

# Memo

To: Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

From: Jaimie Bortolotti, Dillon Consulting Limited cc: Brad McLeod, Dillon Consulting Limited

Karl Tanner, Dillon Consulting Limited

Date: November 23, 2022

Subject: Species at Risk Considerations for the proposed North Neighbourhood Phase 7 development

north of Wyandotte Street East, City of Windsor, Essex County

Our File: 22-4866

### Introduction

Dillon Consulting Limited ('Dillon') has been retained by 1027458 Ontario Inc. (the 'proponent') for natural environment consulting services in support of obtaining an Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment for the site located on the north side of Wyandotte Street East and south of Riverside Drive East, between the future extensions of Clover Avenue and Lublin Avenue (the 'Project Location') in the City of Windsor. The proposed development for the Project Location is herein referred to as "North Neighbourhood – Phase 7".

The purpose of this memo is to summarize the natural environment existing conditions and the potential for Species at Risk (SAR) to occur within the Project Location.

## Study Area

The Project Location is located on the north side of Wyandotte Street East and south of Riverside Drive East, between the future extensions of Clover Avenue and Lublin Avenue in the City of Windsor, east of the Riverside Sportsmen Club (Attachment A; Figure 1). For the purposes of documenting the natural environment existing conditions, the Study Area includes the Project Location, as well as the area 120 metres (m) outside of the Project Location (the 'Study Area').

## Methodology

## **Background Information**

The background information reviewed included a combination of existing published data, information made available through various public agencies, and web-based mapping programs. The information collected as part of the background review process was used to inform the scoping of field investigations as a mechanism to document the existing natural environment conditions, identify potential constraints,

and support future potential permits and approvals for the project. Information sources reviewed as part of the background data collection process are listed below in Table 1.

TABLE 1: LIST OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION, LITERATURE, AND SECONDARY SOURCES

| Record Source  | Records Requested and/or Reviewed  |
|--|--|
| Government of Canada   |  |
| Environment Canada   | <ul> <li>Species at Risk Registry: Accessed to determine the<br/>at-risk status of wildlife species under Schedule 1<br/>of the Species at Risk Act (SARA; 2002)</li> </ul>  |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)                                | <ul> <li>Aquatic Species at Risk Map: Accessed to<br/>determine aquatic at-risk occurrences</li> </ul>   |
| Government of Ontario  |  |
| Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)       | <ul> <li>Endangered Species Act (ESA; 2007)</li> <li>Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List (O. Reg. 230/08)</li> <li>Client's Guide to Preliminary Screening for Species at Risk (2019)</li> </ul>  |
| Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry<br>(MNRF)             | <ul> <li>Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) database (Squares: 17LG4288; MNRF, 2022)</li> <li>MNRF Make a Map: Natural Heritage Areas (MNRF, 2022)</li> <li>Technical Memo: Aylmer District MNRF Guidance on Identifying Activities/Areas not Likely to Contravene the Endangered Species Act, 2007 in the County of Essex &amp; City of Windsor (2016)</li> </ul> |
| Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) | <ul> <li>Agricultural Information Atlas (OMAFRA, 2022);<br/>reviewed area drains</li> </ul>  |
| Municipal Government(s)  |  |
| City of Windsor  | Official Plan (2013)   |
| Additional Sources   |  |
|  | <ul> <li>Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA; Cadman et al.,<br/>2008). Second Atlas (2001-2005) – data for square<br/>17TLG48 – grid based on 10 km² system.</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul> <li>Christmas Bird Count (CBC; Birds Canada, 2022).</li> <li>Count circle North Shore (ONNS) – Historical<br/>Records from 2000 – 2021.</li> </ul>  |
| Wildlife Atlases and Distribution Data                           | <ul> <li>Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario (Fourth Edition;<br/>Oldham and Brinker, 2009). Distribution data for<br/>rare vascular plants.</li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul> <li>Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (ORAA;<br/>Ontario Nature, 2022). List of reptile and<br/>amphibian species occurrences for square<br/>17TLG48.</li> </ul>  |

| Record Source | Records Requested and/or Reviewed   |
|---------------|---|
|               | <ul> <li>Ontario Butterfly Atlas (OBA; Toronto<br/>Entomologists Association, 2022). List of butterfly<br/>species occurrences for square 17TLG48.</li> </ul> |
|               | <ul> <li>Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario (Dobbyn, 1994).</li> <li>Distribution data for mammals.</li> </ul>   |
|               | <ul> <li>Bumble Bees of North America (Williams et al.,<br/>2014). Distribution data for bumble bees.</li> </ul>  |

#### Field Investigation

Field investigations were conducted on May 24 and September 22, 2022 by a Dillon biologist from within the extents of the Study Area to document existing natural heritage features, if present, and assess the Project Location for potential SAR occurrences and/or SAR habitat. A high-level vegetation community reconnaissance was also completed using Ecological Land Classification (ELC). The ecological community boundaries were first determined based on review of aerial imagery using the ELC System for Southern Ontario (Lee et al., 2008) with 2008 updates (Lee, 2008) in order to classify and map ecological communities to the vegetation level, and subsequently refined based on field investigations. Specific surveys, including confirmation of the presence or absence of wildlife, SAR, and/or their habitats were not part of the field investigation.

### Results

## **Background Information**

#### **Designated Natural Features**

A search and analysis of the records outlined in Table 1 did not identify any provincial parks or conservation reserves/areas, Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Life Science, or Earth Science, or Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) within the Study Area. Some Fencerow communities within the Project Location are designated as MNRF Woodland.

The Project Location falls within the Eastern Lake St. Clair Important Bird Area (IBA).

#### City of Windsor Official Plan Designations

The City of Windsor OP (2013) identifies lands designated as Environmental Policy Area A (Schedule C) across the road from the southwest part of the Project Location. The Project Location is designated as Residential (Schedule D; Attachment B).

#### Field Investigation

#### **Ecological Land Classification**

Vegetation communities were assessed and classified using ELC, where the ELC classifications assigned were used to identify potential natural heritage features within the Study Area. Communities observed within the Study Area are detailed in Table 2 and shown on Figure 2 (Attachment A). Refer to Attachment C for representative site photographs. Plant and wildlife observations made during the field investigation are listed in Attachment D.

TABLE 2: ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION RESULTS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

| ELC Community  | Location   | Dominant Plant Species   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Natural ELC Communities                                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Forb Meadow (MEF)  | This community is located in the southwest part of the Study Area (outside of the Project Location).               | Eastern Cottonwood (Populus deltoides ssp. deltoides), Eastern Late Goldenrod (Solidago altissima ssp. altissima), and Great Ragweed (Ambrosia trifida). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cultural ELC Communitie                                    | es   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fencerow with<br>European Common<br>Reed Inclusion (TAGM5) | This community is located southwest of the Project Location.   | Eastern Cottonwood, Freeman's Maple (Acer x freemanii), and European Common Reed (Phragmites australis ssp. australis).                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Open Agriculture<br>(OAGM1)                                | This community is located throughout the Project Location and in the western and southern parts of the Study Area. | Soy Bean (Glycine max) in the recent past.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Commercial and<br>Institutional (CVC)                      | This community is located in the western part of the Study Area associated with the Riverside Sportsmen Club.      | Regularly-maintained grass with landscape trees.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Green Lands (CGL)  | This community is located in the northern part of the Study Area and is associated with a multi-use trail.         | Regularly-maintained grass with landscape trees.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Residential (CVR)  | This community is located in the northern and northwestern parts of the Study Area.                                | Regularly-maintained grass with landscape trees.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transportation and Utilities (CVI)                         | Community type outlines current roads in the Study Area.   | N/A  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### Species at Risk Habitat Screening

A review of the information included in Table 1 identified several SAR with the potential to be within and/or in proximity (i.e. within 1 km) to the Project Location. However, given that the Project Location is largely associated with anthropogenic disturbances and activities (i.e. agriculture), limited potential SAR and/or their habitat was considered to occur in the Project Location and surrounding Study Area. Based on Dillon's experience in the general area, a review of aerial imagery, and existing natural features identified through the site visits conducted on May 24 and September 22, SAR identified during background review with potential to occur was refined to the species included in Table 3.

