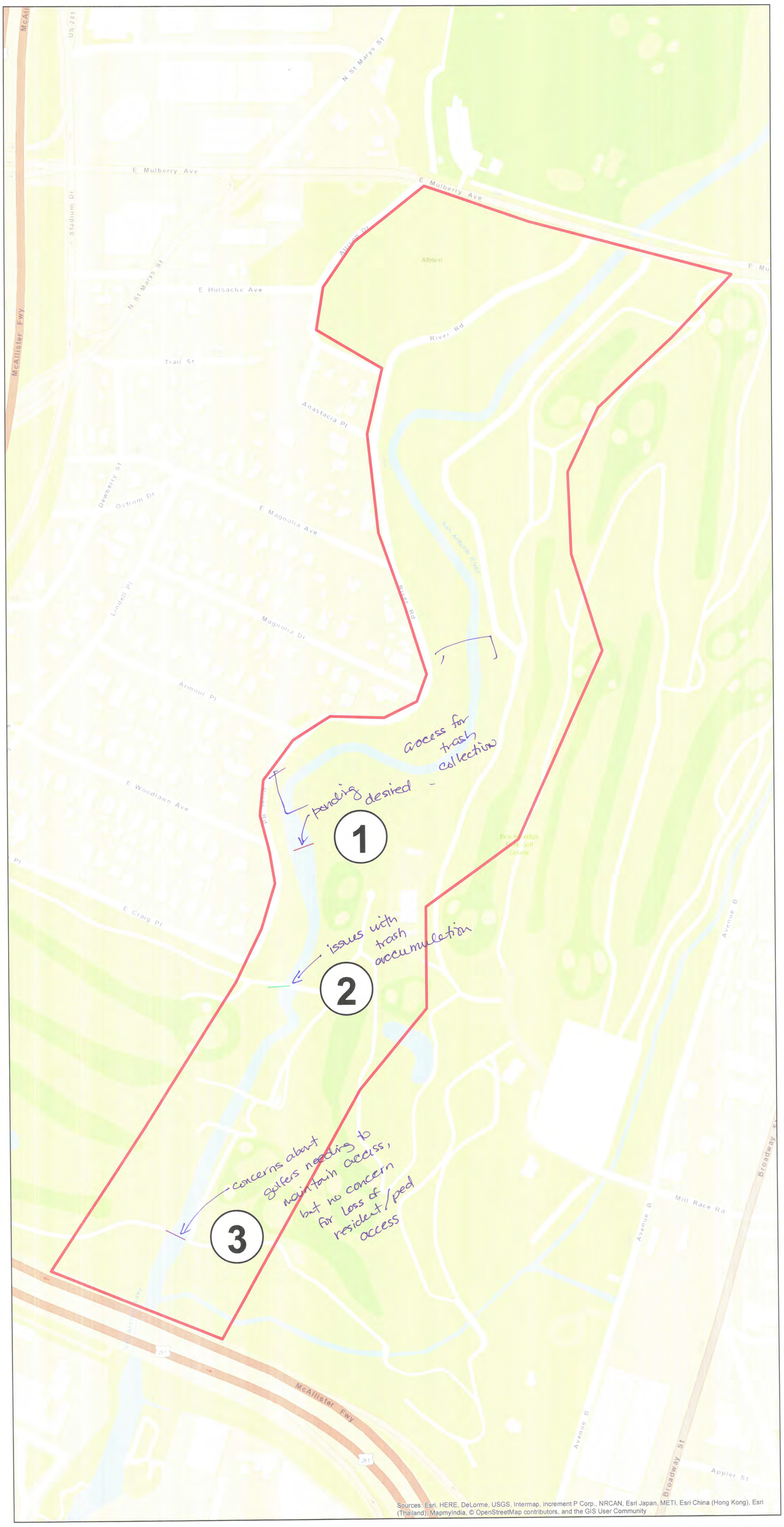

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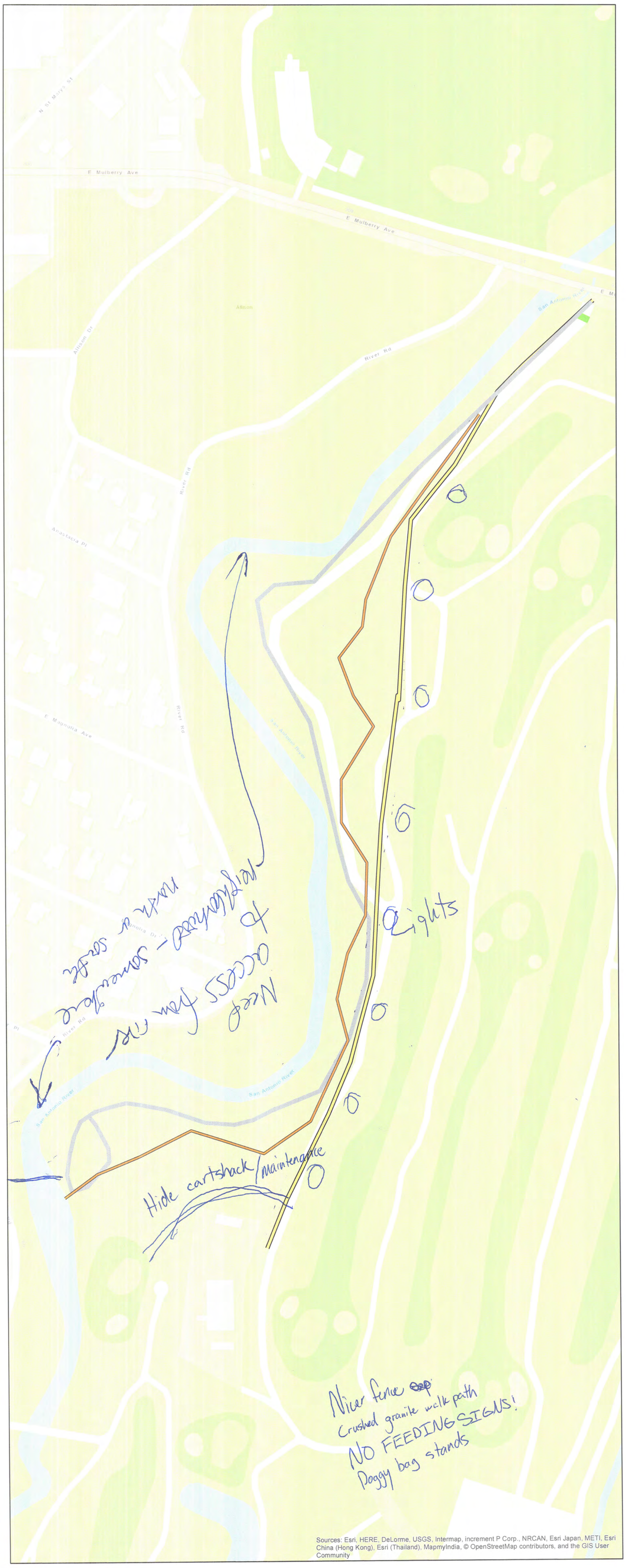
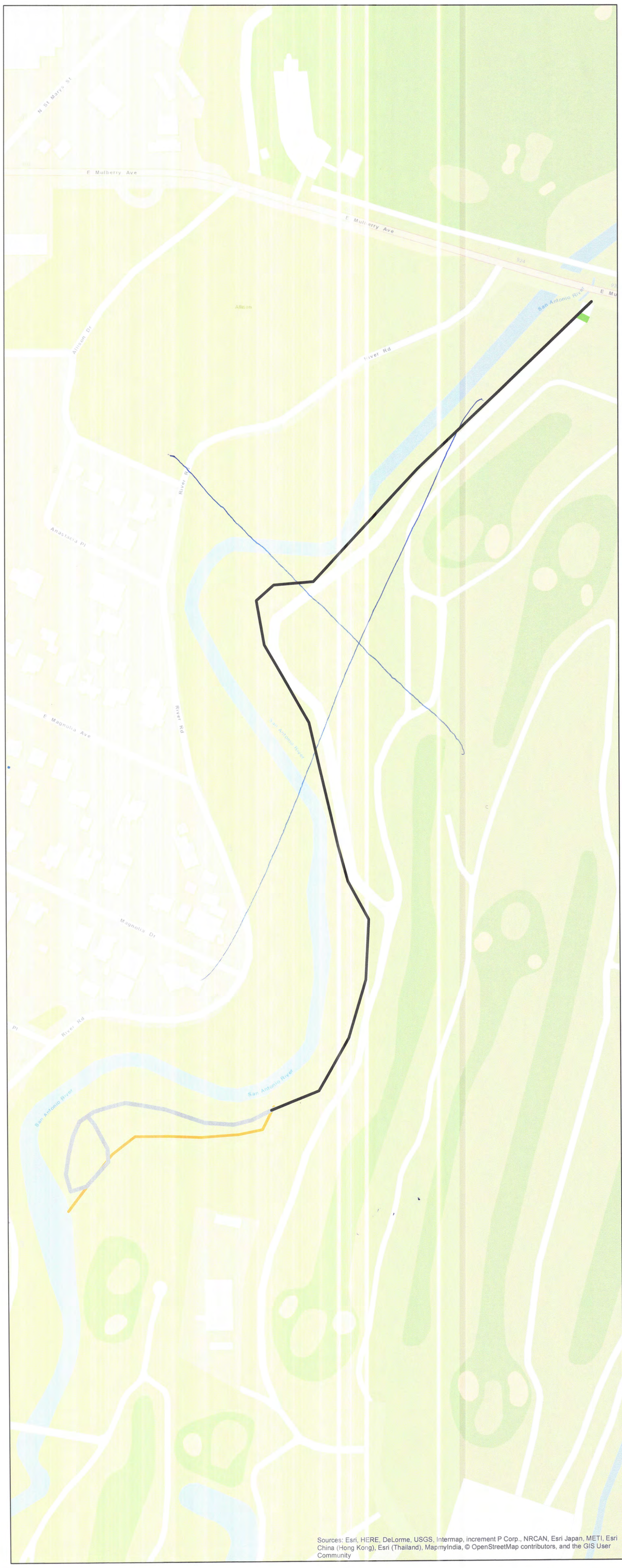
Alternative 2: Avenue A Modifications

