

# HABITAT MODIFICATION PLAN COMMON NIGHTHAWK (CHORDEILES MINOR)



495 Jinkinson Road, Ottawa

Project No.: CP-17-0613

Prepared for:

J.R. Brisson Equipment Ltd.  
121 St-Pierre Road  
Vars, ON  
K0A 3H0

Prepared by:

McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd.  
115 Walgreen Road, R.R.3  
Carp, Ontario  
K0A 1L0

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Nesting habitat for the Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), was inadvertently created through the clearing of forested habitat within the property located at 495 Jinkinson Road, Ottawa (subject property). During field surveys conducted by McIntosh Perry Consulting Engineers Ltd. (McIntosh Perry) on June 28 (evening), and July 13 (daytime), 2018, for an Environmental Impact Statement (2018 EIS), a Common Nighthawk was flushed from the same location. During both surveys, the bird flew around the surveyor in circles, producing anxiety calls, followed by a distraction display on the ground, during the July 13 survey. This behaviour confirms the presence of nest and/or young within the subject property. As a special concern species on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List, the habitat of the Common Nighthawk is considered Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) and is therefore afforded protection under the Provincial Policy Statement (2014). The cleared area where the Common Nighthawk was observed during the 2018 surveys, is proposed for development. In order to ensure that the function of the SWH remains within the subject property, McIntosh Perry recommended in their 2018 EIS that habitat modification be completed within the subject property, to offset the loss of the impacted area (i.e., area of proposed development, 2.5 ha). As a result of the recommendation, the following plan has been prepared to outline the enhancement activities on the subject property that will modify an area to be appropriate for Common Nighthawk nesting habitat.

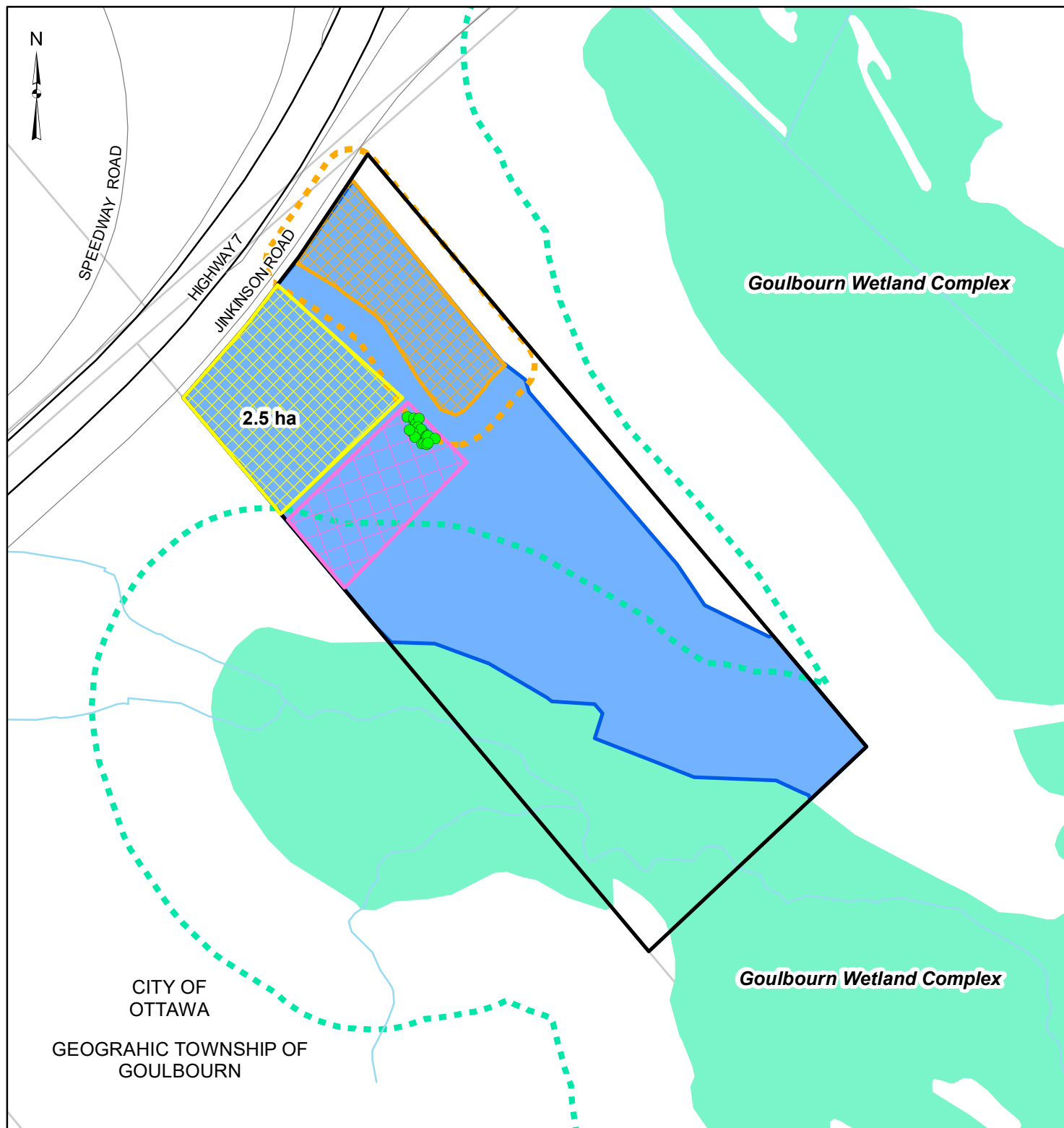
## 2.0 BACKGROUND – COMMON NIGHTHAWK HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Typically associated with open, often early successional habitats, the Common Nighthawk is known to nest in a wide-variety of habitats, including: open areas with little to no ground vegetation, such as logged or burned-over areas, forest clearings, rock barrens and outcrops, quarries, peat bogs, sand dunes, beaches, lakeshores, mine tailings, in addition to more vegetated areas such as short-grass prairies, pastures, and marshes. Although the species prefers natural sites for nesting, it is reasonably tolerant to human activity, and can be found nesting in settled areas such as military bases, airports, gravel roads, gravel rooftops, railways, cultivated fields, orchards, urban parks, and commercial blueberry fields. Their choice of habitat for nesting often correlates with an abundance of their chosen food source; flying insects.

