

Vegetation Protection and Restoration Plan

537086 Main Street, Horning's Mills Township of Melancthon

Prepared for: Mr. Angelo Carnevale

Prepared by: Azimuth Environmental Consulting, Inc.

April 2024

AEC 23-095



Environmental Assessments & Approvals

April 29, 2024 AEC 23-095

Mr. Angelo Carnevale 537086 Main Street Melanethon, Ontario L9V 1X6

Re: Vegetation Protection and Landscape Plan 537086 Main Street, Township of Melancthon (Horning's Mills)

Dear Mr. Carnevale:

Azimuth Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Azimuth) is pleased to submit our Vegetation Protection and Landscape Plan for the proposed residential development located at 537086 Main Street within the Township of Melancthon, Ontario.

This report includes the results of our tree inventory for the above-mentioned property, which focused on individual trees and tree groupings located within and along the proposed development limits. Included information pertains to existing tree size, species and health classifications for all trees/groupings inventoried, along with recommended measures to protect and preserve vegetation adjacent to the proposed development limits during construction. Proposed on-site tree compensation planting locations are also provided.

If you have any questions pertaining to the information within this report, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours truly,

AZIMUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.

David d'Entremont, H.B.Sc.

Terrestrial Ecologist and Consulting Arborist

ISA #ON-3073A



Table of Contents

		page
Lette	r of Transmittal	i
1.0	INTRODUCTION 1	
2.0	SCOPE OF WORK 1	
	2.1 Coniferous Forest (Plantation)	
	2.2 Hedgerows2	
	2.3 Thicket	
	2.4 Woodland2	
	2.5 Individual Trees	
	2.6 Boundary and Off-site Trees3	
3.0	VEGETATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT 3	
4.0	VEGETATION PROTECTION 4	
	4.1 Vegetation Protection Recommendations4	
	4.2 Vegetation Restoration Plan5	
5.0	CONCLUSIONS6	
6.0	REFERENCES 6	

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Vegetation Protection PlanFigure 3: Vegetation Restoration Plan

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Ontario Provincial Standard Silt Fence Drawing (OPSD 210.130)



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Azimuth Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Azimuth) was retained by Mr. Angelo Carnevale (the "proponent") to complete a Vegetation Protection and Landscape Plan for the proposed residential development located at 537086 Main Street within the Township of Melancthon (Horning's Mills). The subject property is bordered by Main Street along the eastern limits and Dufferin Road 124 along the western limits, with large rural residential properties to the north and south. The subject property is approximately 10.2 ha (25.2 acres) in area and consists primarily of active agricultural lands with some natural (vegetated) areas within the central, southern and northeastern portions.

The proposed development includes the construction of twenty-six (26) rural residential lots, along with one primary road connecting to Main Street and an emergency access connecting to Dufferin Road 124. The site is part of the Niagara Escarpment and is designated an Area of Development Control under the Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017). This designation requires a permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission for land development.

Along with this Vegetation Protection and Landscape Plan, Azimuth has also prepared a separate Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the subject property (Azimuth, 2024). The scope of work for this Vegetation Protection and Landscape Plan report was prepared in recognition of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) "Guideline for the Preparation of Vegetation Protection Plans" (2017). The scope of work completed for this study is provided in greater detail in the following section.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

2.1 Coniferous Forest (Plantation)

The site contains a small coniferous forest (plantation) feature which is located within the northeastern portion of the subject property (Grouping #1). This feature will be partially removed for construction of the proposed Storm Water Management (SWM) pond and one of the streets. The inventory of this forest was completed as a general grouping assessment with characteristics such as average DBH, species composition and general health having been recorded. This forest feature is quite dense (approx. 150 trees in feature) which also made it difficult to inventory using individual tree assessment techniques.



2.2 Hedgerows

The site contains multiple hedgerows which vary in size and density. As the hedgerows were observed to contain similar primary species, age/size and health condition, these features were assessed generally (similar to coniferous forest assessment explained above), which included an approximate stem count. As can be seen in Figure 2, hedgerows included in the inventory are located within the northeastern (Grouping #2 and #3), and central (Grouping #5) portions of the subject property. It should be noted that Grouping #3 is located on a neighbouring property and close enough to the subject property to be potentially impacted by site construction.