#3





3A: Remove Ave A and widen golf course path for maintenance access.

3B: Partial removal of Ave A south of turnoff to golf course maintenance access.

N

0 175 350 525 Feet

Ave A to Remain

Ave A Removal

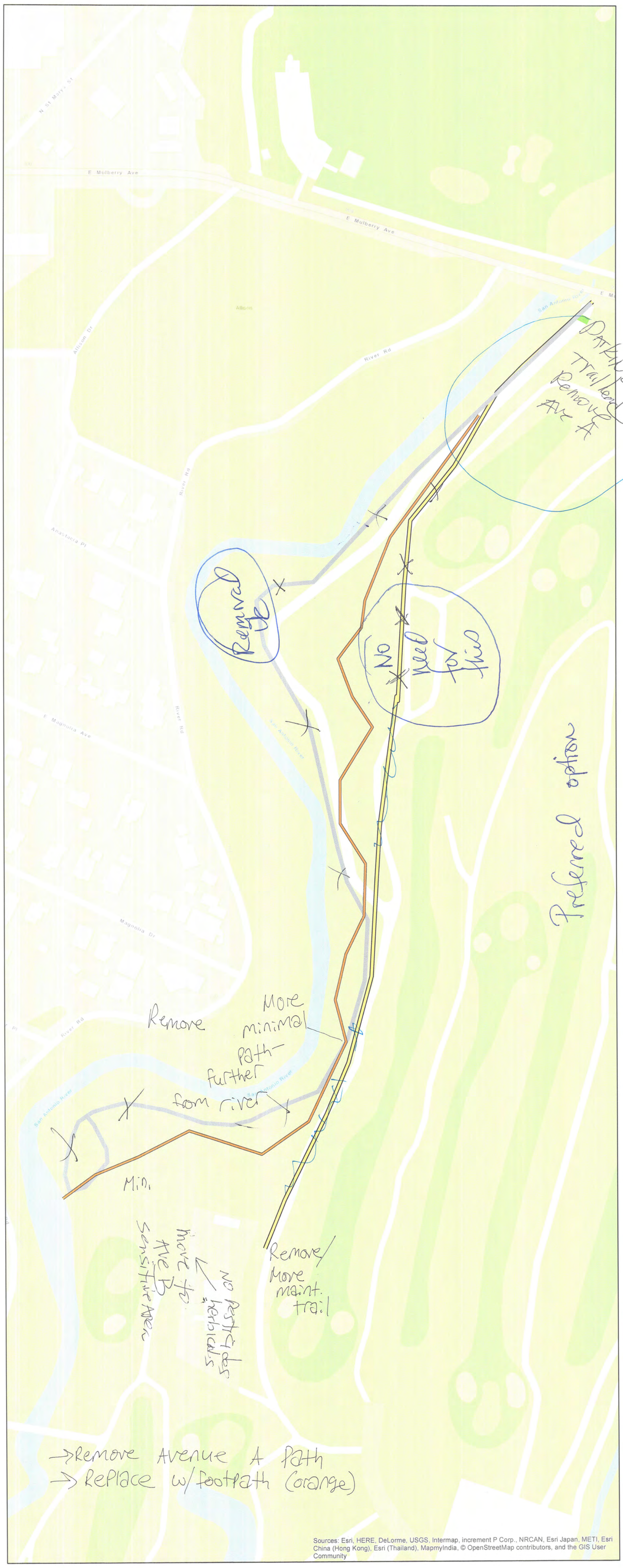
New Pedestrian Trail

Golf Course Path Expansion for Maintenance Access

Install Gate

#1

Alternative 2: Avenue A Modifications



3A: Remove Ave A and widen golf course path ~~for maintenance access.~~

3B: Partial removal of Ave A south of turnoff to golf course maintenance access.