TABLE 3: SAR WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

| Scientific Name            | Common Name                 | SARA <sup>1</sup> | ESA <sup>2</sup> | SRank <sup>3</sup> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Birds                      |                             |                   |                  |                    |
| Dolichonyx oryzivorus      | Bobolink                    | THR               | THR              | S4B                |
| Melanerpes erythrocephalus | Red-headed Woodpecker       | END               | END              | S3                 |
| Sturnella magna            | Eastern Meadowlark          | THR               | THR              | S4B                |
| Reptiles                   |                             |                   |                  |                    |
| Pantherophis gloydi        | Eastern Foxsnake            | END               | END              | S2                 |
| Thamnophis butleri         | Butler's Gartersnake        | END               | END              | S2                 |
| Mammals                    |                             |                   |                  |                    |
| Myotis leibii              | Eastern Small-footed Myotis |                   | END              | S2S3               |
| Myotis lucifugus           | Little Brown Myotis         | END               | END              | S4                 |
| Myotis septentrionalis     | Northern Myotis             | END               | END              | S3                 |
| Pipistrellus subflavus     | Tri-colored Bat             | END               | END              | S3?                |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) Registry Status (END = Endangered, THR = Threatened); <sup>2</sup>Ontario ESA SAR List Status (END = Endangered, THR = Threatened); <sup>3</sup>Provincial Conservation Rank (SRank) is an indicator of commonness in the Province of Ontario. A scale between 1 and 5, with 5 being very common and 1 being the least common. --- denotes no information or not applicable.

The list of SAR identified during the background review is listed in Attachment E.

<u>Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark</u> – These grassland bird species typically nest in open grassland and forage crops with a mixture of grasses and broad-leaved forbs (COSEWIC, 2010). Eastern Meadowlark may nest in more disturbed grassland areas of fields, meadows, pastures, alfalfa fields, roadsides, and other open areas (MNRF, 2018). Potential nesting habitat for these species may occur in the meadow communities (MEF) and agricultural communities (OAGM1) within the Project Location, however, the sizes of these communities are small and therefore would not represent suitable habitat.

<u>Red-headed Woodpecker</u> – This species is found in wooded areas, including open forests and treed hedgerows in agricultural areas. Potential nesting habitat may occur in the treed hedgerows within the Project Location, however, the size of this community is small and therefore would not represent suitable habitat.

<u>Butler's Gartersnake</u> – This species prefers moist, open habitats close to small wetlands, where the preferred food source of earthworms and leeches may be in abundance (MNRF, 2018). Hibernacula typically occur in old rodent or crayfish burrows, but can also be located in stone walls and foundations. Potential habitat for this species may occur in the meadow (MEF) community adjacent to the Project Location, however, the habitat is fragmented by Wyandotte Street, restricting safe movement.

<u>Eastern Foxsnake</u> – This species is known to occur in deciduous woodlands, hedgerows of deciduous trees or shrubs, drainage ditches, fallow areas, old fields, native grasslands or wetlands. Presence of these habitats generally increase the likelihood of Eastern Foxsnake occurrences. Supporting features would include, but are not limited to: brush piles, branch prunings, rotting logs, log piles, stone piles, concrete,

box culverts, large rocks, abandoned farm machinery, and stone foundations (COSEWIC, 2008). Suitable habitat for this species may occur in the meadow (MEF) community; however, the habitat is fragmented by Wyandotte Street, restricting safe movement.

Potential impacts to Butler's Gartersnake and Eastern Foxsnake are not anticipated if the following mitigation measures are adhered to:

- Any species listed as Endangered or Threatened on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List that is
  encountered at the Project Location must be protected from all harm and harassment;
- All on-site personnel must be made aware of the potential presence of SAR and/or SAR habitat in the area and the protection afforded under the Endangered Species Act, 2007;
- Any Species at Risk incidentally encountered must be protected from harm and harassment. If a SAR
  is encountered, it should be given adequate time to leave the area before starting work. Activities
  within 30 m must cease until the individual disperses. If a SAR must be moved, a qualified biologist
  should be contacted for advice/help before it is moved;
- Any SAR individual that is present at the project site should be reported to MECP within 48 hours of the observation or the next working day, whichever comes first;
- If an injured or deceased SAR is found, the individual must be placed in a non-airtight container that is maintained at an appropriate temperature and an Authorized Wildlife Custodian (authorized under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act) in the area should be contacted and the MECP notified within 48 hours of the observation or the next working day, whichever comes first;
- If vegetation removal is to be completed during the active season (i.e. March to November), the area to be excavated/cleared of vegetation should be walked and visually surveyed for the presence of SAR snakes and breeding birds each day, prior to initiating these activities. Vegetation should be trimmed initially using handheld devices while visually surveying for SAR snakes, prior to removal with heavy machinery and excavation/grading activities. Vegetation removal should occur on sunny days when air temperatures are between 15 and 30 °C, when SAR snakes are most active and can flee the disturbance area:
- Prior to development commencement, heavy-duty, wildlife exclusion fencing should be installed around the perimeter of the work areas. The use of mesh or netting type stabilization material must not be used for erosion control measures due to the risk of entanglement of SAR snakes;
- Erection of exclusionary fencing around the construction footprint will follow the direction provided in Reptile and Amphibian Exclusion Fencing (OMNR, 2013) and Best Management Practices for Mitigating the Effects of Roads on Amphibians and Reptile Species at Risk in Ontario (OMNRF, 2016);
- Construction and vegetation clearing equipment that is left idle for over one hour or is parked overnight on the property should be surveyed for the presence of SAR snakes before (re)ignition. This visual examination should include all lower components of the machinery, including operational extensions and running gear;
- During the active season for snake species (March 15 to November 30), individuals may find and occupy materials and equipment stored on site. Care should be taken to maintain a clean, debris-free

work site and avoid the creation of debris stockpiles (e.g. storage of plywood, rubber mats, topsoil, lumber, bricks, and other construction materials should be avoided).

<u>Bats</u> – SAR bat species are either migratory or resident species, commonly found near waterbodies, in buildings, attics, roof crevices, loose bark on trees, under bridges, or upland forests typically foraging for aerial insects in forest understory (COSEWIC, 2013). Solitary roosting may occur in individual standing trees, and trees composing a naturalized community (such as, but not limited to, forest, woodland, and wetland). Suitable habitat for SAR bat species may occur in mature trees in the Project Location and Study Area, including wooded hedgerows. Negative impacts to SAR bats are not anticipated if the following mitigation measures are adhered to:

• Clearing of individual trees within the Project Location will occur outside of the active period for bats (i.e. April 1 – September 30).

## Summary

The Study Area does not contain provincial parks or conservation reserves/areas, Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Life Science, or Earth Science, Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW), or unevaluated wetlands. In general, the Study Area is predominately comprised of cultural communities (i.e. active agriculture), and as a result, has been mostly disturbed. There is a low likelihood for the Study Area to provide wildlife habitat in general and habitat for SAR.

Based on the results included herein, we anticipate a low potential to impact SAR habitat. Potential impacts can generally be avoided through appropriate mitigation measures and best management practices (e.g. timing windows, exclusionary fencing, etc.) as discussed in the previous section. We anticipate a low likelihood that the proposed works would contravene Sections 9 and 10 of the ESA through the application of appropriate mitigation measures.

