



# Arkell Road Properties

## Environmental Impact Study Addendum

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**NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.**


Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

**Arkell Road Properties**  
**Environmental Impact Study Addendum**

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## 1.0 Introduction

This Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Addendum has been prepared in response to the comment received from the City of Guelph Environmental Planner following their review of the December 2021 Arkell Road Properties EIS (NRSI) and Preliminary Stormwater Management Report (MTE 2021):

*“An EIS Addendum that assesses the potential for negative impacts based on the updated Stormwater management design concept and monthly wetland water balance calculations is required” (City March 24, 2022). “*

This EIS Addendum is to be read in conjunction with the December 2021 EIS (NRSI). The following information is intended to replace the original natural feature sensitivity analysis as it relates to the proposed stormwater management plan and hydrologic changes as described in the Preliminary Stormwater Management Report (MTE 2023a). An updated impact analysis has been completed to ensure that the revised stormwater management strategy does not have a negative impact on the wetland and overall Torrance Creek Wetland Complex.

Since submission of the 2021 EIS and Tree Inventory and Preservation Plan (TIPP NRSI 2021), minor changes have been made by the team to the overall plan of development. The limit of development and buffers to the natural features as outlined in the 2021 EIS and TIPP have been maintained. The reader is referred to these documents for a full description of existing conditions, analysis of impacts and recommended mitigation. This EIS Addendum includes updated mapping of the natural feature constraints (Map 1), habitat stewardship plan (Map 2) and tree preservation plan (Map 3) to reflect the revised development plan layout.

## **2.0 Natural Feature Sensitivity Analysis**

A sensitivity analysis, following the Wetland Water Balance Risk Evaluation (TRCA 2017), was completed based on the Preliminary Stormwater Management Plan (MTE 2023a) and associated hydrologic changes proposed as part of the Arkell Road development. The analysis focused on the Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) vegetation community, flora composition, and anuran species documented within the subject property during field surveys conducted by NRSI to inform the original Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Reports.

The risk of a proposed development to the hydrological and ecological integrity of a wetland is determined using a suite of criteria outlined in the Risk Evaluation document (TRCA 2017). The level of risk a proposed development has is based on the magnitude of change proposed and the sensitivity of the wetland to hydrological changes. The sensitivity analysis feeds into the risk evaluation and provides critical information for the assessment of impacts to the PSW.

### **2.1 Vegetation Sensitivity**

The existing condition of the wetland vegetation communities is a good indicator of the overall health of the PSW. The vegetation communities also provide food and critical habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. As such, assessing the sensitivity of the PSW vegetation communities is critical to determining the resilience of the wetland to hydrological changes proposed as part of the development. Changes in duration, depth, timing and frequency of water level fluctuations can all impact the vegetation communities and therefore the habitat for wildlife on and adjacent to the subject property, and downstream to Torrance Creek.

The analysis consisted of comparing the vegetation community data (based on Ecological Land Classification, Lee et al. 1998) and species lists collected by NRSI on October 25, 2017 and June 9, 2018 to information provided in the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) “Wetland Water Balance Risk Evaluation” (2017) and the United States (U.S.) National Database of Wetland Plant Sensitivities (Adamus and Danielson 2002). The TRCA (2017) document includes tables that rank vegetation communities and individual species by their sensitivity to hydrologic change. The U.S. Database provides sensitivity rankings for individual species. The database is not a complete list of all wetland plants; however, it does provide information to augment the TRCA’s document.

Table 1 includes a list of all vegetation species identified in the three ecosites of the PSW that have sensitivity information in Appendix 3 of the Wetland Water Balance Risk Evaluation (TRCA

2017) and the U.S. National Database of Wetland Plant Sensitivities (Adamus and Danielson 2002). The remaining species that are not listed in Table 1 are not included in these two sources. Of the dominant species listed within the vegetation communities, Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), a non-native species, is the only species lacking sensitivity data. The SWD3-2 and SWM1-1 communities are both listed as having 'Medium' sensitivity to hydrologic changes (TRCA 2017). SWD4 is not included in the TRCA tables and no Trembling Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) dominated communities are listed as a comparison. Other SWD4-# communities range from High to Low sensitivity so this was determined not to be a suitable comparison for the sensitivity of the SWD4 community.

Of the 61 vascular plant species documented within the wetland, data on hydrological sensitivity or tolerance was available for 35 species (Adamus and Danielson 2002, TRCA 2017). The U.S. National Database of Wetland Plant Sensitivities (Adamus and Danielson 2002) provided data for 34 of the plant species present, with one species (2.94%) listed as 'Tolerant', three (8.82%) as 'Moderately Tolerant', and 26 (76.47%) as 'Somewhat Tolerant', and two (5.88%) as 'Intolerant'. A range of tolerance (Somewhat Tolerant to Moderately Tolerant) was listed for two species (5.88%) (Woolly Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*) and Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*)), which results from differences identified in multiple sources. The two 'Intolerant' species are Redtop (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Riverbank Grape (*Vitis riparia*), both of which were noted to be intolerant of flooding conditions lasting more than three days (Adamus and Danielson (2002). Given that the SWM pond is designed with a minimum detention time of 12 hours (24.9hrs for the 25mm-4hr event), and that the wetland gently slopes away from the development and towards Torrance Creek, flood conditions lasting more than three days are not anticipated to occur (MTE 2023a).

The TRCA's Wetland Water Balance Risk Assessment (2017) provided data for nine of the plant species present. Of these species, one species (11.11%) was listed as having 'Low' sensitivity, and seven (77.78%) were listed as having 'Medium' sensitivity to changes in hydrology (TRCA 2017). The vegetation species list noted one unidentified sedge species (*Carex* species) that was found in the SWD3-3 community. Sedge species have a wide range of tolerances to changes in hydrology. This species was noted in the sensitivity analysis as having a Low to High sensitivity depending on the specific species (11.11%); however more detailed analysis cannot be conducted.

