# NORTHWEST CORRIDOR

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS MEMO

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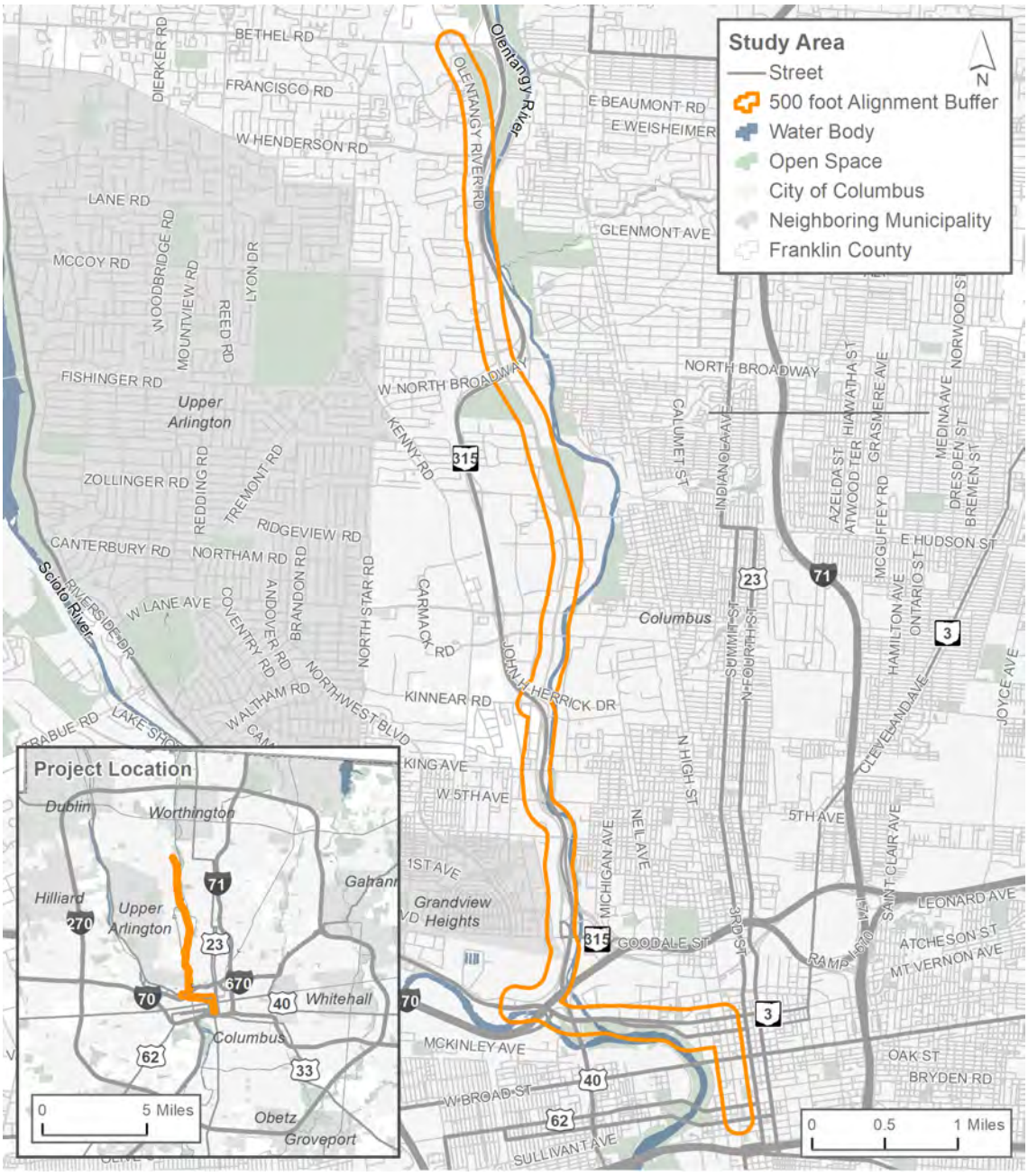
# 1. INTRODUCTION

Kimley-Horn was contracted to review the Northwest Corridor project corridor alignment for potential environmental constraints. See Figure 1 for project location. The project site is located in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. A review of available background data was completed to assist in determining if there are any potential environmental constraints for the project.

