

Public Meeting Everglades National Park

Rehabilitation of Parkwide Water and Wastewater Systems

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March 2023

Welcome / Introduction



Water Treatment Plant, Flamingo Area

Meeting Purpose

- Explain proposed project
- Explain environmental compliance requirements
- Instruct on how to comment on the environmental issues that should be analyzed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) under NEPA
- Comment period is now until March 20, 2023
- Provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide feedback



Meeting Guidelines

- Q&A will follow the presentation
 - Virtual: Use the Q&A function. Meeting is being recorded
- Comments and additional questions may be submitted through the Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/ever>



QR Code to
PEPC Website

Visitor Center, Royal Palm



Agenda

1. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process
2. Purpose and Need
3. Project Areas
4. Proposed Alternatives/Sites
5. Project Benefits
6. Resources Considered
7. How to Participate
8. Q&A

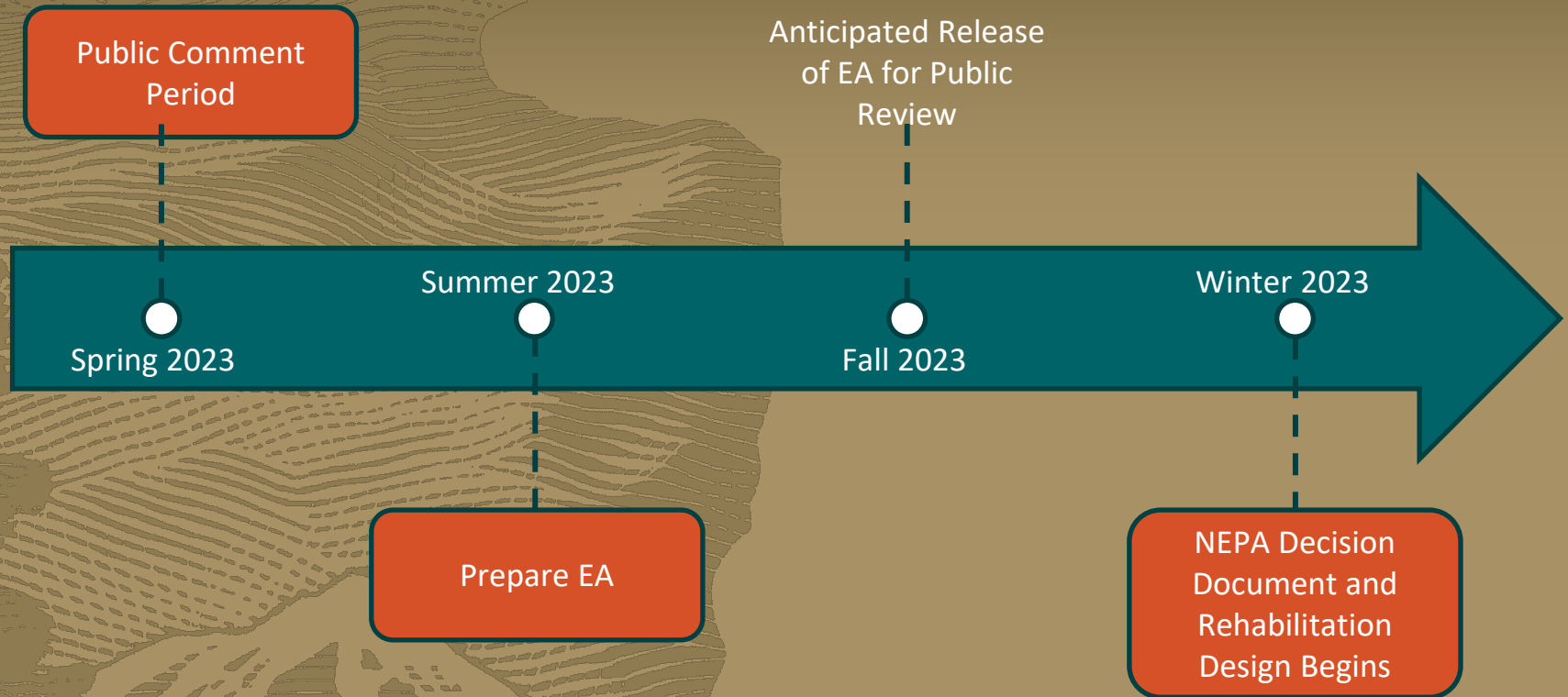


National Environmental Policy Act

- National Park Service Mission is tied to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- NEPA is a national policy for **protecting the environment**
 - Human and natural resources
- NPS is preparing a NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the project's environmental impacts
- Engage the public in the decision-making process



Timeline



NEPA Commenting Period

February 13 – March 20, 2023

- The comment period is an early and open process for determining the range of issues related to the proposed action to be addressed in the EA



Water Treatment Facility, Flamingo Area

Purpose and Need

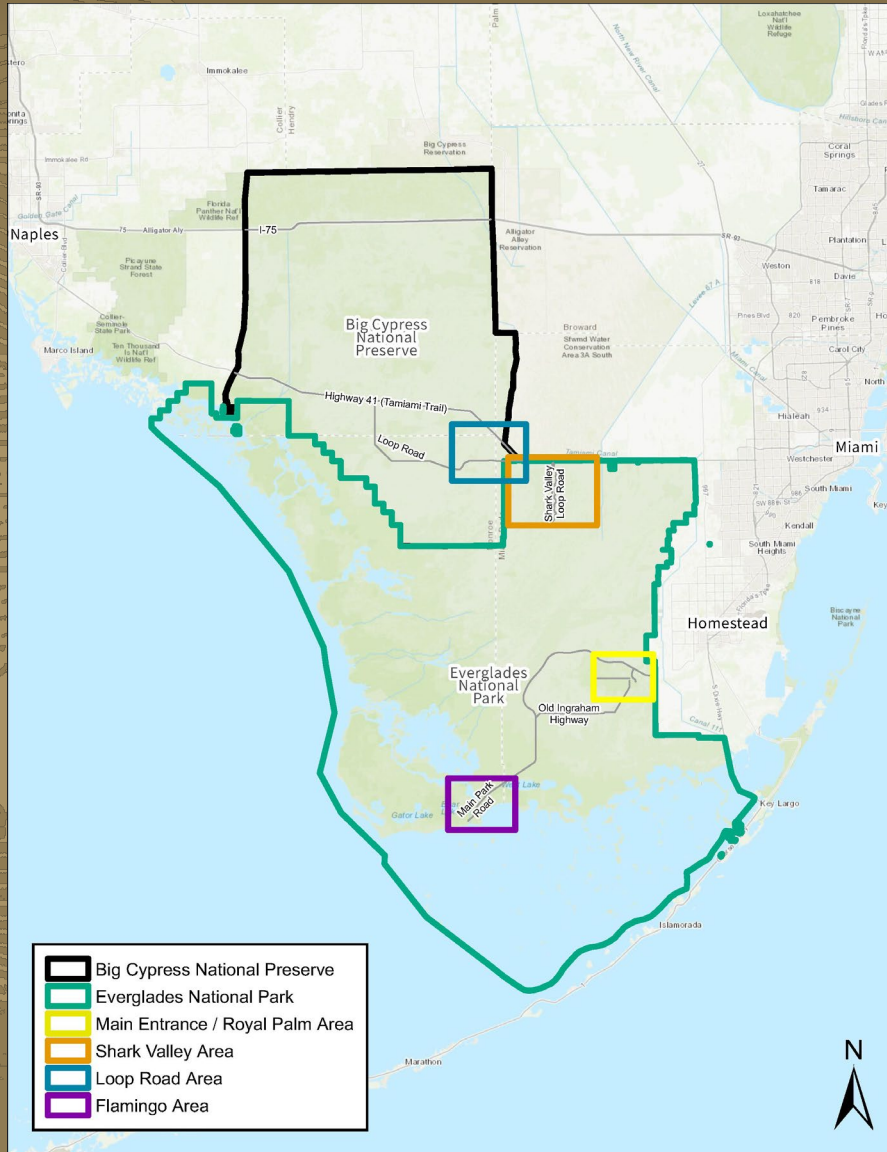
Purpose

- Address the physical and operational deficiencies of the Everglades National Park potable water and wastewater systems by improving the efficiency, operation, safety, and climate resiliency.

