

14 Gideon Drive and 2012 Oxford Street West - Review of EIS prepared by MTE
Reviewers: S. Esan, S. Heuchan, S. Levin

Fauna

Eastern Wood-pewee – Mineral cultural woodland – Species of concern

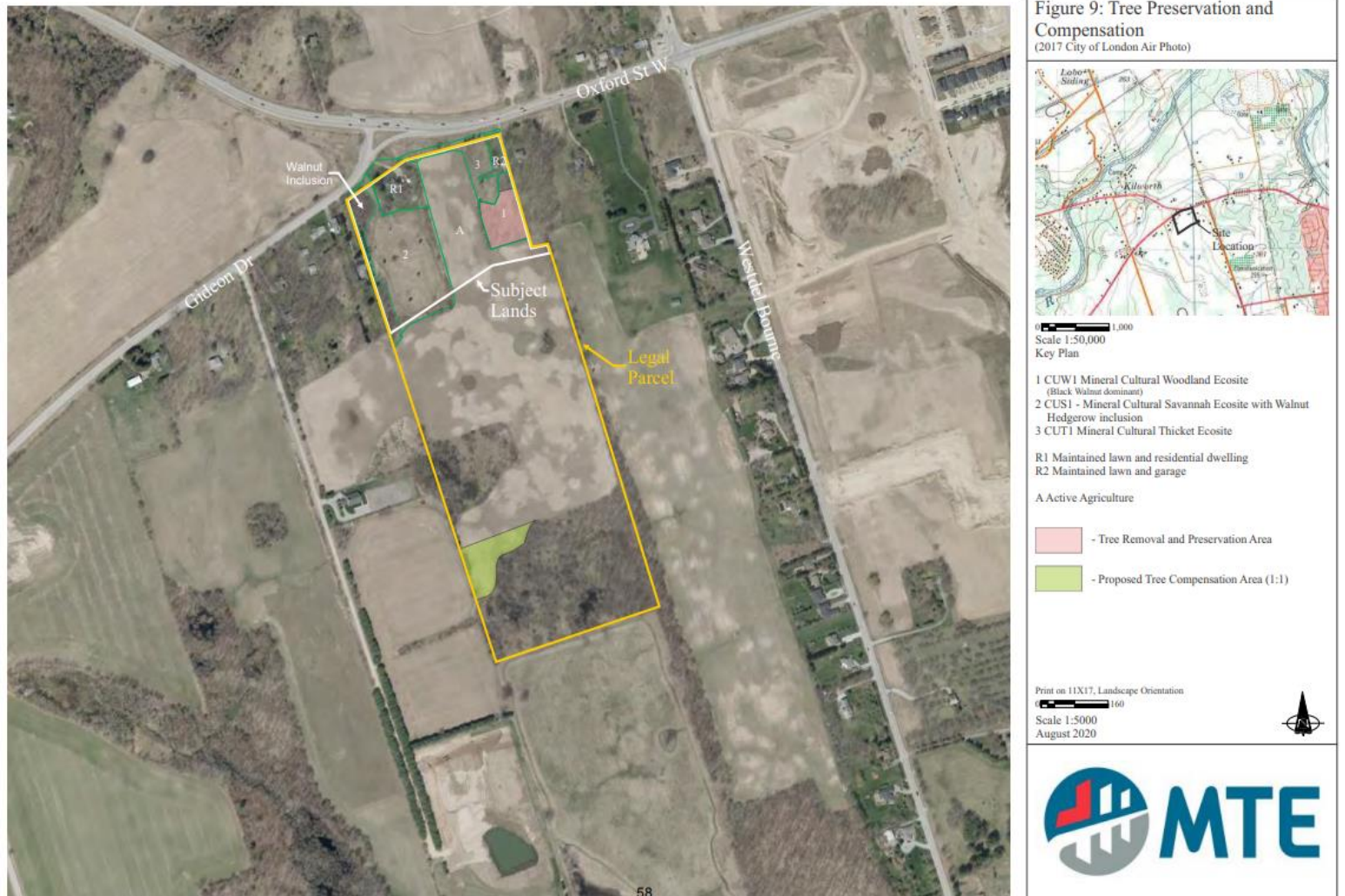
Woodland habitant being compensated ?

Walnut inclusion area is being lost to the proposed road. These trees being removed but not included as part of the compensation. (see Figures 8 and 9)



Proposed tree replacement: EEPAC commends the landowner for proposing to compensate for the loss of tree cover.

RECOMMENDATION #1: The compensation area shown in Figure 9 be increased to include the loss of the black walnut inclusion. Ideally, it would then allow a connection to the wet area to the north. See Figure 9 following:



RECOMMENDATION #2: The replanting plan be to the satisfaction of the City and a condition of development or of draft plan. This is consistent with the consultant's recommendation if the compensation plan is accepted. EEPAC recommends that the species planted must be native.

This should improve habitat for woodland birds like the Eastern Wood-Pee-wee

RECOMMENDATION #3: The woodland and compensation area be designated and zoned Open Space as part of this application.

OTHER

EEPAC notes that between the 2017 City air photo included in this EIS and the 2020 air photo, vegetation was removed from the subject lands. The City should ensure this was done through permitted work.

EEPAC agrees with the consultant's recommendation on page 15 that:

A woodland area management plan should be created and implemented to ensure the continued good health of trees that will be retained in the woodland to the south. This plan would include guidance and recommendations for woody debris management and the management of invasive species to improve the health of the woodland feature in the long-term.

RECOMMENDATION #4: A woodland area management plan to the satisfaction of the City be a condition of development or draft plan or site plan approval. The plan should be monitored for the standard three years from new plantings and a "hold back" be required to ensure success of the plan.

RECOMMENDATION #5: It appears from the air photos that there is a barn on the subject lands. A check for Barn Swallow nests must be undertaken before the structure is removed. If nests are found, it is recommended that a kiosk using materials from the old barn be used as compensation. Cole Engineering has a history of successful kiosk construction.

<https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2017/07/07/inside-ontario-s-fight-to-save-declining-barn-swallows-one-bird-house-at-a-time.html>