## 229 – 247 BEECHWOOD AVE UDRP FORMAL REVIEW – May 6 - 2022









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### 1.0 PLANING

## City of Ottawa Official Plan

**Traditional Mainstreets** are "planned as compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented streets" with a broad range of uses which may be mixed in individual buildings or occur side by side in separate buildings.



Traditional Mainstreet

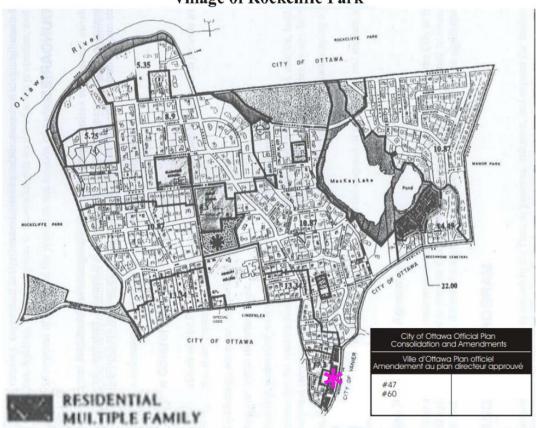
Redevelopment and infill on Traditional Mainstreets are encouraged in order to **optimize the use of land** in a building format that encloses the street edge and provides active frontages. This proposal supports the Design Objectives of the Official Plan by:

- Contributing to the **unique identity** of Beechwood Avenue through heritage-sensitive design.
- Ensuring **compatibility** with the existing character of the area through appropriate use and scale.
- Providing a mix of unit types to promote adaptability and appeal to a broad demographic.
- Ensuring **transit supportive** design with a focus on pedestrian and cyclist connections.
- Delineating clear **public and private spaces** through landscaping and streetscape treatment.
- Designing safe and accessible movement through the site that minimizes interaction between pedestrians and vehicles.
- Using quality materials as well permeable surfaces to contribute to sustainable design.

# Former Village of Rockcliffe Park Secondary Plan

The Secondary Plan is intended to ensure that future development is in keeping with the present environment and existing characteristics of the Village. The Village includes "an area planned for redevelopment at a higher density" located on the west side of Beechwood Avenue, between Oakhill Road and Acacia Avenue.





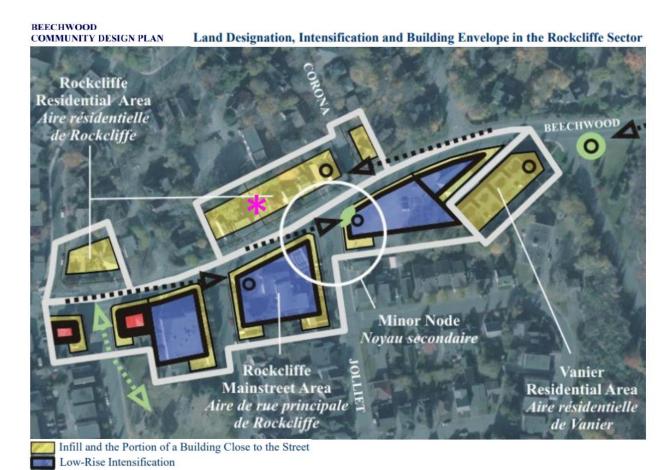
The **Residential Multiple Family** designation permits detached single-family dwellings, two-family dwellings, (semi-detached and duplex), row dwellings and apartments.

The height, massing, setbacks and parking areas of any development in this area is to be compatible with the adjacent residential development.

Unlike much of Rockcliffe Park, there is **no Residential Density** specified for this site in terms of the maximum number of dwelling units permitted per net hectare of land.

# Beechwood Community Design Plan

Beechwood Avenue is the **heart of an urban village** that draws people by providing for their day-to-day needs in a traditional mainstreet setting. The Rockcliffe Sector "is not as well defined in character" as the other sectors of the CDP.



d-Rise Intensification

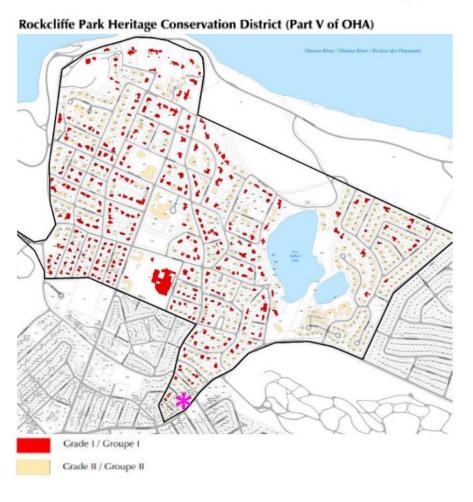
The **Rockcliffe Sector** is envisioned to develop with low and mid-rise, mixed-use buildings on the south side of the avenue and infill residential buildings on the north side. Development intensity and building height should gradually rise from the east to the west.

The proposed development is in keeping with the existing patterns of development and residential nature along the north side of Beechwood Avenue and will aid to better link this sector with the other sectors further west.

The Village of Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation **District Plan** (2005) has been used as guidance in the design of the new buildings.

## Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District

The Rockcliffe Park Heritage Conservation District was designated under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage* Act in 1997. The southwest boundary of the District, referred to as the Panhandle, is characterized by "multi-unit buildings, small lots, and more modest houses".

