

APPENDIX 2

MNRF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS



591 Woolwich Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3Y5

T: 519.822.6839
F: 519.822.4052
info@aboutdng.com
www.aboutdng.com

URBAN FORESTRY
ARBORIST REPORTS
MANAGEMENT PLANS
TREE PRESERVATION PLANS
TREE RISK ASSESSMENT
GIS TREE INVENTORIES
TREE APPRAISALS
MONITORING

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION
NATURAL SYSTEMS DESIGN
HABITAT RESTORATION
EDGE MANAGEMENT PLANS
RAVINE STEWARDSHIP PLANS
NATURALIZATION PLANS
INTERPRETIVE DESIGN
MONITORING
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
SUBWATERSHED STUDIES
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENTS
ECOLOGICAL LAND
CLASSIFICATION
WETLAND EVALUATION
VEGETATION ASSESSMENT
BOTANICAL INVENTORIES
WILDLIFE SURVEYS
MONITORING

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
MASTER PLANNING
RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL
HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION
STREETSCAPES
PARKS AND OPEN SPACES
TRAIL SYSTEMS
GREEN ROOFS
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

EXPERT OPINION
OMB TESTIMONY
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
PEER REVIEW
RESEARCH
EDUCATION

18/11/2015

Our Project #:AA15-123A
Sent by email: esa.guelph@ontario.ca

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Guelph District
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON

Attention: Guelph District MNRF;

**Re: Speedvale Bridge Underpass and Multi-use Trail Linkage Project, Guelph
Request for Species at Risk and Local Site Information**

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this request for Information regarding Species at Risk, Wetland Mapping and/or Evaluation and Data Records for the Locally Significant Wetland and Significant Waterfowl Overwintering Habitat.

Any other possible site constraints or information would also be greatly appreciated. As it applies to a Trail EIS in the City of Guelph, Ontario (*Figure 1*), the information provided will be used to inform the Terms of Reference and field program, which will be prepared consultation with the GRCA and City of Guelph Planning Department.

Project Description

The trail is to be located on the west side of the Speed River, approximately 300 metres of new trail south of Speedvale Avenue, and approximately 400m of new trail, north of Speedvale Avenue (*Figure 1*).

The multi-use trail and underpass are within the Grand River Conservation Authority regulation limit, the one zone flood plain and include a number of features within the Natural Heritage System as defined under the schedules of the City of Guelph OP, including Valleylands, Significant Wildlife Habitat, and Significant Woodlands, and are adjacent to Locally Significant Wetlands, and Cool Water Fish Habitat.

Background Information

A thorough background search has been completed; using available resources provided online related to the subject lands and adjacent lands and is listed below:

1. The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas indicates that three species of Conservation concern (Milksnake (SC), Western Chorus Frog (THR-Federal) and Snapping Turtle (SC)) have been identified within 10km of the study area.
2. The Natural heritage Information Center indicates the presence of three species of Conservation Concern within 1 km of the project location (Eastern Ribbon Snake (SC), Northern map turtle (SC), Rusty-patched Bumblebee (END)).
3. The Ontario Mammal Atlas indicates that two species of Conservation Concern, Little Brown Myotis (END) and Northern Myotis (END), have been identified within approximately 10km of the study area.
4. The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas indicates that nine Species of Conservation Concern (Common Nighthawk (SC), Chimney Swift (THR), Eastern Wood-pewee (SC), Bank Swallow (THR), Barn Swallow (THR), Wood Thrush (SC), Canada Warbler (SC), Bobolink (THR), Eastern Meadowlark (THR)), have been identified within 10km of the study area.
5. A review of the GRCA web mapping indicates that the lands to be developed are within the GRCA regulation limit.
6. A review of the Land Information Ontario mapping (2007) indicates one Locally Significant Wetland and a waterfowl overwintering area, occurs in the study area.

Please contact the undersigned should you require additional information of the above.

Yours truly,

ABOUD & ASSOCIATES INC.