## 3.0 HABITAT MODIFICATION

The proposed habitat modification will require the removal of twenty-one (21) trees within a 1.5 ha area (Figure 1), to bring the modified portion of forest to an earlier successional state (i.e., more open habitat required for nesting by the species). Trees proposed for removal were selected during a field survey conducted on February 4, 2019, by McIntosh Perry's biologist (H. Lunn), who has an understanding of the requirements for Common Nighthawk nesting habitat. These trees are outlined on Figure 1. The Twenty-one (21) selected trees (eastern white pine, eastern white cedar, eastern hemlock, black cherry, large-toothed aspen, etc.), will be cut during the appropriate timing window to avoid impacts to migratory bird species and species at risk (SAR) (i.e., prior to April 15, 2019). Trees selected for removal included a selection of the most mature trees in the area of enhancement, and those with the most canopy coverage (i.e., deciduous species). In addition, snags or cavity trees were not selected for removal, in order to avoid impact to SAR bats and other species that utilize cavities for nesting purposes. The selected removals should act to set back succession in a small section of the chosen

enhancement area, where forest clearings have been created. The clearing will provide suitable nesting habitat for the Common Nighthawk in the 2019 breeding season.



#### LEGEND

- |  |   |  |                            |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|
|  | Site Boundary                                   |  | Trees selected for removal |
|  | Area of Proposed Development                    |  | Local Road                 |
|  | Suggested Area of Habitat Modification          |  | Major Road                 |
|  | Provincially Significant Wetland                |  | Watercourse                |
|  | 120m Buffer of Provincially Significant Wetland |  | Lot and Concession         |
|  | Unevaluated Wetland                             |  |                            |
|  | 30m Buffer of Unevaluated Wetland               |  |                            |
|  | Significant Woodland                            |  |                            |

#### REFERENCE

GIS data provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2019.

100 50 0 100  
Scale 1:5,500 Metres

CLIENT:		J.R. BRISSON EQUIPMENT	
PROJECT:		495 JINKINSON ROAD EIS	
TITLE:		AREA HABITAT MODIFICATION	
<b>McINTOSH PERRY</b> 115 Walgreen Road, RR3, Carp, ON K0A1L0 Tel: 613-836-2184 Fax: 613-836-3742 <a href="http://www.mcintoshperry.com">www.mcintoshperry.com</a>		PROJECT NO: CP-17-0613	FIGURE:
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