#### Attachments:

Attachment A: Figures

Attachment B: Background Mapping Attachment C: Site Photographs

Attachment D: Plant and Wildlife Observations
Attachment E: SAR Habitat Screening Assessment

### References

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# **Attachment A**

Figures





## **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD** PHASE 7

1027458 Ontario Inc.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

FIGURE 1

Project Location (1.64 ha)

Study Area (120 m Setback)



SCALE 1:5,000

0 50 100

200 m

MAP DRAWING INFORMATION: DATA PROVIDED BY MNR, DILLON CONSULTING AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI

MAP CREATED BY: DU MAP CHECKED BY: JB MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



PROJECT: 22-4866

DATE: 2022-10-24



## **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD** PHASE 7

1027458 Ontario Inc.

#### **ECOLOGICAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

FIGURE 2

Project Location (1.64 ha)

Study Area (120 m Setback)

#### **Ecological Land Classification**

CGL - Green Lands

CVC - Commercial and Institutional

CVI - Transportation and Utilities

CVR - Residential

MEF - Forb Meadow

OAGM1 - Annual Row Crops

TAGM5 - Fencerow with European Common Reed Inclusion

SCALE 1:2,000

25 50

100 m

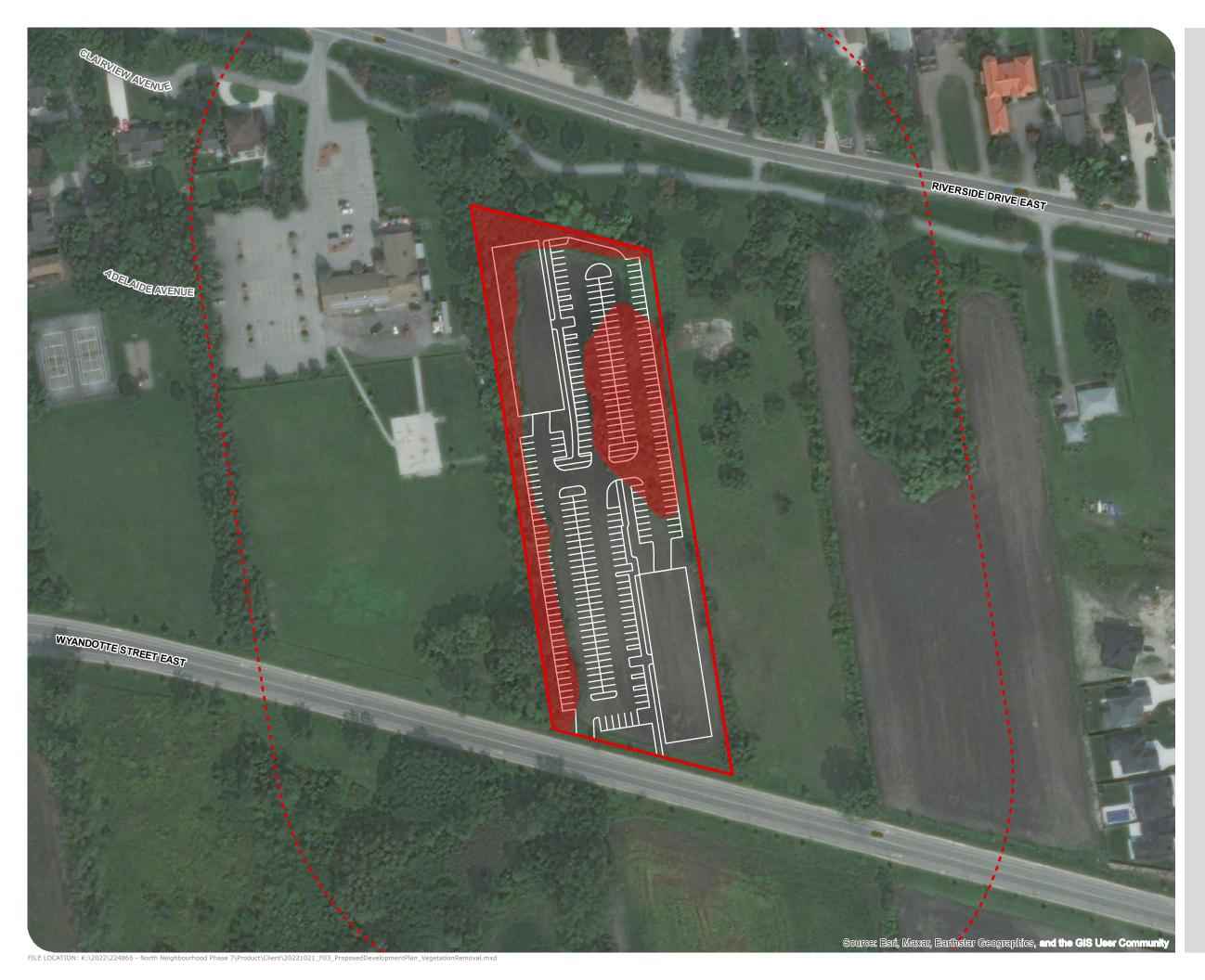
MAP DRAWING INFORMATION: DATA PROVIDED BY MNR, DILLON CONSULTING AERIAL IMAGERY PROVIDED BY ESRI

MAP CREATED BY: DU MAP CHECKED BY: JB MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



PROJECT: 22-4866

STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2022-10-24



### **NORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD** PHASE 7

1027458 Ontario Inc.

#### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN **AND VEGETATION REMOVAL** FIGURE 3

Project Location (1.64 ha)

Study Area (120 m Setback)

Proposed Development

Vegetation Removal (0.5 ha)

SCALE 1:1,500

0 12.5 25

50 m



MAP CREATED BY: DU MAP CHECKED BY: JB MAP PROJECTION: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N



PROJECT: 22-4866

STATUS: DRAFT DATE: 2022-10-24

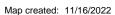
# **Attachment B**

**Background Mapping** 



**Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** 

Make-a-Map: Natural Heritage Areas



Notes:



Legend

Earth Science Provincially

Earth Science Regionally Significant/sciences de la terre d'importance régionale

Life Science Provincially Significant/sciences de la vie d'importance provinciale

Life Science Regionally Significant/sciences de la vie d'importance régionale

Non-Provincially Significant/non considérée

Natural Heritage System

0.2 Kilometres

This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry(OMNRF) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on

