Conceptual Technical Design Brief: Tributary of Uxbridge Creek

Town of Uxbridge, Ontario



Prepared for: Westlane Development Group Ltd. 2 Farr Avenue Sharon, Ontario LOG 1V0

August 10, 2018 PN18072



Observations



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1 Introduction

This design brief provides design recommendations for a bioswale design as part of the proposed 226 Brock Street residential development in the Town of Uxbridge, Ontario. The design serves to convey flows from the SWM Pond to the downstream tie in along the roadside ditch. A site map is provided in **Appendix A**. The bioswale design serves to improve form and function for this headwater drainage feature, enhance terrestrial diversity and the provision of organics, as well as enhance the retention and detention of flow and sediments.

In developing the design, the following activities were completed:

- A review of the available background materials
- Complete headwater assessments following OSAP protocol and TRCA/CVC Headwater Guidance document
- Provide details for the bioswale design including planform, cross sections, and necessary bioengineering details
- Hydraulic sizing of the bioswale materials
- Define corridor requirements
- Recommendations for design implementation including construction timing, and best management practices
- Development of a post-construction monitoring plan

This design brief is provided to facilitate review of the design, which outlines the current geomorphological condition of **Reach UCT1** and design considerations, provides technical details and recommendations for implementation, and monitoring of the proposed design.

2 Existing Conditions

Headwater drainage feature morphology and planform are largely governed by the flow regime and the availability and type of sediments (i.e., surficial geology) within the feature corridor. Physiography, riparian vegetation and land use also physically influence the headwater drainage feature. These factors are explored as they not only offer insight into what governs feature geomorphology, but also potential changes that could be expected in the future as they relate to a proposed activity. Field observations provide us with an in-depth understanding of the factors that impact feature geomorphology within the study area.

2.1 Geology

The study area is within the Peterborough Drumlin Field physiographic region, which is characterized as a drumlin field of various morphologies and orientation (OGS, 2010). The surficial geology is comprised of fine-textured glacioacustrine deposits and ice-contact stratified deposits. The fine-textured glacioacustrine deposits are located on the north side of the property and consist mainly of silt and clay with minor sand and gravel present. The ice contact stratified deposits are located at the south end of the property and consist of sand-gravel and minor silt, with clay and till present (OGS, 2003).

2.2 Field Observations

Field observations of **Reach UCT1** were completed on April 10, May 28, and July 19, 2018. To provide context, a photographic record is provided in **Appendix B** and field notes included in **Appendix C**. Reach UCT1 consists of a headwater drainage feature, as such, the feature is assessed in accordance to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Evaluation, Classification, and Management of Headwater Drainage Features Guidelines (2014) and a modified version of the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (OSAP) (MNRF, 2013).

Reach UCT1 consists of a swale feature with no defined channel banks or riffle-pool formation. A swale feature is a shallow trough-like depression that conveys water during snow melt or storms. Riparian vegetation consists mainly of grasses that fully encroach the reach. Bed materials are comprised of clay and silt. A stormwater management pond feeds the reach at the upstream extent adjacent to the subject property.

The management recommendations based on the conditions observed in all three site visits for UCT1 is *no management required*. The is based on the limited hydrology of the swale feature. However, the proponent wishes to enhance the feature on the landscape as a bioswale.

3 Natural Bioswale Design

3.1 Design Objectives

As previously mentioned, the headwater drainage feature has limited morphology and degraded physical instream habitat conditions. The proposed design will be a stable bioswale to provide a naturalized form and function. Headwater features like this reach provide detention and retention functions with regards to both flow and sediment. To maintain and enhance these functions, the design needs to provide good communication with the floodplain, as well as diversity in morphology. As such, online wet meadow features will be constructed throughout the floodplain. These features enhance terrestrial habitat by increasing diversity and providing a more natural floodplain form. They also provide functional benefits by storing and discharging water over longer attenuated periods.

From a habitat perspective, the important contributions of the headwater drainage feature include organic inputs to the system, and provision of a complex valley system with elements that have a wide range of hydroperiods. The inclusion of a shallow and deep undulation typology with online wet meadow features provides a wide range of hydroperiods.