2.3 Thicket

The site contains one thicket feature that was observed to contain similar primary species, age/size and health condition. Due to these characteristics the thicket feature was assessed generally. The primary genus observed within the thicket features was Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*), with many of the trees/shrubs being in poor condition. As can be seen in Figure 2, the only thicket feature included in the inventory is located within the northwestern (Grouping #4) portion of the subject property. Grouping #4 could be considered an edge feature of the larger woodland which is located just off-site to the north.

2.4 Woodland

The site contains a small woodland within the southeastern corner adjacent to the proposed parkland/future lot block. This feature has been identified as Grouping #6, and contains primarily Hawthorn species (*Crataegus spp.*).

2.5 Individual Trees

Individual tree inventory data was collected for existing trees which were not observed to be part of a tree grouping or forest feature. The majority of individual tree locations are located along the eastern and northern property boundaries, along with the central portion of the subject property. Some sporadic individual trees are also located at the southern and western extents.

All individual trees were assessed through the following methodology.

All individual trees (10cm DBH of greater) within the subject property were included in the inventory and a GPS waypoint was collected for each tree to map their locations on the property.



Individual tree assessment included the following elements:

- Species identification (common and scientific names)
- DBH measurement (1.4 metres (m) above base of tree)
- Health condition (Good, Fair, Poor or Dead)
- GPS location
- Tagged identification number (aluminum pre-numbered tag)

Individual canopy drip line measurements were not measured as root zone areas for each tree were calculated based on DBH measurements (ISA accepted practice). The root zone calculation formula of 1 inch DBH = 1 foot root protection zone generally provides more protection than drip line measurements.

2.6 Boundary and Off-site Trees

As the site contains several trees located directly on property boundaries and trees located within adjacent neighbouring properties within 5m of property boundaries, these trees were included in the inventory as they are co-owned/not owned by the proponent but within potential areas of development impact. These trees would require permission from the adjacent neighbouring property owner(s) to remove and/or impact, although it is assumed that all of these trees will be preserved (other than hazard trees which pose a safety risk). Boundary trees are shown in Figure 2 with a purple marker. Trees located fully off-site but within 5m of the subject property boundaries are shown with a blue marker.

All boundary trees were assessed using the same methodology as stated in Section 2.5 for individual trees. Trees located fully on neighbouring properties were assessed only through visual means and were not tagged due to land access issues. The sizes (DBH) and locations of neighbouring trees were also visually estimated rather than physically measured.

3.0 VEGETATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A total of 69 individual trees were included in the inventory, outside of tree groupings. The majority of the individual trees on the property will be removed due to being located within areas of proposed grading or poor health condition (hazard trees along property boundaries). The Vegetation Protection Plan (Figure 2) illustrates all individually-inventoried tree locations, the proposed site plan features, and recommendations for trees to be removed/preserved.



Forest, hedgerow and thicket features are also shown in Figure 2. The majority of these features will be preserved as they are located along site peripheries or on neighbouring properties. The largest feature to be removed is the Ash hedgerow (Grouping #5) which traverses the central portion of the subject property and contains approximately 150 White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) trees. These trees are largely in fair to poor condition due to impacts from the Emerald Ash Borer. Other impacts will consist of partial tree removals to Groupings #1 and full removal of Grouping #2 to accommodate construction of the proposed SWM pond and one of the streets.

The trees to be preserved outside of the development limits should be protected by Vegetation Preservation Fencing, with proposed fencing locations shown in Figure 2. The silt fencing should, at minimum, be comprised of page wire-backed heavy duty silt fencing meeting the specifications provided in Section 4.1.3 below. This protective fencing will prevent inadvertent encroachment into the retained vegetation communities and will protect the root zones and canopy of the retained tree resources.

4.0 VEGETATION PROTECTION

4.1 Vegetation Protection Recommendations

The following measures should be implemented to ensure protection of retained tree and vegetation resources outside and adjacent to the development limits (once determined):

- 1. Vegetation Protection Zones (VPZ) should be established for the trees to be preserved. The following actions are not permitted within a VPZ:
 - a. Alteration or disturbance to existing grade of any kind;
 - b. Changes to the grade by adding fill, excavating or scraping;
 - c. Storage of construction materials or equipment;
 - d. Storage of soil, construction waste or debris;
 - e. Disposal of any deleterious materials *e.g.* concrete sleuth, gas, oil, paint; and;
 - f. Movement of vehicles, equipment or pedestrians

It should be noted that site grading and other construction excavations could encroach into the root protection zones and impact preserved trees to a minor degree. Encroachment of less than 25% into a single tree root protection zone is considered minor, with a low chance of significant impact to the protected tree.



