Ecosystem Enhancement PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM

To: David Phlegar, City of Greensboro Stormwater Program

From: Suzanne Klimek, EEP Director of Operations

Cc: Stephanie Horton, EEP Property Protection Supervisor
Perry Sugg, EEP Project Manager

Subject: Conservation Easement Vegetation Management
EEP Stream Restoration #29
Benbow Park – Greensboro, NC

Date: August 25, 2008

This memo is in response to the City of Greensboro's requests for guidance on managing riparian buffer vegetation within the conservation easement of the referenced stream restoration project. Issues regarding the riparian buffer arose out of requests from local citizens working through the City staff. Previous memos to the City dated September 19, 2005 and October 31, 2006 provide further details on these earlier requests and EEP's responses. Follow-up requests and proposals to address them were more recently discussed during two meetings between EEP staff and City staff held onsite on April 23, 2008 and June 10, 2008. The City has requested that the buffer be managed in a manner similar to the City's current buffer management policy of limited pruning of native plants and maintenance of exotic invasive plants. After careful consideration of the City's requests and proposal for managing the buffer vegetation, EEP is in agreement that the City may manage buffer vegetation in a manner that adheres to the requirements of the conservation easement and is consistent with the intentions of the easement for the purposes of stream restoration and mitigation credit requirements.

More specifically, the conservation easement will be delineated into two distinct vegetation zones: a managed herbaceous zone and a natural riparian forest zone (as shown on the attached map). The managed herbaceous zone consists of existing utility corridors within the easement and open parkland on designated areas of the easement. At a minimum and at the discretion of the City, this zone can be managed as grassed lawn with regular mowing. The riparian forest zone is designed to provide a functional natural riparian forest community along both sides of the stream. This zone has been planted with a variety of native plants (trees, shrubs, and native grasses) that will eventually culminate as a mature riparian forest along the stream. Vegetation within this zone can be managed by the City following the City's current riparian buffer management policy whereby the buffer is kept in a natural state and allowed to grow and mature. Management under the direction and supervision of qualified City staff entails limited pruning of lower limbs of trees and the removal and treatment of exotic invasive plant species. No mowing is allowed in the riparian forest zone.

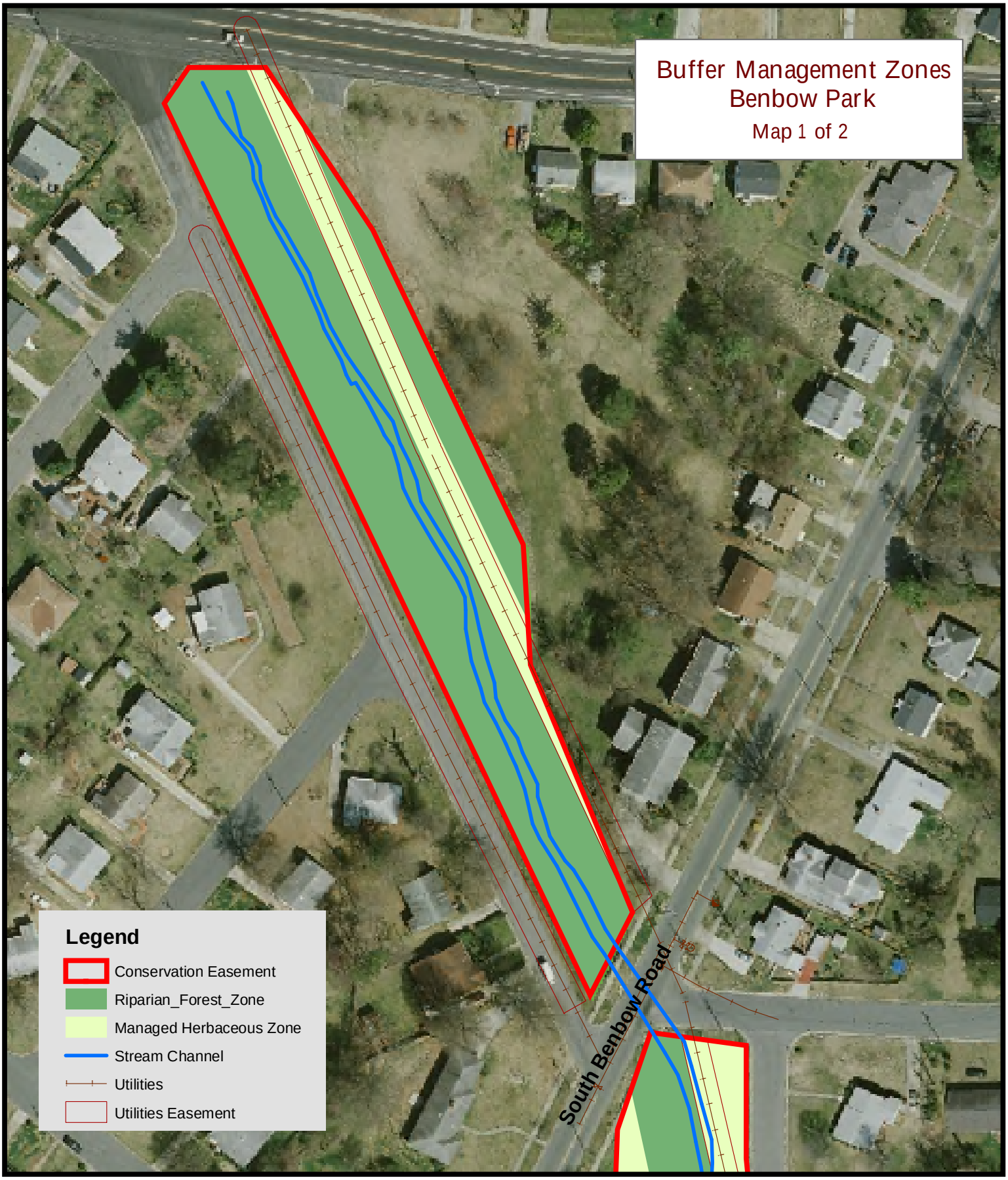
Thank you for meeting on site with EEP staff in June to distinguish the boundaries of the 2 zones, and for agreeing to maintain markings of the riparian forest boundary with permanent signs, bollards, or similar posting. This will help prevent any encroachment into the riparian forest by mowing and maintenance crews.

