

PLANNING DATE

COUNCIL DATE

STAFF REPORT

PREPARED BY:

Devon Boullion, Environmental Specialist dboullion@tyrone.org | (770) 881-8320

DOCKET/APPLICATION #

APPLICANT

ADDRESS/PARCEL

22TYR-VAR0002

EastGroup Properties, LP

Parcel 0726 068

SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

Applicant EastGroup Properties, LP has submitted a petition for a stream buffer variance at Parcel 0726 068 for the three existing intermittent streams in two locations along the eastern property line. The purpose for this variance request is to fulfill a condition of the Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance's land development requirements.

The variance request consists of stream buffer and setback encroachments in two locations affecting approximately:

- 457 linear feet of intermittent stream.
- 51,656 square feet of disturbance within the Town's 50' undisturbed stream buffer.
- 18,164 square feet of impervious surfaces in the Town's 25' impervious surface setback.

Council's decision to grant or deny the proposed variance is based in determining compliance with local land development regulations. Council's determination is necessary prior to Town staffs' environmental and engineering reviews of the final site plan and construction authorization. Review and approval of proposed wetland and stream encroachments under the jurisdiction of state and federal regulatory agencies will be necessary prior to construction authorization by the Town. It should be noted that the state and federal requirements and permits are reviewed using a different legal standard than the applicable local standards.

EastGroup Properties, LP is requesting a variance consistent with the description for this petition matching the proposed encroachments in exhibit B prepared for the proposed "EastGroup – Highway 74 Business Tech Park" development.

STAFF DETERMINATION

Variance applications may be granted on a case-by-case basis if the Applicant submits information showing the location of the stream, the extent of encroachment, and documentation of the extreme hardship which would arise should the buffer be maintained. The Town must remain consistent in their findings of extreme hardship and consideration of long-term impacts in order to justify granting variances. The location and extent of buffer encroachment, long-term water quality impacts, potential, less intrusive alternate designs, and proposed mitigation measures are additional factors to weigh when hearing a stream buffer variance request.



EXISTING WATER FEATURES	GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREA	PROPERTY ACREAGE	PROPOSED DISTURBED ACREAGE	PROPOSED TOWN STREAM BUFFER AND SETBACK ENCROACHMENT	PROPOSED IMPERVIOUS SURFACE AREA	DRINKING WATER SUPPLY WATERSHED
3 intermittent streams 1 pond Wetlands	Yes	60.9	59.5 (97.7% total site area)	Buffer - 1.19 acres Setback - 0.42 acres (<2.7% total site area)	37.04 acres 60.8% impervious area	Whitewater Creek

ORDINANCE APPLICABILITY

Subpart B, Chapter 105, Article IV - Stream Buffer Protection

Sec. 105.92(a) - Land development requirements.

- (a) <u>Buffer and setback requirements.</u> All land development activity subject to this article shall meet the following requirements:
- An undisturbed natural vegetative buffer shall be maintained for 50 feet, measured horizontally, on both banks (as applicable) of the stream as measured from the top of the stream bank.
- 2. An additional setback shall be maintained for 25 feet, measured horizontally, beyond the undisturbed natural vegetative buffer, in which all impervious cover shall be prohibited. Grading, filling and earthmoving shall be minimized within the setback.

VARIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Subpart B, Chapter 105, Article IV - Stream Buffer Protection Sec. 105.92 - Variance procedures.

(3) Variances will be considered only in the following cases:

- a. When a property's shape, topography or other physical conditions existing at the time of the adoption of the ordinance from which this article is derived prevents land development unless a buffer variance is granted.
- b. Unusual circumstances where strict adherence to the minimal buffer requirements in the article would create an extreme hardship.

ORDINANCE COMPATABILITY & STREAM IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Would a strict adherence to the minimal buffer requirements create extreme hardship? Strict adherence to the minimal buffer requirements would reduce buildable area on the site. It would prevent the applicant from utilizing the areas of the property included in the stream buffers and impervious area setbacks to the extent proposed in the applicant's petition. Strict adherence to the minimal buffer requirements would require the applicant to re-configure the conceptual site development plan, which was prepared as a supplemental document for the purposes of a re-zoning petition. The determination of fact on this matter (would adherence to the minimal buffer requirements create an extreme hardship) can only be made by the Town Council. Council's determination of fact is a threshold issue; the variance can only be considered if the Council first determines that strict adherence to these buffer requirements creates an extreme hardship.
- 2. Are there extraordinary, exceptional, or peculiar conditions pertaining to the particular piece of land in question which are not applicable to other properties with similar requirements?

