

From: green-news-request@greenspace-alliance.ca on behalf of [PAUL JOHANIS](#)
To: green-news@greenspace-alliance.ca
Subject: [GA List] Fw: Protection of wildlife during construction on KNL lands
Date: January 17, 2017 9:28:26 AM

Please see below the specifics of the Protocol that KNL has adopted for forest clearing and wildlife protection on the KNL lands. We are concerned by the timing (and maybe the petition launched by Janice can turn that around), the comprehensiveness (no provision of nesting boxes or winter feed, which we have asked KNL for), and in particular the application (no outside verification of goings on at the site, which we have also asked KNL for.)

Subject: RE: Protection of wildlife during construction on KNL lands

Good afternoon Paul, thank you for you email

As you know, the requirements for KNL are dictated by several different regulations and associated permits. These requirements are existing considerations built into our permits and other documents. I have summarized these here:

Timing of Work:

-The City of Ottawa Tree Cutting by-law does not allow bulk tree clearing between April 15th to August 15th each year. This timing window is dictated primarily to avoid impacting the nests of migratory birds during their nesting season, although it also avoids the majority of the active and breeding season of most reptiles and amphibians. This timing also reflects guidance provided by Environment Canada, which requires tree clearing to mitigate impacts to migratory bird nests under the Migratory Birds Convention Act.

-The Overall Benefit Permit issued by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) under the Endangered Species Act for the Site also requires tree clearing in areas that have not been previously isolated by exclusion fencing to avoid the active season of Blanding's Turtles, which is defined as April 15th to October 15th.

-In combination, these requirements preclude bulk tree clearing from April 15th to October 15th each year.

-As noted in the Overall Benefit Permit, the exception to this are the hibernacula pools located in the northern part of KNL 8. Trees in this area cannot be removed until the period between August 1st and 15th, 2017, due to special requirements to decommission these pools. This requirement is reflected in the Tree Cutting permit.

-Our designated tree clearing window (October 16th to April 15th) is therefore designated both to avoid the active season of Blanding's Turtle and the nesting season of migratory birds. This timing would also avoid the majority of the active

season of most other reptiles and amphibians, and would also avoid the majority of the breeding season of most mammals.

-It is worth noting that tree clearing in winter is generally regarded as the best management practice to minimize impacts to wildlife. This is the standard approach taken throughout the region. This approach limits the risk to wildlife to the greatest extent possible, and ensures a low risk of conflicts with reptiles, amphibians and most birds. Additional mitigation is implemented primarily to ensure that any mammals that may be active in the area and/or overwintering are addressed.

Awareness and Training:

-A comprehensive Training and Awareness Package for construction staff has been prepared and provided to all contractors for their review. Representatives from each contractor are required to attend a training session, during which the wildlife, tree preservation, and endangered species mitigation requirements are reviewed in detail

-Contractors who have received this training are designated as 'Qualified Members'. We require at least one (1) Qualified Member to be present on Site at all times.

-All of the Tree Clearing Staff working on Site have received the training.

Inspections:

-KNL has provided a Site Supervisor who inspects the work area daily. The Site Supervisor has also received the Awareness Training and has been briefed on the wildlife, tree clearing, and Endangered Species requirements in detail. The Site Supervisor has provided daily updates to the project team, including the project Biologist.

-The Project Biologist is required to visit the Site a minimum of once per week to conduct inspections. In practice, inspections have been occurring at least twice a week since the beginning of work.

-The City Biologist and Arborist have also inspected the Site regularly (more than once per week) since the commencement of work.

-During these inspections, all staff are sweeping areas that have been cleared to look for any signs of stranded or injured wildlife.

-During these inspections, we are also inspecting the marking of the limits of tree clearing, to ensure the tree clearing area has been properly marked. We are also ensuring that any retained Butternuts are properly marked and that the Tree Clearers are aware of these. We also search the area ahead of the tree clearers to look for wildlife, to identify any significant dens or cavity trees, and to make the tree clearers aware of anything that they need to watch out for

Tree Clearing Procedure:

-The Tree Clearing procedures have been designated according to the requirements of the City's Protocol for Wildlife Protection During Construction. These requirements are referenced in the drawings for the Tree Cutting Permit.

-As noted above, prior to any area being cleared, the limit of tree clearing has been determined and marked by a qualified land surveyor. This marking has been inspected by the Site Supervisor, the Project Biologist, and City staff prior to the beginning of tree clearing.

-Tree clearers have been made aware of this boundary.

-At the start of each work day, tree clearing staff are required to sweep their work area to look for wildlife

-After they have completed their sweep, they pre-stress the area by sounding the horn on their equipment. Once their equipment is running, the noise generated by the equipment provides continuous pre-stressing.

-Tree clearing is proceeding from adjacent roads (e.g. Goulbourn Forced Road) in the direction of permanently retained areas. This encourages wildlife leaving the work area to move in the direction of permanently retained habitat.

-The tree clearers have been instructed to leave any trees that are suspected to provide dens/cavities for 48 hours, and to cut around these features. They have already avoided several such trees. This allows wildlife that are potentially found in the trees to have time to vacate the area

-If the tree clearers encounter wildlife in the work area, we have instructed them to stop work and to allow the animal time to leave the area. In cases where an animal is not leaving on its own, the tree clearers have been instructed to contact the project biologist to discuss how to proceed. Depending on the animal and situation, we may stop work in the vicinity or relocate the animal.

-The tree clearers are using equipment which has the capability to pick up trees and place them on the ground gently. In cases where they see an animal in a tree that is not coming down on its own (for example porcupines), the tree clearers will gently place the tree on the ground and allow the animal time to leave the area. This usually works for porcupines, and they will usually walk away across the ground once the tree is down. Again, if the animal does not leave on its own, the tree clearers have been instructed to avoid the area and to contact the project Biologist.

Injured Wildlife:

-The Awareness and Training provided to the contractors includes instructions for emergency procedures, in the event that an injured animal is found within the Site. These procedures also provide instructions for emergency relocation of Blanding's Turtle, as specified by the Overall Benefit Permit

-If injured wildlife are found on Site, the contractor will immediately contact the Project Biologist.

-If injured wildlife are found on Site, they will be transported for veterinary care.

I hope this addresses the information you were looking for.