**Table 1. PSW Community Vegetation Sensitivity**

Scientific Name	Common Name	CC	CW	Weed	SRANK <sup>1</sup>	SARO <sup>2</sup>	COSEWIC <sup>3</sup>	SARA Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Wellington County <sup>5</sup>	Wellington/Dufferin County <sup>6</sup>	Wetland Water Balance Risk Assessment – Sensitivity <sup>7</sup>	U.S. National Database of Wetland Plant Sensitivities – Flood Duration Increase <sup>8,9</sup>
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Manitoba Maple	0	-2		S5					X	N/A	MT
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	5	-3		S5					X	Medium	T
<i>Acer X freemanii</i>	Freeman's Maple										Medium	N/A
<i>Achillea millefolium ssp. millefolium</i>	Common Yarrow		3	-1	SE?					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Agrimonia gryposepala</i>	Tall Hairy Agrimony	2	2		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Redtop		-3		S5					X	N/A	IT to Flooding > 3 days
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard		0	-3	SE5						N/A	ST
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Common Ragweed	0	3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Arctium minus ssp. minus</i>	Common Burdock		5	-2	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	White Birch		2		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Carex species</i>	Sedge species										Low to High depending on species	ST
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Celandine		5	-3	SE5					X	N/A	ST to MT
<i>Circaea alpina</i>	Smaller Enchanter's Nightshade	6	-3		S5					X	Medium	ST
<i>Circaea lutetiana ssp. canadensis</i>	Yellowish Enchanter's Nightshade	3	3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle		3	-1	SE5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle		4	-1	SE5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily-of-the-valley		5	-2	SE5						N/A	N/A
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Horseweed	0	1		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	2	-3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	Spinulose Wood Fern	5	-2		S5					X	Medium	ST
<i>Echinocystis lobata</i>	Prickly Cucumber	3	-2		S5					X	N/A	N/A

Scientific Name	Common Name	CC	CW	Weed	SRANK <sup>1</sup>	SARO <sup>2</sup>	COSEWIC <sup>3</sup>	SARA Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Wellington County <sup>5</sup>	Wellington/Dufferin County <sup>6</sup>	Wetland Water Balance Risk Assessment – Sensitivity <sup>7</sup>	U.S. National Database of Wetland Plant Sensitivities – Flood Duration Increase <sup>8,9</sup>
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Thoroughwort	2	-4		S5					X	Low	ST
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry				S5					X	N/A	MT
<i>Frangula alnus</i>	Glossy Buckthorn		-1	-3	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green Ash	3	-3		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Geum canadense</i>	White Avens	3	0		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's Rocket		5	-3	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Inula helenium</i>	Elecampane		5	-2	SE5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian Honeysuckle		3	-3	SE5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	Catnip		1	-2	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Common Evening-primrose	0	3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Wild Marjoram		5	-2	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i>	Woodbine	3	3		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Poa compressa</i>	Canada Blue Grass	0	2		S5					X Int	N/A	
<i>Populus balsamifera ssp. balsamifera</i>	Balsam Poplar	4	-3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen	2	0		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Prunella vulgaris ssp. lanceolata</i>	Heal-all	5	5		S5						N/A	ST
<i>Prunus virginiana ssp. virginiana</i>	Choke Cherry	2	1		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Tall Buttercup		-2	-2	SE5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn		3	-3	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Ribes americanum</i>	Wild Black Currant	4	-3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Common Elderberry	5	-2		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bitter Nightshade		0	-2	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Solidago altissima var. altissima</i>	Tall Goldenrod	1	3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canada Goldenrod	1	3		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Solidago nemoralis ssp. nemoralis</i>	Gray Goldenrod	2	5		S5					X	N/A	N/A



Scientific Name	Common Name	CC	CW	Weed	SRANK <sup>1</sup>	SARO <sup>2</sup>	COSEWIC <sup>3</sup>	SARA Schedule <sup>4</sup>	Wellington County <sup>5</sup>	Wellington/Dufferin County <sup>6</sup>	Wetland Water Balance Risk Assessment – Sensitivity <sup>7</sup>	U.S. National Database of Wetland Plant Sensitivities – Flood Duration Increase <sup>8,9</sup>
<i>Solidago rugosa ssp. rugosa</i>	Rough Goldenrod	4	-1		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Symphotrichum ericoides var. ericoides</i>	White Heath Aster				S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum var. lateriflorum</i>	Calico Aster	3	-2		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	2	-3		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Symphotrichum pilosum var. pilosum</i>	Hairy Aster	4	2		S5					R	N/A	N/A
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common Dandelion		3	-2	SE5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	White Cedar	4	-3		S5					X	Medium	ST
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	False Mitrewort	6	1		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		2	-2	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover		2	-1	SE5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	White Elm	3	-2		S5					X	N/A	ST
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose		0	-1	SE4						Medium	MT
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	High Bush Cranberry	5	-3		S5					X	N/A	N/A
<i>Viola sororia</i>	Woolly Blue Violet	4	1		S5					X	Medium	ST to MT
<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Riverbank Grape	0	-2		S5					X	N/A	Intolerant to flooding > 3 days

N/A indicates data was not available or the species was not included in the list

<sup>1</sup>Oldham and Brinker 2009; <sup>2,3</sup>MNRF 2021; <sup>4</sup>Government of Canada 2021; <sup>5,6</sup>Dougan & Associates 2009; <sup>7</sup>TRCA 2017; <sup>8</sup>Adamus and Danielson 2002

<sup>9</sup>DEC= decrease, U= unaffected; IT= intolerant, ST= somewhat tolerant, MT= moderately tolerant, T= tolerant, VT= very tolerant.