- 2. The VPZ is identified as the limit of site disturbance along the periphery of the proposed development, along the tree resources to be retained post-development. These VPZ's include the limits of preserved tree groupings, as well as the majority (>75%) of each root protection zone identified for preserved trees that were individually inventoried.
- 3. The VPZ must be delineated by:
 - A heavy-duty Vegetation Preservation Fence comprised (at minimum) of page wire-backed sediment fencing adhering to the following minimum specifications:
 - Final height of fencing should be at least 1.2m above grade; and,
 - Stakes/T-bars should be spaced 2.0m on center or closer;
 - b) The installation of the above-described Vegetation Preservation Fence should adhere to the specifications described by OPSD 219.130 (see Appendix A); and,
 - c) The VPZ should be established along the periphery of the development limits across the site where trees are to be preserved.
- 4. "Vegetation Protection Area" signage (minimum 11" x 17") must be posted on the Vegetation Preservation Fencing of the VPZ at appropriate spacing.
- 5. All trees within VPZs identified for removal (*e.g.*, hazard trees) should be removed immediately prior to the installation of the preservation fence using low impact tree removal methods. Tree removals within the development envelope may proceed once the Vegetation Preservation Fencing has been installed.
- 6. Pruning of branches and roots (where necessary) to facilitate construction activities should be completed under the direction of a qualified arborist or tree professional in accordance with proper arboriculture standards.
- 7. If branch, bark or trunk damage occurs to any retained trees, the project Arborist or should be contacted within 24 hours to inspect the damage and decide if the tree should be retained or removed depending on extent of injury.
- 8. Replace any trees identified for protection and damaged during construction on a per caliper basis to the satisfaction of NEC.

4.2 Vegetation Restoration Plan

As per the NEC's recommendations during pre-consultation, the proponent is to complete a planting plan within a suitable portion of the subject site. This planting plan, herein



referred to as the Vegetation Restoration Plan, is comprised of tree plantings to compensate for the loss of trees resulting from the proposed development. These plantings will provide additional native tree species to the property, filling in a portion of non-vegetated area within the proposed 10m grading buffer at the southeast extent of the property. A total of seventy-two (72) trees are proposed to be planted in this buffer area. This The Vegetation Restoration Plan also includes the installation of a native wildflower/grass seed mix outside of the mulched tree/shrub locations. Native tree species, counts, sizes, planting details and site preparation/maintenance notes are included within the plan (Figure 3). It should be noted that the majority of trees to be removed within the subject site are Ash species in fair to poor condition impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

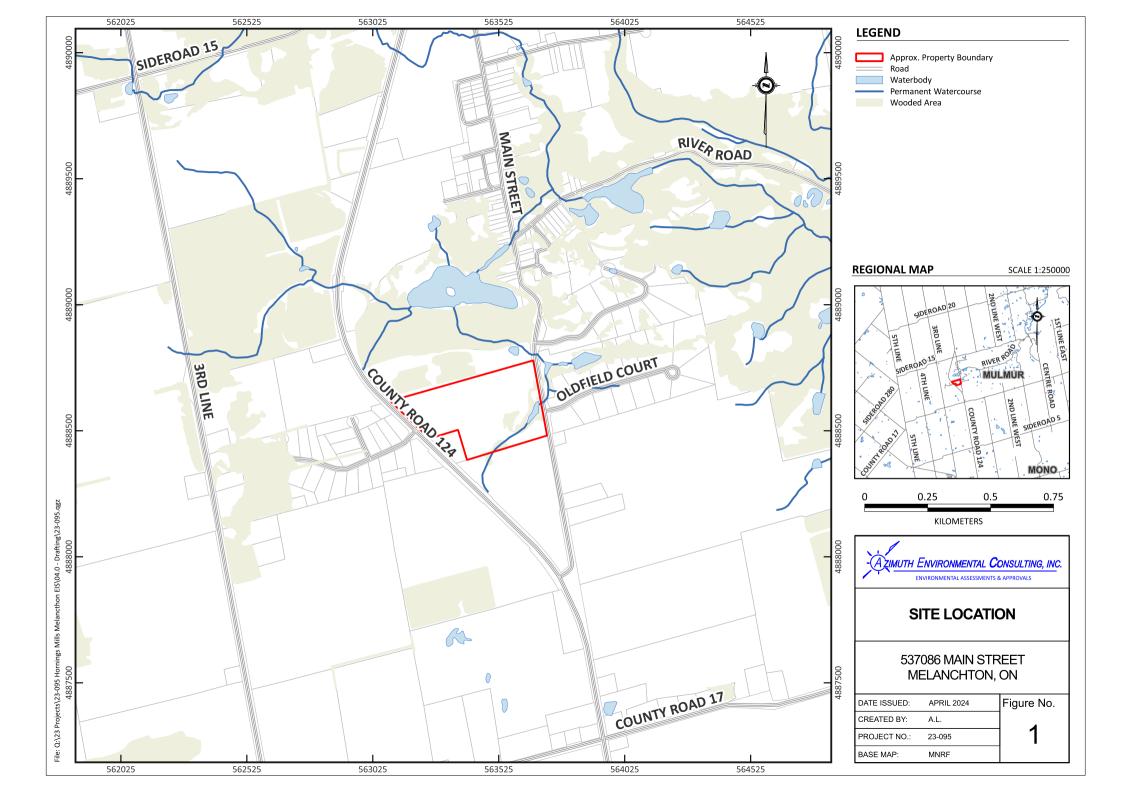
Azimuth has completed a Vegetation Protection and Restoration Plan for the proposed residential development property. Through this study, Azimuth has determined that the vegetation communities to be preserved on and off-site will continue to thrive post development if the recommended tree protection and mitigation strategies are employed (*i.e.*, installation of tree protection/silt fencing). Exact numbers of trees to be removed within the subject site are not known, as selective removal will be required in areas where construction will encroach into vegetated areas (*e.g.*, SWM pond into Groupings #1). The majority of tree removals will occur within Groupings #2 and #5 where primarily Ash species in fair to poor condition will be removed. Removed trees should be compensated with native species within the southeast portion of the property, as shown in the Vegetation Restoration Plan.