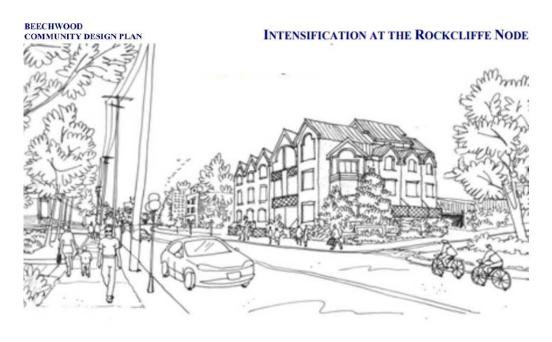


Developed between 1905 and 1950, all properties are evaluated as Grade II buildings, being buildings that are generally "not sympathetic to the character of the HCD in their design and expression". Demolition of Grade II buildings may be considered where accompanied by plans for a replacement building that complies with the guidelines. The proposed development meets the objectives of the HCD, as follows:

- Respecting the **character** of existing adjacent buildings, in terms of massing and height.
- Maintaining existing grades on site including the retention of low stone retaining walls.
- Using cladding materials such as brick and stone that are sympathetic to neighbouring styles.
- Providing uniform front yard setbacks and adequate building separation to ensure a dominance of soft landscaping.
- Setting back rooftop terraces from the edges of the buildings and minimizing projection sizes;
- Preserving established streetscape character in terms of driveways, walkways, planting arrangements and special features.
- Replacing trees that are to be removed for construction purposes and adding new street tree plantings.

## Urban Design Guidelines for Development along Traditional Mainstreets

Mainstreets offer some of the most significant opportunities in the city for intensification through "more compact forms of development, a lively mix of uses and a pedestrian-friendly environment."



The design principles for new buildings along Traditional Mainstreets have informed the design of the proposed development, as follows:

- Paying special attention to streetscape elements, including animating the street with front facing windows and entrances, and improving existing landscaping on site.
- Designing a sensitive **built form**, which ensures sufficient light and privacy for adjacent buildings and uses architectural elements to visually minimize the mass of the building.
- Prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists by providing clear, protected pathways through the site, and from the street to the principal building entrances.
- Locating vehicular parking below-grade with single-lane accesses to eliminate presence of parking on site and minimize the extent of interruptions along the street.
- Including landscaping elements to provide privacy, visually enhance the streetscape and achieve cohesiveness with the existing character of the neighborhood.
- Incorporating servicing and utility elements into the design of the building in a manner that minimizes visual clutter and is

# Zoning By-law 2008-250

The purpose of the R4 zone is to allow a wide mix of residential building forms ranging from detached to low rise apartment dwellings and regulate development in a manner that is compatible with existing land use patterns so that the mixed building form, residential character of a neighbourhood is maintained or enhanced



The subject properties are zoned R4UC[1321] H(12.5) pursuant to Zoning By-law 2008-250 and located in Area Y -Inner Urban Mainstreets on Schedule 1A.

An apartment dwelling, low-rise is a **permitted use**.

The maximum **building heights** permitted are:

- 12.5m (four storeys) for 241, 245 & 247 Beechwood Avenue; and
- 11m (three storeys) for 229 & 231 Beechwood.

It is the intent that the development be designed in full compliance with the Zoning By-law.

### 2.0 CONTEXT

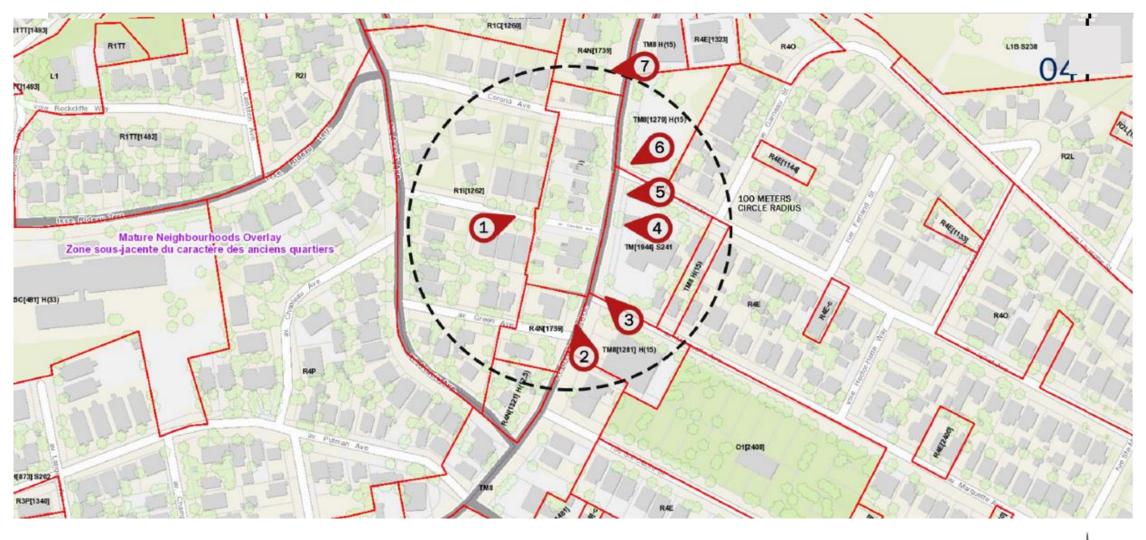


The five detached residential properties are set on discreet lots and contain two storey residences. The properties sit at the base of the Rockcliffe plateau and grades rise approximately 3m from the Beechwood Avenue property lines to the back of the properties that abuts a retaining wall that encloses lots fronting onto Black Maple Private. Grades rise 1m from south to north along the Beechwood Avenue frontage. Bus route 7 and 17 are serving the area on Beechwood avenue.

The subject site consist of five properties 229, 231 - 235, 241, 245, and 247 Beechwood avenue with approximately 81m of frontage along Beechwood avenue and a lot depth of 29m to 32m.