Based on the sensitivity analysis and background review, the composition of the vegetation community is moderately sensitive to changes in hydrology. The dominant tree species in the wetland (Trembling Aspen, Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), and Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)) are known to inhabit locations with substantial fluctuations in water levels. Swamp communities tend to have fluctuating water levels with periods of inundation and dry periods. Swamp communities rely on both of these periods to maintain their vegetation communities and their ecological function. This vegetation community is tolerant of the proposed wetland water balance changes post-development. The water balance will generally maintain the existing hydroperiods, allowing for periods of inundation in the spring and early summer (April-July), and slightly drier periods in mid-summer to mid-autumn (August to October). Runoff volumes to the wetland will be higher than in the pre-development condition; however, the monthly distribution of excess runoff is generally balanced and reflects the pre-development distribution of runoff volumes. Runoff depths to the wetland also increase in the post-development water balance. These depths are spread out across runoff events occurring during each month. The post-development distribution of runoff depths over each month generally reflects the pre-development runoff distribution. The overall wetland complex west of Arkell Road covers an area of approximately 57ha and any surplus in runoff in each month is likely to distribute throughout the larger wetland complex. As such, the proposed changes to the water balance, and runoff to the wetland is not expected to have an impact on the wetland vegetation communities and the overall function of the wetland.

## **2.2 Wildlife Sensitivity**

Anurans require shallow aquatic habitats with suitable water depth and hydroperiod for breeding, egg deposition, and successful larval development (BSC 2009). Two species of anurans (frogs and toads) were documented in the PSW within the subject property by NRSI staff in 2017:

- Approximately five Gray Treefrogs (*Hyla versicolor*) were heard calling from the east side of the SWD4 community within the subject property on May 29, 2017 and three Gray Treefrogs were heard calling on June 15, 2017 in the SWD4 community in the subject property; and
- Two American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*) were heard calling in the SWD4 community at the northern edge of the subject property on June 15, 2017.

According to the TRCA (2017), Gray Treefrogs have a 'High' sensitivity to changes in wetland hydrology and American Toads have a 'Medium' sensitivity. Wood Frogs (*Lithobates sylvatica*) were heard calling from the isolated man-dug pond on the subject property during anuran breeding surveys in 2017; however, no Wood Frogs were heard calling from the main PSW wetland during any of the surveys. As such, Wood Frogs were not considered as part of the sensitivity analysis for the wetland.

Gray Treefrogs typically breed in May and June in Ontario and American Toads typically breed between April and June (BSC 2009). There are no specific depth thresholds reported for breeding habitats used by these species; however, they are known to breed in a variety of ephemeral or permanent wetlands or ponds at a range of depths. Gray Treefrogs' eggs are laid at the surface of the water, while American Toads have been reported to lay their eggs at a range of depths (Dodd 2013) (Table 2).

Tadpoles of these two species develop in breeding ponds for 2-4 months until they metamorphosize (Pfungsten et al. 2013). No specific water depth thresholds for larvae are reported in the literature (Table 2). Hydro-period, water temperatures, water chemistry, resource availability, and presence of predators are likely more important factors for tadpole development and survival compared to overall water depth (assuming it doesn't shorten the hydro-period) (Dodd 2013)

Additional information on the breeding habitat requirements for the anuran species documented within the Study Area is provided in Table 2.

The proposed water balance generally maintains the distribution of wet and dry periods throughout the year, which will maintain the existing hydroperiod of the wetland. An increase in the runoff volumes to the wetland will occur post-development; however, due to the size of the overall wetland catchment, the volume and depths will not be sufficient to change the overall hydroperiod that Tree frogs and American toads rely on. As such, the proposed development is not anticipated to have a negative impact on the life cycle of these anuran species or other common anurans known to occur in the area.

**Table 2. Breeding Habitat Requirements for Anuran Species Documented in the Study Area**

	Species	
	American Toad ( <i>Anaxyrus americanus</i> )	Tetraploid Gray Treefrog ( <i>Hyla versicolor</i> )
<b>Adult Habitat*</b>		
Habitat Description	Open deciduous forests and grasslands, as well as disturbed habitats such as plantations, urban areas, and farmland.	Moist hardwood forests in close proximity (<40m) to breeding ponds.
<b>Breeding Habitat*</b>		
Habitat Description	Seasonal temporary ponds, permanent wetlands (bogs, fens, marshes), stream and river backwaters, flooded meadows, small pools, beaver ponds, as well as ditches, road ruts, sinkhole ponds, storm water management ponds.	Small wetlands and woodland pools adjacent to, or within, woodlands, as well as ditches, pasture ponds, quarries, sand pit ponds. Breeding ponds typically have shrubs and/or emergent or floating vegetation.
Hydroperiod	>4 months, may also be permanent	>4 months, may also be permanent
Water Depth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific water depth thresholds for egg deposition or larvae are reported in the literature.</li> <li>Eggs are laid in shallow water 10-30 cm in depth.</li> <li>Larvae prefer shallow water, but have been observed at a record 8m depth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific water depth thresholds for egg deposition or larvae are reported in the literature.</li> <li>Eggs are laid at the surface of the water.</li> <li>Hydro-period, water temperatures, water chemistry, resource availability, and presence of predators are likely more important factors for larvae.</li> </ul>

\* Dodd 2013

### **3.0 Stormwater Management Plan and Water Balance Approach**

MTE has developed a Preliminary Stormwater Management Plan (2023a) and Functional Servicing Report (2023b) that are provided under separate cover and are part of this resubmission package.

As detailed in the Preliminary Stormwater Management Plan and Functional Servicing Report, storm drainage for the proposed development will be provided through a combination of minor (piped) and major (overland) drainage systems, with several catchments conveyed to the stormwater management facility (SWMF). The majority of the onsite conveyance will be collected via a storm sewer network. The proposed street-fronting townhouse units will have individual service connections to sump pumps. Blocks 1 and 2 will be connected to storm sewer pipes.

The stormwater management plan for the subject property includes water quality, quantity, and erosion and sedimentation control. Water quality and quantity control will be provided by a 2-cell SWMF, consisting of a wet cell and an infiltration cell, as well as infiltration galleries. The reader is referred to the MTE reports for a fulsome description of the stormwater and functional services strategy (MTE 2023a, 2023b).

Discharge from the SWMF will be controlled via a multi-staged outlet. The infiltration cell downstream of the wet cell is sized to infiltrate the 25mm-4hr storm. Larger storms, up to and including the 100-year events, are infiltrated as much as possible up to the elevation of the overflow weir at the SWMF outlet. Any flows that cannot be infiltrated will be discharged to the Torrance Creek Wetland. Table 5.6 in the Preliminary Stormwater Management Report (MTE 2023a) identifies pre- and post-development discharges to the Torrance Creek Wetland. Table 3 below summarizes this information. Post-development peak runoff to the wetland will be less than the existing condition.