N

0 175 350 525 Feet

Ave A to Remain

Ave A Removal

New Pedestrian Trail

Golf Course Path Expansion ~~for Maintenance Access~~

Install Gate

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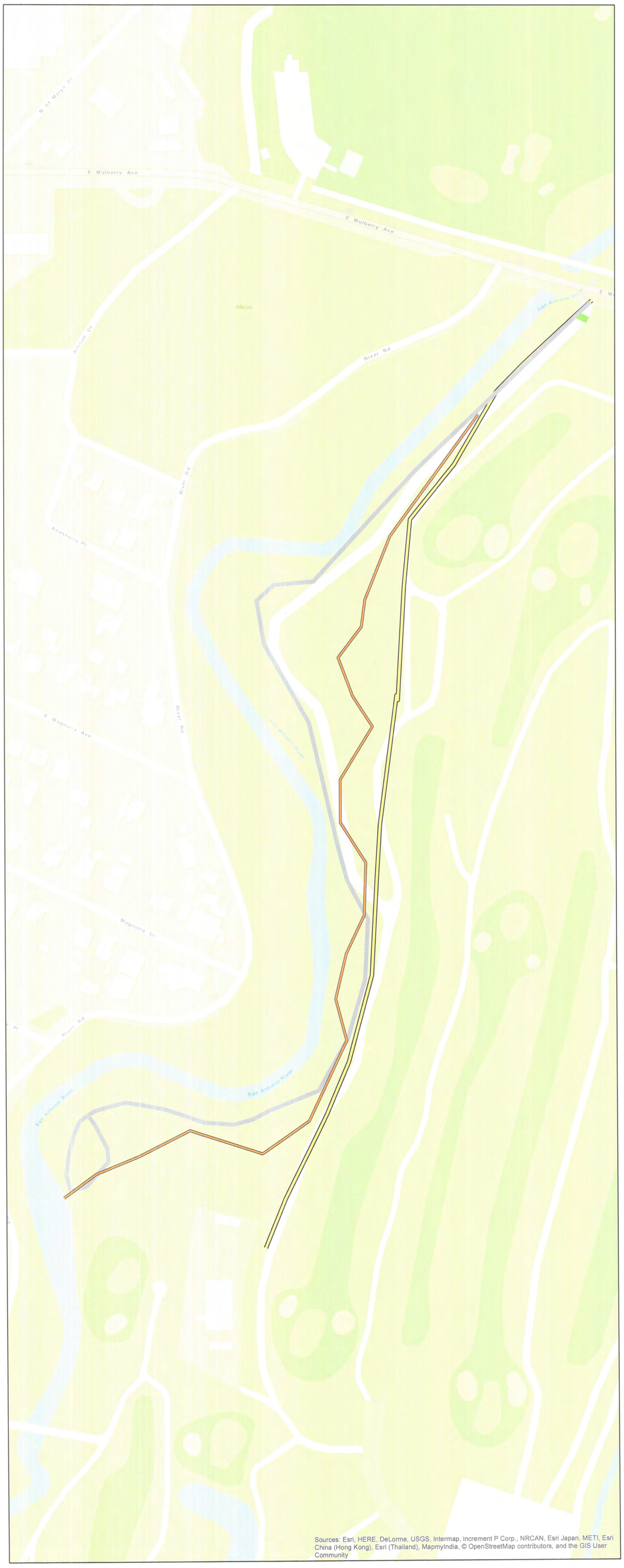


3A: Remove Ave A and widen golf course path for maintenance access.

3B: Partial removal of Ave A south of turnoff to golf course maintenance access.

