



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Seattle District  
Permit Application  
No. NWS-2026-300**

Published: June 10, 2026  
Expires: July 10, 2026

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Seattle District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest regarding the proposed activity as described below and as shown on the enclosed drawings.

**APPLICANT:** Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
Attention: Captain Nathan Gammache, Commanding Officer  
3730 N. Charles Porter Ave (N01P)  
Oak Harbor, Washington 98278

**AGENT:** Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest  
(NAVFAC NW)  
Attention: Ms. Katherine Whittlesey  
1101 Tautog Circle, EV21  
Silverdale, Washington 98315

**LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The project is located within Clover Valley Creek and adjacent wetlands at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, 3730 Charles Porter Avenue, Oak Harbor, Island County, Washington (48.332988, -122.654550).

**PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The applicant is requesting a DA permit to construct a new approximately 92,000-square-foot, eight-bay aircraft maintenance hangar and associated infrastructure at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to support long-term EA-18G Growler maintenance operations. Associated facilities include an aircraft apron, a tow-way connection to the existing flight line, parking areas, utilities, stormwater management facilities, security fencing, a wastewater collection tank, and related site improvements. The project also includes regrading a portion of Clover Valley Creek and installing a culvert beneath the site access road and tow-way.

The project would permanently fill approximately 0.478 acre (607 linear feet) of Clover Valley Creek, a non-fish-bearing stream, through placement of approximately 1,543 cubic yards of fill material, excluding culvert volume. The project would also result in 6.043 acres of permanent wetland fill, including 5.760 acres in Wetland A and 0.283 acre in Wetland B. Permanent wetland impacts would require placement of approximately 47,443 cubic yards of fill material, consisting of concrete pavement, asphalt pavement, crushed surfacing, gravel, and clean soil.

Within Wetland A, approximately 43,357 cubic yards of fill would be placed, including 4,933 cubic yards of concrete pavement, 516 cubic yards of asphalt pavement, 664 cubic yards of crushed surfacing, 5,962 cubic yards of gravel, and 31,282 cubic yards of clean soil. Within Wetland B, approximately 4,086 cubic yards of fill would be placed, including 66 cubic yards of concrete pavement, 9 cubic yards of asphalt pavement, 12 cubic yards of gravel, and 4,000 cubic yards of clean soil.

The project would also result in 2.519 acres of temporary wetland impacts and approximately 41,256 cubic yards of wetland excavation.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the project is to provide sufficient aircraft maintenance capacity and associated support infrastructure at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to support long-term EA-18G Growler maintenance operations and maintain fleet operational readiness.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant has provided the following information to explain how impacts to waters of the United States associated with the proposed activity are to be avoided, minimized, and compensated for.

Avoidance and minimization measures have been incorporated into project design to reduce impacts to aquatic resources to the maximum extent practicable. The new hangar is sited adjacent to existing infrastructure and apron areas to minimize the need for additional paved surfaces, and the facility footprint is limited to the minimum size necessary to meet operational requirements. Grading and side slopes have been minimized to avoid and reduce impacts to adjacent wetlands. During construction, erosion and sediment control measures, including silt fencing and other BMPs, would be installed to protect downstream aquatic resources. Temporary construction features and disturbed areas would be restored following construction.

To compensate for unavoidable permanent wetland impacts, the applicant proposes permittee-responsible mitigation at the Crescent Creek site within the same HUC-10 watershed (1711001901). The mitigation site consists of Navy-owned uplands adjacent to an existing salt marsh restoration area and would be used for wetland creation. The site was selected due to its hydrologic connectivity to Crescent Creek, high likelihood of successful wetland establishment, and potential to provide greater long-term ecological functions than the impacted Category IV wetlands. Wetlands would be created at a 1.5:1 ratio, with a goal of achieving Category II wetland functions, resulting in a net increase in wetland functions and values within the watershed.

The USACE will determine the type and amount of compensatory mitigation necessary to offset losses of waters of the United States which may result from the proposed activity in accordance with 33 CFR § 332.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The work would be completed over a period of five years.

The wetland boundaries shown on the project drawings have not yet been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines the boundaries of the wetland/waters are substantially inaccurate a new public notice may be published.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES/CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The U.S. Navy, as the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Nations as appropriate.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. The U.S. Navy, as the lead agency for ESA consultation, will consult with the NMFS and/or the USFWS as required under Section 7 of the ESA.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action would impact EFH in the project area. The U.S. Navy, as the lead agency for a determination regarding EFH, will consult with the National Marine Fisheries Services if necessary.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires applicants proposing any activity that may result in a discharge into waters of the U.S. to provide the USACE with a certification from the jurisdiction in which the discharge originates that the discharge will comply with applicable water quality requirements. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is the certifying authority for this activity. The USACE cannot make a final permit decision until Ecology determines the activity would not result in a discharge, grants certification (with or without conditions), waives certification, or fails to act within the reasonable period of time. Conditions may be added to the USACE permit if Ecology determines they are necessary to ensure compliance with the applicable water quality standards.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:** The Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act requires federal agencies to ensure their activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State's approved CZM program. The U.S. Navy is the entity responsible for obtaining concurrence from the Washington Department of Ecology regarding CZM consistency.

**NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS:** Coordination with the U.S. Forest Service may be initiated pursuant to Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. § 1278).

**NOTE:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the USACE jurisdiction has not been verified by USACE personnel.

**EVALUATION:** 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 benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical 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. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The fill material will be obtained from local sources and will consist of clean soil, gravel, crushed surfacing, concrete, and asphalt.

**COMMENTS:** The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Tribal Nations; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposed activity. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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. Any comments or objections which are received during this period may be forwarded to the applicant for possible resolution before the determination is made whether to issue or deny the requested permit. Please note that all comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

The Seattle District will receive written comments on the proposed activity, as outlined above, until July 10, 2026. A copy of this Public Notice is posted through the Regulatory Request System (RRS) and can be accessed through this link: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>

Click Public Notices and filter to Washington State to see all current Seattle District Public Notices, including this notice. You may also submit your comments directly through this portal.

Alternatively, you may submit comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division,  
Attention: Mr. Brody Garner,  
4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202,  
Seattle, Washington, 98134-2388  
Telephone: (206) 561-7686  
Email: [brody.g.garner@usace.army.mil](mailto:brody.g.garner@usace.army.mil)

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island; NWS-2026-300

Encl: Figures (3)

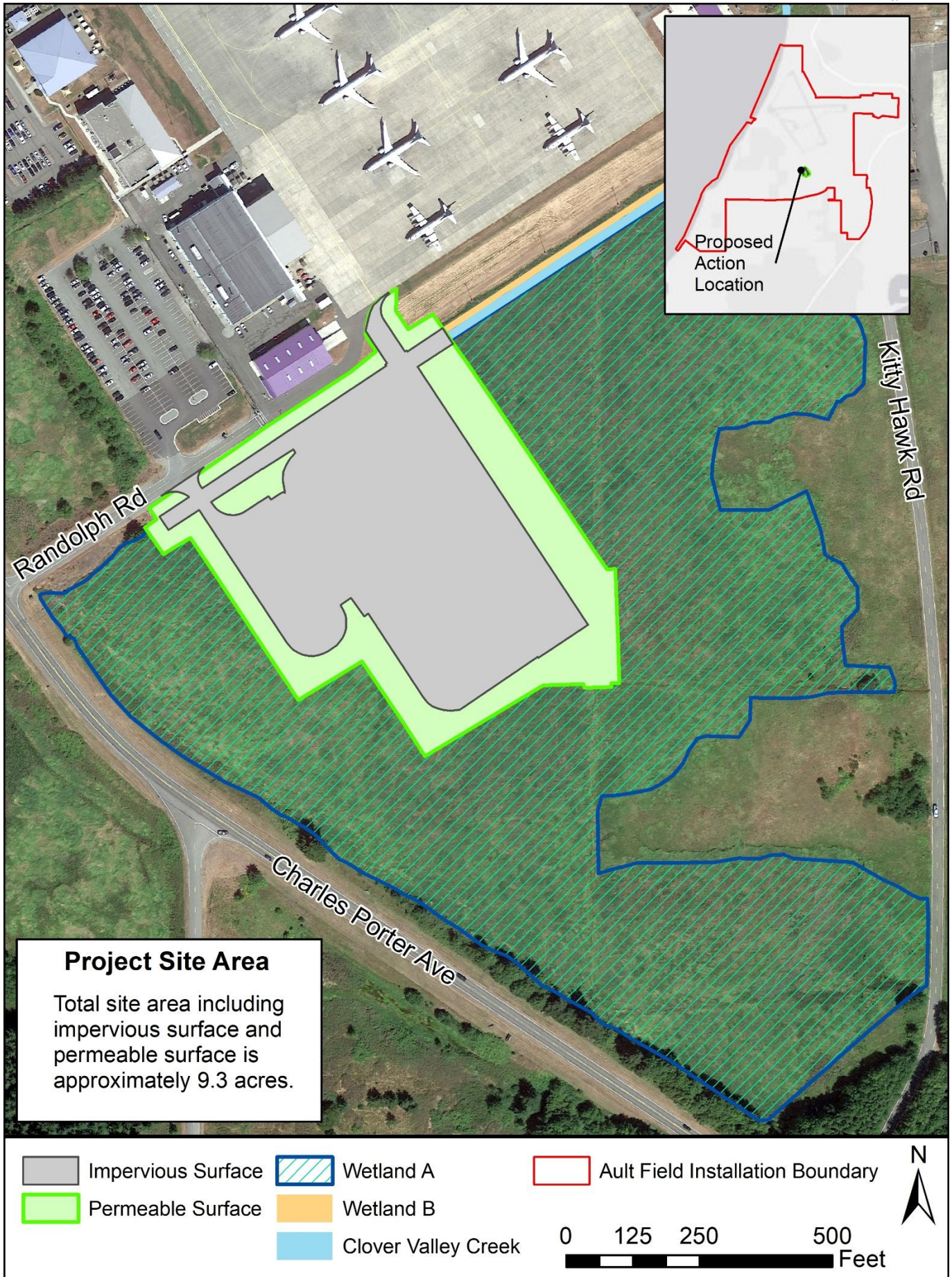


Figure 1 – New Impervious and Permeable Surfaces

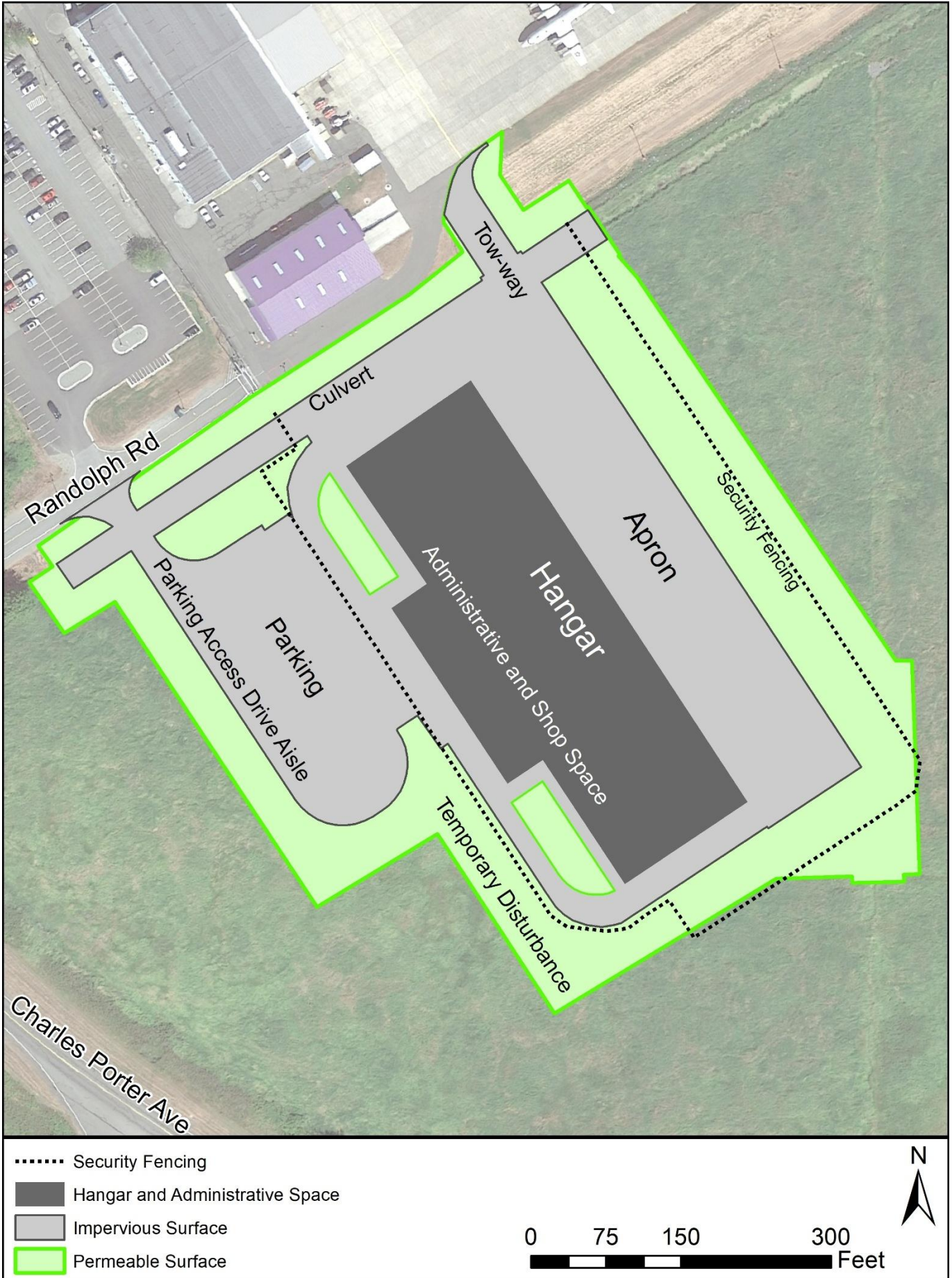
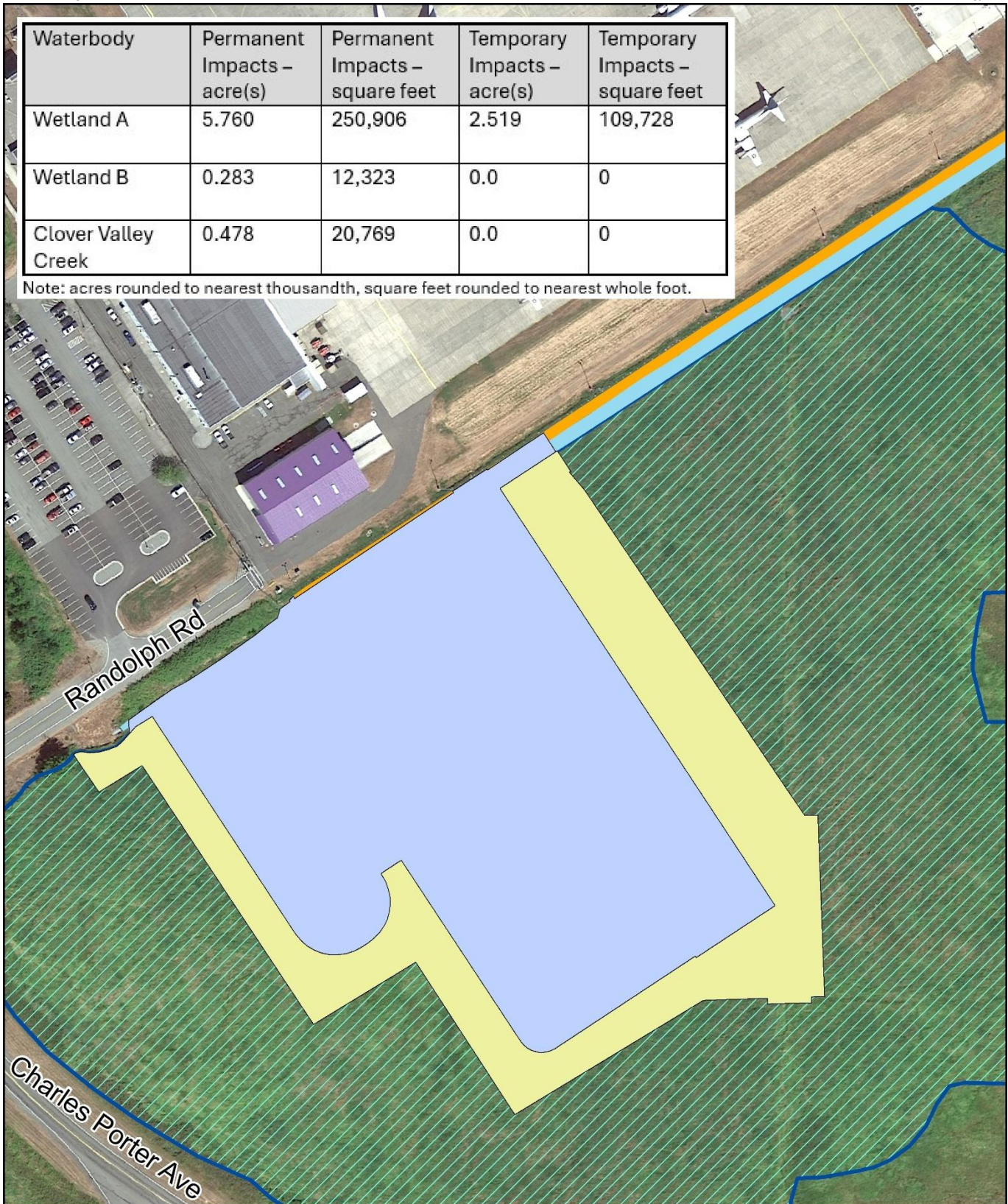


Figure 2 – Project Concept Plan

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Waterbody	Permanent Impacts – acre(s)	Permanent Impacts – square feet	Temporary Impacts – acre(s)	Temporary Impacts – square feet
Wetland A	5.760	250,906	2.519	109,728
Wetland B	0.283	12,323	0.0	0
Clover Valley Creek	0.478	20,769	0.0	0

Note: acres rounded to nearest thousandth, square feet rounded to nearest whole foot.



Permanent Impacts
  Temporary Impacts

Wetland A
  Wetland B
  Clover Valley Creek

0 100 200 400 Feet

**Figure 3 – Permanent and Temporary Impacts**