**Table 3. Pre- and Post Development Peak Runoff Rates (MTE 2023a)**

	25mm	2-year	5-year	10-year	25-year	50-year	100-year	Regional
<b>Pre-development</b>								
Total Discharge to Wetland (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	0.038	0.069	0.122	0.166	0.213	0.252	0.302	0.392
<b>Post-development</b>								
Total Discharge to Wetland (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	0.009	0.022	0.046	0.077	0.124	0.156	0.192	0.306

Stormwater runoff will drain internally for the majority of the subject property through the use of constructed drainage swales and the proposed storm sewer network. However, runoff from a small portion of the developed area, consisting of sloped pervious areas, will flow uncontrolled elsewhere (MTE 2023a). A high point is present along Arkell Road near the entrance to 202 Arkell Road. East of the high point, flows are directed towards storm sewers that are connected to an existing infiltration gallery in the boulevard adjacent to the Arkell Meadows subdivision SWM facility. On the western side of the high point, flows will be directed to an existing side inlet catchbasin, through a stone energy dissipater, and eventually into the Torrance Creek wetland complex. As such, flow generated from uncontrolled portions of the subject lands will ultimately contribute to recharging surface water inputs to the wetland feature and subsurface water inputs to the local groundwater table. These measures will provide quality and quantity control of runoff prior to discharge into the adjacent Torrance Creek wetland.

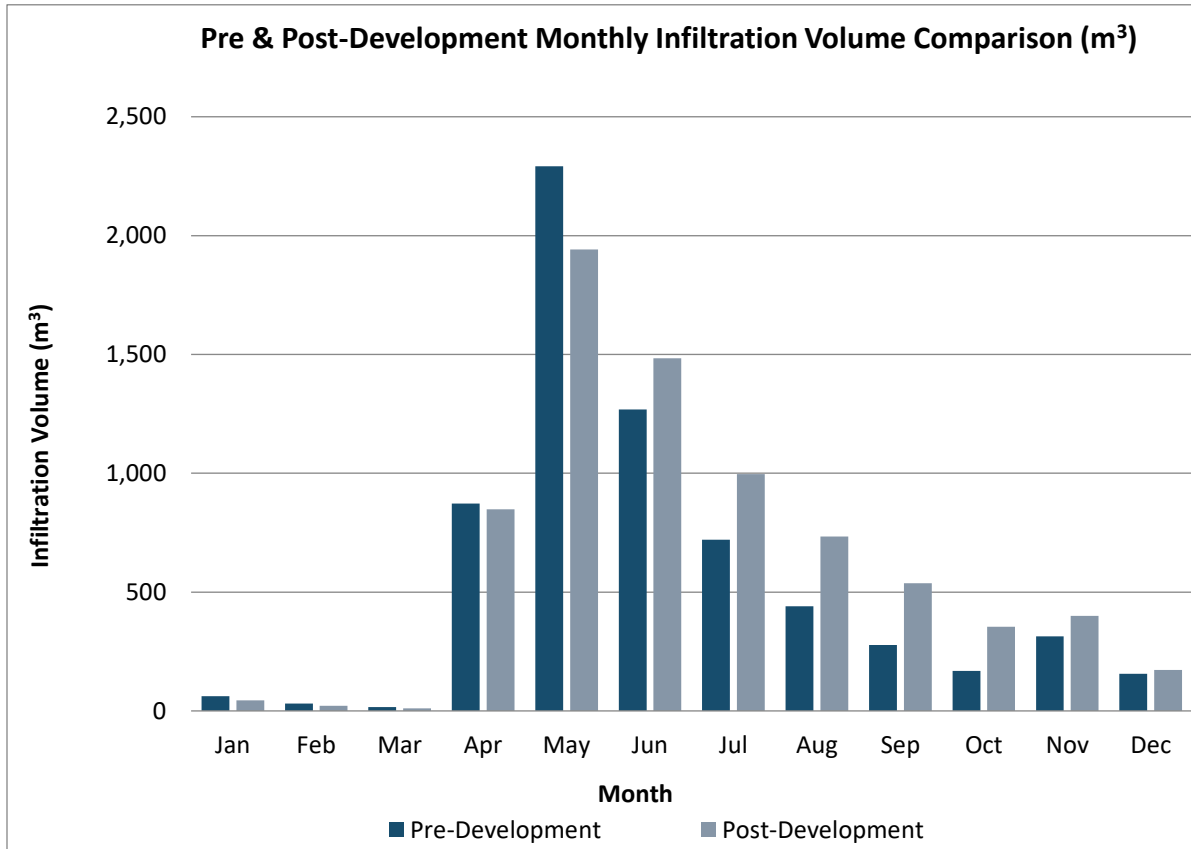
### 3.1 Monthly Water Balance

A detailed description of the monthly water balance is provided in MTE's Stormwater Management Plan report (2023a). The following provides a brief summary of the results.

#### 3.1.1 Infiltration Volumes

Under pre-development conditions, the subject property infiltrates 6,615m<sup>3</sup>/year. The post-development subject property has a passive infiltration of 4,857m<sup>3</sup>/year. With the proposed stormwater management plan, which uses infiltration galleries and an end-of-pipe infiltration cell, the post-development total annual infiltration rate is 7,544<sup>3</sup>/year. This provides a volume surplus of 928m<sup>3</sup>/year (243mm/year) over pre-development conditions. Infiltration volumes increase from pre-development to post-development through implementation of the on-site infiltration galleries (MTE 2023a). Infiltration from the subject property contributes to the shallow groundwater table that flows from the north to the south/southwest, toward Burke Well and ultimately the overall wetland complex west of the subject property. Figure 1 (Figure 5.5, MTE

2023a) summarizes the pre- and post- infiltration volumes throughout a year. The TCSS states that baseflow enhancement is encouraged on lands within this zone and the proposed SWM strategy satisfies this criterion.