N

0 175 350 525 Feet

Ave A to Remain

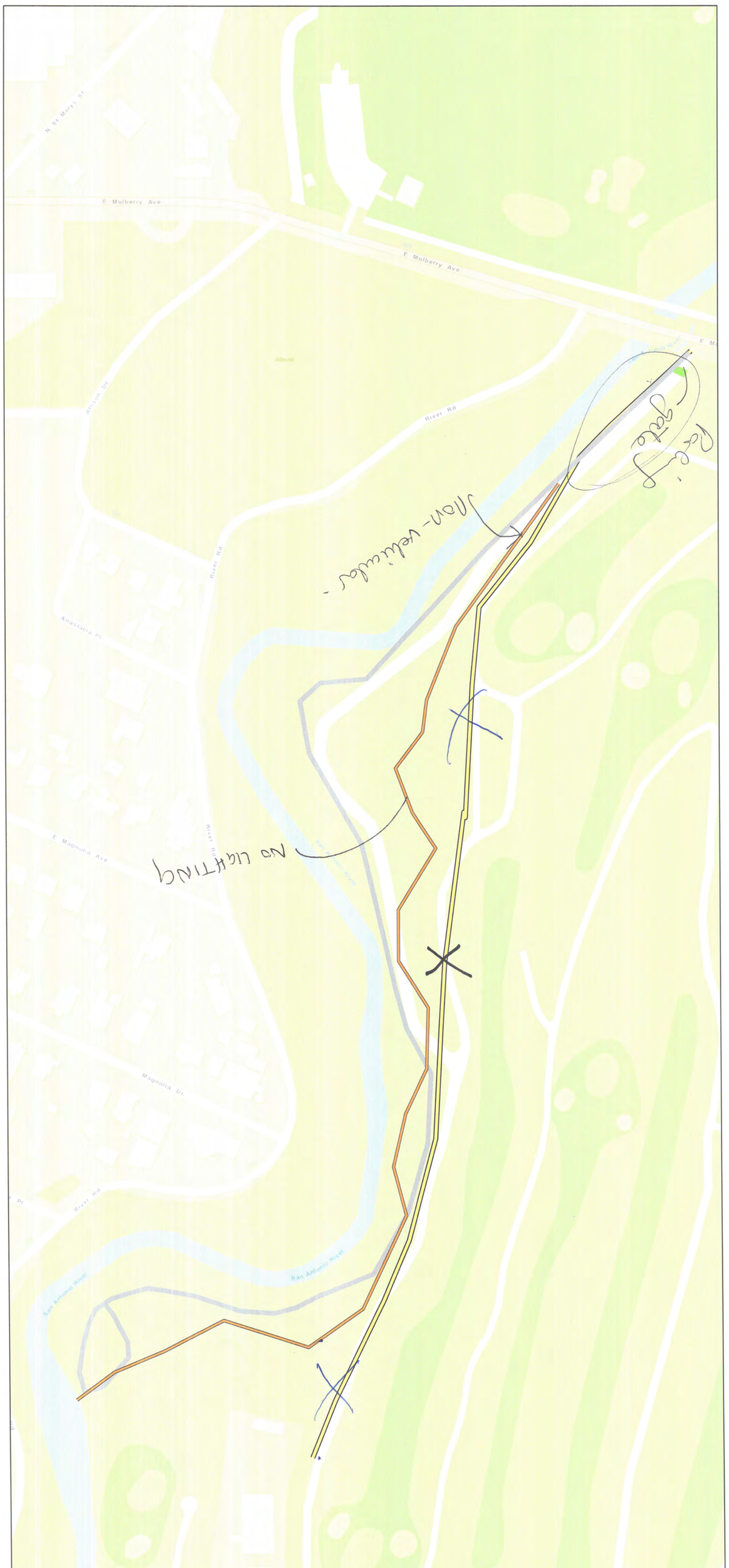
Ave A Removal

New Pedestrian Trail

Golf Course Path Expansion for Maintenance Access

Install Gate

Alternative 2: Avenue A Modifications



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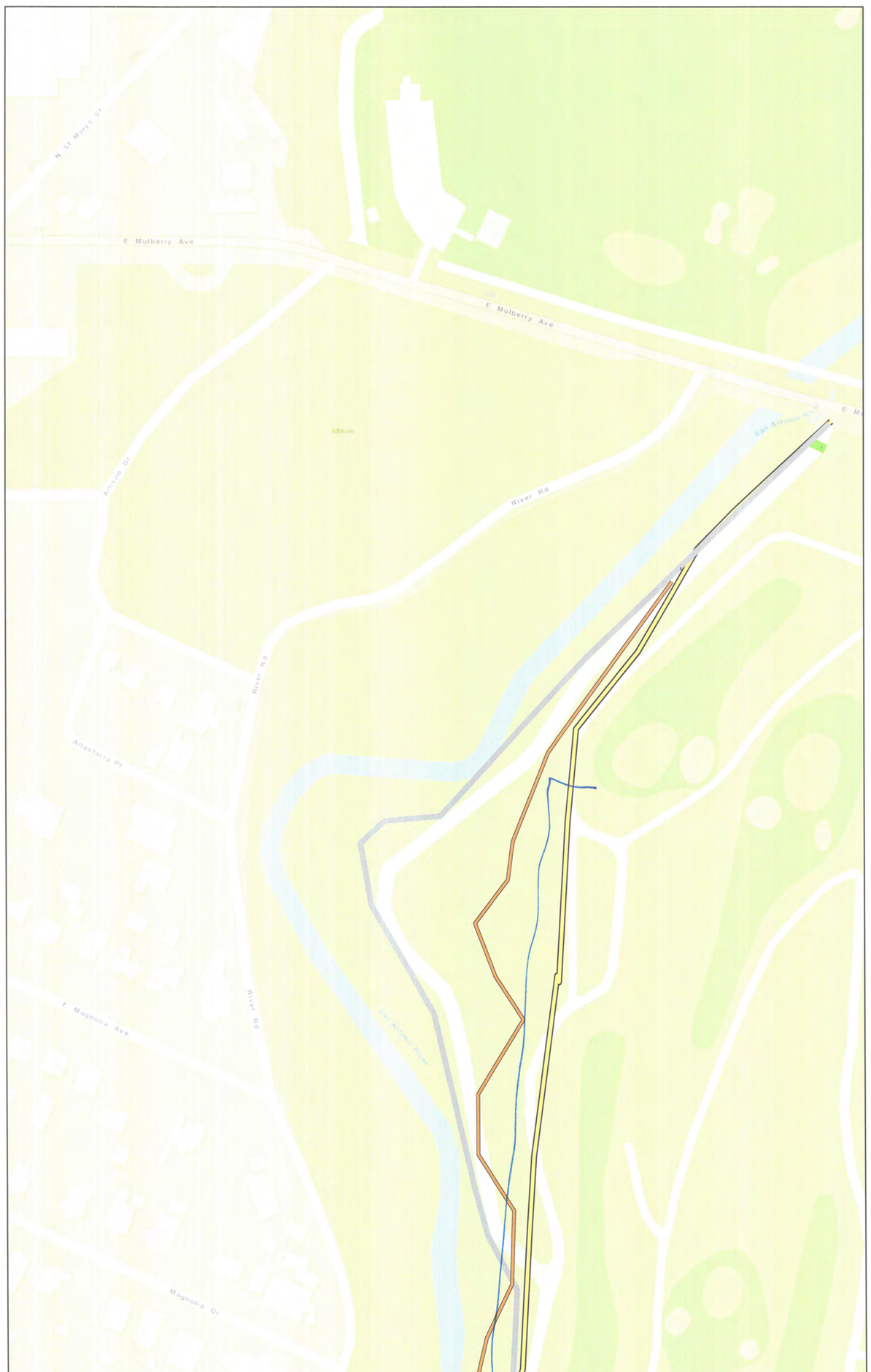
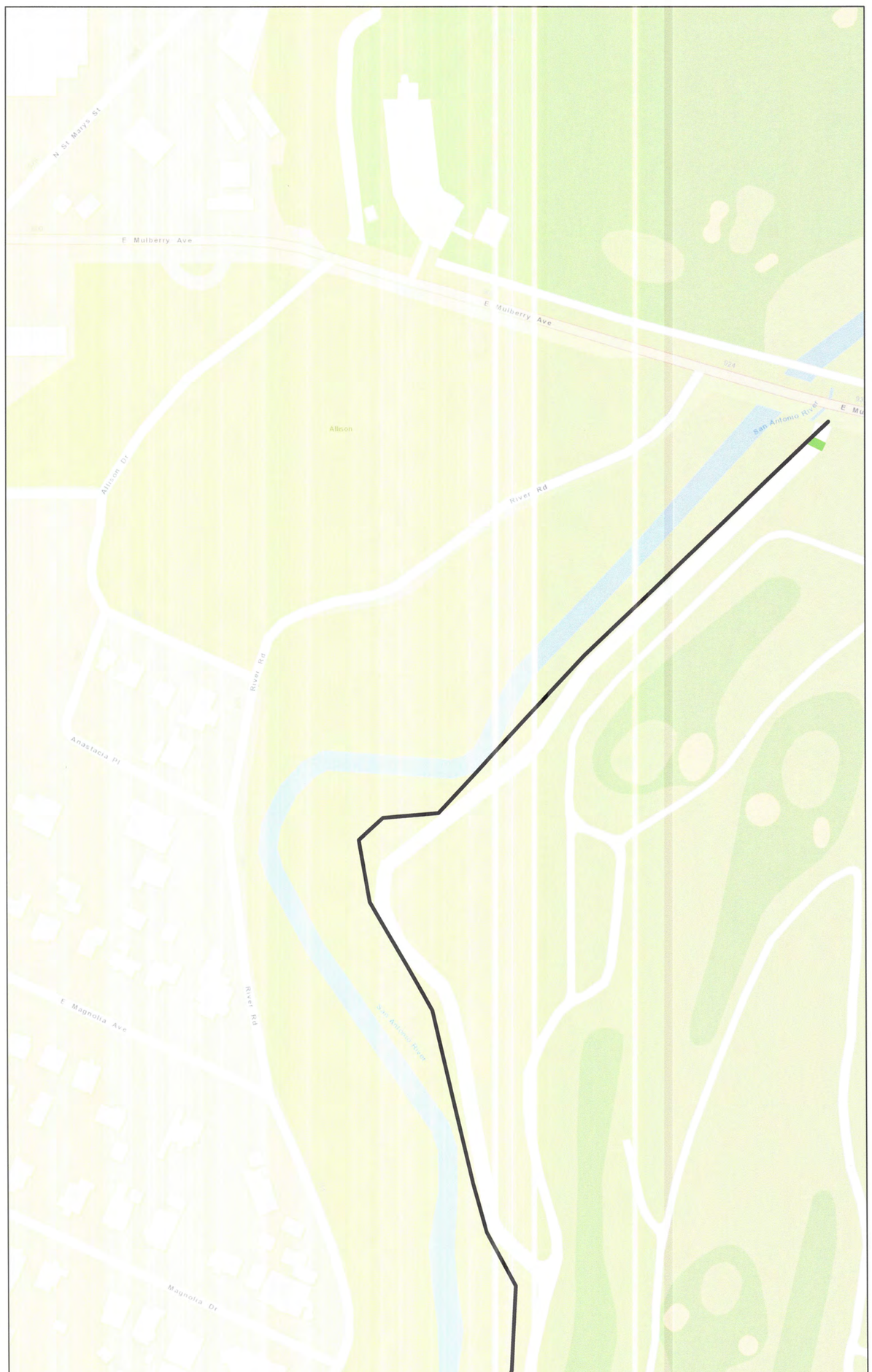


3A: Remove Ave A and widen golf course path for maintenance access.



3B: Partial removal of Ave A south of turnoff to golf course maintenance access.