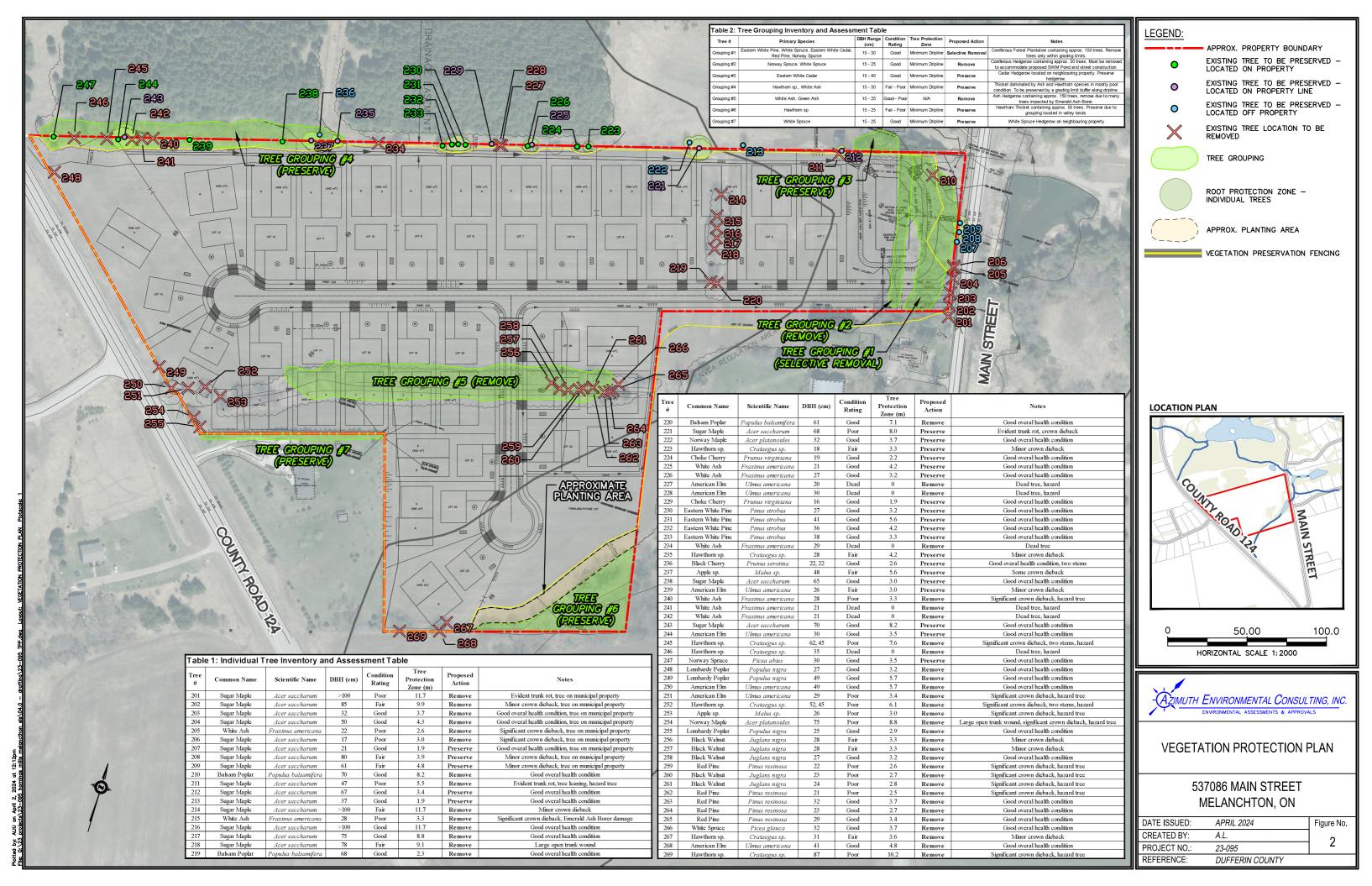
6.0 REFERENCES

Azimuth Environmental Consulting, Inc. 2024. Environmental Impact Study for 537086 Main Street, Township of Melancthon.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) 2017. Niagara Escarpment Plan. Part 1 Land Use Policies.

Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC). 2017. Guideline for the Preparation of Vegetation Protection Plans.





TREE PLANTING NOTES

Planting Areas and Site Preparation

Trees should be planted within the general vicinity (where possible) of the areas shown within the plan (node locations meant to be a guide only). Trees should be planted at 3 metre spacings within each node. Nodes should be planted away from existing mature trees.

Trees should be planted from early October until before freeze up; or in the spring after frost is out of the soil and new foliage is partially unfurled.

Planting holes should be dug twice as wide and to the depth of the root ball. Holes should be dug immediately prior to planting to avoid drying out of the backfill soil. The

One tree is in place, backfill the hole two-thirds of the way with gently tamped soil. Fill remaining space with water to settle in the soil around the root ball. Once the water is drained, the remaining space should be backfilled to existing ground level.