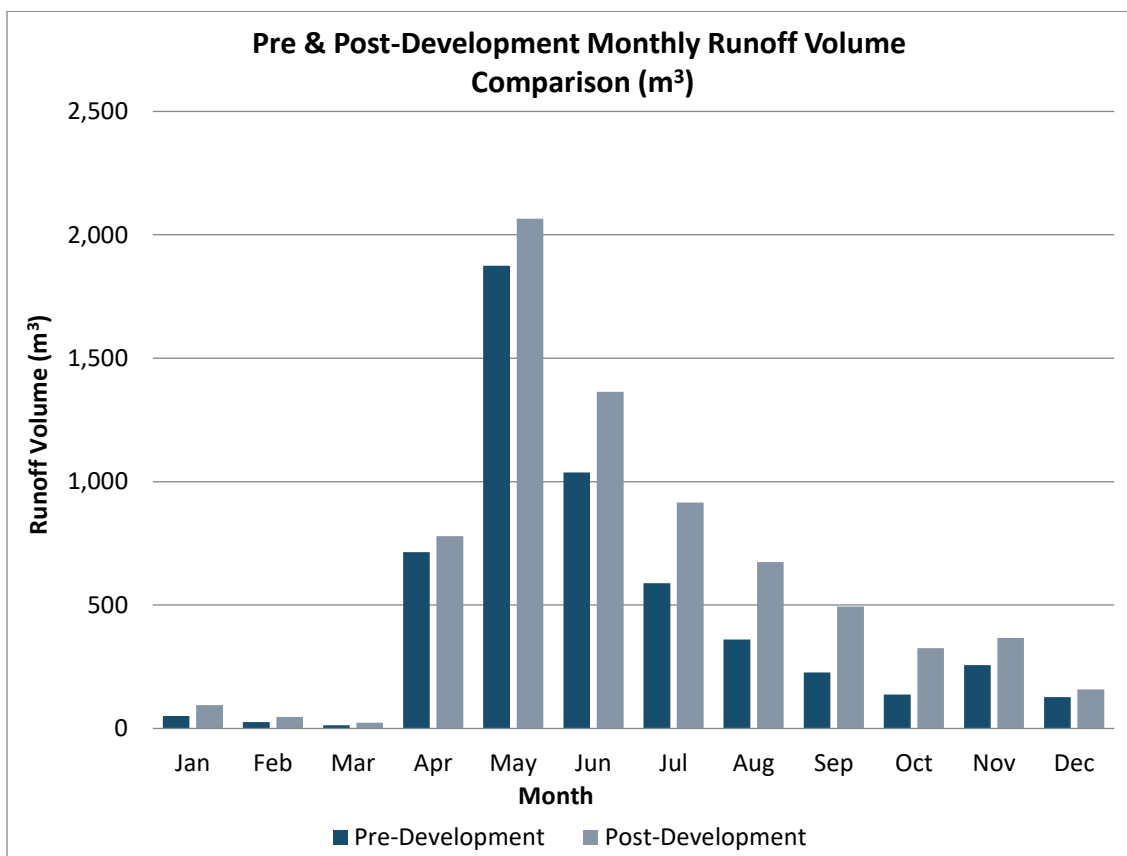
**Figure 1. Pre & Post Development Monthly Infiltration Volume Comparison to the Wetland (MTE 2023a)**

### 3.1.2 Surface Runoff Volumes

Under pre-development conditions, runoff from the subject property drains to the northwest and provides surface water inputs to the Torrance Creek wetland complex. The subject property currently generates 5,413m<sup>3</sup>/year in runoff, based on an imperviousness of 13.8%. Under post-development conditions, the catchment area from within the Arkell Road subject property draining to the wetland is slightly smaller (a decrease in catchment size of approximately 0.394ha), and the imperviousness is higher (45.20%), which results in an increase in runoff. Approximately 7,308m<sup>3</sup>/year of runoff is generated by the development area under post-development conditions, which equates to an annual surplus of 1,895m<sup>3</sup>/year (254mm/year) of surface runoff volume to the wetland complex. Figure 2 (Figure 5.4, MTE 2023a) is provided

below and illustrates the distribution of excess runoff over the course of a year relative to the existing runoff conditions and patterns.

Throughout the year, June, July and August are estimated to have the highest monthly runoff volumes compared to pre-development levels (327, 326 and 315m<sup>3</sup>, respectively). Runoff from the stormwater management facility to the wetland will outlet through a gabion mat and overland flow path where additional evapotranspiration and infiltration may occur over the 30m buffer to the wetland. To take a conservation approach, the water balance analysis completed by MTE (2023a) does not include the additional evapotranspiration or infiltration that may occur within the wetland buffer.



**Figure 2. Pre & Post Development Monthly Runoff Volume Comparison to the Wetland (MTE 2023a)**



### **3.1.3 Overall Recharge Volumes to the Wetland**

MTE completed an existing conditions assessment (pre-development) that considered the entire existing site surface and groundwater flow to the wetland, which included a drainage area of 3.11ha and was inclusive of Catchment 101, 102, 103, 104 and 105. Under post-development conditions, the surface drainage area to the wetland will be reduced to 2.87ha, with the remaining surface area out-letting to Arkell Road uncontrolled. The catchments out-letting surface water to the wetland will include 201, 202 and 203. The catchments that outlet surface water uncontrolled to Arkell Road will include 204 and 205 (MTE 2023a, 2023b).

The post development runoff volume calculation to the wetland was calculated to consider the 2.87ha surface drainage area. The post development infiltration augmentation was calculated considering the entire site area (surface and groundwater) of 3.11ha. Through this method, MTE was able to calculate monthly runoff volumes to the wetland and monthly infiltration over the site. The total increase in recharge and runoff from predevelopment to post development is 125mm annually and has been designed to meet the TCSS baseflow criteria through infiltration augmentation (rooftop galleries and infiltration cell downstream of the SWM facility) while reducing surplus runoff to the wetland. A comparison of the pre and post development recharge volumes to the wetland is shown in Table 4 (MTE 2023a, MTE 2023b).

