

**Date:** February 27, 2024

Hatfield Ref No.: NVSD12477-NV

**From:** [REDACTED] Hatfield Consultants LLP

**To:** [REDACTED] North Vancouver School District #44

**Subject:** **Assessment of Environmentally Sensitive Area Classification at 440 Hendry Avenue.**

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The North Vancouver School District #44 (NVSD) owns a property at 440 Hendry Avenue in the City of North Vancouver, where the former Cloverley Elementary School is located. The property (the Site) is bound by Hendry Avenue to the west, Shavington Street to the south, Kennard Avenue to the east, and Cloverley Street to the north. The school building has been vacant since 2014 and was deemed beyond useful life in 2017. Funding approval from the Province and NVSD was announced in 2023, supporting construction of a new elementary school at 970 Shavington Street, a neighbourhood learning centre, and a childcare centre (the Project). To support advancement of the Project, a geotechnical site investigation, a Phase 1 environmental site assessment, and certified arborist assessment have been completed<sup>1</sup>. Danger trees were removed in December and preparation for demolition of the existing school structure began on February 12, 2024.

The City of North Vancouver's Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2014 (Bylaw No. 8400) (OCP) defines Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as *an evaluation of the significance of an area of land in terms of sustaining or supporting fish and/or wildlife or unique habitat*. The entirety of the City of North Vancouver has been assigned to one of four ESA categories (i.e., Low, Moderately-low, Moderate, or High). The Site is predominantly classified as Low value; however, a narrow band of trees along Shavington Street have been classified as having Moderate value.

Hatfield Consultants (Hatfield) was retained by the NVSD to provide an evaluation of the ESA categorization of the Site. A desktop review of provincial and regional databases<sup>2</sup> was conducted to assess the Sites ability to support species of conservation concern, wildlife features, and unique habitat. No wildlife features (e.g., raptor nests), at-risk species, or sensitive ecosystems were identified at the Site or within a 200-meter radius buffer. The Site does not contain any streams or riparian areas and the geotechnical site investigation did not identify the presence of current or historical underground streams.

A Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) from Hatfield conducted a site visit on February 20, 2024. The Site is comprised of the existing school structure, a community park with recreational facilities and landscaped areas, and naturalized areas characterized by a shrubby understory with a mixture of young to mature coniferous and deciduous trees. Invasive plant species are prevalent throughout the Site and

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<sup>1</sup> BC Plant Health Care Inc. 2023. Arborist Report for the Planning and Design Phase of Development. Surrey, B.C.: BC Plant Health Care Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Databases searched: BC Species & Ecosystems Explorer, BC Conservation Data Centre iMap, Habitat Wizard Provincial Database, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory Mapping Tool, Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping, Wildlife Tree Stewardship (WITS) Atlas.

include common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*), and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Species of conservation concern or sensitive ecosystems were not observed during the site visit. No species or biophysical features were identified that warranted the designation of a Moderate value ESA along Shavington Street and it would be reasonable to conclude that the entirety of the Site should be designated as a Low value ESA.

The following measures are recommended such that construction of the new school and associated facilities has minimal adverse environmental impact on the Site:

- Manage and prevent the spread of invasive plant species on the Site, in compliance with the City of North Vancouver's Invasive Plant Management Strategy<sup>3</sup>, Metro Vancouver's Invasive Plant Prioritization Rankings<sup>4</sup>, and the provincial *Weed Control Act* (RSBC 1996, c 487) and associated Weed Control Regulation (BC Reg 66/85).
- Manage impacts to breeding birds by conducting the removal of vegetation on the Site (i.e., shrubs and trees) outside of the active bird nesting window (March 1 until August 31). If this is not practicable, retain a QEP to conduct a bird nesting activity survey to help maintain compliance with the City of North Vancouver's Tree Bylaw, 2022 (Bylaw No. 8888), the provincial *Wildlife Act* (RSBC 1996, c 488), the federal *Migratory Bird Act, 1994* (SC 1994, c 22.), and the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SC 2002, c 29).
- Manage impacts to bird nests with year-round protection by retaining a QEP to assess the Site prior to tree removal at any time of the year to help maintain compliance with the provincial *Wildlife Act* and the federal Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022 (SOR/2022-105).
- Retain wildlife trees (i.e., standing dead trees) on the Site that provide habitat for birds and terrestrial wildlife if feasible and safe to do so.
- Compensate for tree removal in accordance with the City of North Vancouver's Tree Bylaw, 2022. Consider planting native species that are tolerant of drought and climate change to improve overall habitat quality on the Site.

I trust that the above information meets your expectations regarding this scope of work. If you have any questions or require further details, please do not hesitate contact [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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**HATFIELD CONSULTANTS LLP**

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<sup>3</sup> City of North Vancouver. 2013. City of North Vancouver Invasive Plant Management Strategy. North Vancouver, BC: City of North Vancouver

<sup>4</sup> [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/provincial\\_priority\\_is\\_list\\_final2019\\_march2\\_2020\\_posted\\_online.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/provincial_priority_is_list_final2019_march2_2020_posted_online.pdf)