The properties front onto the west side of Beechwood Avenue bound by Corona Avenue to the north, Green Avenue to the south, and Acacia Avenue to the west. Carsdale Avenue, which has been closed by the city, bisects the proposed development. Carsdale Avenue to remain open by the City.





The site is zoned R4UC and adjacent properties to the north include a one-storey wood frame cottage, and a two storey detached residence at the corner of Corona Avenue. The property adjacent to the south is a three storey contemporary detached residence fronting onto Green Avenue. To the west of the site are contemporary three storey detached residences fronting onto Black Maple Private. Across the street from the site is a four to ten storey condominium with commercial uses on the ground floor.





1: Street view looking east on Black Maple Private/Carsdale to the west of the development site.



4: Street view looking at Carsdale bisecting the development site. Note the bus stop for no. 7 and no. 17 routes.



2: Street view looking north at the corner of Beechwood ave. and Green ave. 455 Green avenue. is an example of recent development in the area.



5: Street view looking at 241 and 245 Beechwood ave. Note the low stonewall and narrow sidewalk that are features to enhance and maintain with the new proposed development.

6: Street view looking south on Beechwood ave. to the development

site.

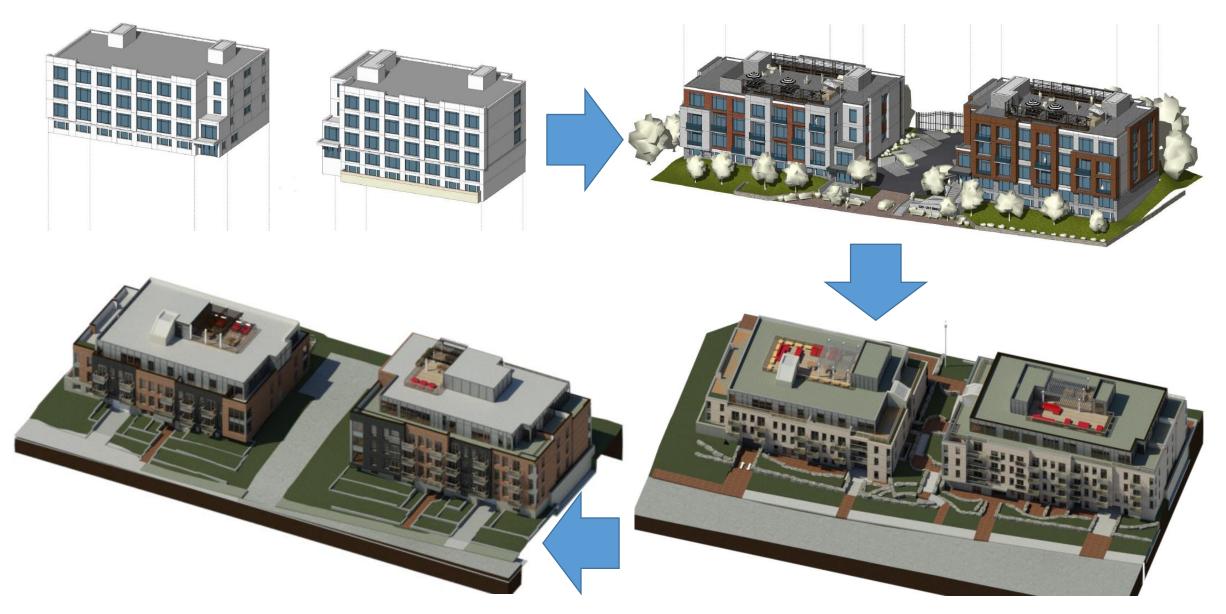


3: Street view looking west from Beechwood ave. at 229 and 231-235 Beechwood ave. existing buildings on site.



7: Street view of the recent development 259, 261, and 263 Beechwood ave. to the north of Corona ave.

### 3.0 BUILDING MASSING



MASSING PROCESS OF NEW PROPOSAL

- 229 - 247 BEECHWOOD AVE.

### **Beechwood Urban Design Objectives**

Given the massing of the proposed design, the intent will be to break the visuality of the two blocks into smaller compartments to better integrate them into the neighbourhood of the existing buildings.

To enhance the residential versus commercial character of the design, we have introduced major modules combined with minor modules of glazing elements.

We have connected both buildings directly to the Beechwood ROW where there are pedestrian entrances at the same elevation as the public sidewalk.

We have respected the Road Widening Allowance that the City has imposed on the properties for future use.

We have relocated automobile parking, bicycle storage and garbage containment within the footprint of both buildings.

We are using a pallet of materials, colours and textures that respect the fabric of the surrounding existing buildings.

### Sustainability Expectations

Sustainability will be addressed through our approach to having focus on the methodology for construction.

### For example:

We will address sustainability with the use of proper insulation and, using materials with a long-life span and availability such as wood frame construction.

We are proposing the extensive use of brick, perhaps using alternative materials for their fabrication such as mud or wool currently under development.

We will investigate the use of recycled plastics that do not degrade as a substitution for glass guards for the balconies.