 This piece of property is similar to other large, undeveloped properties throughout Tyrone. Compared to properties of a similar size in Tyrone, this property has neither an exceptional or peculiar number of water features, not a proportion of the property's total acreage that would be considered unbuildable per the Town's ordinances.
- 3. Would literal interpretation of this chapter deprive the applicant of any rights that others with similar site conditions are afforded? The literal interpretation of this ordinance would not deprive the applicant of any rights afforded to others with similar site conditions. The Town's Stream Buffer Protection ordinance was adopted by the Town Council in 2007 -- the buffer and setback requirements outlined in the ordinance have since been applied to similar proposed land development activities on similar sites. Council's decision to grant or deny the requested variance will be viewed as precedent by future petitioners seeking stream buffer variances for proposed developments on properties with similar site conditions.
- 4. The unusual conditions and circumstances are not a result of any actions of the applicant. It should be noted that a conceptual development plan is not a final site plan submittal. Final site plans are subject to review by the Town's Technical Review Committee (TRC) for compliance with all local development and environmental regulations. This conceptual development plan was not subject to reviewed by the TRC and staff's denial for the purpose of a re-zoning petition would have been improper. Approval of a conceptual development plan does not guarantee or constitute approval of a final site plan. Adherence to minimum stream buffer requirements and zoning buffer requirements is not considered an unusual condition or circumstance. The required construction of a multi-use path is an unusual condition. With appropriate alternative site design, however, the path could be incorporated into the plans in a manner that would not require a local stream buffer variance request.
- 5. Whether alternative designs are possible which require less intrusion or no intrusion. Alternative site designs that require no or less intrusion are possible but would require a reduction in the buildable area on-site. The applicant has not provided an alternative site plan. Applicant stated that the business park and multi-use path, as proposed and approved in the conceptual development plan, would be undevelopable without the use of the existing stream areas as shown in the variance petition, exhibit B.
- 6. Relief if granted would not be injurious to the public health, safety, environment, and general welfare or impair the purposes and intent of these regulations. The purpose of this regulation is to protect public health and safety, the environment, and general welfare; to minimize public and private losses due to erosion, siltation and water pollution; and to maintain stream water quality by: (1) Creating buffer zones along the streams of the town for the protection of water resources; and (2) Minimizing land development within such buffers by establishing buffer zone requirements and requiring authorization for any such activities. Regarding the purposes and intents of these regulations, granting of variance requests, though allowed by ordinance, should be kept to a practicable minimum to protect water quality, provide for infiltration of stormwater runoff, preserve wildlife habitats, scenic value, recreation value, and minimize flood risks from future developments.
- 7. The long-term and construction water-quality impacts of the proposed variance and whether issuance of the variance is at least as protective of natural resources and the environment; In addition to adherence to the Town and state minimum standards for construction and post-construction stormwater management, the applicant proposed additional green infrastructure (infiltration) practices, namely bioretention areas and enhanced filter strips, as on-site mitigation measures. Based on a preliminary staff review, the engineering practices proposed for the site appear to satisfy best engineering practices and standards. While proposed mitigation measures are a factor, the cumulative impact on local watersheds should be taken into consideration. These best engineering practices are only intended to minimize (or mitigate) the impacts associated with the creation of impervious surface areas and encroachment in stream buffers; they are not purported or intended to eliminate the environmental impacts associated with land development.