The primary objectives of the design, therefore, are to:

- Convey flows from the SWMP to the downstream channel
- Improve the function of the headwater drainage feature as well as its interaction with the floodplain
- Improve water quality by extending detention of water through online wet meadow features
- Improve riparian habitat by installing woody plantings and floodplain features

3.2 Bioswale Geometries

A bioswale containing shallow and deep undulations linking online wet meadows is proposed, which will provide significant improvements to the headwater drainage feature, as it essentially replicates a natural system. When it is assessed to be an appropriate feature, a bioswale system offers numerous benefits, namely:

- Bed relief for flow variability
- Improve the function of the headwater drainage feature as well as its interaction with the floodplain
- Improve water quality by extending detention of water through online wet meadow features and providing infiltration
- Provide organic inputs through vegetation establishment

Bioswale dimensions are determined by bankfull discharge, as this represents what is generally considered the feature-forming discharge. Back-calculation of discharge from a reference reach, along with support from hydrological modelling, is usually the most appropriate. Due to the lack of a defined feature, and historical impacts to the headwater drainage feature because of agricultural activities, the computed discharge could not be considered accurate or reliable. Additionally, due to changes in hydrological modelling was determined for the development, a more appropriate discharge based on hydrological modelling upon review of post-development conditions and computed a bankfull discharge of 0.07 m³/s. This discharge outlets from the Block 57 stormwater management (SWM) pond and is based on the 2-year storm event (Vincent & Associates, 2000).

Shallow and deep undulation geometries, as well as anticipated bankfull flow conditions, are provided in **Table 1.** A simple Manning's approach was used to size the bioswale dimensions. Since deep undulations contain dead space, this model overpredicts the amount of discharge that they convey. The modelled values for the shallow undulations give a better prediction of the bioswale capacity. The bioswale design comprises of a single reach, which is characterized by a constant bankfull gradient of 0.28% and extends 201 m. The bankfull width and depth range from 1.20 m to 1.40 m and 0.15 m to 0.25 m for the shallow and deep undulations, respectively.



	Bioswale Geometries		
Bioswale parameter	Shallow Undulation	Deep Undulation	
Bankfull width (m) ⁺	1.20	1.40	
Average bankfull depth (m) ⁺	0.11	0.14	
Maximum bankfull depth (m) ⁺	0.15	0.25	
Bankfull width-to-depth ratio	8.00	5.60	
Bioswale gradient (%)	1.10	0.28	
Bankfull gradient (%)	0.28	0.28	
Manning's roughness coefficient, n	0.04	0.03	
Mean bankfull velocity (m/s) *	0.53	0.43	
Bankfull discharge (m ³ /s) *	0.07	0.09	
Discharge to accommodate (m ³ /s)	0.07	0.07	
Tractive force at bankfull (N/m ²) ⁺⁺	16.18	6.86	
Stream power (W/m) ⁺⁺	7.26	2.38	
Unit stream power (W/m ²) ⁺⁺	6.91	2.51	
Maximum grain size entrained (m) **	0.02	0.01	
Mean grain size entrained **	0.01	0.00	

Table 1 Bankfull parameters of the proposed bioswale

+ Based on bankfull gradient

++ Based on riffle gradient

* Based on Manning's equation; as pools contain ineffective space, the velocity and discharge

conveyed in them are not presented ** Based on Shields equation, assuming Shields parameter equals 0.06 (gravel)

The sizing of proposed substrate materials was guided by a review of hydraulic conditions in the typical headwater drainage feature cross sections. To provide for a stable bed and level of sorting, native material is proposed for the shallow and deep undulations. A mix of topsoil and granular 'b' is proposed for the online wet meadows to provide for a stable bed and level of sorting, while still maintaining the character of the native material and providing slightly higher stability and opportunity for sediment sorting. Granular 'b' consists of a mix of stone where approximately 20 % - 50 % of the stone is greater than 0.005 m in diameter, but nothing larger than 0.15 m in diameter. These materials will always have a core of sediment that is not entrained under bankfull flow conditions. A mix of relatively larger substrate (0.15 – 0.20 m diameter riverstone) and granular 'b' is proposed for the stone core wetland, located immediately downstream of the SWM pond headwall. These materials will provide higher stability and will always have a core of sediment that is not entrained under bankfull flow conditions.