The stock should consist of the native species included in the species list. The landowners should be free to plant additional trees/shrubs on the property if they are native species and suitable for site conditions. The material must be purchased from a local nursery within the applicable Ontario Seed Zone (32 and 33). Field dug material is not acceptable

Protective Measures

Immediately following the planting of trees, place mulch around the base of the trees but not allowing mulch to touch the bark. The mulch should not exceed a height of 4

Planted trees should be watered during dry periods within the first growing season and inspected by a Certified Arborist over the course of two years:

- 1. Approximately one month after installations;
- 2. After leaf out following the first winter, and;

During the course of the inspections, the success of the plantings and degree of damage/mortality should be recorded in the form of brief inspection reports. A success rate of 80% of the original planting amount is the recommended survival target. Trees should be replaced if the success rate fall below 80%. Inspection reports should be kept on file by the landowner and made available to the Niagara Escarpment Commission upon request.

NATIVE SEED MIX NOTES

Site Preparation

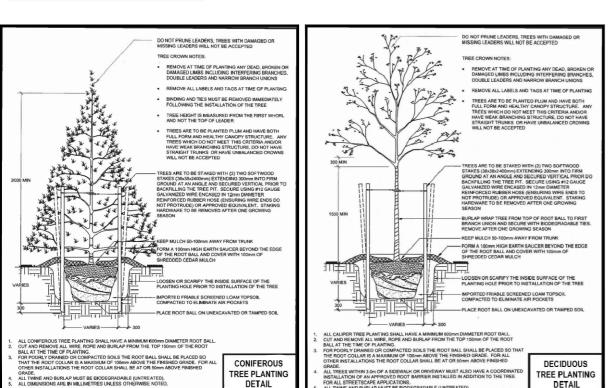
The areas immediately surrounding the trees should be mulched. All areas within the planting zone and outside of the mulched areas should be planted with native seed

