Bowfin Environmental Consulting

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Philip Thibert
Brigil
98 rue Lois
Gatineau, QC J8Y 3R7

July 16, 2020

Re.: Tree Conservation Report for 729 Ridgewood Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Thibert:

Bowfin Environmental Consulting Inc. (Bowfin) was retained by Brigil to prepare a Tree Conservation Report. This report follows the *City of Ottawa Tree Conservation Report Guidelines*. The field work was completed by Cody Fontaine who has his Fisheries and Wildlife Technology Diploma and has 10 years of experience completing field work. Mr. Fontaine is also a certified Butternut Health Assessor (#723). Bowfin was also retained to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and this letter will form part of that report. The EIS was completed by Michelle Lavictoire who has a M.Sc. in Natural Resource Sciences, a B.Sc. in Wildlife Biology and over 23 years of experience in completing natural environment assessments.

The intention of this report is to determine what woody vegetation should be retained and protected on site. In the paragraphs below, we have outlined the background and project description, field methodology and findings and recommendations.

BACKGROUND AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The subject lands are roughly 1.3 ha situated at 729 Ridgewood Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario. They form part of Lot 23, Concession Junction Gore, Township of Gloucester, former Township of Old Ottawa (Figure 1). The proposal calls for the re-development of this parcel into mixed residential and commercial development and will require the removal of all trees from the site.

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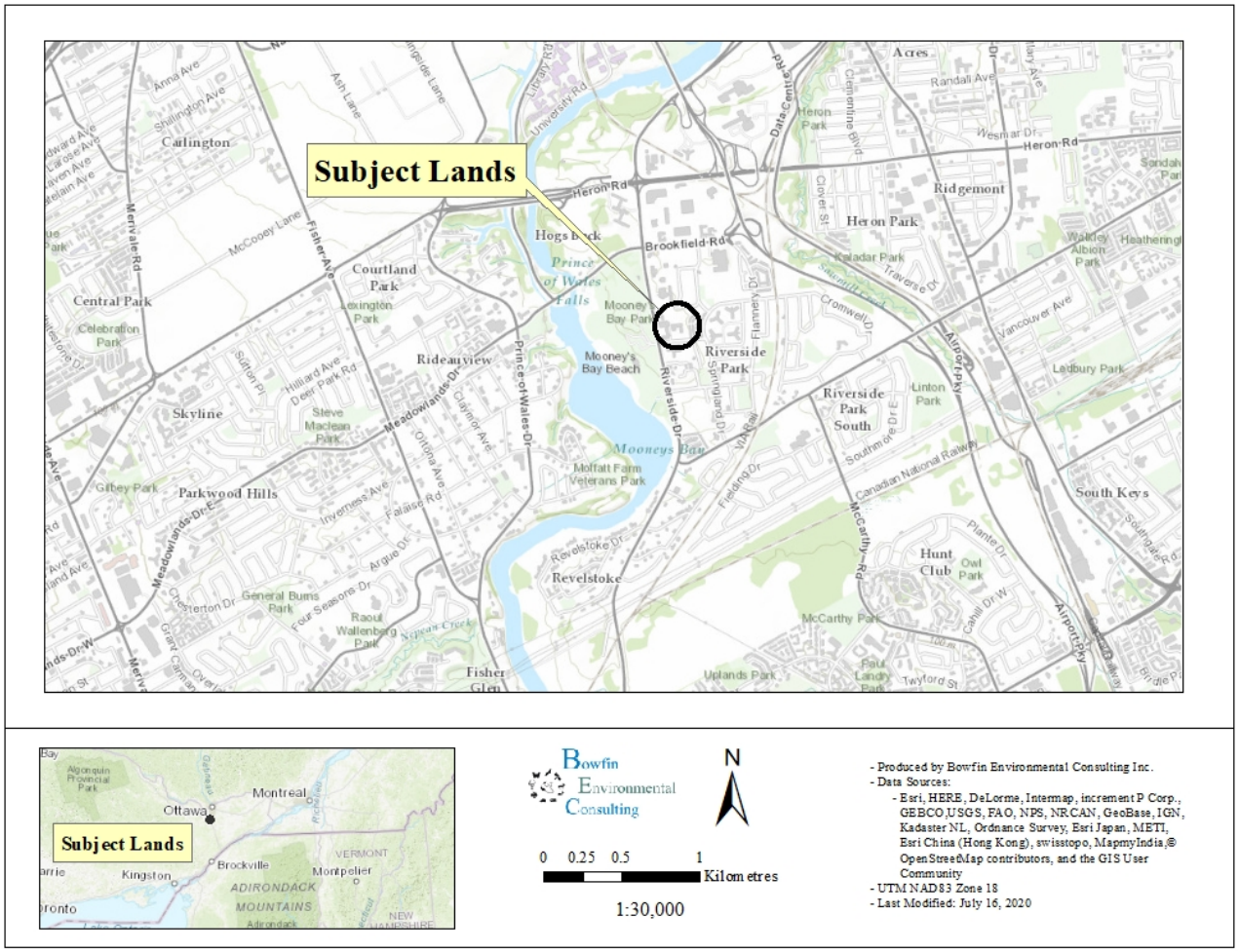
Figure 1: Location of Subject Lands