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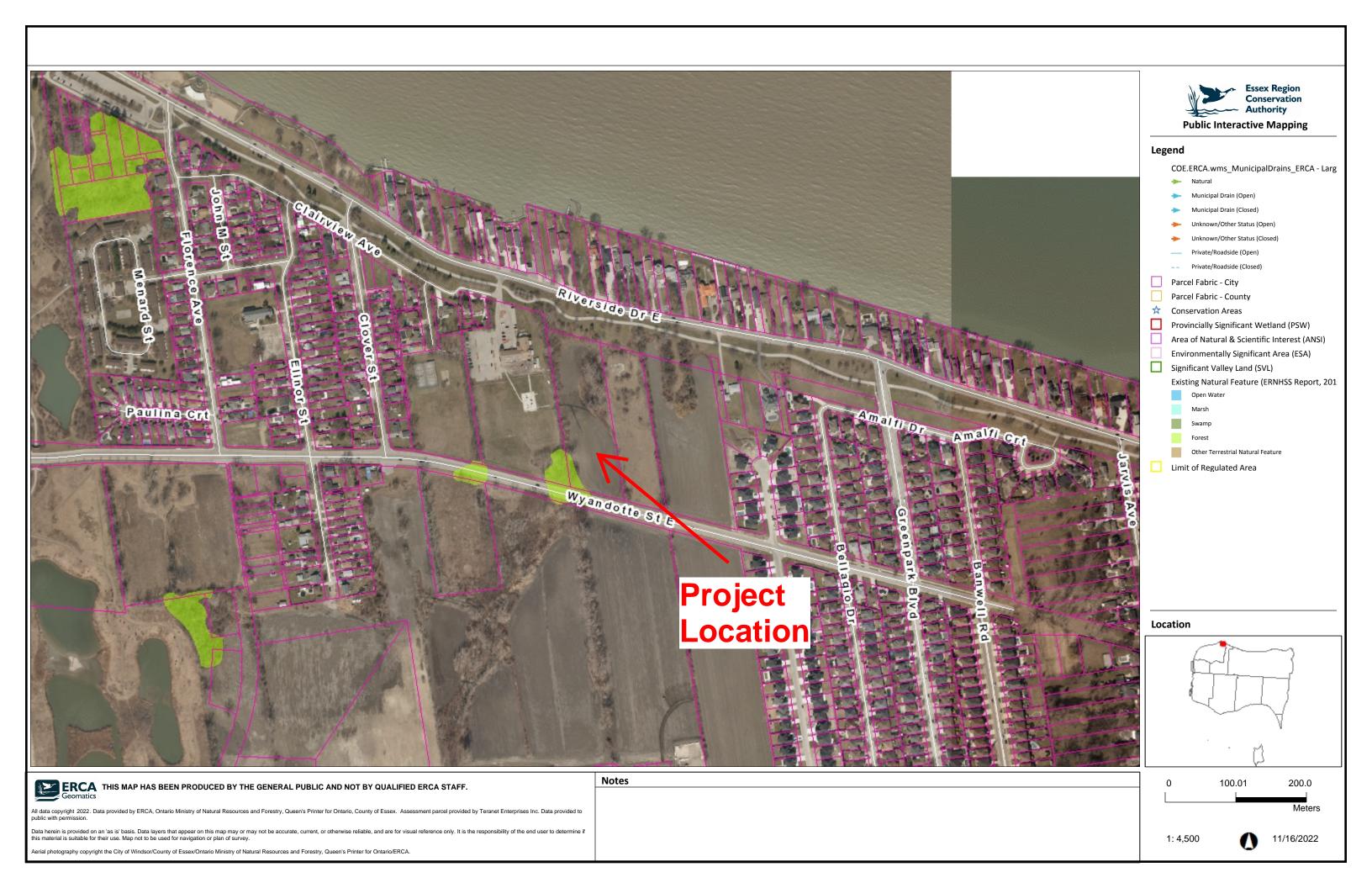
Absence of a feature in the map does not mean they do not exist in this area.

Imagery Copyright Notices: DRAPE © Aéro-Photo (1961) Inc., 2008 - 2009 GTA 2005 / SWOOP 2006 / Simcoe-Muskoka-Dufferin © FirstBase Solutions, 2005 / 2006 / 2008 © King's Printer for Ontario, 2022