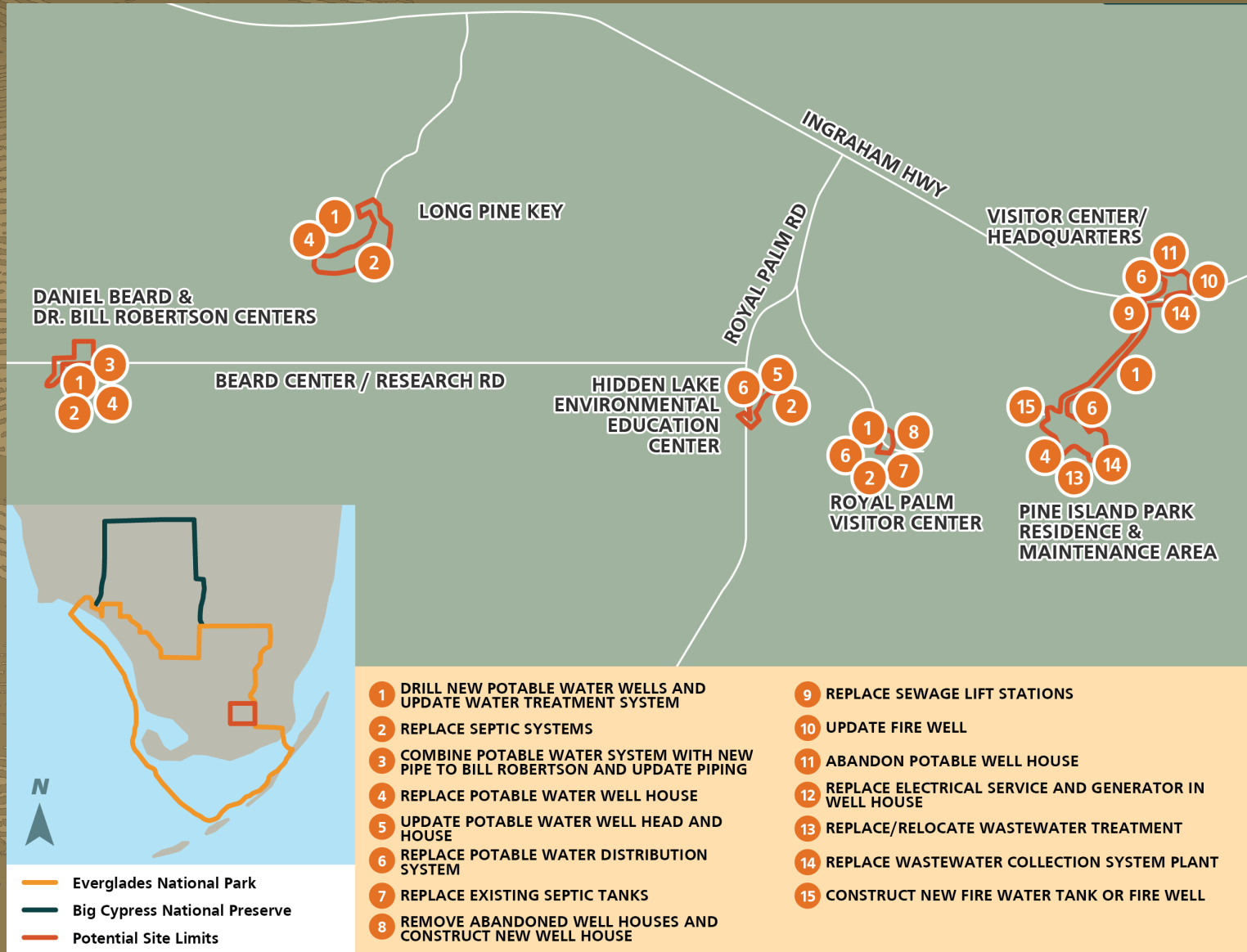
Need

- Current systems are:
 - Outdated and in need of repair and upgrade
 - Critically deficient, expensive to maintain, and only partially operable or at the end of their service life
 - At risk of contamination because of rising ground water levels
 - Deteriorating due to saltwater, high US index, and temperature