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METHODOLOGY

The tree inventory was undertaken on June 10th, 2020. The weather conditions consisted of overcast skies and light air. The air temperature was 19°C. During this visit the individual trees were assessed and a description of the environmental value of the trees within the site and their ecological function recorded. Information collected on the individual trees included:

- Their location (GPS coordinates, NAD83);
- Identified to species for native specimens;
- Diameter at breast height (DBH);
- Presence/absence of Butternuts;
- Health; and
- Height

This information is appended at the end of this letter and the locations of the individual trees are shown on Figures 1 and 2.

Nomenclature used in this report follows the Southern Ontario Plant List (Bradley, 2007) for both common and scientific names which are based on Newmaster *et al.* (1998). Authorities for scientific names are given in Newmaster *et al.* (1998).

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The site is currently entirely developed as a commercial property (mall and parking lot) with no natural vegetation communities on-site. It is separated by a fence on all sides except the southern edge of the site. The southern edge is bordered by Ridgewood Avenue along which there was a small section of grass with a few planted trees. Site survey indicates that these trees are on the site and not in the City's right-of-way (RoW). The overall topography is flat. The following were <u>not present</u> on site:

- Surface water features (i.e. wetlands or watercourses)
- Steep slopes (i.e. valleys or escarpments)
- Valued woodlots
- Greenspace linkages
- High quality, specimen trees
- Rare communities or unique ecological features
- Species at Risk or their habitat

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The adjacent lands are also fully developed (residential and commercial). There are no natural areas in the adjacent lands.

A total of 3 individual trees were assessed on-site with a DBH of 10 cm or greater; a silver maple and two honey locusts (Table 1, Photo 1). All three were in good health. No groupings of trees were present. The trees on the neighbourings lands were situated on the other side of fences and were not accessed (Photo 2 and Photo 3).

Table 1: Summary of Individual Trees On-Site

Species	Count	Size Range (DBH cm)	Height Range (m)	No. Live	No. Unhealthy	No. Dead	No. to be Removed
Honey Locust	2	37-43	10	2	0	0	2
Silver Maple	1	50	10	1	0	0	1
Total	**3**	**37-50**	**10**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**

Photo 1: Tree along Ridgewood (June 10, 2020)

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Photo 2: Tree along adjacent lands (June 10, 2020)

Photo 3: Trees along adjacent lands (June 10, 2020)