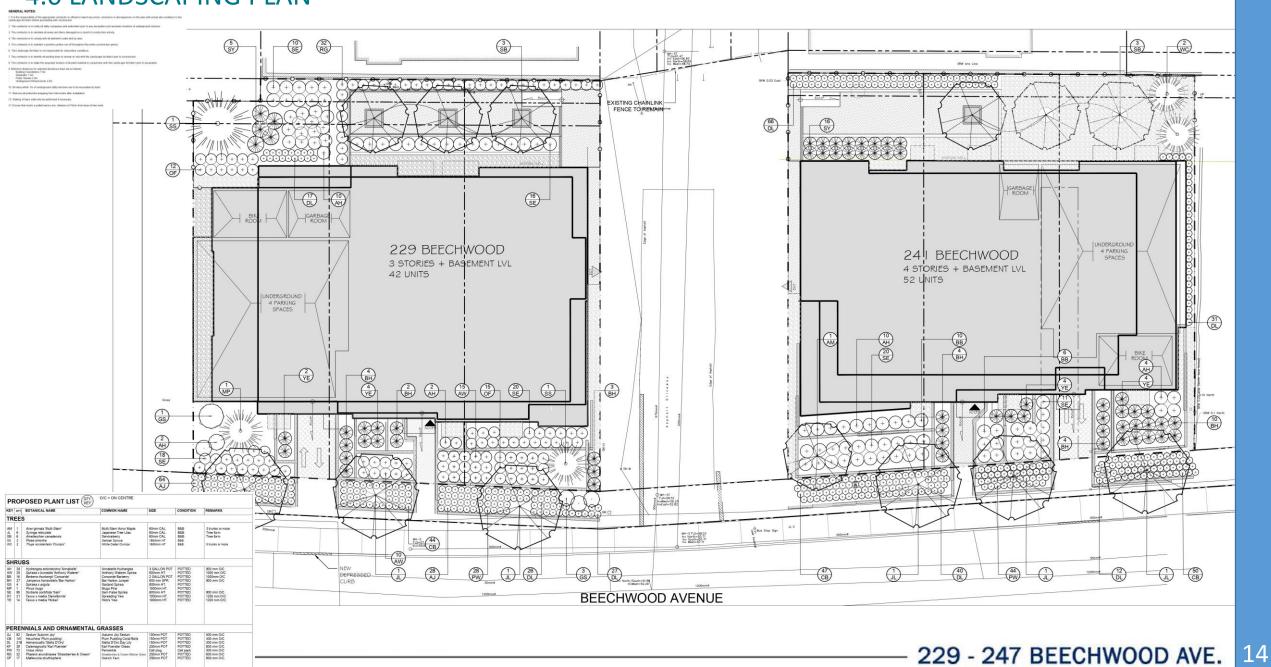
We will use wood-frame windows triple glazed.

We will explore the ability to use ground source heat technology in this location.

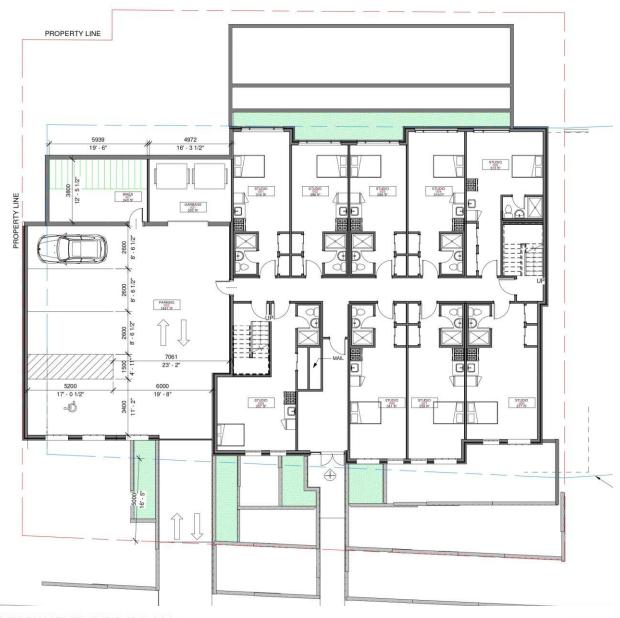
We will explore the use of renewable energy during construction using a modular battery system recharged via solar panels.