Also, EEP requests that the City contact EEP prior to any maintenance within riparian forest zone as a courtesy.

In order to ensure that these revisions and changes onsite are consistent with the above-listed items, the City will coordinate and schedule with EEP staff to confirm the revised boundaries and for EEP to make a final inspection once these changes are made. Please contact Stephanie Horton at (919) 715-1263 and Stephanie.horton@ncmail.net or Perry Sugg at (919) 715-1359 and perry.sugg@ncmail.net.

We hope this agreement on managing the riparian buffer is suitable to the City's request and we look forward to furthering our cooperative relationship for restoring streams and improving water quality in and around the City of Greensboro.

For further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (919) 715-1835 to discuss this at your convenience.

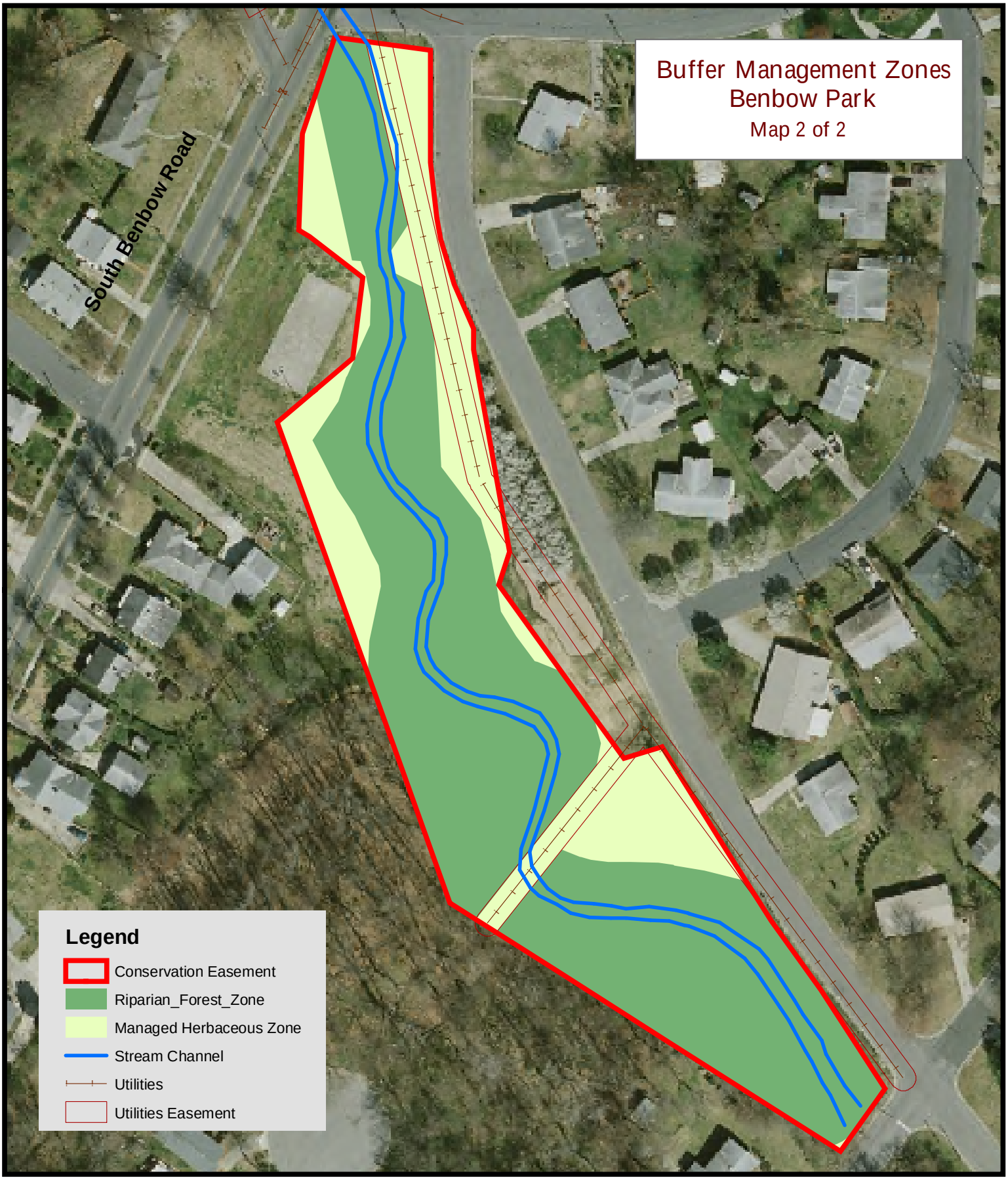


NOTE:
Bollards mark the boundary between the Managed Herbaceous Zone and the Riparian Forest Zone.

Benbow Park Stream Restoration
Greensboro NC
EEP #29

0 100 200 Feet

August 2008 - wps



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