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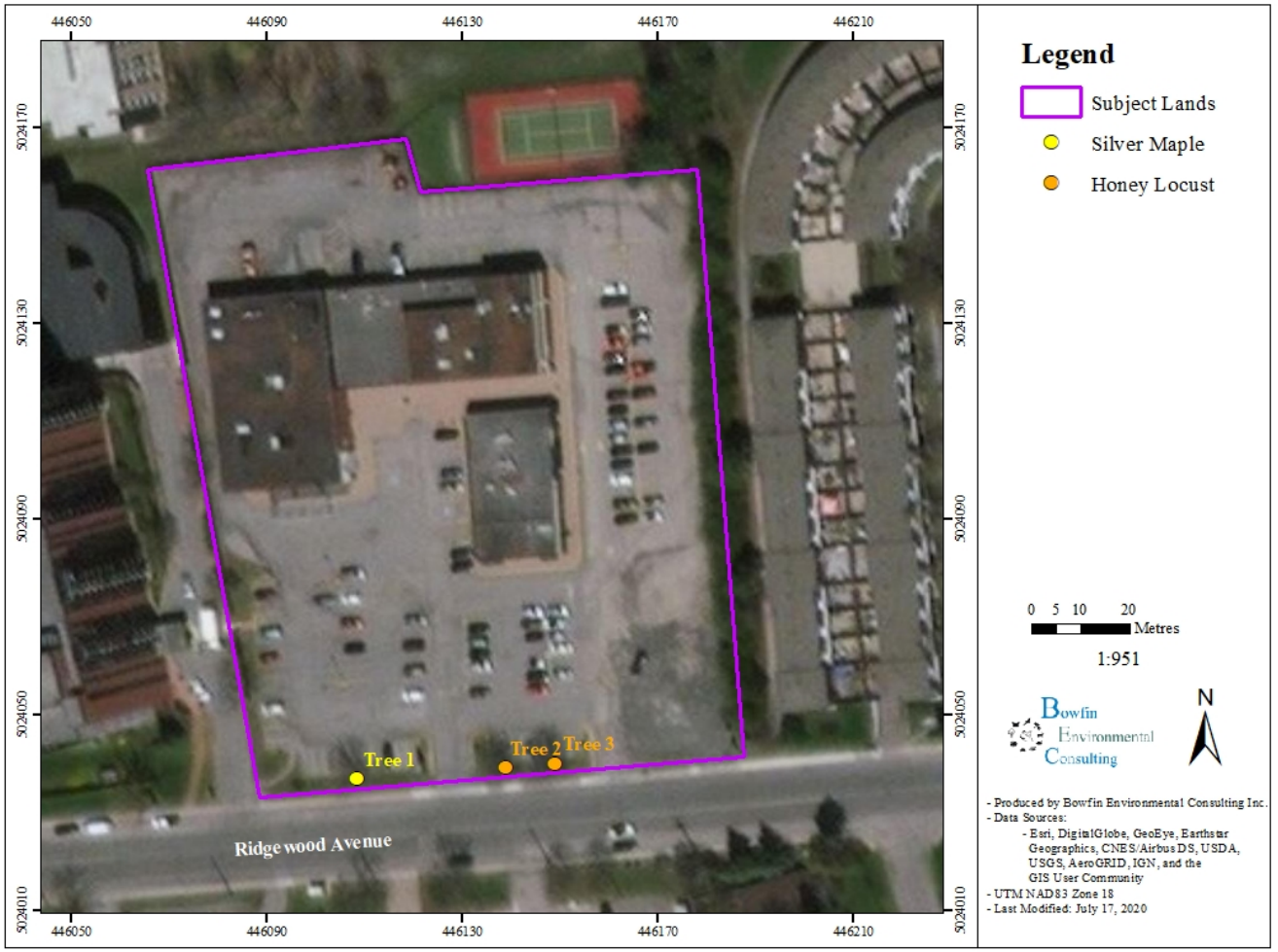
Map 1: Location of Existing Trees