Cheryl-Anne Ross, B.Sc., Wildlife Ecologist
T:519.822.6839 x7

CC: Jyoti Pathak
Attachment: Figure 1

S:\A+A Projects\2015\15-123A Speedvale Underpass EIS\Approvals, Comments\MNRF letter request.docx

Guelph District MNRF Information Request Form



Consultant Name:	Cheryl-Anne Ross	
Company Name:	Aboud & Associates Inc.	
Email Address:	Cheryl@Aboudtng.com	
Phone Number:	519-822-6839	
Proponent Name:	City of Guelph, Parks and Planning	
Project Name:	Speedvale Bridge Underpass and Multi-use Trail Linkage Project	
Property Address:	East and west of Speedvale avenue, center at approximately 8 Speedvale avenue	
Township/Municipality:	Guelph	
Lot & Concession:	Lot C, Lot 34 Div. A	
UTM Coordinates: (NAD83)	559257.69 m E Easting (X)	4823187.57 m N Northing (Y)

Brief Description of Undertaking: A multi-use trail is proposed along the west side of the Speed River connecting the existing Trans-Canada Trail to the Speedvale Avenue bridge underpass and linkage north to the existing Riverside Park trail system. The trail is to be located on the west side of the Speed River.

Have you previously contacted someone at MNRF for information on this site? Yes No

If yes, when and who?

Provide a map of accurate scale to illustrate footprint/study area of the proposed activity in relation to the surrounding landscape (e.g. property boundaries, roads, waterbodies, natural features, towns, and other human landmarks). Use of aerial photography is strongly encouraged. Include scale, north arrow and legend.

ATTACHMENTS – I have attached a: Picture attached separately see below
Map Other

REQUEST - I would like to request the following information for the property identified above:
**Requires an appointment and remittance of fees.*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland evaluation and data record * (please provide name of wetland if known) <input type="text" value="Locally Significant Wetland"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ANSI Checksheet * (please provide name of ANSI if known) <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Dot Information * (fish and other aquatic species found in a particular area of a watercourse)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provincially Tracked Species/Species at Risk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text" value="Waterfowl Overwintering Area"/>	

Please forward the completed form to: esa.guelph@ontario.ca
Or send by mail:
Guelph District, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
1 Stone Road West Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2



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CC: Jyoti Pathak
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December 8, 2015

Cheryl-Anne Ross
Wildlife Ecologist
Aboud and Associates Inc.
591 Woolwich Street
Guelph . Ontario
N1H 3Y5

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the presence of species at risk and natural heritage features Speedvale Bridge Underpass and Multi-use Trail Linkage Project in the City of Guelph, Ontario.

Digital mapping for some natural heritage features is available from Land Information Ontario (LIO). MNRF recommends contacting LIO to obtain relevant feature mapping. Datasets of potential interest (and the corresponding LIO dataset) include – wetlands ('Wetland Unit' dataset), ANSI ('ANSI dataset'), wooded areas ('Wooded Areas'), wintering areas ('Wintering Areas'), and fish spawning areas ('Spawning Areas').

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has had an opportunity to review the natural heritage records and information available at the Guelph District Office, for the above noted file. Please see below for the following information and comments to address your questions noted in the email correspondence.

Wetlands

The Ministry notes that no Wetland Complexes are currently identified within or directly adjacent to the identified land.

Digital mapping of wetlands can be obtained from Land Information Ontario (LIO). The Warehouse Dataset Name is 'Wetlands' within LIO. LIO manages key provincial datasets, and is responsible for housing most of the Ministry's digital natural heritage and resource data. The LIO Warehouse also includes spatial data from a variety of other sources and agencies, including federal ministries and conservation authorities. The LIO website provides instructions on how to request/obtain data, and a full listing of all data in the Warehouse. The link to the LIO website is as follows: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LIO/index.html>. LIO staff can also be contacted at lio@ontario.ca or at (705) 755-1878 for assistance.

ANSI

The Ministry notes that no ANSI's are currently identified within or directly adjacent to the identified land.