The bioswale banks and online wet meadows will be restored using native plant species. This includes appropriate species for the various seed mixes as well as woody vegetation. The plantings are intended to enhance the terrestrial habitat through the provision of habitat diversity, increase floodplain soil stability, and increase floodplain roughness and sedimentation.

3.3 Bioswale Corridor

The bioswale is expected to fully vegetated and have intermittent flows. Given the limited energy and vegetation control, the feature is unlikely to migrate or adjust its planform resulting in no erosion hazard associated with the feature. The valley walls are less than 2.5 m in height, therefore it is not considered a confined system and does not require an erosion setback.

Online wet meadow features will be constructed in addition to the bioswale. These features provide functional benefits such as short-term water retention and sediment banking. Additionally, these features enhance local recharge by allowing for infiltration. Mounds are to be included within the wet meadows to provide added morphological variation.

3.4 Natural Erosion Control

Newly constructed features can be vulnerable to erosion. This is particularly true before vegetation has established along the bioswale banks. While low-flow events should not intensify erosion, the concern for erosion occurs when there are high flows or precipitation events during construction.

For immediate erosion protection, mechanical stabilization in the form of biodegradable erosion control blankets (i.e., coir cloth, jute mat, etc.) should be used. As the blankets will biodegrade over time, this serves as a short-term stabilization measure.

For long-term stability, implementation of a planting plan is recommended. This includes deep rooting native grasses and other herbaceous species seeded along and within bioswale sections, prescription of flood tolerant native shrub and tree species, and use of seed banks within the local soil. Shrubs should be planted close to the bioswale margins to provided maximum benefit with respect to stabilization and bioswale cover.

Potential erosion locations (i.e., along the outside meander bends, immediately downstream of wet meadow features, etc.) should be anticipated, and should be reflected in the planting plan. Live staking and shrub stock should be used adjacent to the bioswale bank to provide immediate benefit as well as long-term infilling. If appropriate live staking methods are followed, this method should provide greater benefits than simple potted or bare root shrub plating. This is because of the potential for higher densities with live staking.

4 **Design Implementation**

4.1 Construction Timing

Based on resident fish species and their respective life cycles, in-stream work will be restricted to July 1^{st} to March 31^{st} , unless otherwise directed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

Vegetation removals associated with clearing, site access and staging should occur outside the key breeding bird period for migratory birds, identified by Environment Canada, to ensure compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA), 1994 and Migratory Bird Regulations. The breeding season for migratory birds in this part of the country typically extends from as early as March 1 to

as late as September 15. Should tree removals be required during the key breeding bird season, a qualified biologist should inspect those trees to ensure that they do not contain nesting birds. It is understood that the MBCA is not restricted to cutting woody vegetation, but also applies to topsoil stripping and grubbing activities, as there are ground nesting bird species that are protected under the Act.

4.2 Best Management Practices

Site inspection should be performed by an inspector with experience overseeing natural feature construction works, as this type of work differs considerably from engineering projects. An experienced inspector will be able to provide quick and appropriate response to issues that may arise, and ensure that construction proceeds in accordance with the approved design and contract.

The limits of construction will be delineated to prevent unanticipated impacts to natural surroundings, including trees and the headwater drainage feature. Most of the bioswale can be constructed without interference to the existing headwater drainage feature. Flows will be conveyed around the work area uninterrupted through a temporary diversion swale, such that the bioswale can be constructed fully isolated from the active flow area.

All isolated work areas will be dewatered to perform work under dry conditions. Water will be pumped to a sediment filtration system located at least 30 m from the receiving headwater drainage feature and be allowed to naturally flow over a well-vegetation surface and ultimately return to the headwater drainage feature downstream of the work area. This will allow particles to settle before reaching the headwater drainage feature.