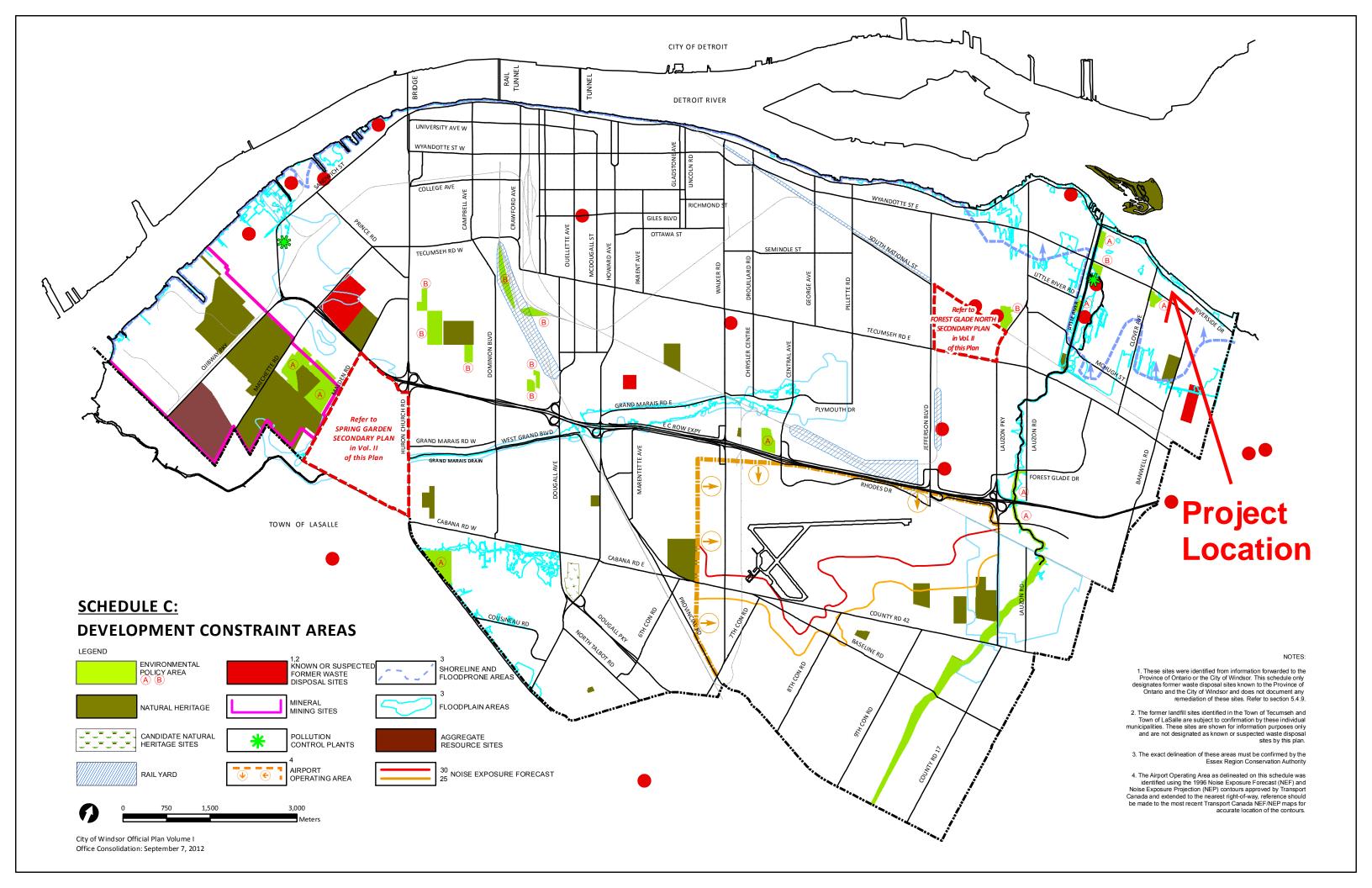


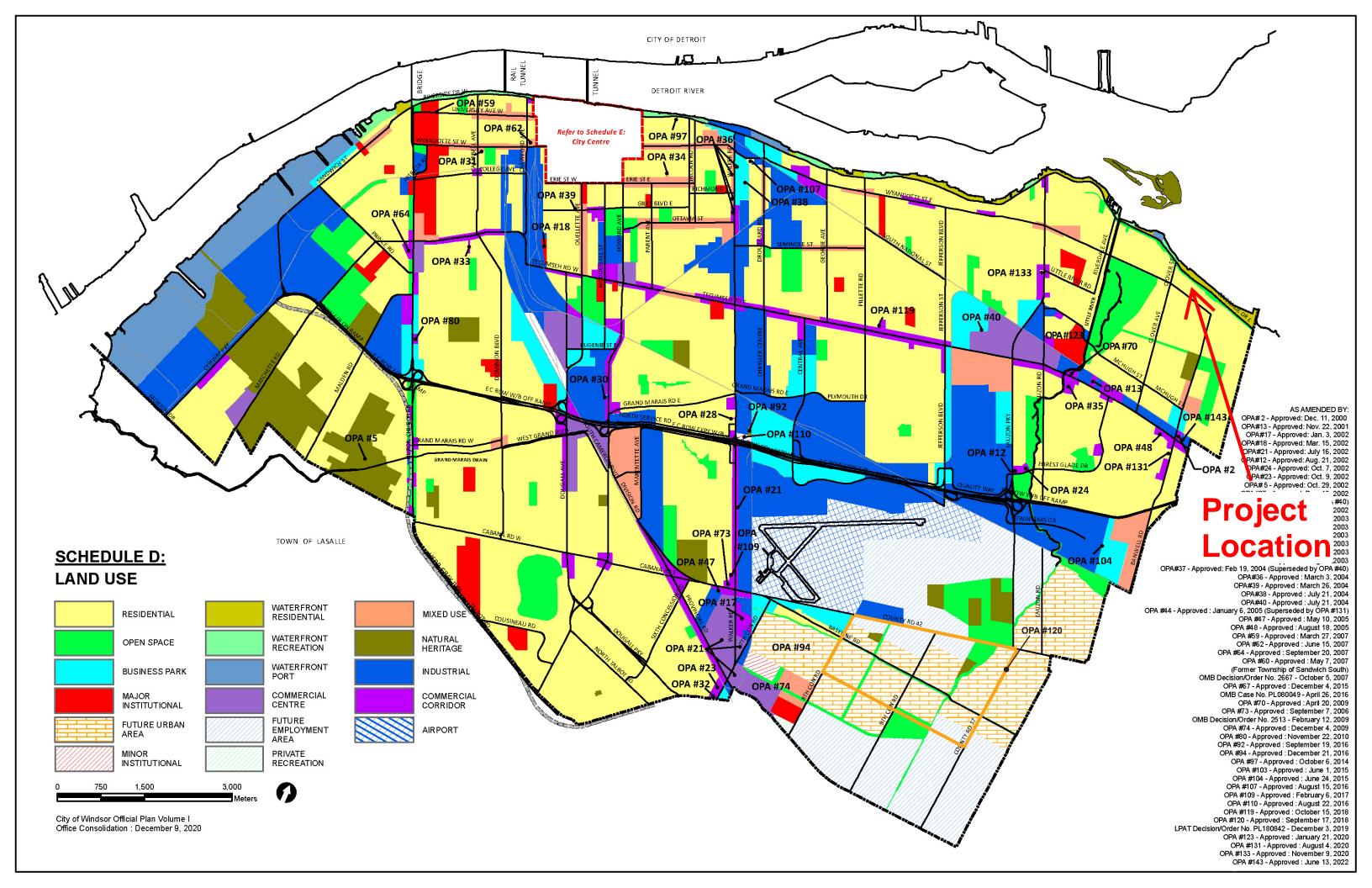
Projection: Web Mercator

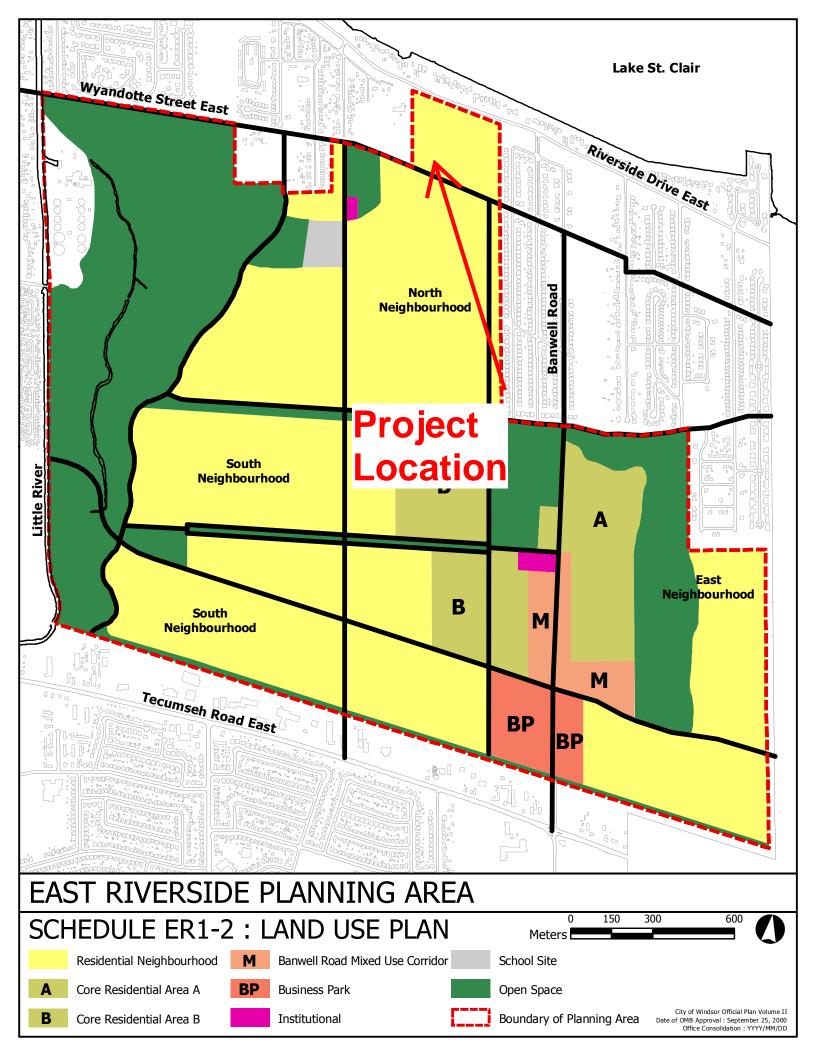


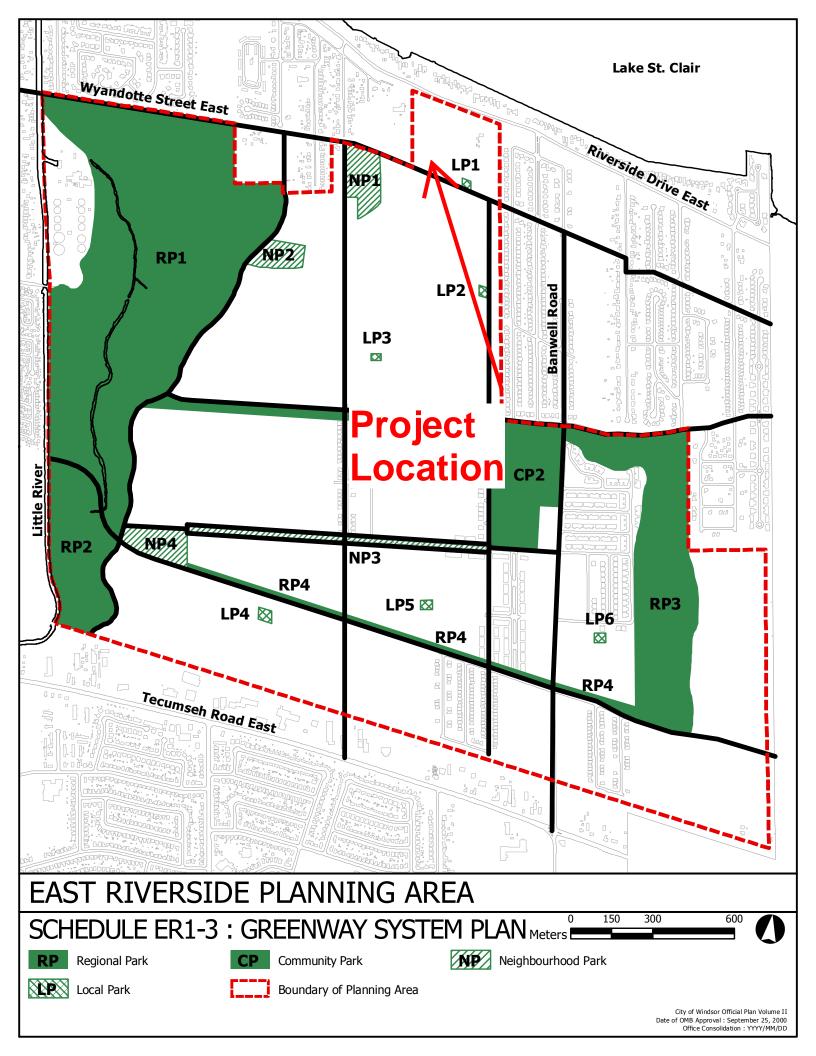












# **Attachment C**

Site Photographs





Photo 3

Northwest corner of the Project Location, facing southeast.