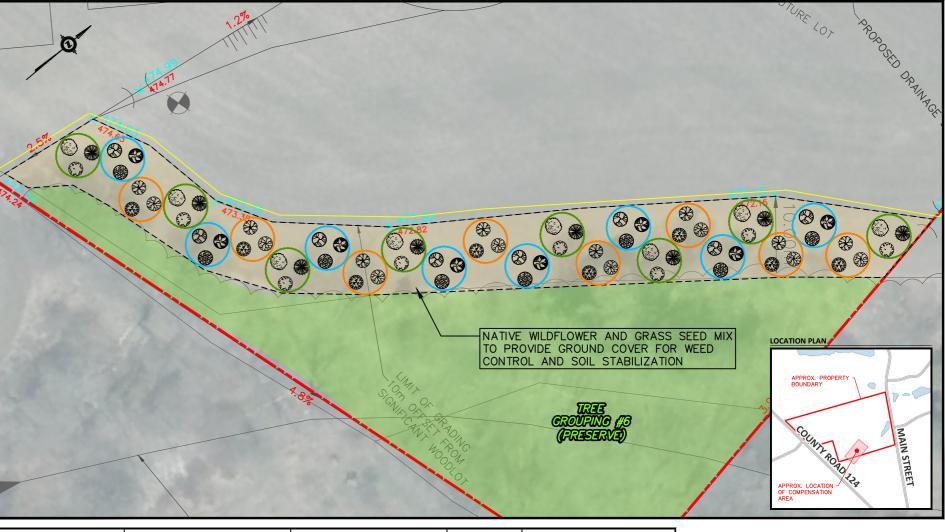
Loosen the soil to 2.5cm (1") depth with a stiff rake, cultivator or hoe. Broadcast seed evenly. Smaller seed can be mixed with dry sand to improve distribution when sowing. Cut the site height of 20cm (8") twice during the first growing season and possibly once more early in the second season to help keep aggressive weeds from taking over while the native plants work through their establishment period. Sow at 500g/180m² or 25kg/Ha.

Simcoe County Native Seed Mixture

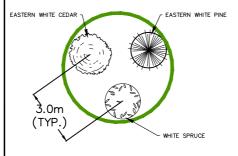
2024 at

- 12% BLACK EYED SUSAN (Rudbeckia hirta)
- 20% CANADA WILD RYE (Elymus canadensis)
 20% INDIANGRASS (Sorghastrum nutans)
- 15% LITTLE BLUESTEM (Schizachyrium scoparium)
- 1% WLD BERGAMOT (Monarda fistulosa)
- ** WILD BERGAMOT (Moharda insulosa)
 ** CAMADA GOLDENROD (Solidago canadensis)
 ** COMMON MILKWEED (Asclepias syriaca)
 ** 20% SAND DROPSEED (Sporobolus crytandrus)
 ** 1% SMOOTH BLUE ASTER (Aster leevis)

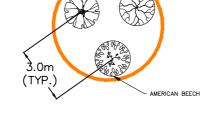


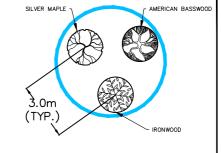


Planting Node	Common Name	Latin Name	Count	Caliper/Height
Coniferous	Eastern White Cedar	Thuja occidentalis	8	H (1800mm)
Coniferous	Eastern White Pine	Pinus strobus	8	H (1800mm)
Coniferous	White Spruce	Picea glauca	8	H (1800mm)
Deciduous 1	Sugar Maple	Acer saccharum	8	C (50mm)
Deciduous 1	Red Oak	Quercus ruba	8	C (50mm)
Deciduous 1	American Beech	Fagus grandifolia	8	C (50mm)
Deciduous 2	Silver Maple	Acer saccharinum	8	C (50mm)
Deciduous 2	American Basswood	Tilia americana	8	C (50mm)
Deciduous 2	Ironwood	Ostrya viginiana	8	C (50mm)



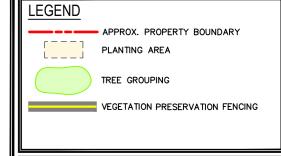
CONIFEROUS PLANTING NODE





DECIDUOUS PLANTING NODE #2







VEGETATION RESTORATION PLAN

537086 MAIN STREET MELANCHTON, ON

DATE ISSUED: APRIL 2024 Figure No. CREATED BY: PROJECT NO.: 23-095 REFERENCE: DUFFERIN COUNTY



APPENDICES

Appendix A: Ontario Provincial Standard Silt Fence Drawing (OPSD 210.130)



APPENDIX A

Ontario Provincial Standard Silt Fence Drawing (OPSD 210.130)

