

TREE CONSERVATION REPORT – 530 TREMBLAY ROAD, OTTAWA

PREPARED FOR:

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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 such sites. In this instance the removal of vegetation is required prior to a proposed residential development at 530 Tremblay Road in Ottawa. This TCR has been prepared in advance of this work. The approval of this TCR by the City of Ottawa and the issuing of a permit constitutes authorization to remove the approved trees. No trees should be removed until such a permit has been issued.

The subject property is located within a fully-vegetated corridor north of a rail right of way and Avenues P, S, T and U in the Eastway Gardens neighbourhood. The property covers an area of 1.21 hectares (3.0 acres). It has a legal description of Part of lot 11, Junction Gore Concession, Gloucester, designated as Part 1 on Plan 4R-27340 City of Ottawa.

As presently proposed the development consists of 3 residential blocks which could each hold approximately 300 units. The intensity of the development will leave little room for the retention of existing trees. The exception is a linear amenity area adjacent to the rail right of way. Here any desirable trees could possibly be retained subject to grading and site servicing considerations.

METHODOLOGY

A survey of the site was completed on June 23, 2015. All shrub and tree growth was inventoried, measured and assessed via a series of transect lines made through the subject property. At set intervals along each transect sample plots of 50m² were established. A total of six such plots were created, providing a sampling intensity of two plots per acre. The overstory trees and visible understory vegetation in each plot was assessed for species, size (diameter) and general health condition. This information was then compiled and put into tabular form. This tree survey data is summarized in Table 1 of this report.

TREE INVENTORY

From a review of historic aerial photography it is apparent the subject property was largely cleared of woody vegetation in the late 1950's and early 1960's during the construction of Eastway Gardens. Since that time the formerly cleared areas have become colonized with early-successional and invasive woody vegetation. This consists mainly of groupings of trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) which most likely became established through root sprouts from previously existing parent trees. These groupings are primarily located on the eastern portion of the property. Other native tree species



present, though less frequently than poplar, are bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.). These species are so infrequent they often did not appear within the sample plots. Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) were previously present in great numbers, in fact the most prevalent native tree species, but are now all dead due to the spread of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). White elm (*Ulmus americana*) were also present in significant numbers in the past but the spread of Dutch elm disease (*Ophiostoma ulmi*) has greatly reduced their frequency.

Table 1. Tree and shrub inventory of 530 Tremblay Road.

| Species | Av. Diameter (cm) | % occupancy |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Buckthorn | 6.6 | 68 |
| Ash (dead) | 17.3 | 21 |
| Honeysuckle | 4.5 | 4 |
| Serviceberry | 5.3 | 3 |
| Trembling aspen | 30.0 | 2 |
| Bur oak | 19.1 | <1 |
| White cedar | 13.7 | <1 |
| White elm | 6.2 | <1 |

The other native vegetation on the site consists of lower growing shrub species: staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) and scrub willow (*Salix* spp.). These species have been able to successfully regenerate primarily on either the margins of the property or in low, wet areas due to the lack of shading from a consistent overstory.

Extensive site disturbance in such peri-urban areas also encourages the spread of non-native (alien), invasive and naturalized species. Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), both introduced and highly invasive species, are present in great numbers throughout the property. Other invasive species present in significant numbers are: honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), Amur maple (*Acer tataricum* subsp. *ginnala*) and Manitoba maple (*Acer negundo*). Being intolerant of shade both former species are located in open areas and along the margins of the subject property. Manitoba maple is a frequent urban species which was not present pre-settlement but now naturalized to eastern Ontario.

Typical vegetative conditions within the subject property are shown in Pictures 1 and 2 on page 3.



Picture 1. Typical understory conditions on the subject property – dense buckthorn.



Picture 2. Typical overstory conditions on the subject property - dead ash above dense buckthorn growth.

USE OF EXISTING VEGETATION

Tree retention on the subject property will be greatly constrained by the size of the proposed development and associated underground parking. Furthermore, very few existing trees are of species or condition which would merit their retention. The only possible exception to this is the few scattered bur oaks on the site. Any such trees could be retained if they happen to fall within the linear amenity area north of the rail way corridor. Again, this will be subject to future site serving and grading considerations.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

No butternuts (*Juglans cinerea*) were found on the subject property. This tree 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 tree survival during construction:

1. Erect a fence at the critical root zone (CRZ¹) 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.

¹ 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.

However, since no trees are proposed for retention protection measures are not anticipated to be necessary in this instance.

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

Yours,

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