Photo 4
West side of the Project Location, facing east.

Photo 5

Southeast corner of the Project Location, facing north.



Photo 6

Southeast corner of the Project Location, facing northwest.

Photo 7

Southeast corner of the Project Location, facing south.



Photo 8

Southeast corner of the Project Location, facing west.

Photo 9

North of the Project Location (Ganatchio Trail), facing east.



Photo 10

North of the Project Location (Ganatchio Trail), facing west.



# **Attachment D**

**Plant and Wildlife Observations** 



TABLE D-1: PLANT OBSERVATIONS

| Scientific Name                               | Common Name              | SARA <sup>1</sup> | ESA <sup>2</sup> | S-Rank <sup>3</sup> | CC <sup>4</sup> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Equisetum arvense                             | Field Horsetail          |                   |                  | S5                  | 0               |
| Picea pungens                                 | Blue Spruce              |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Carex vulpinoidea                             | Fox Sedge                |                   |                  | S5                  | 3               |
| Dactylis glomerata                            | Orchard Grass            |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Phragmites australis ssp. australis           | European Common Reed     |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Daucus carota                                 | Wild Carrot              |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Pastinaca sativa                              | Wild Parsnip             |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Ambrosia trifida                              | Great Ragweed            |                   |                  | S5                  | 0               |
| Erigeron philadelphicus                       | Philadelphia Fleabane    |                   |                  | S5                  | 1               |
| Solidago altissima ssp. altissima             | Eastern Late Goldenrod   |                   |                  | S5                  | 1               |
| Symphyotrichum ericoides var.<br>ericoides    | White Heath Aster        |                   |                  | S5                  | 4               |
| Symphyotrichum lanceolatum ssp<br>lanceolatum | Panicled Aster           |                   |                  | <b>S</b> 5          | 3               |
| Symphyotrichum novae-angliae                  | New England Aster        |                   |                  | <b>S</b> 5          | 2               |
| Taraxacum officinale                          | Common Dandelion         |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Brassica rapa                                 | Field Mustard/Turnip     |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Hesperis matronalis                           | Dame's Rocket            |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Thlaspi arvense                               | Field Penny-cress        |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Lonicera tatarica                             | Tartarian Honeysuckle    |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Sambucus canadensis                           | Common Elderberry        |                   |                  | S5                  | 5               |
| Dipsacus fullonum                             | Fuller's Teasel          |                   |                  | SE5                 |                 |
| Gleditsia triacanthos                         | Honey-locust             |                   |                  | S2                  | 3               |
| Quercus rubra                                 | Northern Red Oak         |                   |                  | S5                  | 6               |
| Asclepias syriaca                             | Common Milkweed          |                   |                  | S5                  | 0               |
| Asclepias tuberosa                            | Butterfly Milkweed       |                   |                  | S4                  | 8               |
| Glechoma hederacea                            | Ground Ivy               |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Lycopus americanus                            | American Water-horehound |                   |                  | <b>S</b> 5          | 4               |
| Abutilon theophrasti                          | Velvetleaf               |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Oenothera biennis                             | Common Evening Primrose  |                   |                  | S5                  | 0               |
| Rumex crispus                                 | Curly Dock               |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |
| Vitis riparia                                 | Riverbank Grape          |                   |                  | S5                  | 0               |
| Galium aparine                                | Cleavers                 |                   |                  | S5                  | 4               |
| Populus deltoides ssp. deltoides              | Eastern Cottonwood       |                   |                  | S5                  | 4               |
| Acer negundo                                  | Manitoba Maple           |                   |                  | S5                  | 0               |
| Acer platanoides                              | Norway Maple             |                   |                  | SNA                 |                 |

| Acer rubrum            | Red Maple           | <br> | S5  | 4 |
|------------------------|---------------------|------|-----|---|
| Acer saccharinum       | Silver Maple        | <br> | S5  | 5 |
| Toxicodendron radicans | Climbing Poison Ivy | <br> | S5  | 5 |
| Morus alba             | White Mulberry      | <br> | SNA |   |
| Ulmus americana        | American Elm        | <br> | S5  | 3 |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Federal Species at Risk Act (Source: SARA Public Registry, 2007);

TABLE D-2: WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

| Scientific Name Common Name SARA <sup>1</sup> ESA <sup>2</sup> |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Common Name  | SARA <sup>1</sup>   | ESA <sup>2</sup>  | S-Rank <sup>3</sup>  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Killdeer   |   |   | S5B,S5N  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chimney Swift  | THR   | THR   | S4B,S4N  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Warbling Vireo   |   |   | S5B  |  |  |  |  |  |
| American Robin   |   |   | S5B  |  |  |  |  |  |
| European Starling  |   |   | SNA  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Chipping Sparrow   |   |   | S5B  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Northern Cardinal  |   |   | S5   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Red-winged Blackbird   |   |   | S4   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Baltimore Oriole   |   |   | S4B  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brown-headed Cowbird   |   |   | S4B  |  |  |  |  |  |
| American Goldfinch   |   |   | S5B  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel  |   |   | S5   |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Killdeer Chimney Swift Warbling Vireo American Robin European Starling Chipping Sparrow Northern Cardinal Red-winged Blackbird Baltimore Oriole Brown-headed Cowbird American Goldfinch | Killdeer Chimney Swift THR Warbling Vireo American Robin European Starling Chipping Sparrow Northern Cardinal Red-winged Blackbird Baltimore Oriole Brown-headed Cowbird American Goldfinch | Killdeer Chimney Swift THR THR Warbling Vireo European Starling Chipping Sparrow Northern Cardinal Red-winged Blackbird Baltimore Oriole Brown-headed Cowbird American Goldfinch |  |  |  |  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Federal Species at Risk Act (Source: SARA Public Registry, 2007);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Provincial Endangered Species Act (Source: MNRF website, 2007);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>SRank is an indicator of commonness in the province of Ontario. A scale between 1 and 5, with 5 being very common and 1 being the least common. S5 = Secure, S4 = Apparently Secure, S3 = Vulnerable, S2 = Imperiled, S1 = Critically Imperiled, SX = extirpated, SNA = unsuitable target for conservation activities, B = within the Species breeding range in Ontario;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Co-efficient of Conservation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Provincial Endangered Species Act (Source: MNRF website, 2007);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>SRank is an indicator of commonness in the province of Ontario. A scale between 1 and 5, with 5 being very common and 1 being the least common. S5 = Secure, S4 = Apparently Secure, S3 = Vulnerable, S2 = Imperiled, S1 = Critically Imperiled, SX = extirpated, SNA = unsuitable target for conservation activities, B = within the Species breeding range in Ontario