### 4.0 LANDSCAPING PLAN



### 6.0 FLOOR PLANS



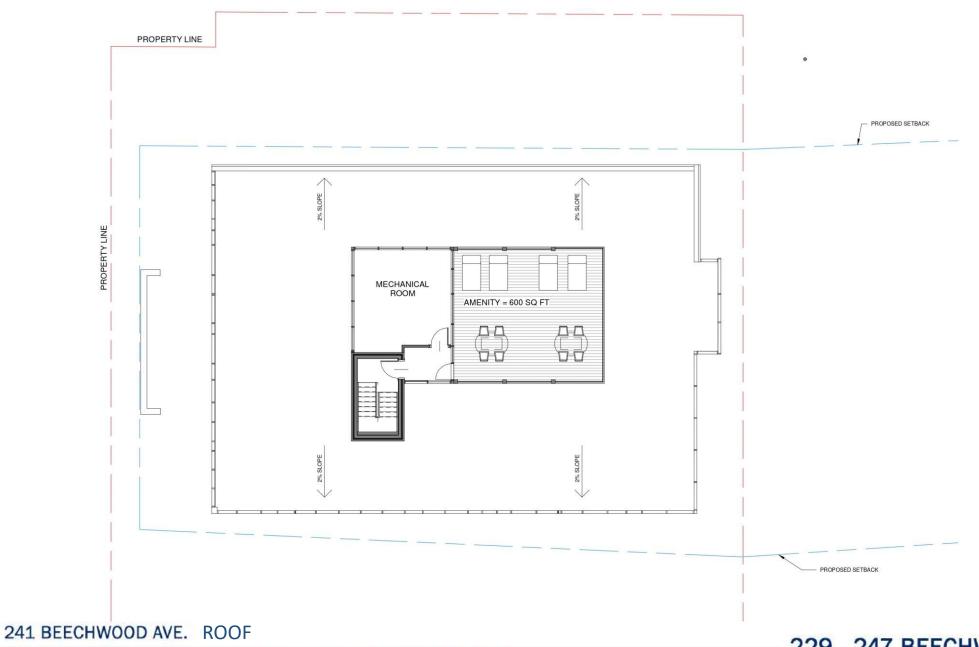


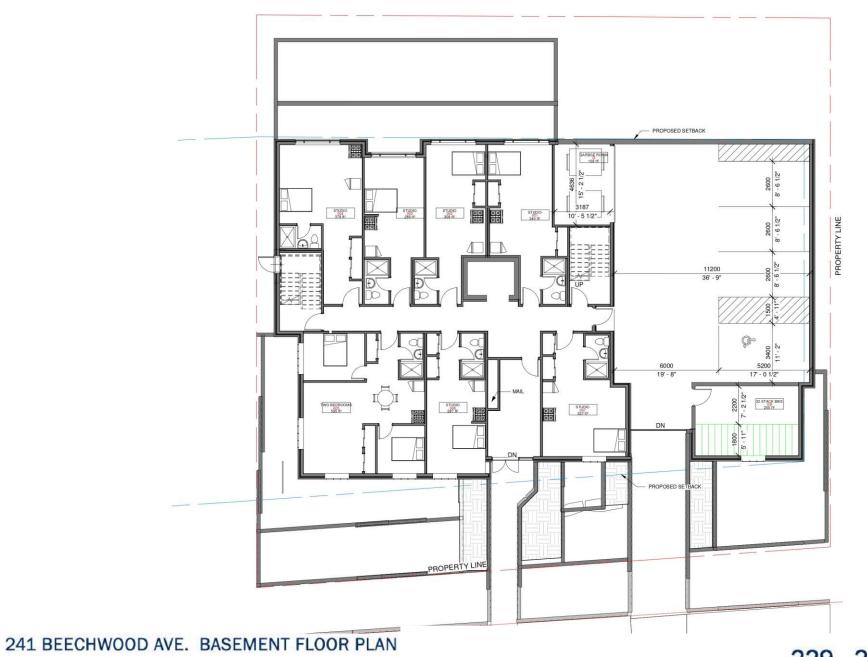
229 BEECHWOOD AVE. FIRST FLOOR PLAN

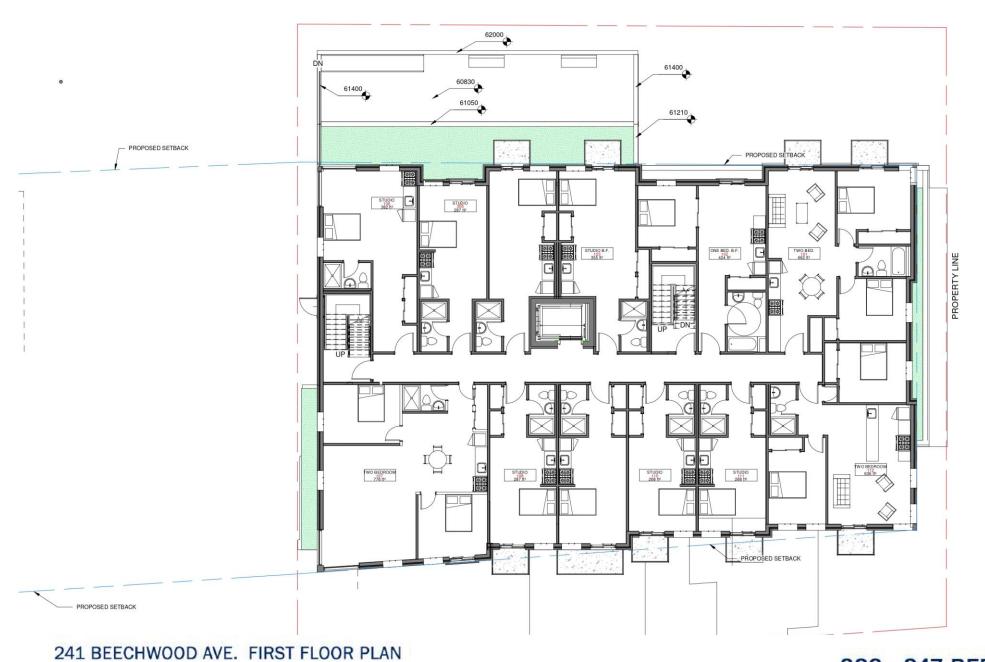
- 229 - 247 BEECHWOOD AVE.