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Ave A to Remain

Ave A Removal

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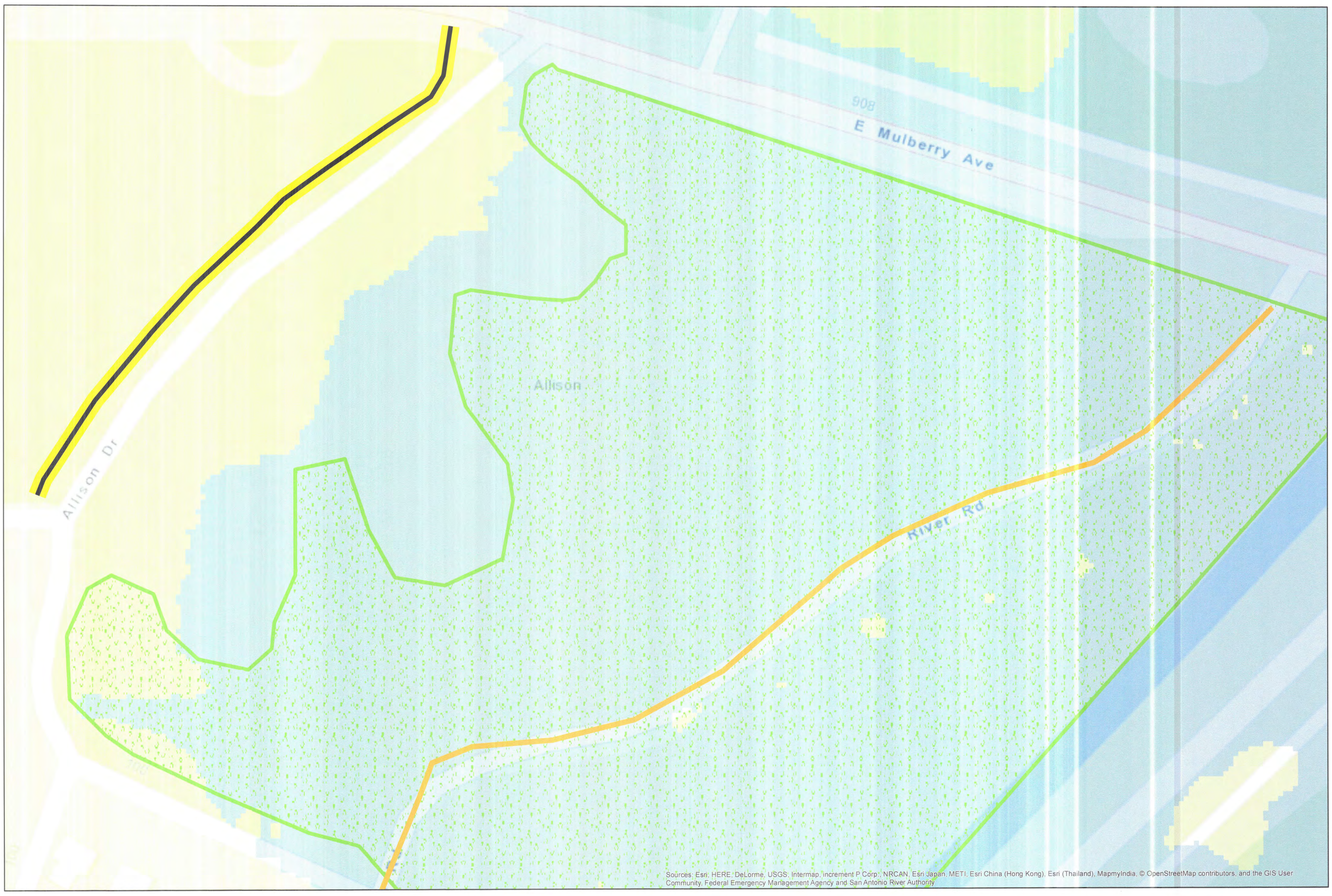
Alternative 3: Reroute River Road

#3



3A. Partial removal of River Road, rerouting traffic to re-established Allison Drive, while protecting the acequia. Plant Allison Park with native species.

3B: Leave River Road in place and replant Allison Park with native species.

N

0 50 100 150 Feet

Allison Dr. Reestablishment

Removal of River Rd.

River Rd. to Remain

Allison Park Native Planting

1% Annual Chance FEMA Floodplain

#1

Alternative 3: Reroute River Road

3A. Partial removal of River Road, rerouting traffic to re-established Allison Drive, while protecting the acequia. Plant Allison Park with native species.

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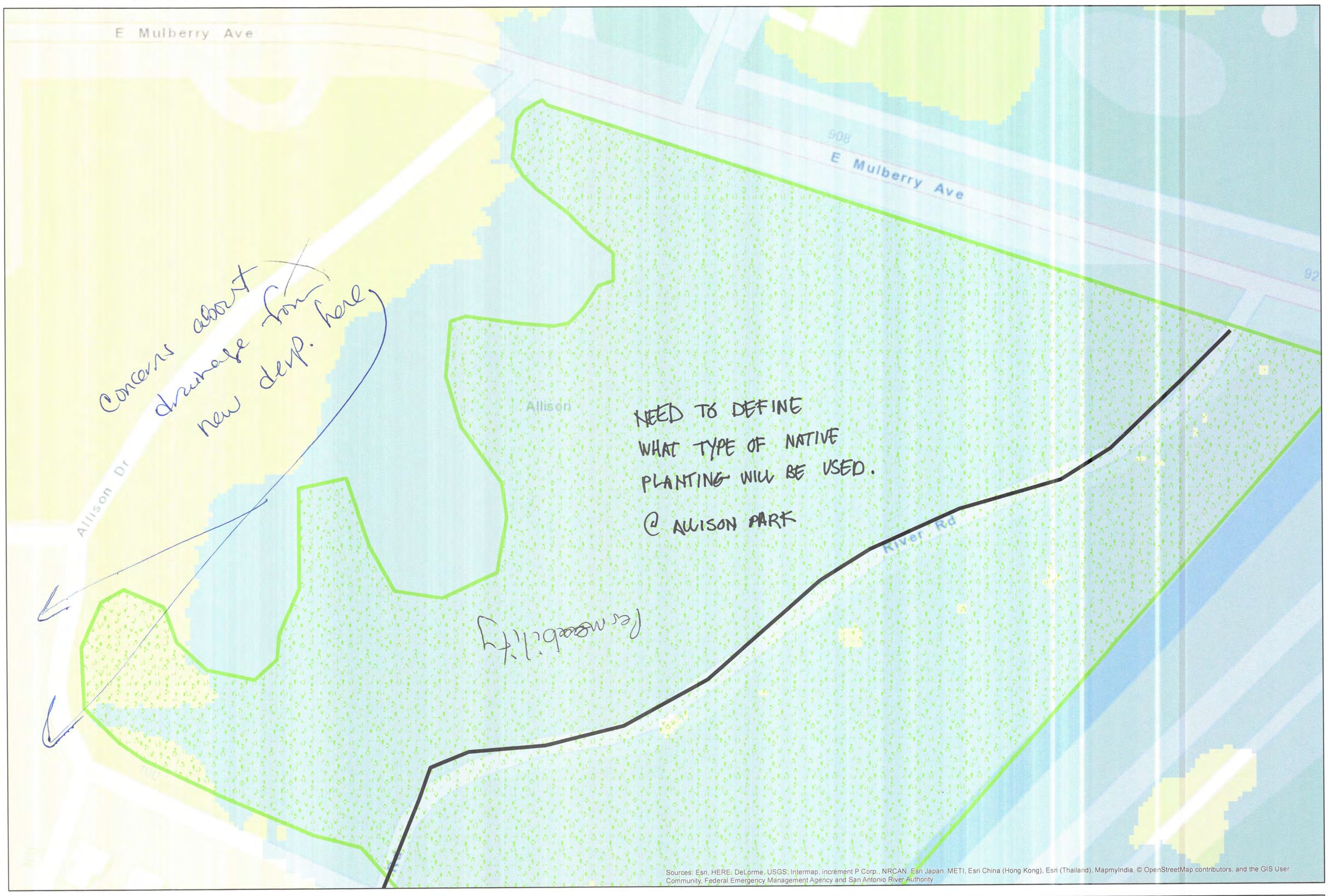