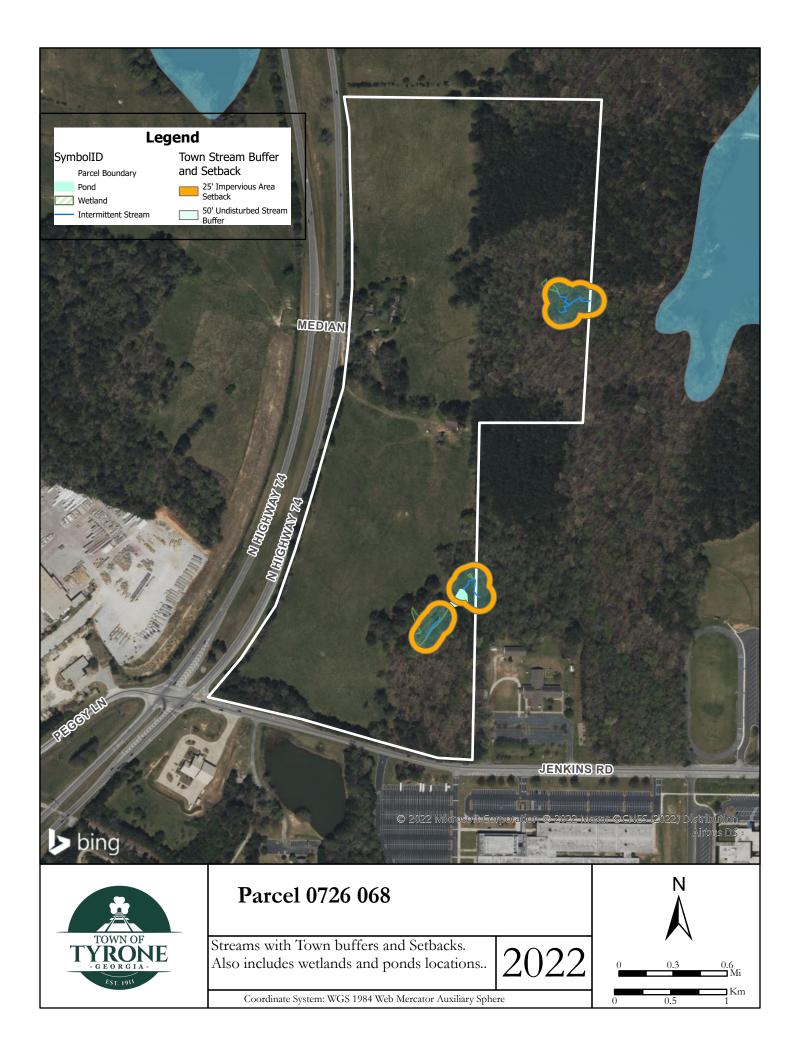


EXHIBIT A

Applicant Narrative

HIGHWAY 74 TECHNOLOGY PARK & STUDIO

60.9 acres, Light Industrial (M-1 PIP)
Supplemental for Variance Application
November 2, 2022

Executive Summary:

On October 14, 2022 EastGroup Properties purchased 60.9 acres located along the east side of Highway 74 between Sandy Creek Road and Jenkins Road. On August 18, 2022 EastGroup received unanimous approval from Town Council of our development plan for a 5-building, 738,882 square foot business technology park and studio. With this application, we are requesting a local stream buffer variance that is required to construct our previously approved development plan.

As stated in the July 28, 2022 rezoning narrative submitted to Town Council as part of the rezoning approval, "[EastGroup's] stream buffer impacts will comply with all permitting requirements from the appropriate jurisdictions." Our 3rd party environmental consultant, Contour Environmental, submitted a stream buffer variance to the Army Corps of Engineers on October 5th, 2022. It should be noted that this local variance request herein is identical to the state/federal variance request and consistent with what is typically approved for similar developments in Fayette County and other municipalities in which EastGroup invests.

Hardships:

The hardships warranting this request include:

- 1. Both EastGroup and the Town of Tyrone desire a multi-use path along the eastern property line, and such multi-use plan is unbuildable without the proposed variance. Integrating the multi-use path, which was a condition of development plan approval, creates a vast majority of the grading needed within the streams and buffers along the eastern property line.
- 2. EastGroup's development plan that was approved by the Town of Tyrone would be unbuildable without the proposed variance. Specifically, 2 of the 5 buildings cannot be built as planned without the variance, which would reduce building square footage by as much as 150,000 square feet (equivalent to a \$20,000,000 loss of value and meaningful reduction of future jobs and tax revenue). This reduction in the planned development size

- would restrict our ability to provide the enhanced architectural building design facing Highway 74.
- 3. The site coverage is already limited in size by the 20', 50' & 100' zoning buffers required on the eastern and western side of the property. Specifically, the 100' zoning buffer, 50' multi-use easement, and the landscaped buffer take up more than 10% of the entire site. Layering on stream buffers further negatively impacts site coverage.

Proposed Mitigation:

<u>EastGroup is providing more on-site mitigation using green infrastructure than it is disturbing</u> <u>within the 50' undisturbed local buffer</u>. In addition, we have already agreed to provide the landscape berm and multi-use path that approximate 133,000 square feet.

To mitigate the proposed stream and wetland impacts, EastGroup will:

- 1. Install **30,605 square feet of bioretention areas** to be planted with native vegetation.
- 2. Install **vegetated filter strips** along the shoulders of the multi-use path that will provide treatment of the runoff produced by the impervious surface of the path. This would improve the post-developed condition of the path's runoff. The grass chosen for the filter strips will improve the visual aspects of the multi-use path that we hope will service many residents of the Town of Tyrone.
- 3. EastGroup will **contribute monetarily** (approximately \$600,000) to an environmental mitigation fund that will improve environmental conditions off-site as required by the Army Corps of Engineers.

In conclusion, EastGroup remains committed to partnering with the Town of Tyrone. Approval of the proposed variance will allow EastGroup to construct a multi-use path for the Town of Tyrone and its citizens, which will expand connectivity of existing Town infrastructure. Such variance approval will also allow EastGroup to complete the development plan unanimously approved by the Town Council, and one that will be planned with the highest-quality architectural and landscape standards to further enhance the Town's Community Gateway.







