Tree Conservation Report 2225 Mer Bleue Road

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Submitted To:

Mark McCalla, Senior Environmental Scientist EXP Services Inc. 2650 Queensview Drive, Suite 100 Ottawa, Ontario K2B 8H6

KILGOUR & ASSOCIATES LTD.

2285C St. Laurent Blvd. Unit 16 Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 4Z6 Canada 613-260-5555 www.kilgourassociates.com Project Number: EXP 741

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Tree Conservation Report (TCR) has been prepared by Kilgour & Associates Ltd. (KAL) on behalf of exp Services Inc. (exp). Exp is leading the development of the new Orleans Health Hub at the northeast corner of Brian Coburn Blvd. and Mer Bleue Rd. The site is composed of a fallow agricultural field that has not been active in many years. Residential dwellings exist to the northwest of the site and townhomes are to the southeast. The central and southwest portion of the property is designated to be developed resulting in the removal of trees in this portion of the site.

This TCR provides an up-to-date inventory of trees on site and a description of their ecological significance to both the site and the surrounding area following City of Ottawa TCR guidelines (Ottawa, 2018a).

2.0 PROPERTY INFORMATION

The subject site includes two lots (Cumberland; CON 11 Pt Lot 2; RP 4R21662 Part 2 RP 4R24532: Parts 1 and 2; PIN: 145630022, 145630025) that are approximately 8 ha in size. The site is bordered on the west by Mer Bleue Road, and to the south by Brain Coburn Blvd.

The property parcel is zoned as Mixed-Use Centre Zone (MC[1812]) and supports a combination of municipal, commercial, and residential development with a compact pedestrian-oriented form (Ottawa 2018b).

3.0 SITE TREES AND ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Current Site Trees

All trees on site were reviewed by KAL biologist Terry Hams during a field visit on February 1, 2018. Within three hedgerow and three tree patches were observed along with individual trees, saplings, and shrubs. The site is composed of Cultural Meadow (CUM) ecological land classification (ELC) (Lee et al., 1998) and is primarily composed of grasses and forbs with sporadic shrub and tree patches present.

Patch 1 is composed of Large-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*), and a few Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*). Trees in this patch were all less than 30 cm diameter at breast height (DBH) with three Manitoba Maple and approximately 15 Large-toothed Aspen, with many sapling present.

Patch 2 is composed of Large-toothed Aspen and Manitoba Maple with a few willow saplings present. The Manitoba Maple were less than 30 cm DBH, and most of the Large-toothed Aspen were saplings except for one large tree (i.e. > 30 cm) (Table 1).

Patch 3 is primarily compose of Large-toothed Aspen and willow saplings. A large Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) bush occurs along the north edge of this patch.

Hedgerow 1 and 2 are composed of saplings planted along the sidewalk by the City of Ottawa. Species observed were Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), Little-leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), White Spruce (*Picea glauca*), and crabapple species (*Malus* sp.). Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*) and patches of ornamental grass also occur along Hedgerow 2.

Hedgerow 3 occurs along the south edge of the residential dwellings to the northwest of the site. This hedgerow is composed of Large-toothed Aspen and buckthorn species (*Rhamnus* sp.). One large Large-toothed Aspen occurs in this hedgerow (Table 1).

A small forest occurs along the north edge of the property composed primarily of Large-toothed Aspen and Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and is classified as Dry-Fresh Poplar – White Birch Deciduous Forest (FOD3) ELC. This area is over 50 m from the edge of the project area, and therefore is not predicted to be impacted by the project.

Tree number	Common Name	Quantity	Diameter at Breast height	Comments
Tree 1	Large-toothed Aspen	1	30-35	Multi-stem (7).
Tree 2	Large-toothed Aspen	1	60, 61	Double-stem.
Tree 3	Large-toothed Aspen	1	31	

Table 1: Results of tree survey of the property in February 2018.

3.1.1 Ecological Significance of Trees on the Site

The site was composed of agricultural fields, a farmstead, and the current residential dwellings in the 1976 air photos of the property (Ottawa, 2018c). The majority of trees on site are saplings that are the result of the lack of farming since the mid-2000's. A few larger trees were also observed on site in Patches 1 through 3, but these were mainly small and unlikely to provide habitat for SAR. Two Large-toothed Aspen are the largest trees on site but these are isolated forest patches, and therefore unlikely to provide habitat for SAR. The fallow grassland area on site is classified as Cultural Meadow and the composition of the vegetation community and height of vegetation makes it unlikely that SAR grassland birds would use this site.