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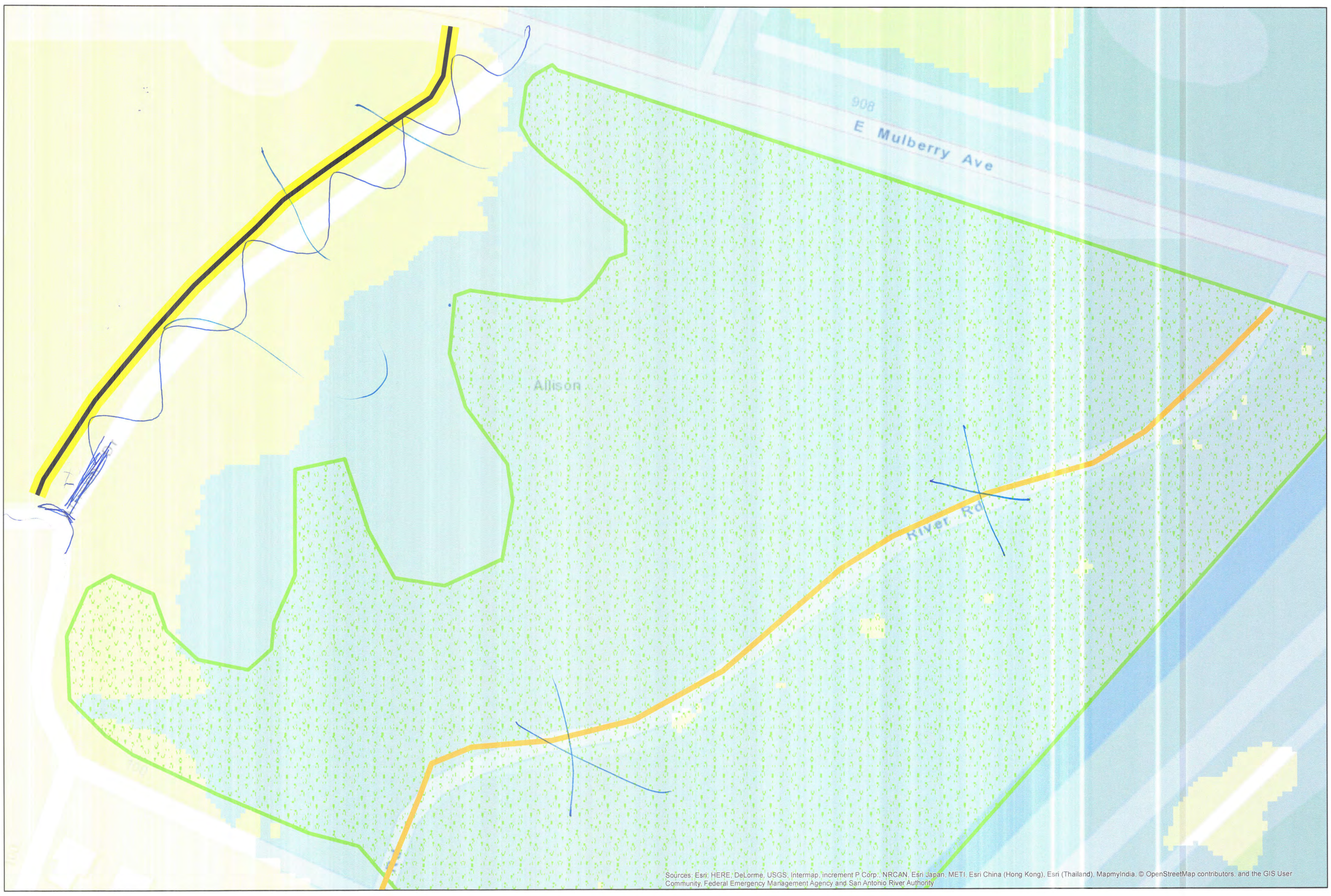

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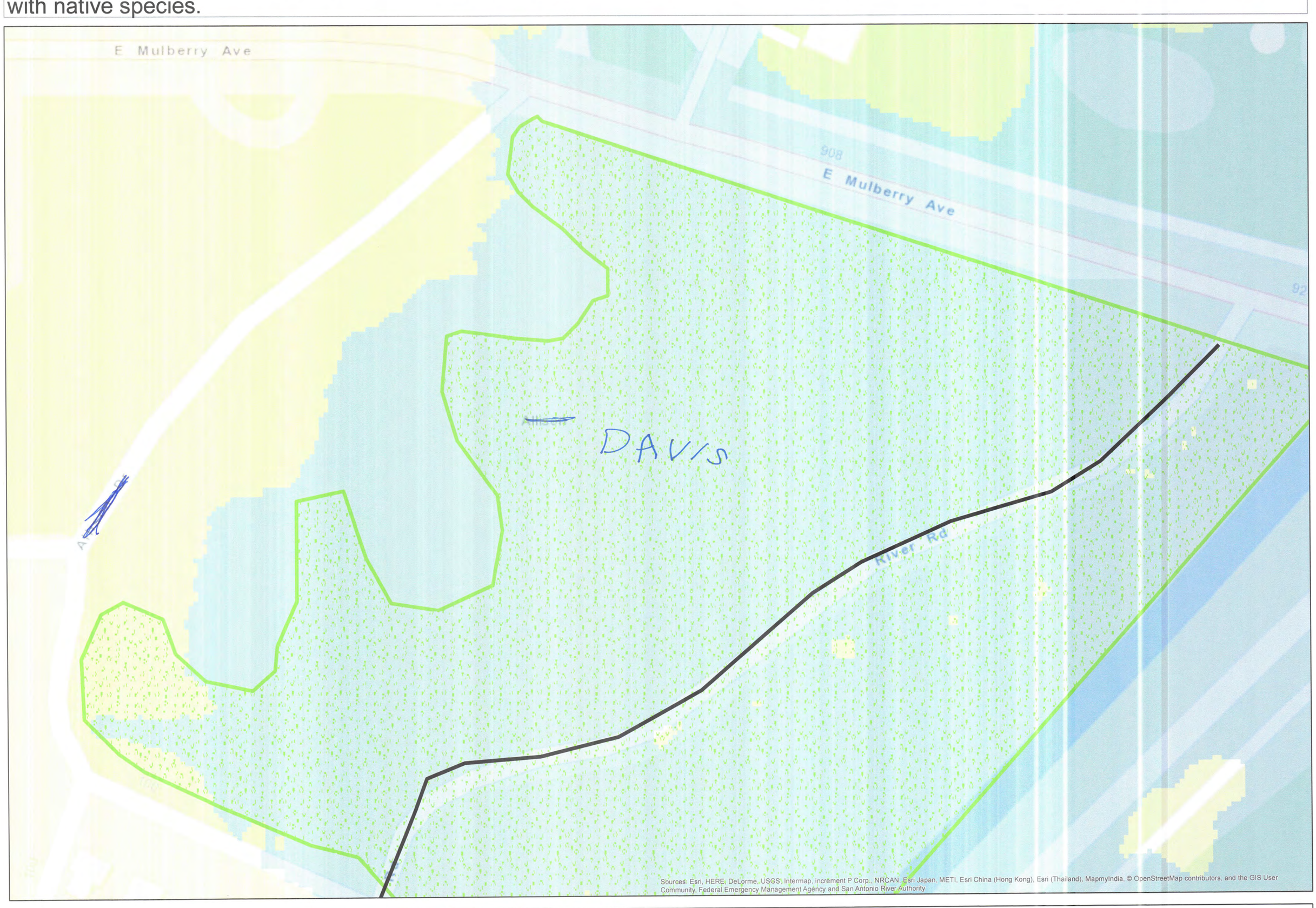

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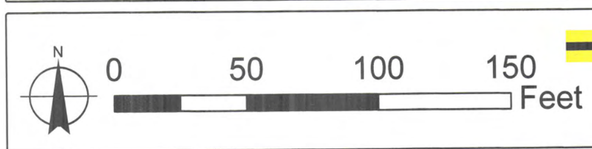