**Table 4. Pre & Post Development Recharge Volume Comparison to the Wetland**

Month	Pre-Development Water Balance to Wetland		Post-Development Water Balance to Wetland		Value Difference	
	Total Recharge & Runoff (mm)	Total Recharge & Runoff (m <sup>3</sup> )	Enhanced Recharge & Runoff (mm)	Enhanced Recharge & Runoff (m <sup>3</sup> )	Depth (mm)	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
Jan	3.7	114	4.7	145	1.0	31
Feb	1.8	57	2.3	72	0.5	15
Mar	0.9	28	1.2	36	0.3	8
Apr	51.1	1,587	54.9	1,707	3.8	120
May	134	4,166	145.5	4,524	11.5	358
Jun	74.2	2,305	96.0	2,987	21.8	682
Jul	42.1	1,309	64.4	2,004	22.3	695
Aug	25.7	800	47.5	1,477	21.8	677
Sept	16.2	505	34.8	1,082	18.6	577
Oct	9.8	305	22.9	713	13.1	408
Nov	18.3	570	25.9	804	7.6	234
Dec	9.1	284	11.1	347	2.0	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>12,030</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>15,898</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>3,868</b>

## **4.0 Impact Analysis**

### **4.1 Management of Stormwater Quantity**

The approach to stormwater management for the proposed redevelopment is summarized in the Stormwater Management Report (MTE 2023a) and Functional Servicing Report (MTE 2023b).

Under the proposed stormwater management strategy there will be an overall increase in the amount of infiltration within the development area. The infiltrated water will contribute to the shallow groundwater system, flowing away from the wetland, and no negative impacts to the wetland will occur based on the increased infiltration volumes.

The post-development monthly runoff volumes and rates reflect the existing runoff cycle to the wetland, with an overall increase in runoff volume occurring in all months (MTE 2023a). The overall runoff volumes represent a small component of the broader hydrology of the Torrance Creek Subwatershed area (1,060 ha), given that the subject property represents 0.24% of the Torrance Creek Subwatershed area (Totten Sims Hubicki et al. 1999, Dougan and Associates 2009). An analysis of local impacts to the wetland based on increases in runoff volumes was completed to fully assess impacts to the PSW. A wetland water balance risk evaluation was also conducted to assess the hydrological and ecological capacity of the wetland to assimilate the proposed changes. The risk evaluation is summarized below.

### **4.2 Wetland Water Balance Risk Evaluation**

A Wetland Water Balance Risk Evaluation (TRCA 2017) was completed for the proposed development. The Risk Evaluation uses information about the proposed development, proposed changes to the hydrology of the wetland, and natural heritage information about the wetland to assign a level of risk for 1) the potential magnitude of hydrological change, and 2) the sensitivity of the wetland to hydrological change. The assigned level of risk for these two factors are then evaluated together using a Wetland Risk Evaluation Decision Tree to assign an overall risk to the wetland from the proposed development and determine monitoring needs.

The criteria used to evaluate the probability and magnitude of hydrological change as a result of the proposed development are shown in Table 3 (TRCA 2017). The criteria used to Evaluate the Sensitivity of the Wetland to Hydrological Change are provided in Table 4 (TRCA 2017).

According to the completed Wetland Water Balance Risk Evaluation (TRCA 2017), the proposed development is considered to have an overall 'Medium to High' risk to the wetland due

to an increase in impervious surfaces and change in catchment area. The stormwater management plan has been prepared to provide a balance between the surplus pre- and post-development runoff and infiltration volumes to the wetland. The stormwater management plan uses infiltration galleries throughout the development and an end-of-pipe infiltration cell in the SWMF to provide enhancement of infiltration, thereby reducing surplus runoff to the wetland.

While the risk to the wetland is considered 'Medium to High' the runoff out-letting to the wetland throughout the year generally reflects pre-development conditions in terms of volumes and patterns of seasonal highs and lows.

MTE's monthly water balance estimates that the proposed development, and associated stormwater management design, will result in a 35.0% increase in annual runoff volume, contributing to an estimated 254mm increase in the annual depth of runoff discharged to the wetland. The distribution of runoff to the wetland over the course of the year generally matches pre-development conditions. The gentle slope of the wetland, towards Torrance Creek, and the permeability and hydraulic conductivity of the local soils will prevent the surplus runoff from ponding for extended periods. As a result, changes to the wetland hydroperiod and composition of the vegetation community are not anticipated to occur post development.

A surplus of runoff will outlet to the wetland throughout the year; however, this is not anticipated to impact the duration of ponding in the PSW, as indicated above. Some surface ponding may occur in pockets throughout the PSW based on local topography; however, the hydraulic conductivity and infiltration rates of local soils will prevent ponding from occurring for excessive durations. The peak of surplus runoff delivered to the PSW may enhance anuran habitat by providing additional water in localized areas. A couple of vegetation species (Riverbank Grape and Redtop) in the wetland observed by NRSI biologists in 2017 are sensitive to flood conditions lasting greater than 3 months. Based on MTE's groundwater elevation observations in the wetland, hydraulic conductivity tests, and in-situ infiltration testing, ponding greater than three months is not anticipated to occur, since the groundwater table drops by over 1m following early spring (March and April) freshet conditions. As such, the vegetation species that are at highest risk of impact are not anticipated to be affected. It is anticipated that the duration of additional ponding will be temporary and will not impact the ecological or hydrological function of the wetland or the vegetation composition.

It is anticipated that the wetland vegetation community, vascular plant species, and the two anuran species documented within the wetland will not be negatively impacted as a result of the proposed development.

Figure 5.4 from MTE's Stormwater Management Plan (2023a) (Figure 2 in this EIS Addendum) shows the distribution of runoff to the wetland during pre- and post-development. May through November are estimated to have the largest increases in surface runoff to the wetland, with increased runoff ranging from 111m<sup>3</sup>/year to 327m<sup>3</sup>/year. April through June are important months for breeding anurans and runoff in these months is estimated to range between 27.2mm – 72.0mm per month. These differences, while not inconsequential, are considered tolerable for the wetland community and anuran species present. The hydrologic changes are not anticipated to negatively impact breeding anurans based on available data on their life cycle requirements (Table 2, TRCA 2017). Any increases in wetland water level in the months of April through June may benefit breeding amphibians, and the overall hydroperiod of the wetland is not anticipated to change considerably post-development.