# **Attachment E**

SAR Habitat Screening Assessment



| Family         | Group                           | Scientific Name            | Common Name           | SARA<br>Status <sup>1</sup> | ESA<br>Status <sup>2</sup> | SRank <sup>3</sup> | Information<br>Source <sup>4</sup> | Regulated<br>Habitat | Habitat Requirements <sup>2,5</sup>   | Potential<br>Habitat in the<br>Study Area | Rationale for Potential<br>to Occur   |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Birds          |                                 |                            |                       |                             |                            |                    |                                    |                      |   |   |   |
| Apodidae       | Swifts                          | Chaetura pelagica          | Chimney Swift         | THR                         | THR                        | S4B,S4N            | ОВВА                               | FALSE                | Commonly found in urban areas near buildings; nests in hollow trees, crevices of rock cliffs, chimneys; highly gregarious; fees over open water.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |
| Ardeidae       | Bitterns, Herons,<br>and Allies | Ixobrychus exilis          | Least Bittern         | THR                         | THR                        | S4B                | IBA                                | FALSE                | Deep marshes, swamps, bogs; marshy borders of lakes, ponds, streams, ditches; dense emergent vegetation of cattail, bulrush, sedge; nests in cattails; intolerant of loss of habitat and human disturbance.   | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |
| Emberizidae    | Emberizids                      | Ammodramus henslowii       | Henslow's Sparrow     | END                         | END                        | SHB                | IBA                                | FALSE                | Large, fallow, grassy area with ground mat of dead vegetation, dense herbaceous vegetation, ground litter and some song perches; neglected weedy fields; wet meadows; cultivated uplands; a moderate amount of moisture needed; requires a minimum tract of grassland of 40 ha, but usually in areas >100 ha. | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |
| Hirundinidae   | Swallows                        | Hirundo rustica            | Barn Swallow          | THR                         | THR                        | S4B                | OBBA                               | FALSE                | Farmlands or rural areas; cliffs, caves, rock niches; buildings or other man-made structures for nesting; open country near body of water.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |
| Hirundinidae   | Swallows                        | Riparia riparia            | Bank Swallow          | THR                         | THR                        | S4B                | OBBA                               | FALSE                | Sand, clay or gravel river banks or steep riverbank cliffs; lakeshore bluffs of easily crumbled sand or gravel; gravel pits, road-cuts, grassland or cultivated fields that are close to water; nesting sites are limiting factor for species presence  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |
| Icteridae      | Blackbirds                      | Dolichonyx oryzivorus      | Bobolink              | THR                         | THR                        | S4B                | OBBA                               | FALSE                | Large, open expansive grasslands with dense ground cover; hayfields, meadows or fallow fields; marshes; requires tracts of grassland >10 ha.  | Yes                                       | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Icteridae      | Blackbirds                      | Sturnella magna            | Eastern Meadowlark    | THR                         | THR                        | S4B                | OBBA                               | FALSE                | Open, grassy meadows, farmland, pastures, hayfields or grasslands with elevated singing perches; cultivated land and weedy areas with trees; old orchards with adjacent, open grassy areas >10 ha in size.  | Yes                                       | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Picidae        | Woodpeckers and<br>Allies       | Melanerpes erythrocephalus | Red-headed Woodpecker | END                         | END                        | S4B                | NHIC                               | FALSE                | Open woodland and woodland edges and is often found in parks, golf courses and cemeteries.  | Yes                                       | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Odontophoridae | New World Quail                 | Colinus virginianus        | Northern Bobwhite     | END                         | END                        | S1                 | IBA                                | FALSE                | Grassland, prairie or hay fields with woody cover in form of thickets, tangles of vines, shrubs; fence rows or woodland edges; cropland growing corn, soybeans or small grains and clover or grass; well-drained sandy or loamy soil; pond edges.   | No  | The Study Area is outside the range for the species.                                      |
| Parulidae      | Wood-Warblers                   | Icteria virens virens      | Yellow-breasted Chat  | END                         | END                        | S2B                | IBA                                | FALSE                | Thickets, tall tangles of shrubbery beside streams, ponds; overgrown bushy clearings with deciduous thickets; nests above ground in bush, vines etc.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |

| Family        | Group                           | Scientific Name             | Common Name   | SARA<br>Status <sup>1</sup> | ESA<br>Status <sup>2</sup> | SRank <sup>3</sup> | Information<br>Source <sup>4</sup> | Regulated<br>Habitat | Habitat Requirements <sup>2,5</sup>   | Potential<br>Habitat in the<br>Study Area | Rationale for Potential to Occur                                |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|
| Parulidae     | Wood-Warblers                   | Protonotaria citrea         | Prothonotary Warbler  | END                         | END                        | S1B                | IBA                                | FALSE                | Area sensitive species preferring 100 ha of flooded or swampy woodlands with standing or flowing water and more than 25% canopy cover with numerous stumps and snags; stream borders or flooded bottomlands; soft, dead trees with dbh >10 cm; Carolinian species.  | No  | The Study Area<br>lacks suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Parulidae     | Wood-Warblers                   | Setophaga kirtlandii        | Kirtland's Warbler  | END                         | END                        | S1B                | IBA                                | FALSE                | Primary breeding habitat in jack pine plains; ground nesting bird on well-drained soil under low living branches of 8-20 year old jack pines.   | No  | The Study Area is outside the range for the species.            |
| Rallidae      | Rails, Gallinules,<br>and Coots | Rallus elegans              | King Rail   | END                         | END                        | S2B                | IBA                                | FALSE                | Large, shallow, fresh water marshes, shrubby swamps, marshy borders of lakes and ponds with abundant vegetation; an 'edge' species; territories are 0.3 to 0.5 ha; loss of large marshes in the south is limiting to this species.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.          |
| Tyrannidae    | Tyrant Flycatchers              | s Empidonax virescens       | Acadian Flycatcher  | END                         | END                        | S2S3B              | IBA                                | FALSE                | Mature, shady, deciduous forests; heavily wooded ravines; creek bottoms or river swamps; availability of good quality habitat is limiting factor; needs at least 30 ha of forest.   | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.          |
| Tytonidae     | Barn Owls                       | Tyto alba                   | Barn Owl  | END                         | END                        | S1                 | IBA                                | TRUE                 | Open areas such as fields, agricultural lands with scattered woodlots, buildings and/or orchards; grasslands, sedge meadows, marshes; snow-cover limits ability to catch prey; species has intolerance to severe cold; nests in hollow trees and live trees >46 cm dbh; also nests in barns, abandoned buildings.   | No  | The Study Area is outside the range for the species.            |
| Lepidoptera   |                                 |                             |   |                             |                            |                    |                                    |                      |   |   |   |
| Hesperiidae   | Butterflies and<br>Moths        | Erynnis martialis           | Mottled Duskywing   |                             | END                        | S2                 | OBA                                | FALSE                | The mottled duskywing tends to live in dry habitats with sparse vegetation. These include open barrens, sandy patches among woodlands, and alvars. In Ontario, the mottled duskywing will only deposit their eggs on two closely-related plants: New Jersey Tea and Prairie Redroot.  | No  | The Study Area is outside the range for the species.            |
| Fishes        |                                 |                             |   |                             |                            |                    |                                    |                      |   |   |   |
| Acipenseridae | Fish and Eels                   | Acipenser fulvescens pop. 3 | Lake Sturgeon (Great Lakes -<br>Upper St. Lawrence River<br>population) |                             | END                        | <b>S</b> 2         | NHIC                               | FALSE                | Larger rivers and lakes, with soft bottoms of mud, sand or gravel. They are usually found at depths of five to 20 metres. They spawn in relatively shallow, fast-flowing water (usually below waterfalls, rapids, or dams) with gravel and boulders at the bottom. However, they will spawn in deeper water where habitat is available. They also are known to spawn on open shoals in large rivers with strong currents. | No  | The Study Area<br>lacks suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Cyprinidae    | Fish and Eels                   | Notropis anogenus           | Pugnose Shiner  | END                         | THR                        | S2                 | NHIC                               | FALSE                | Lakes and calm areas of rivers and creeks having clear water and bottoms of sand, mud, or organic matter. It prefers water bodies with plenty of aquatic vegetation.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.          |
| lctaluridae   | Fish and Eels                   | Noturus stigmosus           | Northern Madtom   | END                         | END                        | S1                 | NHIC                               | FALSE                | Large creeks and rivers with a moderate to swift current and a sand, gravel, or mud bottom. Has also been captured in the deeper waters of Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.          |