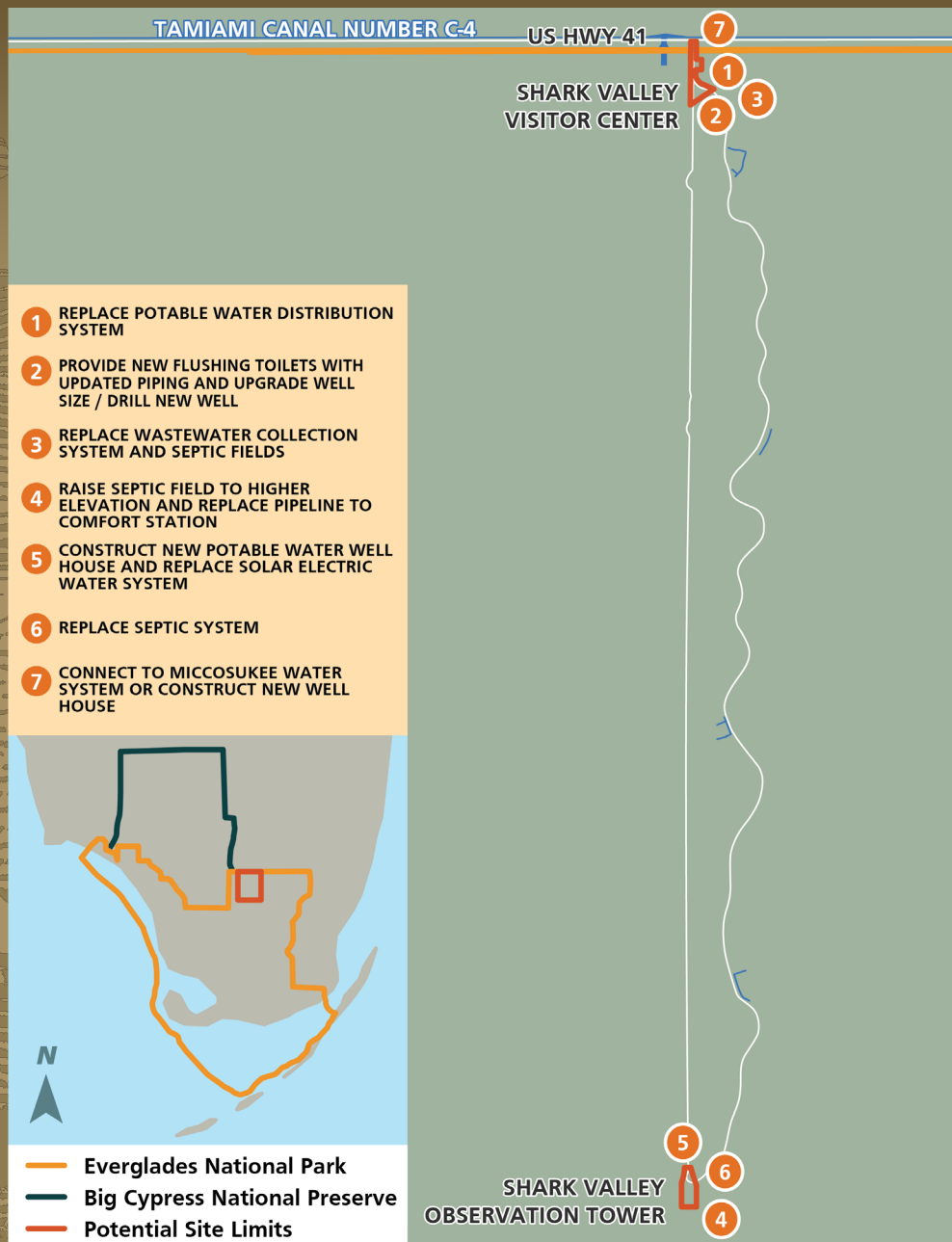
Project Areas



Main Entrance / Royal Palm Area

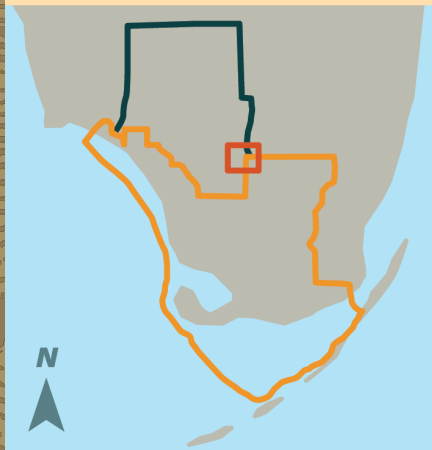


Shark Valley Area



Loop Road Area

- 1 REPLACE POTABLE WATER TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS
- 2 REPLACE SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- 3 DEMOLISH EXISTING WELL HOUSE AND CAP WELL
- 4 CONSTRUCT NEW WELL ENCLOSURE AROUND THE EXISTING WELL
- 5 RAISE DISCHARGE LEVEL OF EXISTING WELL
- 6 DRILL NEW WELL AND CONSTRUCT NEW WELL HOUSE



- Everglades National Park
- Big Cypress National Preserve
- Potential Site Limits

LOOP RD RTE 102

HWY 41 (TAMIAMI TRAIL)