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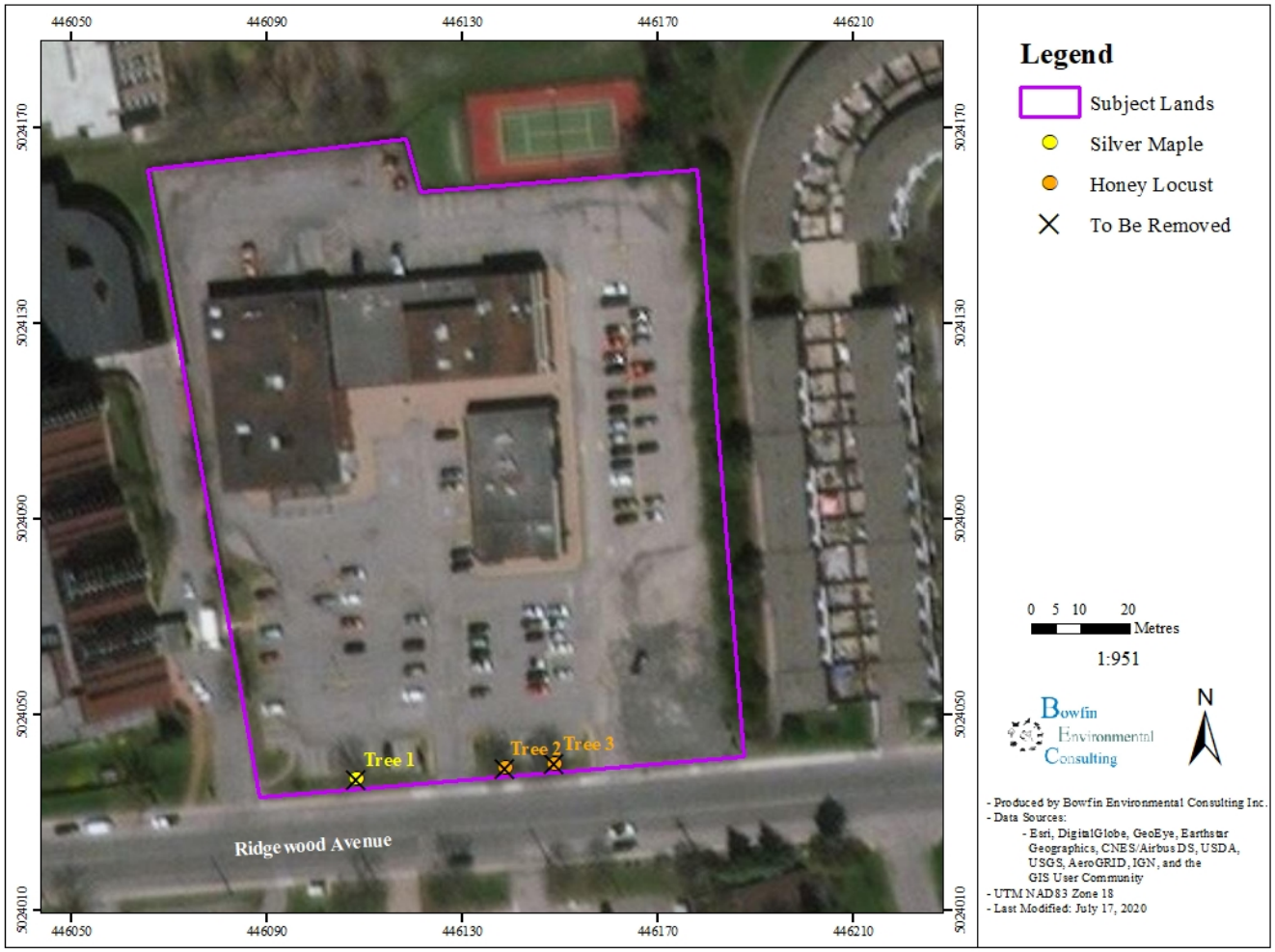
Map 2: Location of Trees to be Removed



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings

This development (approximately 1.3 ha) is found at 729 Ridgewood Avenue, Ottawa. The southern edge of the property is bordered by Ridgewood Avenue. The adjacent lands are all developed (residential). There are no natural heritage constraints on the OP mapping.