Digital mapping of Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest can be obtained from Land Information Ontario (LIO). The Warehouse Dataset Name is 'ANSI' within LIO. LIO manages key provincial datasets, and is responsible for housing most of the Ministry's digital natural heritage and resource data. The LIO Warehouse also includes spatial data from a variety of other sources and agencies, including federal ministries and conservation authorities. The LIO website provides instructions on how to request/obtain data, and a full listing of all data in the Warehouse. The link to the LIO website is as follows: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/LIO/index.html>. LIO staff can also be contacted at lio@ontario.ca or at (705) 755-1878 for assistance.

Species at Risk

The Ministry notes that within the study area, there are records of:

Snapping Turtle

SC

Please note that because the province has not been surveyed comprehensively for the presence of species at risk (SAR), the absence in the NHIC database of an EO in a particular geographic area does not indicate the absence of the species in that area. Consequently, the presence of an EO is useful to flag the presence of the species in the area,

but is not an appropriate tool to determine whether a species is absent, or whether it should be surveyed for or not in a particular area.

Consequently, we provide the following advice with respect to determining the presence of species at risk on a property for which a land-use change or on-the-ground activity is being proposed (note that some of the following may not apply to a given type of proposed activity, or for a given study area):

I. Habitat Inventory

The District recommends undertaking a comprehensive botanical inventory of the entire area that may be subject to direct and indirect impacts from the proposed activity. The vegetation communities and aquatic habitats in the study area should be classified as per the "Ecological Land Classification (ELC) for Southern Ontario" system, to either the "Ecosite" or "Vegetation Type" level. With respect to aquatic habitats in the study area, we recommend you collect data on the physical characteristics of the waterbodies and inventory the riparian zone vegetation, so that these habitats can be classified as per the Aquatic Ecosites described in the ELC manual.

II. Potential SAR on the property

A list of species at risk that have the potential to occur in the area can be produced by cross-referencing the ecosites described during the habitat inventory with the habitat descriptions of species at risk known to occur in the county or regional municipality within which the area is located. The species-specific COSEWIC status reports (www.cosewic.gc.ca) are a good source of information on species at risk habitat needs and will be helpful in determining the suitability of the property's ecosites for a given species.

Please note that the Species at Risk in Ontario list (SARO) is a living document and is amended periodically as a result of species assessment and re-assessments conducted by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO). The SARO list can be accessed on the webpage <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/species-risk-ontario-list>

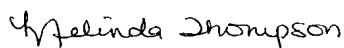
COSSARO also maintains a list of species to be assessed in the future. It is recommended to take COSSARO's list of anticipated assessments into consideration, especially when the proposed start date of the activity is more than 6 months away, or the project will be undertaken over a period greater than 6 months. The list can be viewed by going to <http://www.ontario.ca/page/how-comment-protecting-species-risk>.

III. SAR surveys

The District is of the opinion that each species at risk identified under Step II should be surveyed for, regardless of whether or not the species has been previously recorded in the area, or whether previous records are historical in nature. The survey report should describe how each species at risk was surveyed for, and provide a rationale for why, if any, certain species appearing on the county/ regional municipal list were not the subject of the survey. These rationales must be based on evidence demonstrating either that: suitable habitat for the species is not present on the property or; the project will not have any impacts -including indirect impacts- on the species. Some SAR surveys require an authorization under the *Endangered Species Act 2007* and/or a Scientific Collector's Permit; please contact the Guelph District office if you require further direction regarding these.

Guelph District additionally recommends contacting the municipal planning approval authority and the conservation authority to determine if they have any additional information or records of interest for the study area. Please contact our office if your investigations reveal the presence of species at risk on the subject property. MNR will be happy to provide further advice regarding the provisions of the *Endangered Species Act* at that time.

Sincerely,



MELINDA J. THOMPSON

MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST
ONTARIO MINISTRY of NATURAL RESOURCES and FORESTRY
melinda.thompson@ontario.ca