The detailed monthly runoff and infiltration volumes were used to determine whether the proposed changes in local hydrology will significantly alter the form or function of the Torrance Creek Wetland Complex from its pre-development condition. According to the sensitivity analysis completed, which focused on the wetland vegetation community and anuran species documented within the study area, it is anticipated that no negative impact will occur due to the proposed development and resulting changes in local hydrology.

It is recommended that wetland water level monitoring, anuran call survey monitoring, and vegetation monitoring is implemented before and after construction of the proposed development to determine whether the stormwater management design is functioning as anticipated. A detailed monitoring program to track changes to the PSW and provide recommendations for suitable mitigation measures (i.e., SWM runoff alterations, etc.) should be provided in the Environmental Implementation Report.

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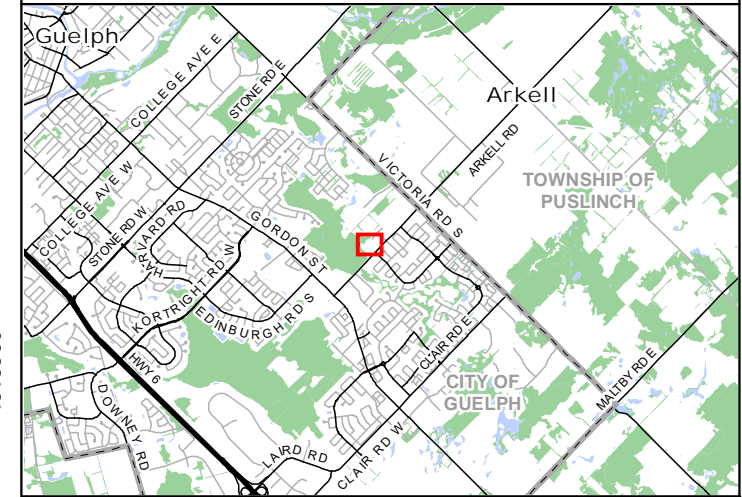
## **Maps**

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# Arkell Road Properties Environmental Impact Study Natural Heritage Constraints



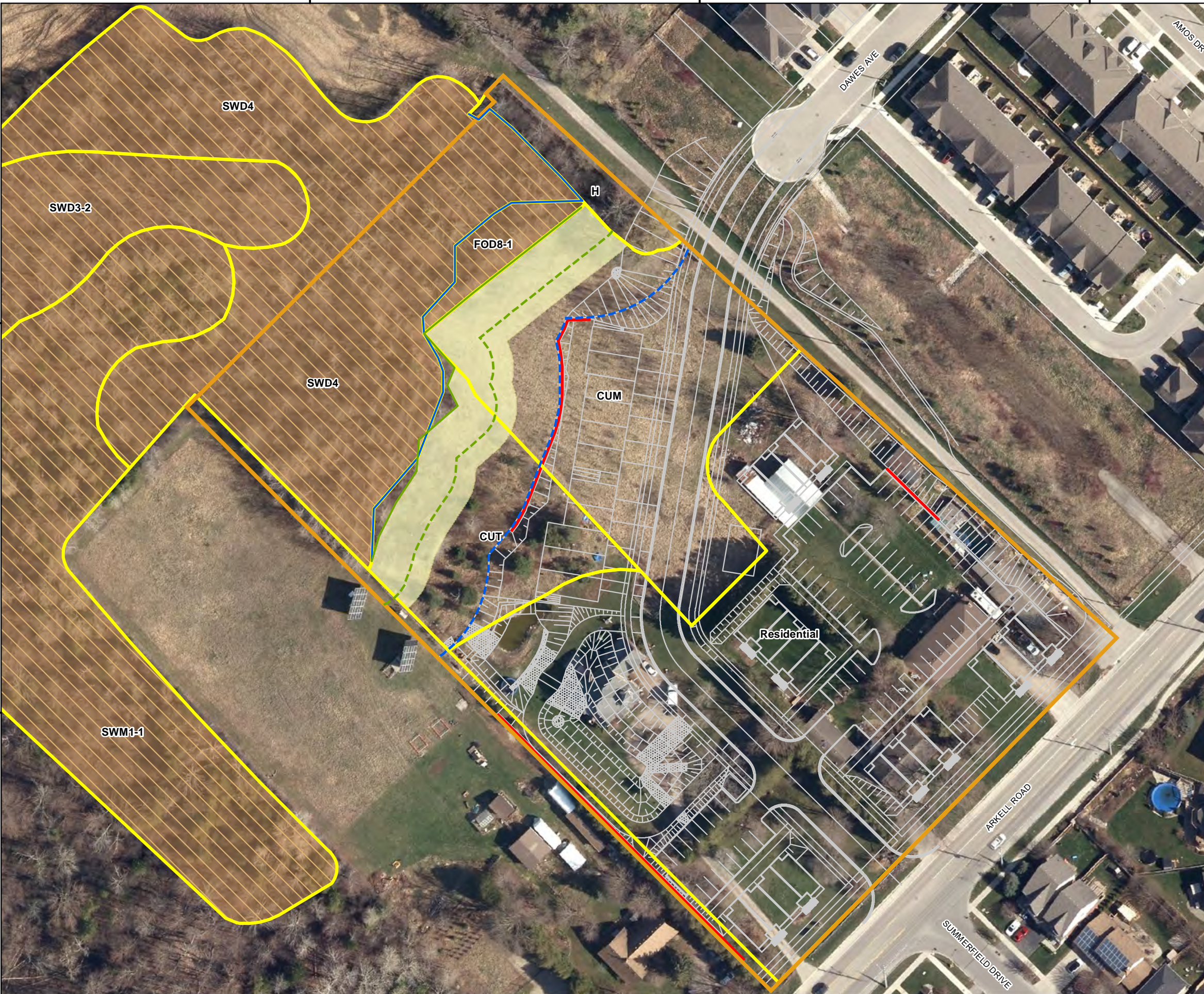
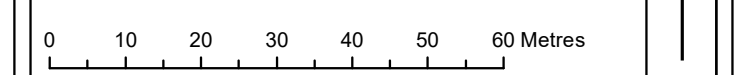
### Legend