There were no natural vegetation communities. There were no SAR identified. There were only three trees on the site; one silver maple and two honey locusts. While in good health, they will be damaged during the redevelopment of this site and cannot be retained. Map 2 and the table found in Appendix A show that all three will be removed. It is noted that there are trees on adjacent lands to the east and west and protective measures are recommended. Grading, infilling and underground works should be limited to outside of Critical Root Zone to prevent root damage to trees meant to be left in place.

Removal should be completed by a certified arborist who will ensure proper disposal.

Note that the following recommended mitigation measures:

- A permit for the removal of the three trees onsite (which are >10 cm) is required from the City of Ottawa.
- The edge of the property, where not already fenced by neighbours, should be clearly delineated on the site plans and in the field;
- When clearing near trees on neighbouring lands, mitigation measures to prevent harm to the root systems of trees adjacent to the proposed works will be implemented to protect them from indirect harm:
    - When there is not already a fence, sturdy fencing will be installed outside of the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) (defined by the City as 10 x the DBH) of the trunk of the closest trees to the work area.
    - Activities that may cause additional soil compaction should be avoided in this area (it is noted that the lands consist of a paved parking lot).
    - In areas where accidents/malfunctions could result in infiltration to the ground (if once the parking lot surface is removed), no machinery maintenance or refueling or stockpiling is permitted within 5 m of the outer edge of this fencing.
    - Exhaust fumes from all equipment will be directed away from the canopy of the trees to be retained.

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  - If roots of trees, on adjacent lands become exposed during site alterations, they will be buried immediately with soil or covered with filter cloth or woodchips and kept moist until the roots can be buried permanently.
  - Any roots that must be cut will be cut cleanly to allow for healing.
- No signs, notices or posters should be attached to any trees;
- The removal of trees is to occur between October 1 and March 30. This is to avoid both the active bat season and the breeding bird season.
- Any landscape plans should include native species as much as possible various species could be used.

Concluding Statement

The proposal calls for the re-development of this parcel into mixed residential and commercial development and will require the removal of all three trees from the site. The subject lands are situated in a developed portion of the City of Ottawa and there are no natural heritage constraints, and no SAR were observed. The subject lands themselves are fully developed with impermeable surface. The trees, on-site, are along Ridgewood Drive and consist of three individuals. There are no woodlots on-site or in the adjacent lands. Care will be required to prevent accidentally harming the roots/branches of trees on the adjacent lands (single individuals present behind fencing). Once the site is developed landscaping could include the planting of native trees within the landscaped areas (along the edge of the property).

Should you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 613.935.6139 or 613.361.4154.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lavictoire
Principal/Ecologist

References

Bradley, David. 2007. Southern Ontario Vascular Plant Species List. Prepared by Southern Science and Information Section, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, Ontario. 57pp.

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Newmaster, S.G., A. Lehela, P.W.C Uhlig, S. McMurray and M.J. Oldham. (1998). Ontario plant list. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Forest Research Institute, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Forest Research Information Paper No. 123. 550 pp. + appendices.

Official Plan of the City of Ottawa. 2009.

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Appendix A: Tree Details

Tree ID	Species	UTM Coordinates (NAD 83)	DBH (cm)	Height (m)	Health	Comments	Ownership	To Be Removed
1	Silver Maple	18 T 446104 5024030	50	10	Good	4 stems	Brigil	Y
2	Honey Locust	18 T 446140 5024041	37	10	Good		Brigil	Y
3	Honey Locust	18 T 4466149 5024039	43	10	Good		Brigil	Y