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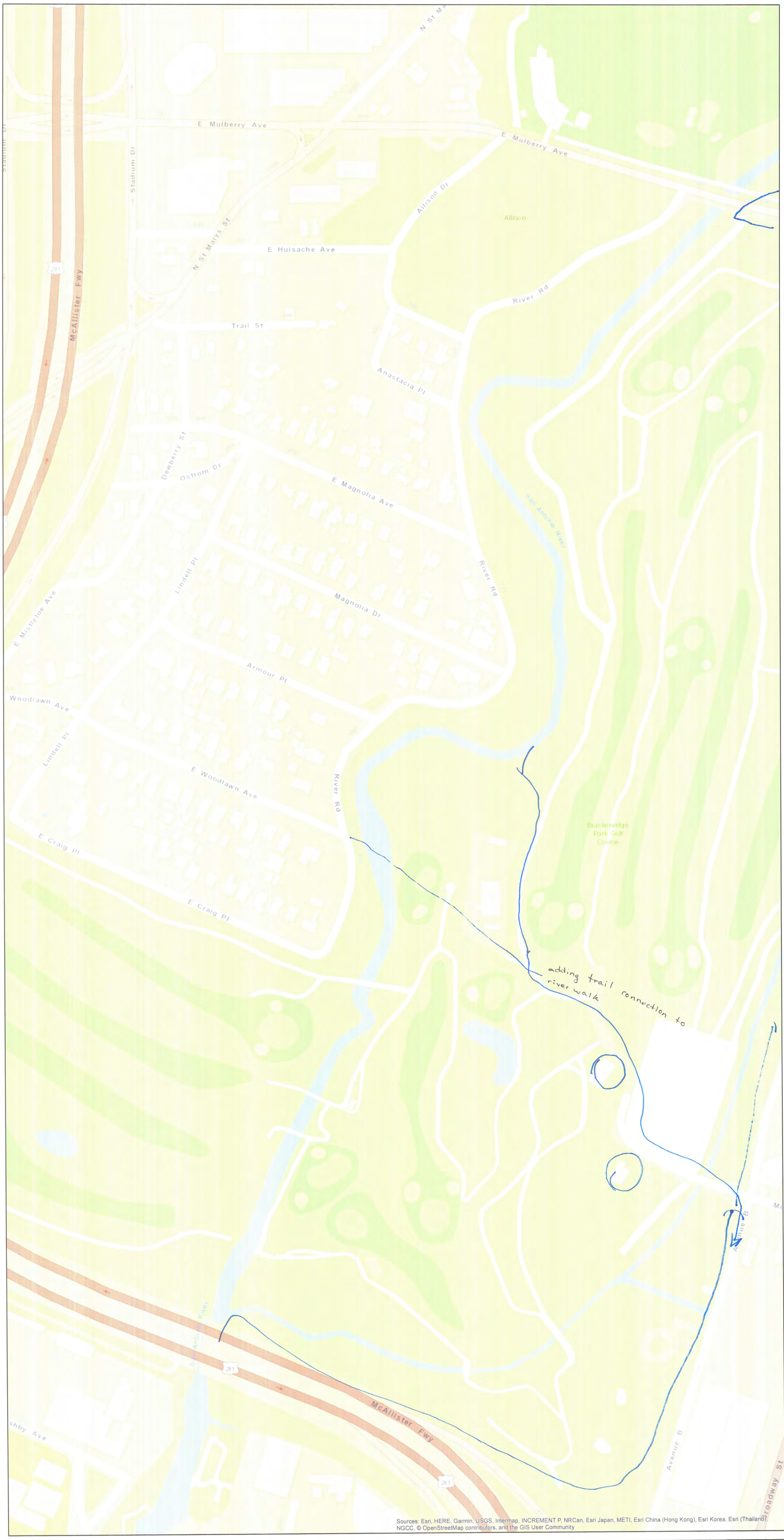
Restoration and Recreation Components



Install recreation amenitites and other elements to protect restoration features.

N

0 155 310 620 930 Feet

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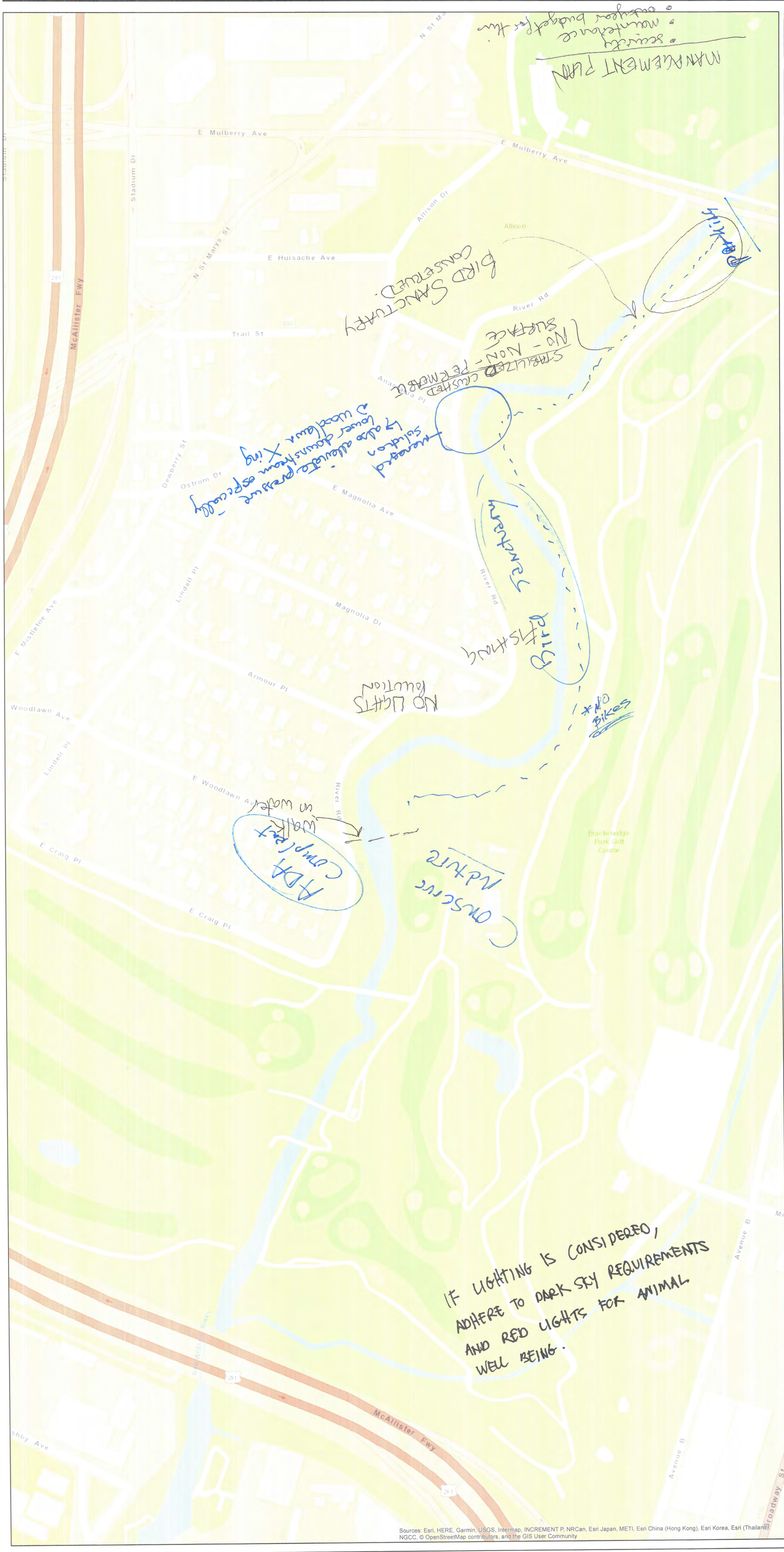