-  Subject Property
-  Proposed Development
-  Proposed Retaining Wall
-  Significant Woodland Dripline (NRSI Flagged, City Approved July 22, 2016)
-  Significant Woodland Buffer (10m)
-  Wetland Boundary (NRSI Flagged, GRCA Approved July 22, 2016)
-  Wetland Buffer (30m)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat**
  -  Special Concern and Rare Wildlife (Eastern Wood-Pewee)
  -  Deer Winter Congregation Area
- Species at Risk Habitat**
  -  Little Brown Myotis - Candidate Foraging Habitat
  -  Ecological Land Classification (ELC)
- (CUM) Cultural Meadow
- (CUT) Cultural Thicket
- (FOD8-1) Fresh - Moist Poplar Deciduous Forest Type
- (H) Hedgerow
- (SWD3-2) Silver Maple Mineral Deciduous Swamp Type
- (SWD4) Mineral Deciduous Swamp Ecosite
- (SWM1-1) White Cedar Mineral Mixed Swamp Ecosite



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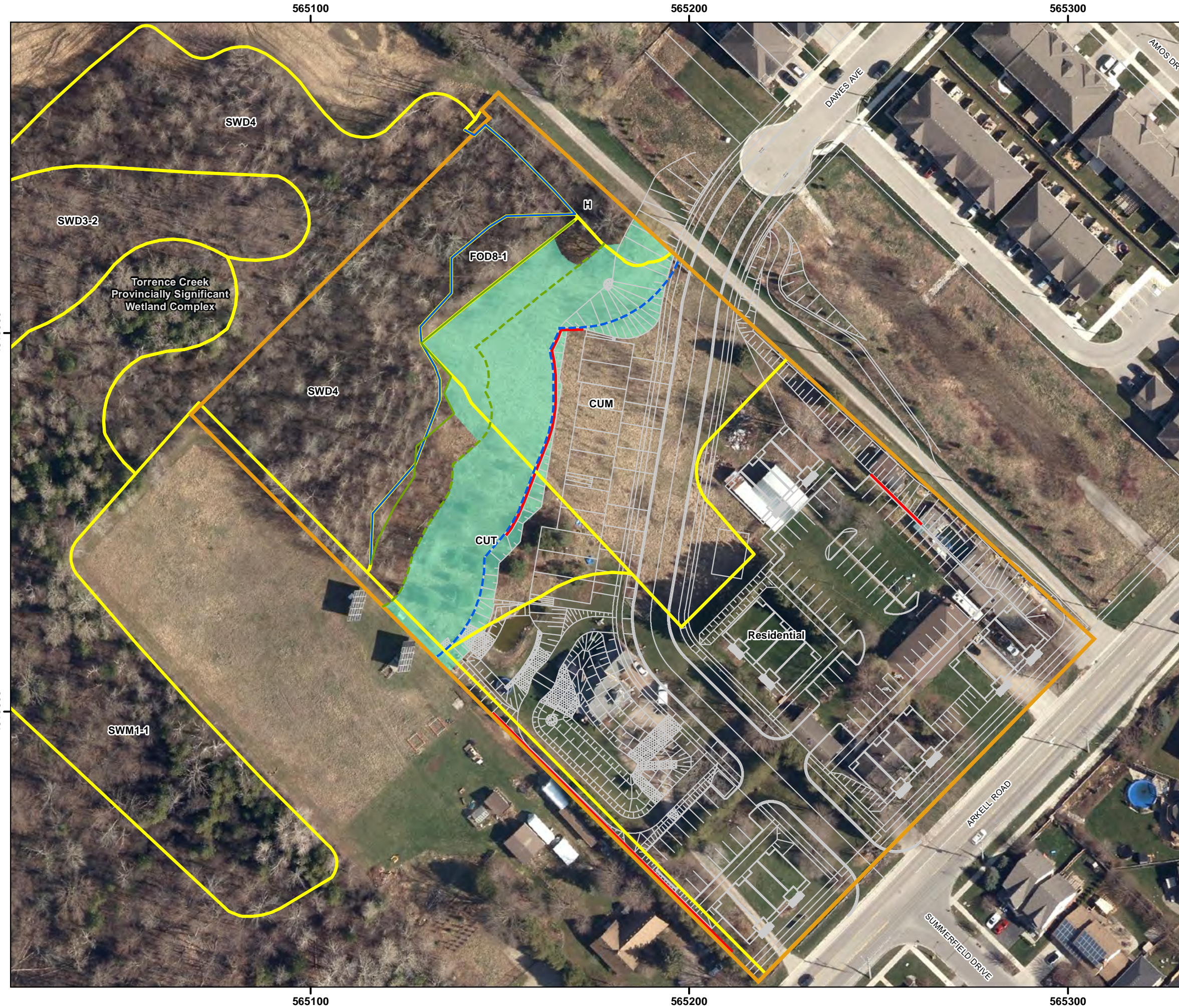


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## Map 2

# Arkell Road Properties Environmental Impact Study Habitat Stewardship Plan

**Legend**

- Subject Property
- Proposed Development
- Proposed Retaining Wall
- Significant Woodland Dripline (NRSI Flagged, City Approved July 22, 2016)
- Significant Woodland Buffer (10m)
- Wetland Boundary (NRSI Flagged, GRCA Approved July 22, 2016)
- Wetland Buffer (30m)
- NHS and Buffer Enhancement Area
- Ecological Land Classification (ELC)

(CUM) Cultural Meadow  
 (CUT) Cultural Thicket  
 (FOD8-1) Fresh - Moist Poplar Deciduous Forest Type  
 (H) Hedgerow  
 (SWD3-2) Silver Maple Mineral Deciduous Swamp Type  
 (SWD4) Mineral Deciduous Swamp Ecosite  
 (SWM1-1) White Cedar Mineral Mixed Swamp Ecosite

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