TOWN OF TYRONE BUSINESS TECH PARK & STUDIO











Gateway Commerce Park Miami, Florida





Horizon Commerce Park Orlando, Florida



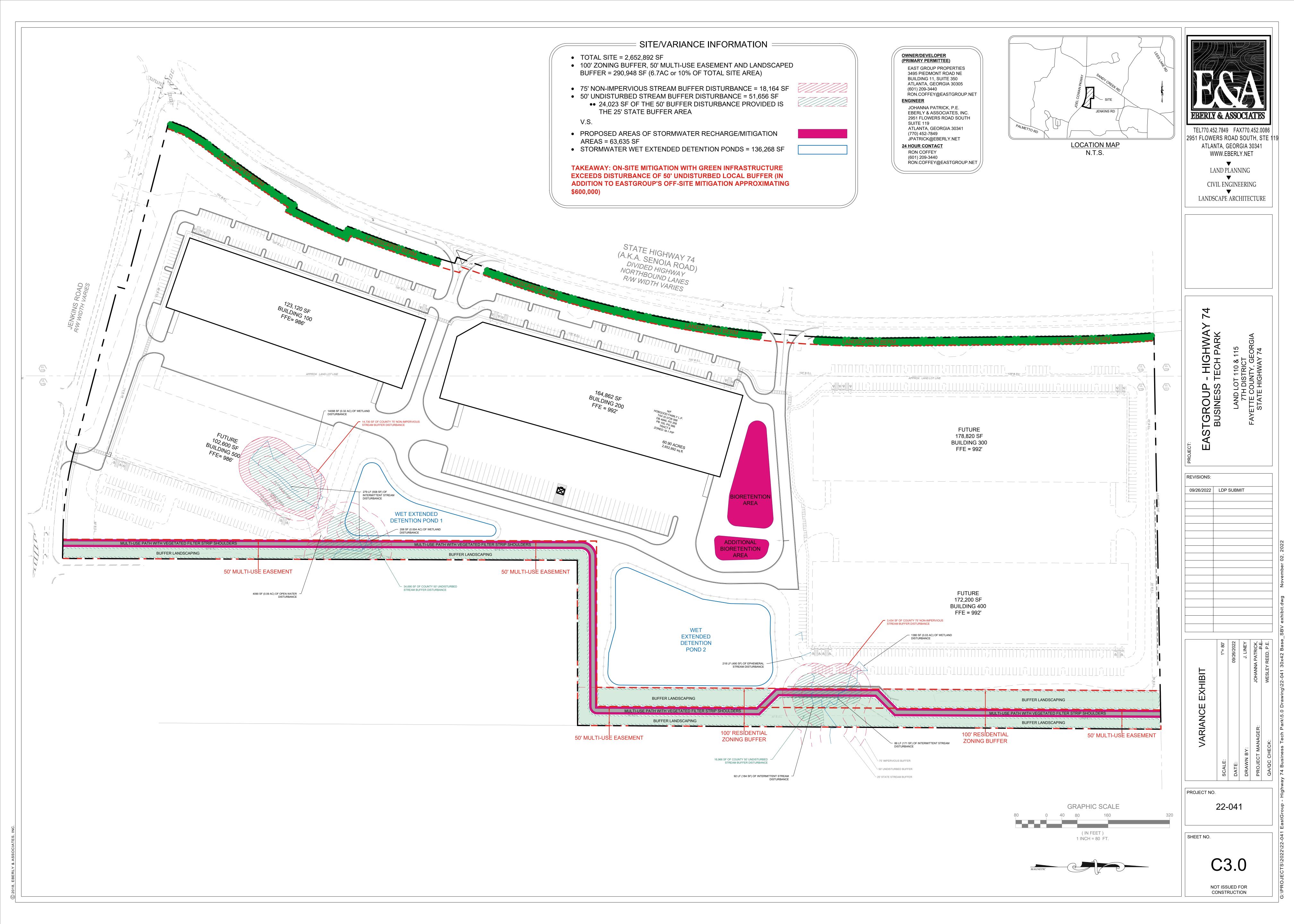


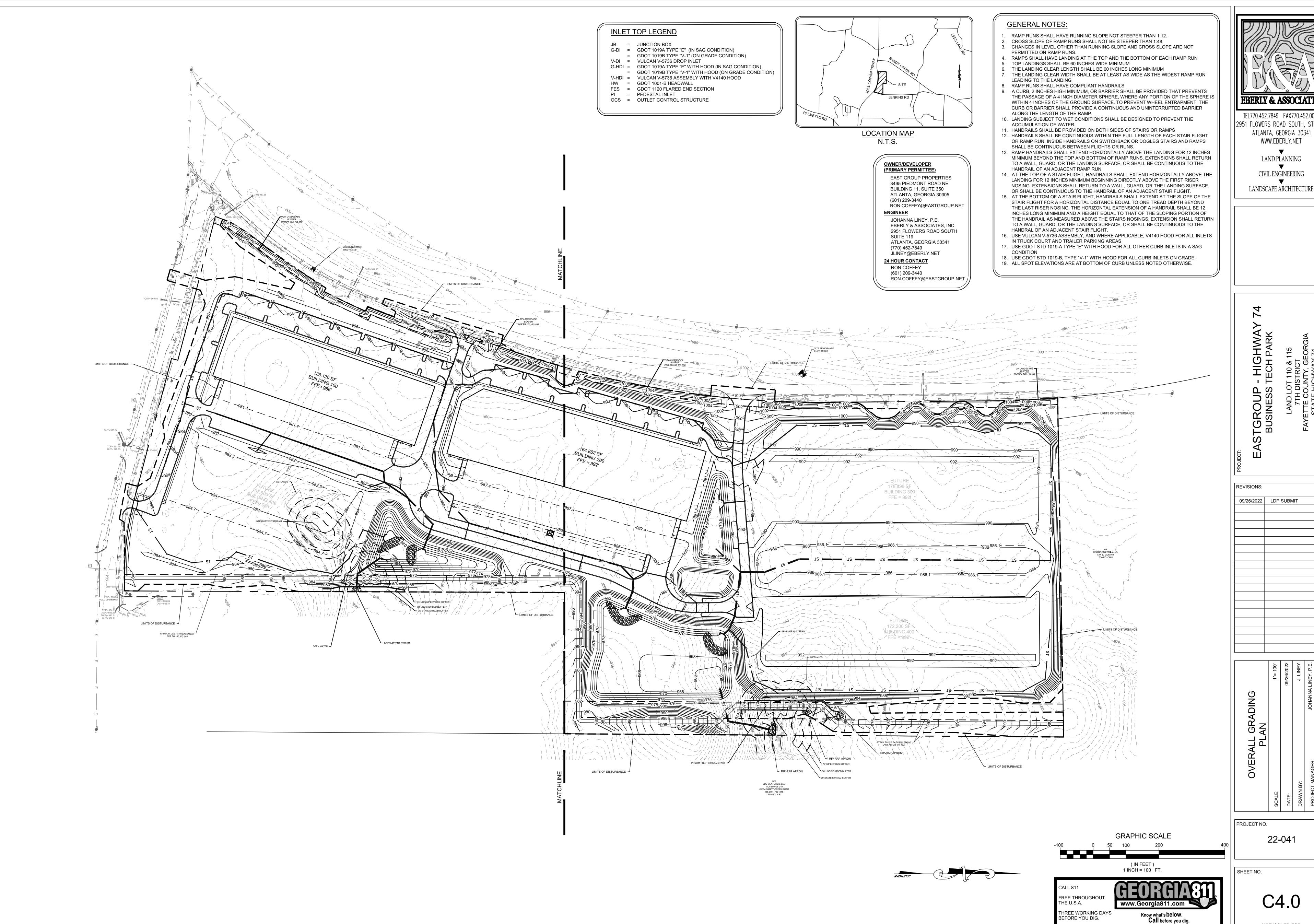
Steele Creek Commerce Park Charlotte, North Carolina

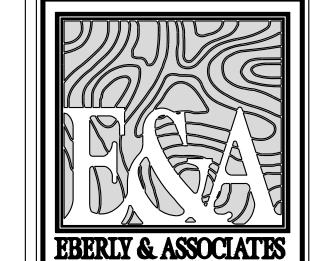


EXHIBIT B

Applicant Site Maps







TEL770.452.7849 FAX770.452.0086 2951 FLOWERS ROAD SOUTH, STE 119

> LAND PLANNING CIVIL ENGINEERING

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

REVISIONS:

09/26/2022 | LDP SUBMIT

22-041

C4.0

NOT ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION

Georgia Stormwater Management Manual Stormwater Quality Site Development Review Tool Version 2.2

	Gen	neral Information	
Name of Developer:	East Group Properties	Date Submitted:	9/29/2022
Development Name:	HWY 74 - Business Tech Park	Permit Number:	
Site Location / Address:	Jenkins Road & GA-74	Developer Contact:	
	Tyrone, GA	Phone Number:	
		Name of Engineer(s):	Johanna Liney - Eberly & Associates
Development Type:	Light Industry	Maintenance Responsibility:	
• • •		•	

Site Summary

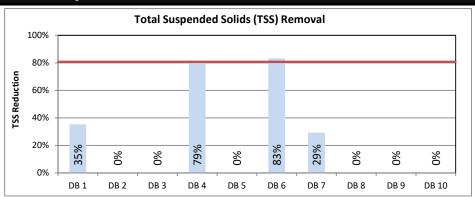
Total Pre-Development Area (ac): 61.74
Total Post-Development Area (ac): 61.74
Total Treated Area (ac): 56.79
Total Untreated Area (ac): 4.95