*Figure 1: Project Location*



# 2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS:

## 2.1 National Wetlands Inventory

Based on the National Wetlands Inventory, 13 wetlands or waterways have been identified within approximately 500 feet of the corridor alignment. Three freshwater emergent wetlands, one freshwater forested wetland, one freshwater ponds, and eight riverine features were identified. The NWI is included in Figure 2.

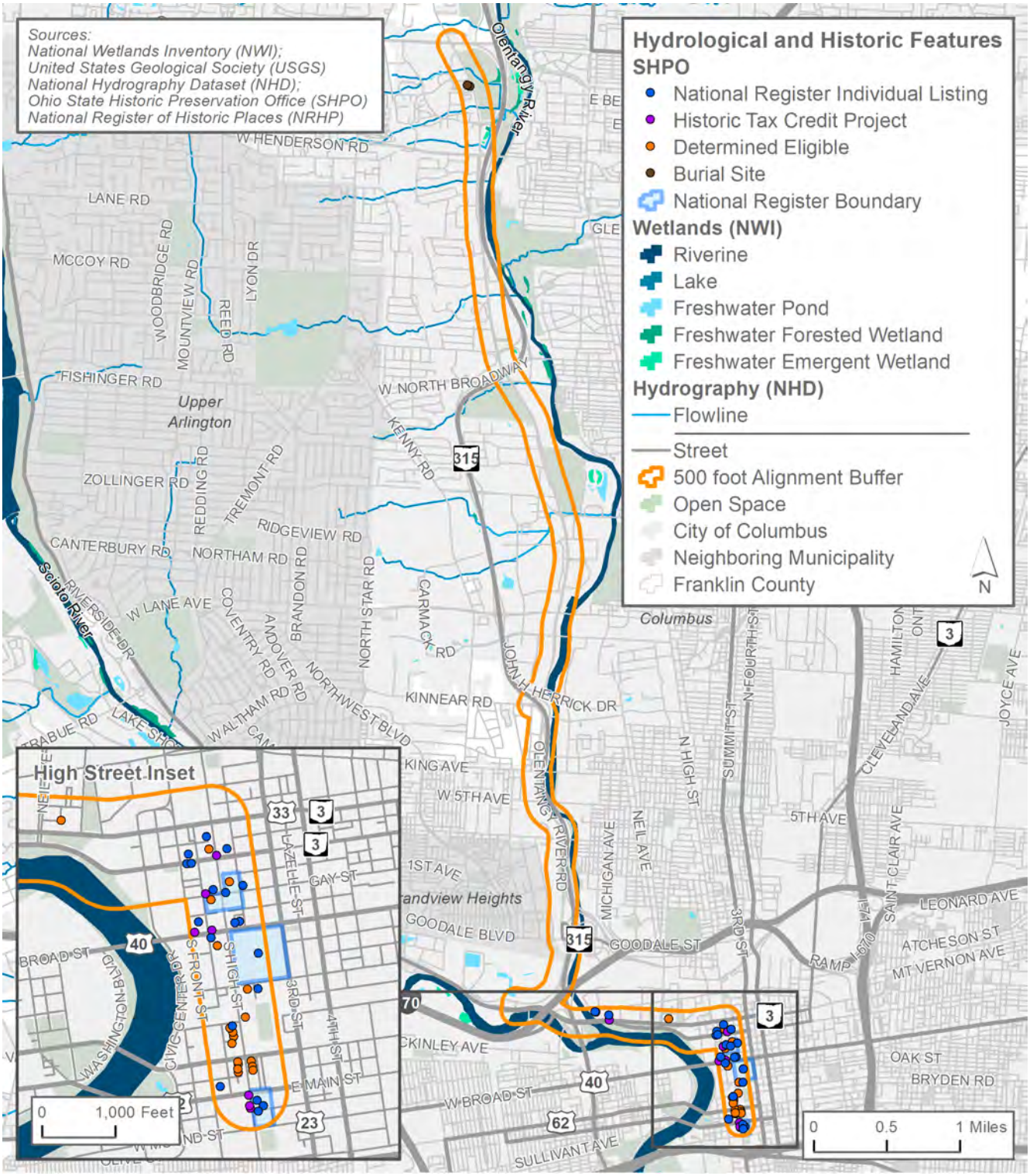
## 2.2 National Hydrography Dataset

Based on the United States Geological Society (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), 28 NHD flowline features have been identified within approximately 500 feet of the corridor alignment. The NHD flowline features include the Olentangy River, Scioto River, Turkey Run, and unnamed features. The NHD is included in Figure 2.

## 2.3 Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Database Search Results

The Ohio SHPO database was reviewed to determine if any historic or archaeological sites are located within the project vicinity. According to the SHPO database, three National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed boundaries, 21 NRHP listed sites, nine historic tax credit projects, 20 sites eligible for the NRHP, and two burial sites were identified within approximately 500 feet of the corridor alignment. The SHPO results are included in Figure 2.

*Figure 2: National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), and Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Database*



## 2.4 Hazardous Materials

The Ohio Department of Commerce (ODC) Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) database was reviewed to determine if underground storage tanks (USTs) or environmental hazards are located within the project vicinity. The hazardous materials results are shown in Figure 3.

According to the BUSTR database, there are 15 active environmental sites within approximately 500 feet of the project corridor alignment. See descriptions of active environmental sites in Table 1. One additional active environmental site (Rickenbacker ANGB Exchange) was identified by BUSTR as a "general file;" however, the site does not appear to be within 500 feet of the project corridor alignment. According to the BUSTR database, there are 37 inactive environmental locations within approximately 500 feet of the project corridor alignment.