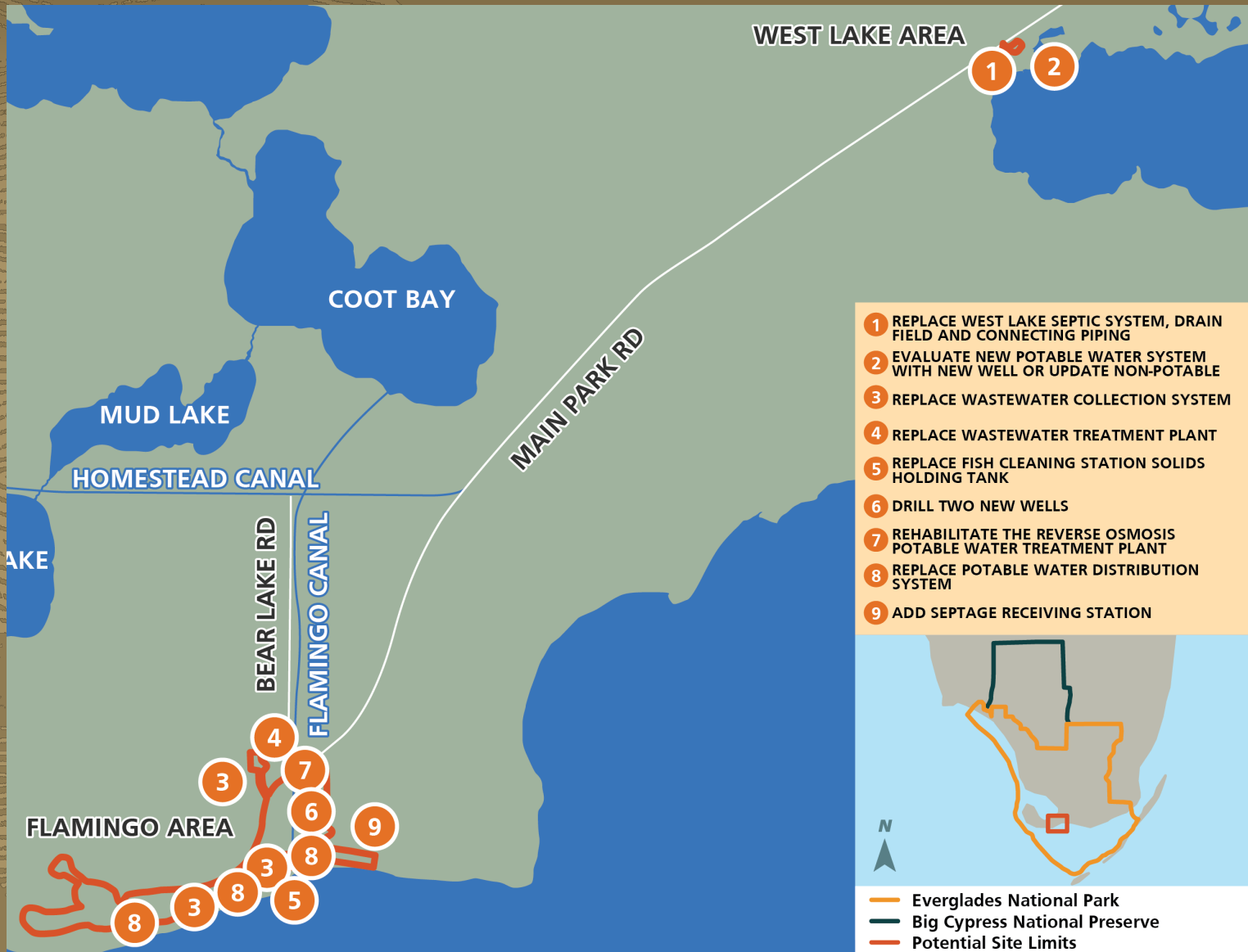
TRAIL CENTER

TAMIAMI CANAL NUMBER C-4

LOOP RD TAMIAMI
RANGER STATION

LOOP RD EDUCATION CENTER

Flamingo Area



Project Benefits

- Improve visitor experience
 - Maintain reliability of restrooms and comfort stations
 - More reliable availability of drinking water
- Improve park infrastructure
 - Efficiency of systems
 - Maintain health and safety
 - More resiliency to the effects of the Florida climate
 - Maximize the lifecycle of water and wastewater distribution systems



Project Benefits

- Improve sustainability
 - Better protection during flooding and severe weather
- Sensitivity for natural and cultural resources
 - Consider practicable alternatives that are sensitive to the social, natural, and cultural resources in the park
 - Maintain and update existing infrastructure, not expand on it
- Concessioners support
 - Promote long-term viability of the concession services



Flooded Well House, Shark Valley

Natural Resources

- Unique natural resources in Everglades considered for EA
- Delineated wetlands
 - Regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and by the State of Florida
- Verified critical species habitats
 - Regulated under Endangered Species Act



Wetlands around Admin Buildings, Shark Valley



Wetlands Around Pump House, Shark Valley

Cultural Resources and Social Environment

- Historic Resources — Mission 66 and Historic Districts

- Compliance under National Historic Preservation Act

- Visual Resources

- Sensitivity to distinctive viewsheds and visual consistency

- Recreational Use and Visitor Experience

- Project phases to limit impacts to park users



Observation Tower, Shark Valley



Marina, Flamingo

How to Participate

- Ask questions now (in-person or via chat function)
- Comments must be submitted online or postmarked by March 20, 2023
- Submit Online Comments to:
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/watersystems>
- Mail written comments to:
Superintendent
Attn: Rehabilitation of Parkwide Water and
Wastewater Systems
Everglades National Park
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034



QR Code to
PEPC Website

***Please note** that your entire comment, including personal identifying information (PII) (e.g., address, phone number, e-mail), may be made publicly available at any time. You may ask us to withhold your PII from public disclosure, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

Thank You!



Observation Tower Restroom, Shark Valley



*QR Code to
PEPC Website*