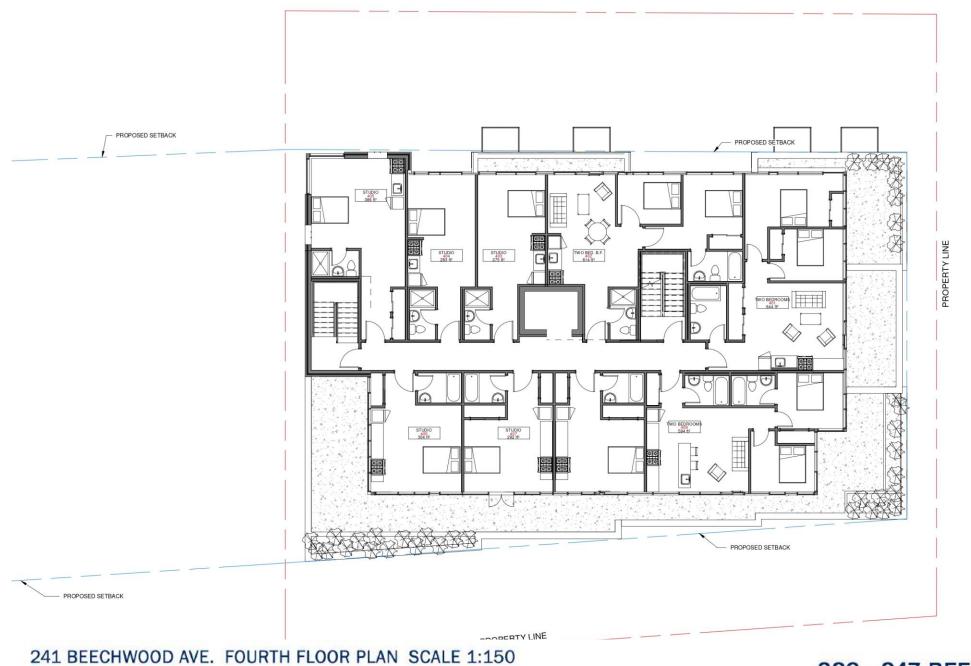














### 7.0 ELEVATIONS & VIEWS



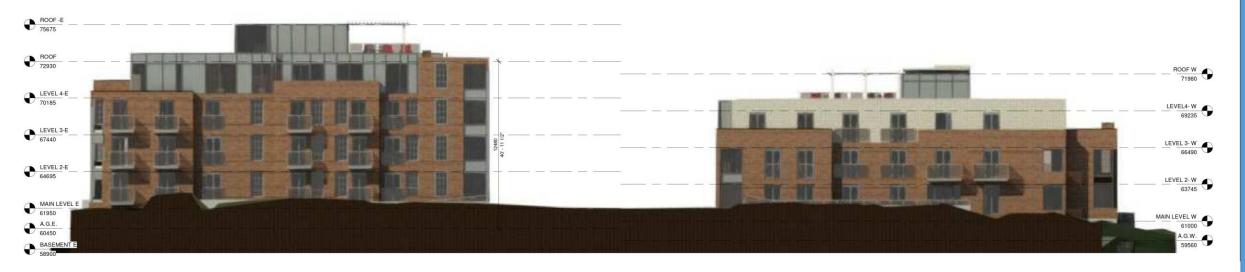




**EAST & SOUTH ELEVATIONS** 







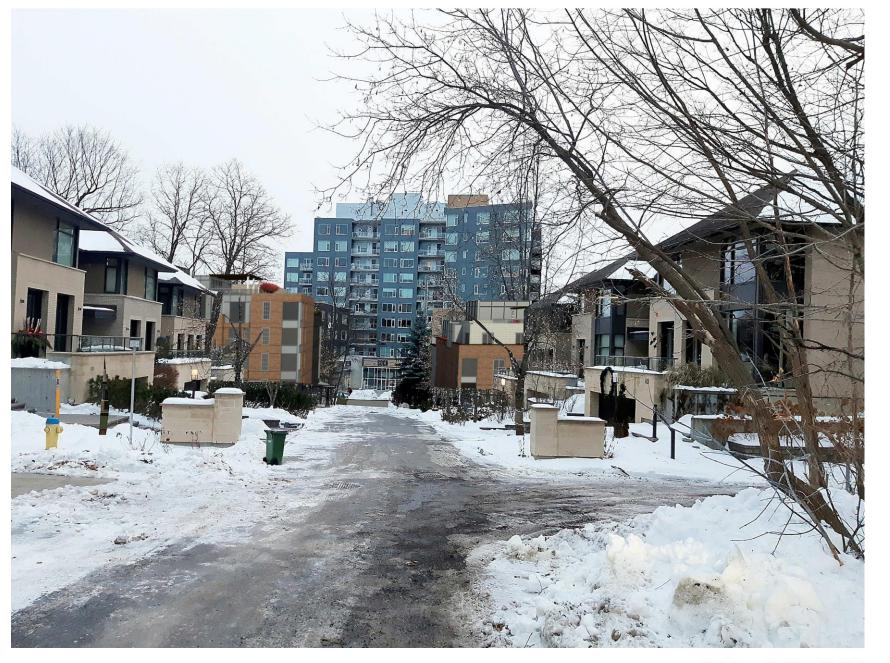
**WEST & NORTH ELEVATIONS** 



229 - 247 BEECHWOOD AVE.