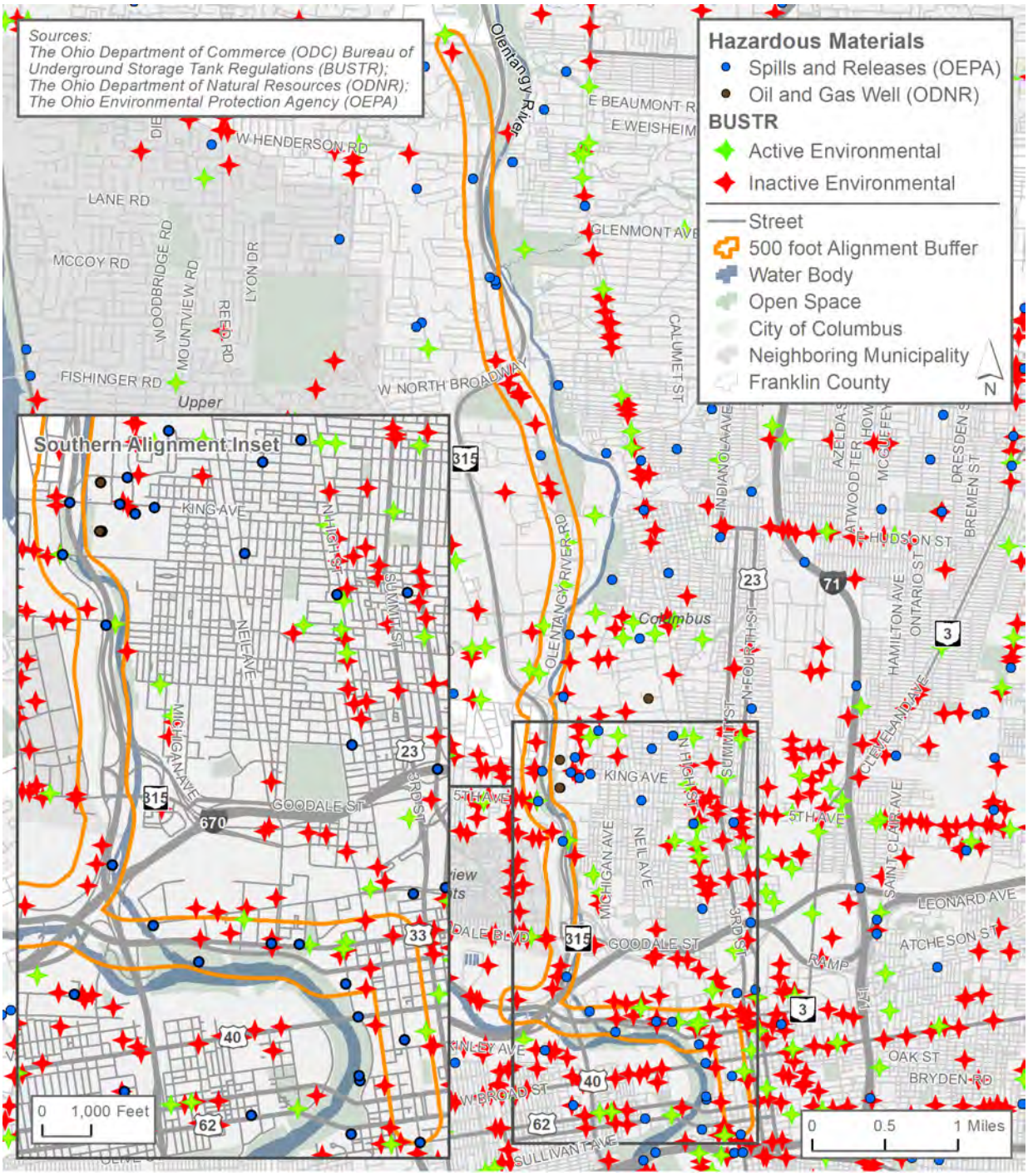
*Table 1. BUSTR Active Environmental Sites within 500 feet of project corridor*

| FACILITY NUMBER | FACILITY NAME | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|
| **25010201, 25010366, 25010385, 25010390** | Public Safety Building | Petrochemical incidents (not from leak or release) and leak from non-regulated diesel UST and sewers |
| **25010973, 25011066** | Future River South Community | Spill from non-regulated UST, no closure report received letter sent |
| **25006984** | Ohio State Penitentiary | Closure of regulated UST |
| **25010958** | 280 Hanover Street parking lot | Spill from regulated UST, Tier 1 Source Investigation |
| **25000038** | City of Columbus Police Heliport | Petrochemical incident (not from leak or release) |
| **25001487** | #612 Olentangy/5th Duchess Gas Station | Petrochemical incident (not from leak or release) |
| **25002341** | Ohio State University (OSU) – Sisson Hall | Spill from non-regulated diesel UST |
| **25010462** | Unnamed abandoned UST | Spill from non-regulated UST |
| **25002631** | OSU – Fawcett Event Center | Spill from non-regulated UST |
| **25010372** | Chemical Abstracts Service | Spill from non-regulated UST |
| **25001452** | Bethel BP | Spill from regulated diesel UST, Tier 1 Source Investigation |

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) oil and gas well database was reviewed to determine if oil and gas wells are located within the project vicinity. According to the ODNR, there are zero oil and gas wells within approximately 500 feet of the alignment corridor (see Figure 3).

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Spills and Releases database was reviewed to determine if spills are located within the project vicinity. According to the OEPA, there are 25 spills within approximately 500 feet of the alignment corridor since 2017 (see Figure 3). The spills include asbestos, construction debris, fuel, oils, sediment, sewage, wastewater, and unknown materials.

