

# TREE CONSERVATION REPORT – 555 DEALERSHIP DRIVE, OTTAWA

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## INTRODUCTION

The importance of protecting vegetative cover on sites subject to development is specified in Section 4.7.2 of the City of Ottawa's Official Plan. In accordance with this the City of Ottawa's Urban Tree Conservation By-law (By-law no. 2009-200) requires a detailed Tree Conservation Report (TCR) prior to the removal of trees on sites within the urban boundary of Ottawa. In this instance, since the removal of vegetation over the majority of the site has been completed, this TCR relates to the only vegetation still remaining on site – a hedgerow along the northern property line.

The subject property is located at 555 Dealership Drive in Barrhaven. The entire property covers an area of slightly more than 2.7 hectares.

The development proposed for the property consists of a 34,995 square foot car dealership building with 463 surrounding parking spaces.

## METHODOLOGY

A survey of the site was completed on June 25, 2018. Tree growth was assessed via a reconnaissance survey in which the overstory trees and understory vegetation was assessed for species, size and general health condition. This information was then compiled so that tree composition could be broadly delineated. These areas can be found on the accompanying tree conservation plan prepared by Gino Aiello, Landscape Architect.

## TREE INVENTORY

The most frequent overstory species within the hedgerow are white elm (*Ulmus americana*), many of which are dead or declining due to Dutch elm disease (*Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*), white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*) and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Scattered ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), many of which are dead or declining due to emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), apple (*Malus* spp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), basswood (*Tilia americana*) are also present. With the exception of Manitoba maple, each of these tree species are native to Eastern Ontario.

Understory vegetation consists of ash and maple regeneration and a number of shrub species: staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*) and buckthorn (*Rhamnus* spp.). With the exception of buckthorn (a highly invasive species), each these species are native to Eastern Ontario.

Two native vines, wild grape (*Vitis* spp.) and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), are present in abundance and have grown into the crowns of individual overstory trees and to cover large areas of lower vegetation.

Typical vegetative conditions within the hedgerow are shown in Pictures 1, 2 and 3 on pages 2 and 3 of this report.





Picture 1. Typical vegetation conditions along northern hedgerow at 555 Dealership Drive



Picture 2. Typical vegetation conditions along northern hedgerow at 555 Dealership Drive (note density of vine growth).





Picture 3. Typical vegetation conditions along northern hedgerow at 555 Dealership Drive (note dead elms above canopy).



Picture 4. Typical vegetation conditions along northern hedgerow at 555 Dealership Drive.

## USE OF EXISTING VEGETATION

The majority of the required development zone has already been cleared of vegetation. A highly compacted base of stone and soil over most of this zone has eliminated the regeneration of any vegetation within this area. The berm on the eastern edge of the property has early sumac and trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) regeneration. This vegetation will be lost once the berm is removed. Aside from this it is anticipated that no further tree loss will occur.

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

In their Integrated Environmental Review of the larger corporate campus property in 2014, Muncaster Environmental Planning Inc. found numerous butternut (*Juglans cinerea*). However, no butternut trees were found on the adjacent private properties to the north and west of the subject property. This includes a zone of 50 meters from the shared property line. This species is listed as endangered under the Province of Ontario's Endangered Species Act (ESA, 2007) and so is protected from harm.

## PROTECTION MEASURES

The following measures are recommended by the City of Ottawa to ensure survival of the trees along the forest edges:

1. Erect a fence at the critical root zone (CRZ<sup>1</sup>) of trees;
2. Do not place any material or equipment within the CRZ of the tree;
3. Do not attach any signs, notices or posters to any tree;
4. Do not raise or lower the existing grade within the CRZ without approval;
5. Tunnel or bore when digging within the CRZ of a tree;
6. Do not damage the root system, trunk or branches of any tree;
7. Ensure that exhaust fumes from all equipment are NOT directed towards any tree's canopy.

<sup>1</sup> The critical root zone (CRZ) is established as being 10 centimetres from the trunk of a tree for every centimetre of trunk Diameter at breast height (DBH). The CRZ is calculated as DBH x 10 cm.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this tree conservation report

Yours,

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