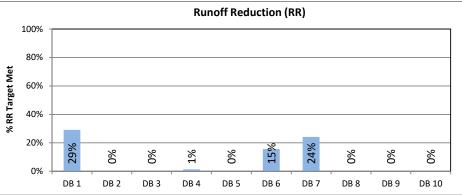
_		I (ac)	P (ac)	CA (ac)
Basin 1	DB 1	0.03	0.42	0.00
Basin 2	DB 2	0.00	0.75	0.00
Basin 3	DB 3	0.09	0.59	0.00
Basin 4	DB 4	11.08	5.45	0.00
Basin 5	DB 5	0.00	0.09	0.00
Basin 6	DB 6	25.77	15.75	0.00
Basin 7	DB 7	0.07	1.46	0.00
Basin 8	DB 8	0.00	0.19	0.00
Drainage Basin 9	DB 9	0.00	0.00	0.00
Drainage Basin 10	DB 10	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	37.04	24.70	0.00

I = Impervious Area, P = Pervious Area, CA = Conservation Area

Target Runoff Reduction Volume Achieved? No Target TSS Removal Achieved? Yes

Total Target Runoff Reduction Volume (cf) 132,215 Runoff Reduction Volume Achieved (cf) 14,603 Total Target Water Quality Volume (cf) 158,659 % TSS Removal Achieved 81%





Official Use Only Tracking #: Conditions of Approval: Reviewed By: Date Approved:

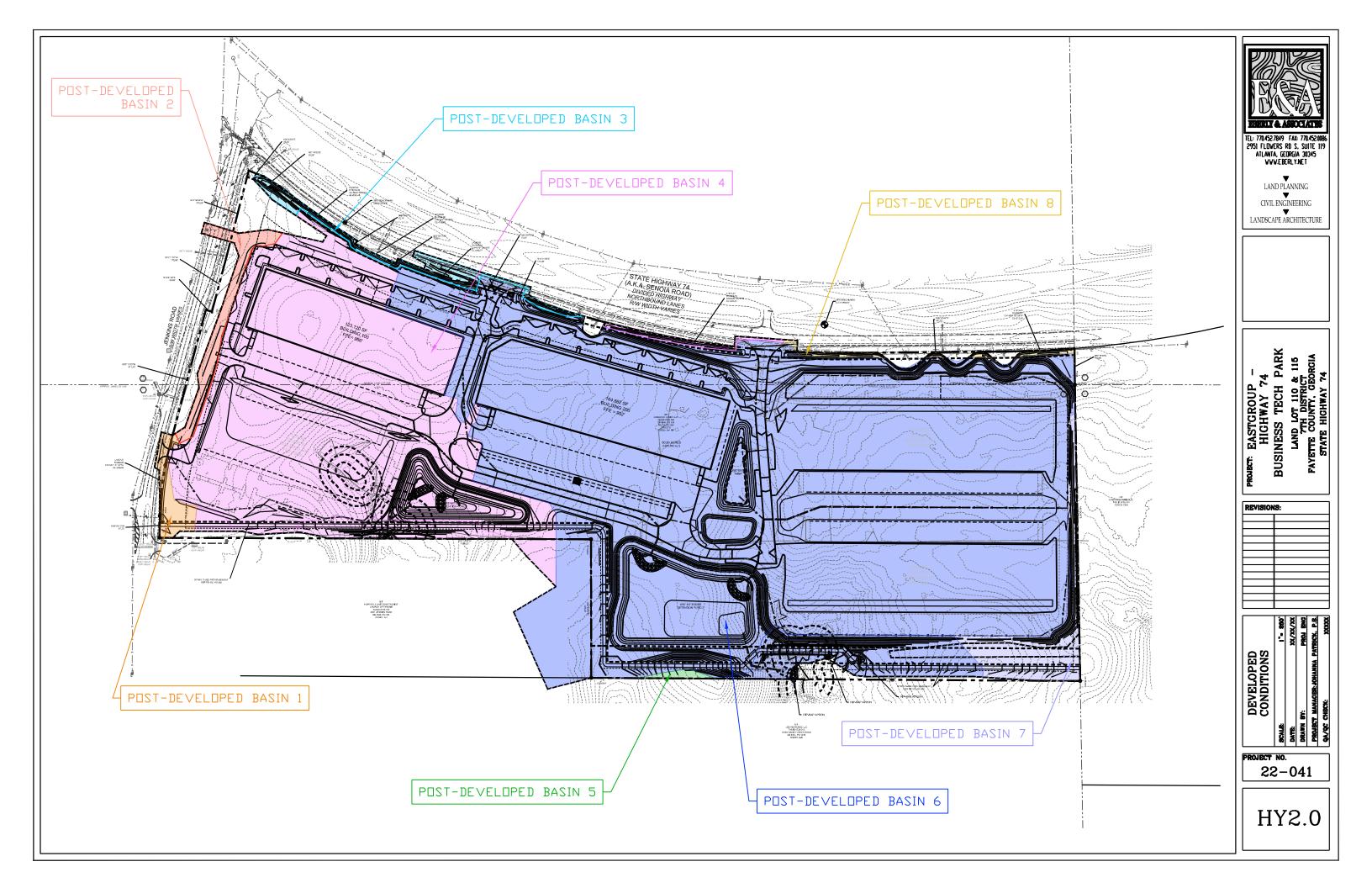


EXHIBIT C

Application & Supporting Documentation

TOWN OF TYRONE APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

PETITION TO THE TOWN OF TYRONE PLANNING COMMISSION AND TOWN COUNCIL REQUESTING A VARIANCE

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE MUST BE FILED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS OR BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS

Variance requests require a total of two (2) public hearings one by the Planning Commission (4th Thursday of the month) and another public hearing by the Town Council. (3rd Thursday of the month) Public hearings are at the Tyrone Town Hall.

VARIANCE APPLICATION FILING FEES - \$125.00 ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE- \$50.00

Application filing fees may be refunded ONLY when an application request is with drawn in writing by the applicant PRIOR TO placement of the legal advertisement for said public hearing request (at least 15 days before scheduled Planning Commission public hearing)

All applications must be submitted online. Submission instructions can be found on the Town's website.

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED FOR VARIANCE REQUEST

(All application/documentation must be complete at the time of application submittal or the application will not be

Application form and all required attachments, completed, signed, and notarized (if applicable). Latest recorded Warranty Deed, including legal description of the boundaries of the subject property including total acreage. One digital copy of the Plat of property, drawn to scale with accurate dimensions, with the following indicated: a) Location and size of existing structures (principal and accessory) and improvements on the parcel, including type(residential, non residential), floor area, building height, and accessory uses, Structures to be removed must be indicated and labeled as such unless demolition or removal will occur prior to applying for a building permit. b) Minimum setbacks form all property lines of subject property required in the zoning district. c) Location of all existing and proposed easements and streets on or adjacent to the subject property, indicating width of right- of -way, type and width of existing and proposed easements and centerline of streets d) Location and dimensions of exits/entrances to the subject property. e) Location of well or water lines. f) Existing septic tank and drain field location, and replacement area g) Approximate location and elevation of the 100-year flood plain (if applicable). h) On site storm water facilities to include detention or retention facilities, i) Parking locations, approximate number of parking spaces, area for parking bay and aisle dimensions. i) Landscaped areas and buffers or tree save areas, to include width, general extent and type of materials.

k) Application filing fee

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE

PROPERTY OWNERS: Last Group Properties
MAILING ADDRESS: 3495 Piedmont Road NE, Building 11, Suite 350, Atlanta, GA 30305
HONE: 404-301-2670 FAX:
HONE: 404-301-2670 FAX: AGENT FOR OWNERS: Eberly & Associates
MAILING ADDRESS: 2951 Flowers Road South, Suite 119, Atlanta, GA 30341
PHONE: 770-452-7849 FAX:FAX:
PROPERTY LOCATION: LAND LOT LAND LOT LAND DISTRICT 7th PARCEL PARCEL
OTAL NUMBER OF ACRES OF SUBJECT PROPERTY: 60.90
CONING DISTRICT: M-1 ZONING OF SURROUNDING PROPERTY 0726 068
RESENT USE OF SUBJECT PROPERTY: Light Industrial
DODOGED LIGE OF CLIDIECT DEODEDV.
ROPOSED USE OF SUBJECT PROPERY:
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Application Insufficient due to lack of: Application and all required supporting documentation is Sufficient and Complete.
(THIS AREA TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF): PETITION NUMBER:
(THIS AREA TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF): PETITION NUMBER:

PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT AND AGENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

(Application requires authorization by <u>ALL</u> property owners of subject property)