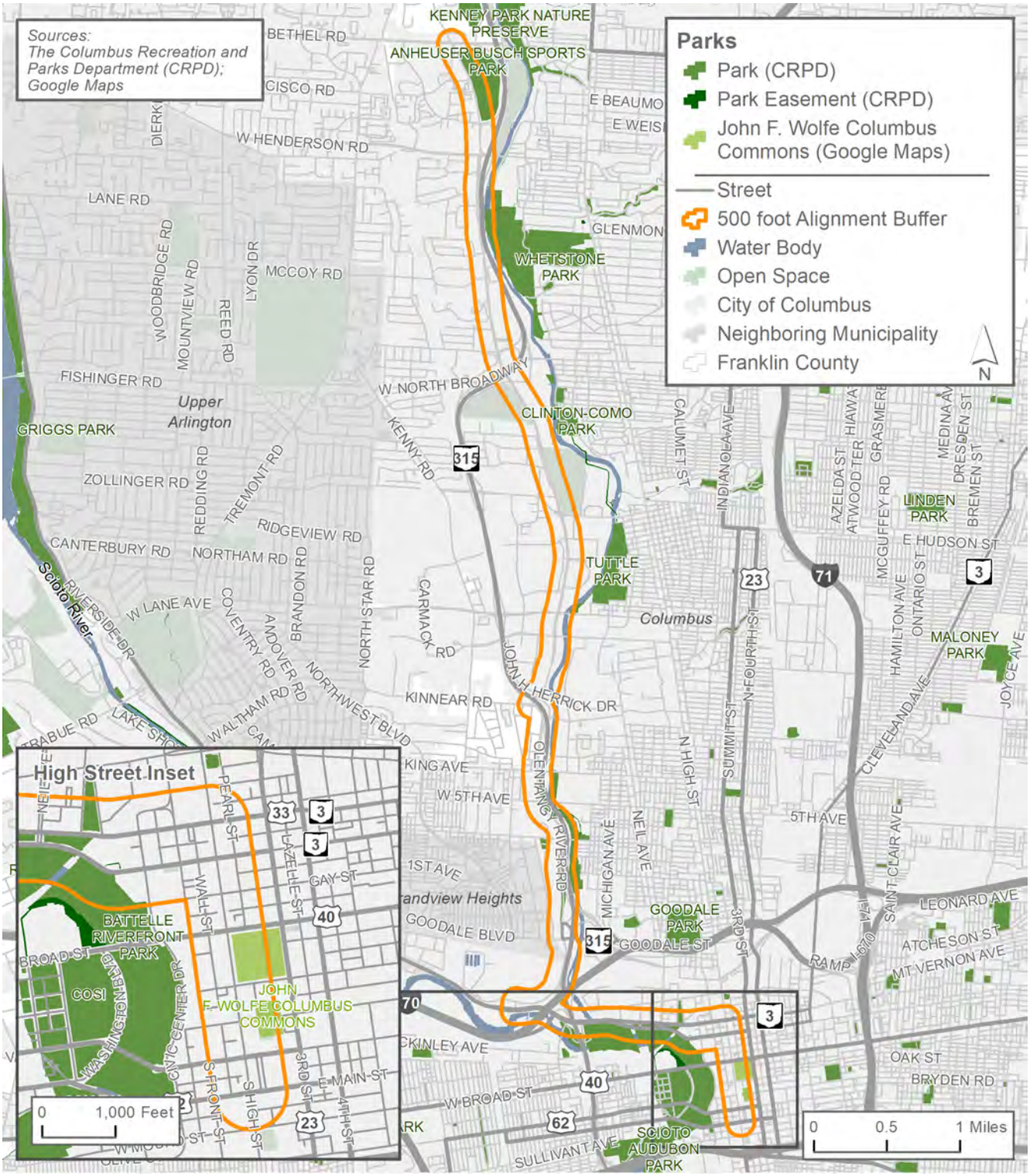
*Figure 3: Hazardous Materials*



## 2.5 Parks

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) database was reviewed to determine if any parks or easements are located within the project vicinity. According to the CRPD, there are 15 parks and two park easements within approximately 500 feet of the alignment corridor (see Figure 4). The parks include Alexander Park, Anheuser Bush Sports Park, Battelle Riverfront Park, Confluence Park, Genoa Park, Gowdy Field, Harrison Park, McFerson Commons, North Bank Park, Olentangy Trail Parkland, Riverfront Walkway/Bridge, Side by Side Park, Tuttle Park/Lane Avenue Connector, West Bank Park, and Whetstone Park. The two park easements include the Battelle shared use path adjacent to Olentangy Trail Parkland and the AEP elevated walkway adjacent to Battelle Riverfront Park. One additional park was identified within approximately 500 feet of the alignment corridor using Google Maps (John F. Wolfe Columbus Commons).

*Figure 4: Park Locations*



## 2.6 USFWS Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

Five federally listed species has been identified within the project vicinity. The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) roost in crevices of both live and dead trees. Suitable habitat has been identified in the project vicinity. Any tree clearing should occur between November 1 – March 31st to limit impacts to the bat species.

The Scioto madtom (*Notorus trautmani*) prefers streams with moderate currents. The rayed bean (*Villosa fabalis*) prefers headwater creeks but is found in large rivers. Suitable habitat for the Scioto madtom and rayed bean has been identified in the project vicinity. Impacts to the Scioto River, Olentagy River, and streams should be minimized to the extent practicable.

The running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) favors moist woodlands and stream banks. Impacts to forested areas and streams should be minimized to the extent practicable.

Under the Endangered Species Act, individual species and their habitat are protected. If suitable habitat is identified onsite for listed species and that habitat will be impacted, consultation with the USFWS would be required. Permitting under Section 9 and or 10 of the Endangered Species Act and a formal Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be required. The IPaC results are included in Attachment A.