930350 m

4.0 SITE ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

4.1 Species at Risk

No SAR were observed on site during the tree surveys, but this was outside the active season for most wildlife. The composition and vegetation communities on site are unlikely to support SAR birds and bats. No Butternut were observed on site during the field surveys.

4.2 Other Natural Heritage Features

Two small agricultural drains cross the site from the east to the west and connect to a roadside ditch along Mer Bleue Rd. These drains were small and do not connect to any other aquatic features to the east, providing draining only to the fallow grassland area. These drains had a small amount of ice within that was frozen to the bottom. It is unlikely that these drains and the roadside ditch provide fish habitat as they are far removed from connections to fish habitat.

No significant woodlands, provincially significant wetlands, significant valleylands, or areas of scientific and natural interest on or adjacent to the site.

5.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project, the Orleans Health Hub, will be a one storey medical centre. The area will include vehicle entrances from both Brian Coburn Blvd and Mer Bleue Rd, and an asphalt parking along the north side of the development area. The single large tree within the development area (a multistem, Large-toothed Aspen) will be removed along with the three small patches of saplings and smaller trees, as these trees are situated within the footprint of the new building and its access routes. The two rows of small, ornamental trees recently planted along Brain Coburn Blvd, may also be required to be removed to accommodate construction access to the site. The final landscape plan has not been completed.



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6.0 MITIGATIONS

6.1 Mitigations for Trees

To minimize impact to the remaining trees on neighbouring properties, the following protection measures will be required during construction:

- Erect a fence at the CRZ of retained trees. The fence should highly visible (e.g., orange construction fence) and paired with erosion control fencing. Pruning of branches is recommended in areas of potential conflict with construction equipment;
- Do not place any material or equipment within the CRZ of retained trees;
- Do not attach any signs, notices or posters to any tree;
- Do not raise or lower the existing grade within the CRZ without approval;
- Do not damage the root system, trunk or branches of any retained tree; and,
- Ensure that exhaust fumes from all equipment are NOT directed towards any tree's canopy.

No clearing of vegetation should occur between April 1 and August 15, without a pre-clearing survey performed by a qualified biologist, to protect birds that may be nesting on site. This restriction is further extended until October 1 to ensure no bats are present on site at the time of clearing.

Trees to be planted in compensation for the removed trees will be included as part of the overall landscape. Specific trees to be planted will be identified within the landscape plan for that development. Tree species identified in this plan must be non-invasive and should be native to the Ottawa area. No trees will be planted however until site development has been completed.

6.2 Mitigations for Wildlife

General measures to protect wildlife must be implemented. Contractors must:

• Avoid vegetation clearing during sensitive times of the year for local wildlife, such as spring and early summer (when many animals bear their young);

• Avoid tree clearing during the migratory bird breeding and SAR bat active seasons from May through September;

• Areas to be cleared are to be pre-stressed prior to encourage wildlife to move away from a site prior to the onset of construction. Methods of pre-stressing include having one or more people walk the site while talking loudly or playing loud music, or placing pieces of cloth or other objects that carry a strong human scent into animal dens. Common pre-construction activities, such as surveying, or installing protective fencing, can contribute to pre-stressing;

• Conduct vegetation clearing such that existing connections to adjacent areas of natural habitat are maintained until the final stage of clearing so that wildlife can use these connections to leave the site;

• Tree clearing should proceed from south to north to direct any small mammals present towards area of retained forest cover;

• Ensure that perimeter fencing, if used, does not prevent wildlife from leaving the site during vegetation clearing. Once the work area has been cleared, it can be securely fenced to keep wildlife from returning. Silt fencing may be useful to keep small animals such as reptiles and amphibians out of the work area;

• Contractors and other on-site workers should be briefed on appropriate measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict during the work (e.g., waste management, no feeding of wildlife, no deliberate harm to wildlife, safe relocation techniques to get wildlife to leave the site). Provide contact numbers for large animal removal, rehabilitation of injured or orphaned wildlife, and species at risk reporting.

7.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Tree and vegetation clearing should be allowed on the site. No SAR are predicted to use the site and very few trees occur. Mitigations and seasonal timing windows should be applied to the site for clearing activity to protect wildlife species.

KILGOUR & ASSOCIATES LTD.

Terry Hams, MSc. Ecologist

Anthony Francis, PhD. Senior Ecologist/Project Director

8.0 LITERATURE CITED

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