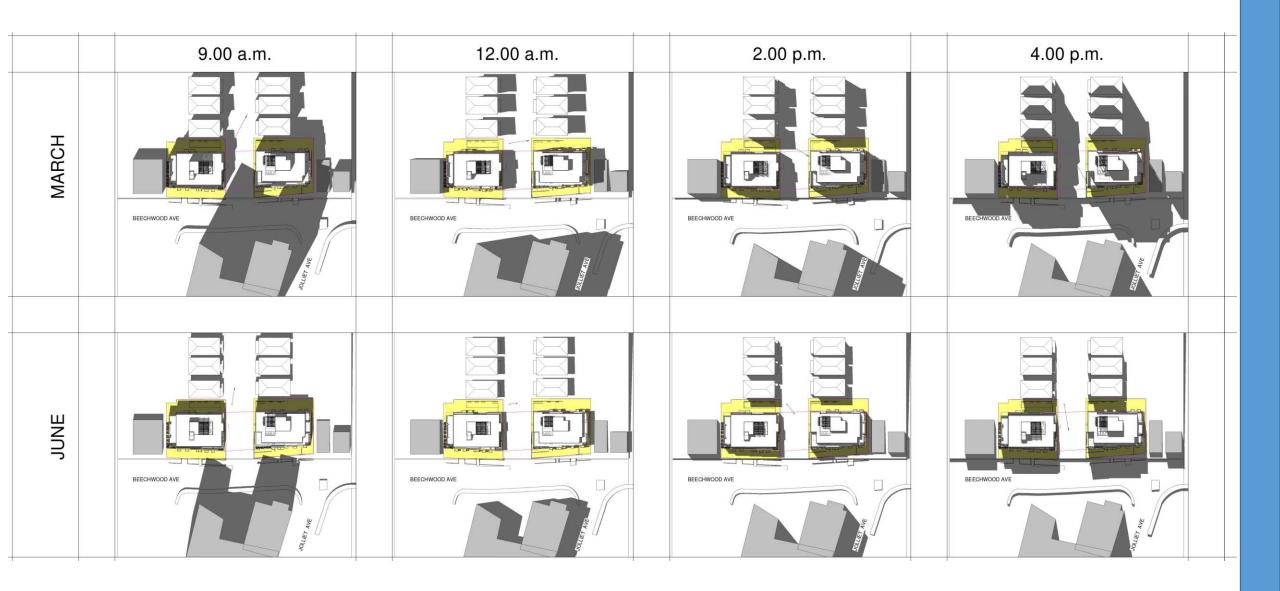


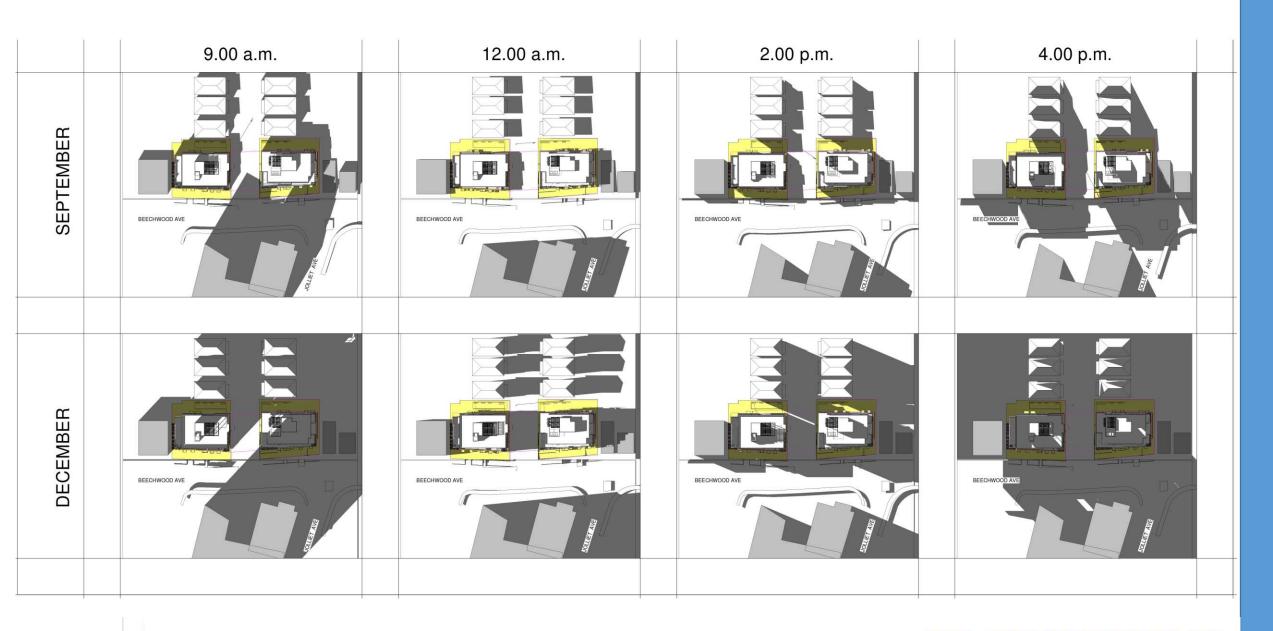


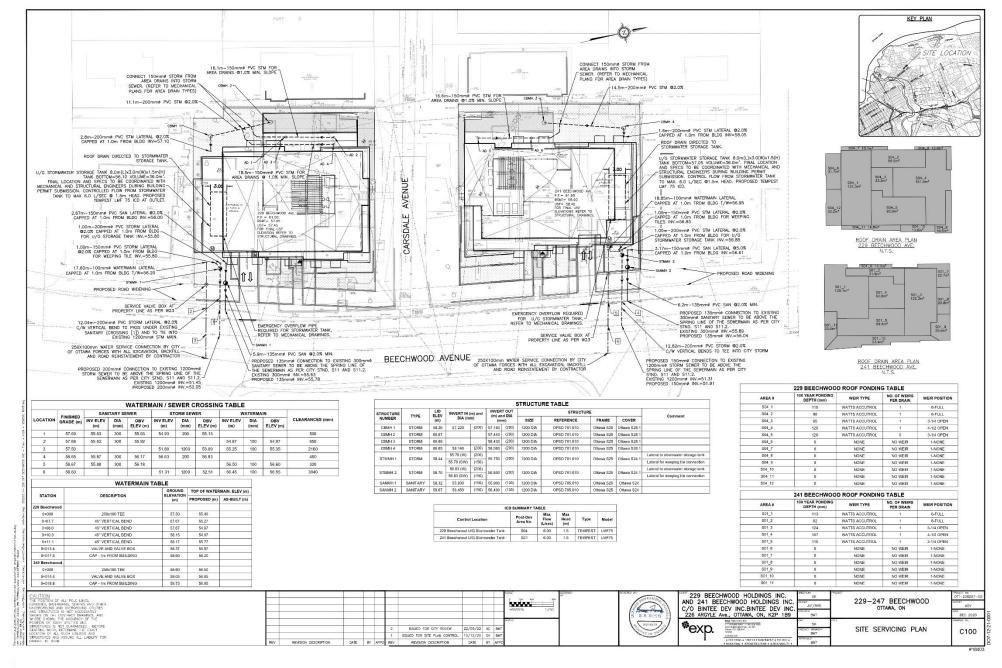


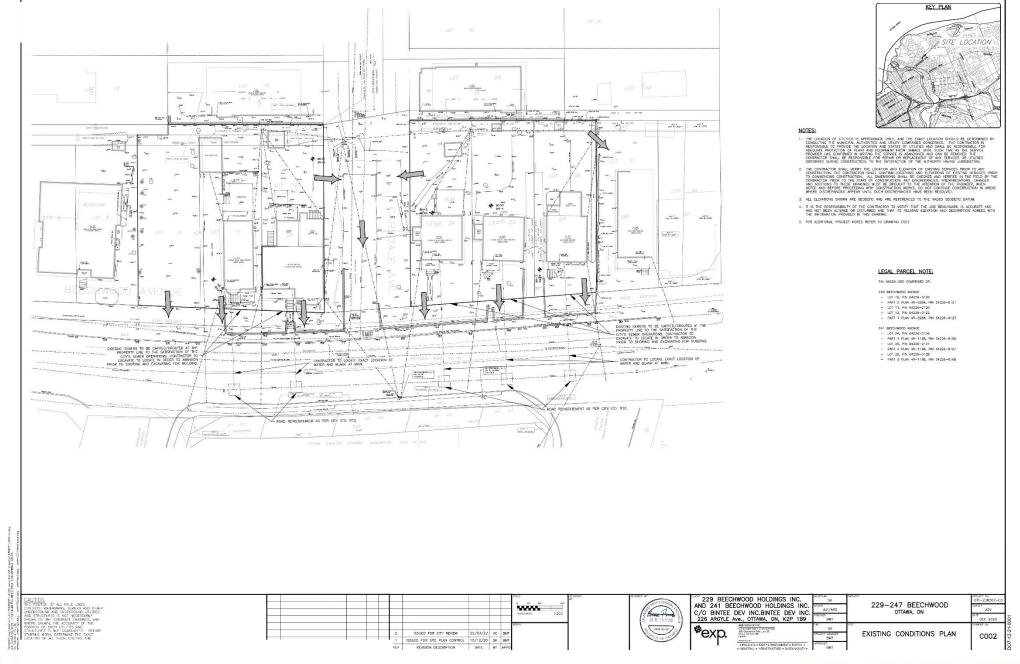


### 8.0 SHADOW ANALYSIS









### Responses to December 4, 2021 - UDRP Comments

#### Grading

The Panel felt that the grading of the site was a critical issue that remained to be resolved. As currently designed, it is overcomplicating the approaches to the buildings entrances, requiring a long retaining wall, and will interfere will access to light in the basement units.

- Explore how manipulating the grades in the front yard could simplify the arrival sequence to the main entrances of the buildings. There should be fewer stairs and ramps.
- Lower the grade to reduce the presence of the retaining wall in the public realm.
- Lower the grading in the front yard to improve access to light in the basement units, as they will be quite dark as designed.

#### Response:

The exterior stairs and ramps leading to the above grade entrances for both buildings have been eliminated and replaced with separate entrances for each building relocated to be centred on each of the Beechwood building facades.

The Public realm has been expanded to include the entire road widening element within the properties. The edge condition of the public realm is expressed with a 600 mm maximum capped stone relief.

The grading has been maintained to support the interpretation requirement for three and four storey above grade buildings with basements.

### Massing and Building Design

- The Panel generally supported the massing of the proposal and thought that the architecture was quite handsome.
- The Panel was intrigued by the flexibility of the units, but cautioned against having 110 of the same unit type in the building. There should be a variety of suite sizes.
- Ensure that the rood amenity is not intrusive for neighbouring sites.
- The Panel suggested picking up on the rhythm and articulation of other buildings on the street and integrating them into the building's articulation.

#### Response:

The Unit mix has been revised as follows:

There are now 94 Units split between the two buildings comprising

65 studio units, 23 two-bedroom units and, 6 one-bedroom units.

As outlined above, the parking has been relocated into the basement levels of each building and, the Rear Yard setback has been maintained at 7.0 metres.

The building articulation for each building has been modified to reflect a "base, middle, top expression". Each building now has a stone base, two or three stories of brick masonry fragmented using colour to break the massing into similar streetscape blocking and, the top is capped with a recessed metal expression.

#### Materiality

 The Panel recommends the use of more brick in the proposal. It should be similarly coloured to that used in the neighbourhood.

### Response:

The volume of brick used has increased significantly and the colours used fit within the textures of the streetscape.

#### Site Plan

- The Panel urged the proponent to reconsider the design of the parking between the buildings and passibly reduce the number of spaces, as it currently appears quite tight.
- Consider where taxis and Ubers will likely be stopping for drop-offs and pick-ups.
- Explore the possibility of shifting the building forward towards Beechwood and relocating the parking to the back of the site.

#### Response:

The parking has now been removed from the Carlisle Right of Way.

Taxis and Ubers can be accommodated within the now vacant ROW or curbside along Beechwood,

There is no longer a requirement to shift the building as there is no need to relocate the parking to the back of the Site.

### Public Realm

- The Panel appreciated the seating areas, but recommended expanding those areas and exploring the possibility of recessing them further back so that they may be framed between the two buildings.
- Ensure that utilities and hydro infrastructure are placed strategically on the site and screened from view.

#### Response:

As mentioned above the Public Realm has now been merged into the portion of the property to be allocated for Road Widening.

Utilities and Hydro Infrastructure will be screened from view.