## 2.7 Migratory Birds

13 migratory species on the Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list and the bald eagle have been identified within the project vicinity. Impacts to wetlands, woodlands, grasslands, swamps, and ponds should be avoided to minimized impacts to the migratory bird species. A nest assessment may be required to evaluate the presence of nests onsite.

The IPaC results are included in Attachment A.

## 2.8 Franklin County-Listed Threatened, Endangered, and Species of Special Concern

Kimley-Horn conducted a review of the Ohio DNR Natural Heritage Database for Franklin County. The list indicated that the county contains 112 state-listed animal species and 14 state-listed plant species. These listed species are species of special concern, natural communities, and/or listed as threatened or endangered species. The species results are included in Attachment A. An Environmental Review (ER) will be coordinated with the ODNR.

# 3. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the information reviewed, Kimley-Horn has identified environmental constraints that will require additional planning in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As of the date of this report, wetlands, streams, historic properties, hazardous materials, and parks were identified in the project vicinity.

Aquatic resource permitting and coordination with the OEPA, the ODNR, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be completed throughout project development in accordance with NEPA.

Suitable habitat for federally and state listed threatened and endangered species was identified within the project vicinity. An Environmental Review (ER) will be coordinated with the ODNR. A formal Section 7 consultation with the USFWS will be required.

A cultural resource survey will be conducted during the preliminary engineering phase of the project in order to identify potential impacts with the purpose of avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating for impacts.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) will be conducted to more thoroughly evaluate potential recognized environmental conditions (RECs) on the study area.

Potential 4(f) lands or properties have been identified within the project vicinity. A Section 4(f) evaluation will be required if impacts are proposed to any 4(f) lands or properties.

# ATTACHMENT A

- IPaC Resource List
- Franklin County State Listed Animals
- Franklin County State Listed Plants