All materials and equipment will be stored and operated in such a manner that prevents any deleterious substances from entering the water. Vehicle and equipment re-fuelling and/or maintenance will be conducted away from the headwater drainage feature and be free of fluid leaks and externally cleaned/degreased to prevent the release of deleterious substances.

4.3 **Post-Construction Monitoring**

A post-construction monitoring program is recommended to assess the performance of the implemented design. Monitoring observations can also be used to determine the need for remedial works. Monitoring is recommended for two full calendar years following the year of construction.

The following monitoring and reporting activities are proposed:

- General observations of the bioswale works should be documented after construction and after the first large flooding event to identify any potential areas of erosion concern
- Collection of a photographic record of site conditions
- Total station as-built survey of the bioswale planform, longitudinal profile and cross sections just after construction to obtain reference data for the following two years
- A general vegetation survey in the spring of each year
- Re-survey of the longitudinal profile and monumented cross sections for two years following construction
- A yearly report for the first year, with a final report at the end of the two-year period



The monitoring would commence immediately after construction and sites would be reviewed annually to identify natural variability of the system. Reporting would be provided annually, with a summary report at the end of each year.

We trust this report meets your requirements. Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Villard Ph.D., P.Geo., CAN-CISEC Director, Principal Geomorphologist

Lindsay Deu

Lindsay Davis, M.Sc. River Scientist

5 References

Ontario Geological Survey (OGS). 2003. Surficial Geology of Southern Ontario.

Ontario Geological Survey (OGS). 2010. Physiography of Southern Ontario.

Stanfield, L. (editor). 2013. Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol. Version 9.0. Fisheries Policy Section. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Peterborough, Ontario. 505 Pages.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Credit Valley Conservation (TRCA/CVC). 2014. Evaluation, Classification and Management of Headwater Drainage Features Guidelines

Vincent & Associates. 2000. Coral Creek Homes Stormwater Management Detention Facility. Drawing No. SW-1



Appendix A Site Map





Appendix B Photographic Record







Appendix C Field Observations





2.7
2. One crossover – if
distinct and uniform
toe bank
0.055
0
0
0
0
1. None
1. None
1. None (no evidence of transport)
4. Extreme (>60%)

Riparian Classification (Step 2)

Riparian Vegetation	Left	Right
0 - 1.5 m	4. Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)	 Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)
1.5 – 10 m	2. Lawn (mowed grasses)	 Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)
10 – 30 m	2. Lawn (mowed grasses)	 Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)

Fish and Fish Habitat Classification (Step 3)

Instream Vegetation:	2. No discernible difference from riparian vegetation
Approximate Patch Size (cm).	
Watercress Present?	no
Fish Visual Observation?	no
Species:	
Number:	
Fish Habitat Present:	no

	Barriers to Fish
Perched Culvert:	no
Jumping Height (m):	0
Perched Height (m):	0
Log Jam:	no
% Flow Being Blocked:	
Blocked Culvert:	no
% Flow Being Blocked:	0
Other:	None

% Flow Being Blocked:

Linkages		
What is upstream of this reach? Off property - unable to see feature US		
What is downstream of this reach?	Brock Street	
Major Nutrient Source Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active	
Potential Contamination Source Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active	
Channel Hardening:	4. No evidence	
Barriers and/or Dams In Proximity:	4. No evidence	
On-Line Ponds Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active	
Springs or Seeps at the Sight:	5. Unknown	
Evidence of Channel Scouring/Erosion:	4. No evidence	
BMPS or Restoration Activities:	4. No evidence	
Comments:	Flow in culvert, metal grate at US reach break, online SWM pond upstream (off property)	