Name(s) of All Property Owners of Record found on the latest recorded Warranty Deed for the subject property EastGroup Properties, LP Please Print Names Property Tax identification Number(s) of Subject Property: 0726 068 (I am) (We are) the sole owner(s) of the above -referenced property requested to be rezoned. Subject property is _District, and (if applicable to more located in the Land Lot(s) 110, 111, 114, 115 than one land district) Land Lot(s) of the _____ District, and said property consists of a total of acres (legal description corresponding to most recent recorded plat for the subject property is attached herewith). act as (my) (our) Agent in (I)(We) hereby delegate authority to _____ this rezoning. As Agent, they have the authority to agree to any and all conditions of zoning, which may be imposed by the Board. (I)(We) certify that all of the information field with this application including written statements or showing made in any paper or plans submitted herewith are true and correct to the best of (my) (our) knowledge and belief. Further, (I) (We) understand that any knowingly false information given herein by me/us will result in the denial, revocation or administrative withdrawal of the application or permit. (I) (We) further acknowledge that additional information may be required by Fayette County in order to process this application. Signature of Notary Public October 28, 2022 3495 Piedmont Road, Building 11, Suite 350 Atlanta, GA 30305 Date Address Signature of Notary Public Signature of Property Owner 2 Date Address Signature of Notary Public Signature of Property Owner 3 Date Address Signature of Notary Public Signature of Property Owner 4 Date Address

TOWN OF TYRONE REZONING, VARIANCE, SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPLICATION

The undersigned, making application for rezoning, variance, or special exception, has complied with the Official Code of Georgia Section 36-64A01, et seq., Conflict of interest in Zoning Actions and has submitted or attached the required information on the forms provided

Men Colley	Ron Coffe	y-Construction Manager
Signature of Owner	Type or Print	name and title
Signature of Owner's Attorney or Representative	Туре о	r Print name and title
Notary Public	Seal and expir	ation date PUBLIC
Have you, within the two years imm	Signature of Applicant	WALLES WALLES
Name and Official Position of Government Official	Contributions(List all which aggregate to \$250.00 or more)	Date Contribution was made. (within the last 2 years)
Attach additional she	ets if necessary to disclose or d Date Receive	

VARIANCE INFORMATION

Complete the chart below with the information pertaining to each request. If there are more than three (3) variances requested, please provide the information on a separate sheet of paper.

Ordinace/Section Subpart B, Chapter 105, Article IV, Section 105.92 (a)

Variance Summary

Provide a detailed and specific summary of each request. If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

The proposed variance consists of disturbance within the Town of Tyrone's issued stream buffer for the existing water features located on the subject property. The disturbance would be located within the 50' non-disturbed and 75' non-impervious buffers of three existing Intermittent streams that are located in two locations along the eastern property lines. In order to provide a replacement of the water features being mitigated, we are proposing multiple stormwater recharge areas, that were not contemplated at the time of rezoning approval: two bioretention areas (total 30,605SF), and significant enhanced filter strips along the shoulders of the multi-use path. The bioretention areas are upstream of the wet extended detention ponds to increase treatment of the stormwater to contribute to the runoff reduction, while the ponds provide Water Quality & Channel Protection provided per the Georgia Stormwater Management manual. The enhanced filter strips are to be installed along the multi-use path to provide treatment of the runoff produced by the impervious surface of the path. The runoff from the path flows directly to both existing stream areas, so the filter strips would improve the post developed condition of the path's runoff. The grass chosen for the filter strips will improve the visual aspects of the multi-use path that we hope will service many residents of the Town of Tyrone.

Justification of Request

1.	There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property in question
	because of its size, shape or topography.

2. The application of these regulations to this particular piece of property would create a practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship.

See attached supplemental memorandum for description of hardships.

- 3. Such conditions are peculiar to the particular piece of property involved.
- 4. Relief, if granted, would not cause substantial detriment to the public good or impair the purposes and intent of these regulations;

If relief from Code section 105.92 (disturbance within the County regulated 50' non-disturbed buffer & 75' non-impervious buffer) was granted this would not cause any detriment to the public. Relief would not cause substantial detriment to the public good. Granting the variance will contribute to public good by allowing for the construction of a multi-use path used by the citizens of the Town of Tyrone. In addition, EastGroup is providing more on-site mitigation than it is disturbing (aside from the \$600,000 in off-site mitigation). See attached narrative for more information.

5.	A literal interpretation of this Ordinance would deprive the applicant of any rights that others in the same Zoning district are allowed.
	6. Provided that the Commission may impose or require such additional restrictions and standards as may necessary to protect the health and safety of workers and a residents in the community, and to protect the value and use of property in the general neighborhoods; and provided that wherever the Commission shall find, in the case of any permit granted pursuant to the provisions of these regulations, that any or the terms conditions, or restrictions upon which such permit was granted are not being complied with, said Commission shall rescind and revoke such permit after giving due notice to all parties concerned and granting full opportunity for a hearing. In exercising the above powers, the Commission shall not consider any nonconforming use of neighboring lands. Structures or buildings in the same zoning district, and no permitted use of lands, structures, or buildings in other zoning districts as grounds for issuance of variance
	I acknowledge that I understand item 6. Color 10 · 28 · 2022 Applicant Signature Date