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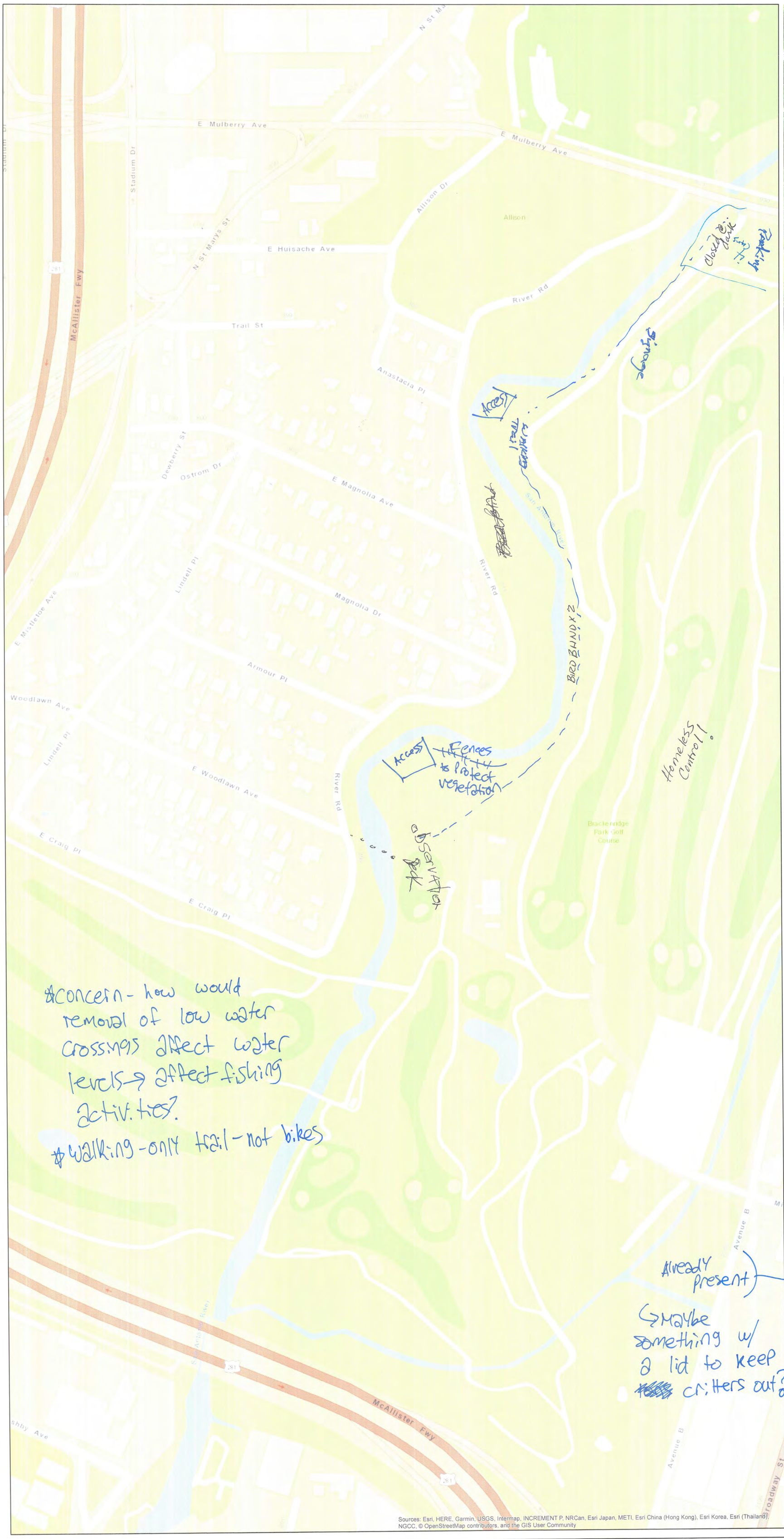

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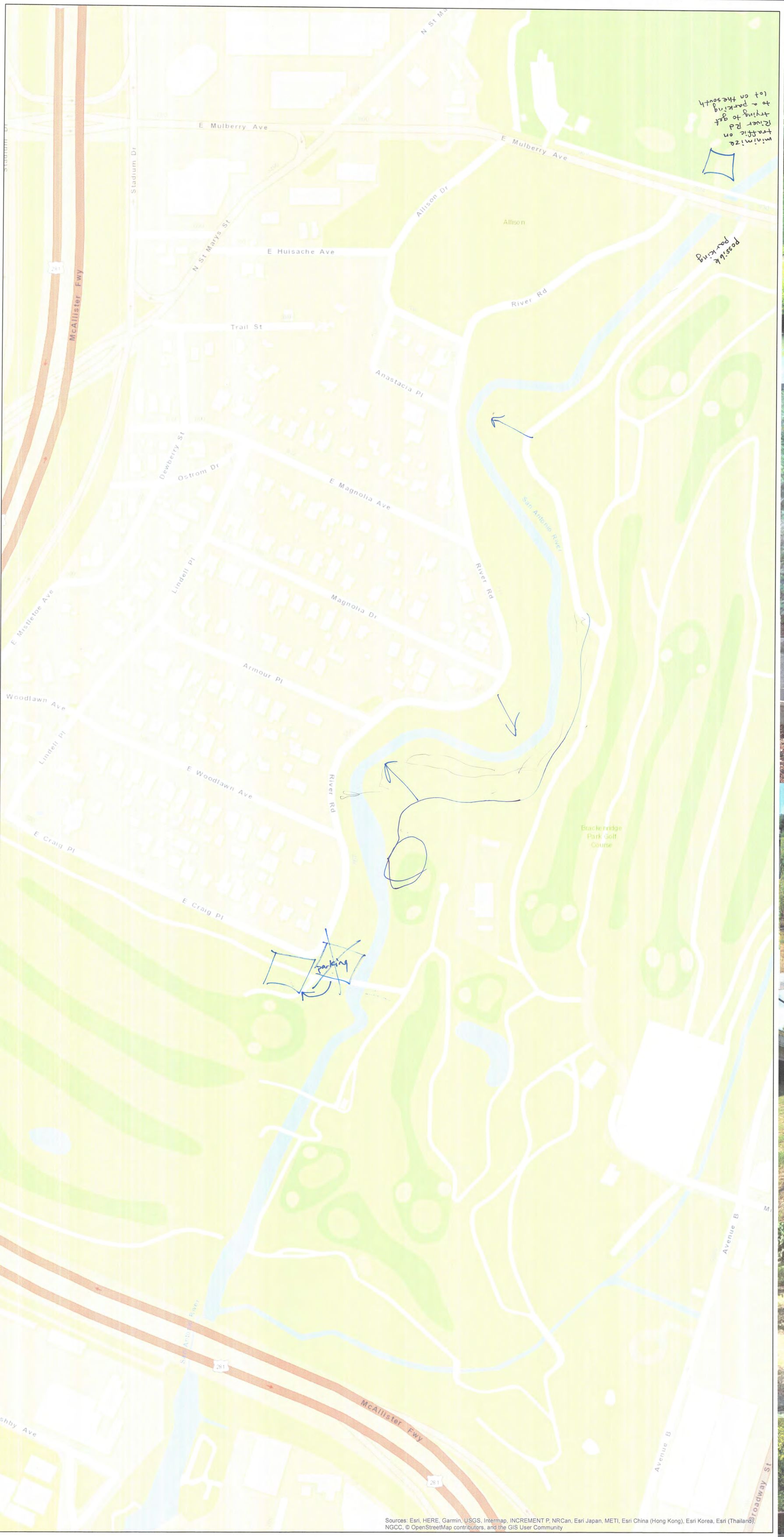

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