| Reptiles         |                           |                              |   |     |     |            |                            |       |  |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----|-----|------------|----------------------------|-------|--|-----|---|
| Colubridae       | Snakes                    | Pantherophis gloydi pop. 2   | Eastern Foxsnake (Carolinian population)                | END | END | S2         | ORAA, MECP<br>Reg. Habitat | TRUE  | Old fields, marshes, along hedgerows, drainage canals, and shorelines.   | Yes | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Colubridae       | Snakes                    | Thamnophis butleri           | Butler's Gartersnake                                    | END | END | S2         | ORAA                       | FALSE | Open, moist habitats such as dense grasslands and old fields, with small wetlands where it can feed on leeches and earthworms.   | Yes | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Trionychidae     | Frogs and Toads           | Apalone spinifera            | Spiny Softshell   | THR | END | \$3        | NHIC                       | FALSE | Highly aquatic turtles that rarely travel far from water. They are found primarily in rivers and lakes, but also in creeks and even ditches and ponds near rivers. Key habitat requirements are open sand or gravel nesting areas, shallow muddy or sandy areas to bury in, deep pools for hibernation, areas for basking, and suitable habitat for crayfish and other food species. | No  | The Study Area<br>lacks suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species.                           |
| Mammals          |                           |                              |   |     |     |            |                            |       |  |     |   |
| Canidae          | Dogs, Foxes and<br>Wolves | Urocyon cinereoargenteus     | Gray Fox  | THR | THR | <b>S</b> 1 | MWH                        | FALSE | Hardwood forests with a mix of fields and woods; swamps; wooded, brushy or rocky habitats; woodland farmland edge; old fields with thickets; dens in hollow log or tree; individual has numerous winter dens throughout its range which is > 40 ha.  | No  | The Study Area is outside the range for the species.                                      |
| Mustelidae       | Weasels and Allies        | Taxidea taxus jacksoni       | American Badger<br>(Southwestern Ontario<br>population) | END | END |            | MWH                        | TRUE  | Found in a variety of habitats, such as tallgrass prairie, sand barrens, and farmlands.  | No  | The Study Area is outside the range for the species.                                      |
| Vespertilionidae | Plain-nosed Bats          | Myotis leibii                | Eastern Small-footed Myotis                             |     | END | S2S3       | MWH                        | FALSE | Roosts in caves, mine shafts, crevices or buildings that are in or near woodland; hibernates in cold dry caves or mines; maternity colonies in caves or buildings; hunts in forests.   | Yes | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Vespertilionidae | Plain-nosed Bats          | Myotis lucifugus             | Little Brown Myotis                                     | END | END | \$4        | MWH                        | FALSE | Uses caves, quarries, tunnels, hollow trees or buildings for roosting; winters in humid caves; maternity sites in dark warm areas such as attics and barns; feeds primarily in wetlands, forest edges.   | Yes | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Vespertilionidae | Plain-nosed Bats          | Myotis septentrionalis       | Northern Myotis   | END | END | \$3        | MWH                        | FALSE | Hibernates during winter in mines or caves; during summer males roost alone and females form maternity colonies of up to 60 adults; roosts in houses, manmade structures but prefers hollow trees or under loose bark; hunts within forests, below canopy.   | Yes | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Vespertilionidae | Plain-nosed Bats          | Pipistrellus subflavus       | Tri-colored Bat   | END | END | \$3?       | MWH                        | FALSE | Can be found in a variety of forested habitats. They form day roosts and maternity colonies in older forest and occasionally in barns or other structures, and overwinter in caves. They forage over water and along streams in the forest.  | Yes | The Study Area has<br>the potential to<br>provide suitable<br>habitat for the<br>species. |
| Molluscs         |                           |                              | ·   |     |     |            |                            |       |  |     |   |
| Unionidae        | Molluscs                  | Epioblasma torulosa rangiana | Northern Riffleshell                                    | END | END | S1         | NHIC                       | FALSE | Riffle areas within rivers or stream with rocky, sand, or gravel bottoms.  | No  | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species.                                    |

| Reptiles     |           |                            |                                    |     |     |      |                      |       |   |    |  |
|--------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|----------------------|-------|---|----|--|
| Unionidae    | Molluscs  | Ligumia nasuta             | Eastern Pondmussel                 | END | THR | S1   | NHIC                 | FALSE | Sheltered areas of lakes and in slow-moving areas of rivers and canals with sand or mud bottoms.  | No | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species. |
| Unionidae    | Molluscs  | Ptychobranchus fasciolaris | Kidneyshell                        | END | END | S1   | NHIC                 | FALSE | Small to medium-sized rivers. It prefers shallow, clear, swift-moving water with gravel and sand.   | No | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species. |
| Unionidae    | Molluscs  | Truncilla donaciformis     | Fawnsfoot                          |     | END | S2   | NHIC                 | FALSE | Medium and large rivers with moderate to slow-flowing water. It usually inhabits shallow waters (one to five metres deep) with gravel, sand, or muddy bottoms.  | No | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species. |
| Plants       |           |                            |                                    |     |     |      |                      |       |   |    |  |
| Cornaceae    | Dogwoods  | Cornus florida             | Eastern Flowering Dogwood          | END | END | S2?  | MECP Reg.<br>Habitat | TRUE  | Grows on soils varying from deep and moist along minor streams to light-textured and well-drained in the uplands. Grows well on flats and on lower or middle slopes, but not very well on upper slopes and ridges.  | No | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species. |
| Juglandaceae | Hickories | Juglans cinerea            | Butternut                          | END | END | \$3? | NHIC                 | FALSE | Usually grows alone or in small groups in deciduous forests. It prefers moist, well-drained soil and is often found along streams. It is also found on well-drained gravel sites and rarely on dry rocky soil. This species does not do well in the shade, and often grows in sunny openings and near forest edges. | No | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species. |
| Orchidaceae  | Orchids   | Platanthera leucophaea     | Eastern Prairie Fringed-<br>orchid | END | END | S2   | MECP Reg.<br>Habitat | TRUE  | Wetlands, fens, swamps, and tallgrass prairie. It has been found in ditches and railroad rights-of-way.   | No | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat for the species. |

<sup>1 –</sup> Status identified under the federal Species at Risk Act: END = Endangered, THR = Threatened; 2 – Status identified under the provincial Endangered Species Act: END = Endangered, THR = Threatened; 3 – SRank is an indicator of commonness in the Province of Ontario. A scale between 1 and 5: S5 = widespread and secure, S4 = common and apparently secure, S3 = rare to uncommon and vulnerable, S2 = very rare and imperiled, S1 = extremely rare and critically imperiled, SH = possibly extirpated (historical), SNR = unranked, SNA = not applicable, SX = extirpated, SU or ? = uncertain due to insufficient information, B = breeding, N = non-breeding, M = migrant; 4 – Information sources include: CBC = Christmas Bird Count, IBA = Important Bird Area, MECP Reg. Habitat = MECP Regulated Habitat (O. Reg. 242/08), MWH = Digital Distribution Maps of the Mammals of the Western Hemisphere, version 3.0, NHIC = MNRF Natural Heritage Information Centre, OBA = Ontario Butterfly Atlas, OBBA = Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, OOA = Ontario Odonata Atlas, ORAA = Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas; 5 – MNRF Significant Wildlife Technical Guide - Appendix G (2000); --- denotes no information or not applicable.