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	T 416.920.0926		T 613.979.7303
Headwater Dra	ainage Feature Aquati	c Habitat	Assessment
Project Number: PN18072			
Date and Time: 2018-05-28 1	5:11:54	Reach:	UCT1
Field Staff: CH	Wa	tershed:	Uxbridge Creek
Air Temp (°C): 29°	Water Te	mp (°C);	
		· · · / _	
н	ydrological Classification	(Step 1)	
Feature Type: 7. Swale (sl	hallow trough-like depressio	n conveying	water during storms or
Flow Condition 2 Standing	water (no visible flow)		
1 Baseflow	- the feature is dry of flowi	ng at a rate	and condition consistent with
Flow Influence: only subsur	face contributions of flow		
Cross Section #	1	2	3
	-	-	5
Feature Width (m)	2.7		
Measurement Technique (MT)	2. One crossover - if distinct and uniform		
	toe bank		
Bankfull Width (m)	1. Cannot measure -		
Measurement Technique (MT)	no defined		
Bankfull Depth (m)	boundaries		
Wetted Width (m)	0.3		
Measurement Technique (MT)	2. One crossover - if distinct and uniform		
	toe bank		
Wetted Depth (m) Hydraulic Head (mm)	0.04		
Volume (L)	Ő		
Distance (m)	0		
Time (3)	0		
Sediment Transport (Valley):	1. None		
Sediment Transport	1 None		
(Adjacent):			
Sealment Deposition:	1. None (no evidence of t	ansport)	
Koughness:	4. Extreme (>60%)		
	Riparian Classification (Step 2)	
Riparian Vegetation	Left		Right
0 - 1.5 m 4. Meadow (<20	% trees/shrubs; grasses	4. Meadow	<pre>(<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)</pre>
	(mowed grasses)	4. Meadow	<pre>class commancy (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses</pre>
1.5 – 10 m 2. Lawn	(mowed grasses)		and forbs dominant)

GEO MORPHIX



10 - 3	0 m
--------	-----

4. Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)

Fish and Fish Habitat Classification (Step 3) Instream Vegetation: 2. No discernible difference from riparian vegetation Approximate Patch Size (cm): Watercress Present? no Fish Visual Observation? no Species: Number: **Fish Habitat Present: Barriers to Fish Perched Culvert:** Jumping Height (m): No barriers Perched Height (m): Log Jam: % Flow Being Blocked: **Blocked Culvert:** % Flow Being Blocked: Other:

% Flow Being Blocked:

Linkages		
What is upstream of this reach?	UCT2	
What is downstream of this reach?	Brock Street	
Major Nutrient Source Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active	
Potential Contamination Source Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active	
Channel Hardening:	4. No evidence	
Barriers and/or Dams In Proximity:	4. No evidence	
On-Line Ponds Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active	
Springs or Seeps at the Sight:	5. Unknown	
Evidence of Channel Scouring/Erosion:	4. No evidence	
BMPS or Restoration Activities:	4. No evidence	
Comments:	Flow in CSP only, pockets of standing water with no DS connection, iron staining at CSP	

Project Number: PN18072 Mathematical Staff: CHECK Number: Project Number:	GEO Morphix Ltd.	Head Office 2800 High Poin Milton, Ontario	t Drive, Suite 100, , Canada L9T 6P4	Ottawa Office A PO Box 336 Woodlawn PO 4 Dunrobin, Ontario, Canada K0A 1T
Headwater Drainage Feature Aquatic Habitat Assessment Project Number: PN18072 Date and Time: 2018-07-19 15:56:37 Reach: UCTI Field Staff: CH EC Water Temp (*C); Usbridge Creek Air Temp (*C): 26° Water Temp (*C); Usbridge Creek Field Staff: Scale (shallow trough-like depression conveying water during storms or snowmel) Fosture Trype: 1. Swale (shallow trough-like depression conveying water during storms or snowmel) Flow Condition: 2. Standing water (no visible flow) Elow Condition: 1. Swale (shallow trough-like depression conveying water during storms or snowmel) Flow Influence: 1. Standing water (no visible flow) Elow Condition: 2. Standing water (no visible flow) Elow Influence: 1. Standing water (no visible flow) Date rossover - 1f 0. Ca 1. Cannot measure - no defined boundaries 1. Cannot measure - no defined boundaries Bankfull Width (m) 0. 26 1. Can crossover - 1f 0. Distance (m) 0. Distance (m) 0 0. Bankfull Depth (m) 0. 26 1. Kone 0 Stediment Transport (Valley): 1. None (no ev		T 416.920.092	6	T 613.979.7303
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	0 - 1.5 m 4. Meadow (<20 and fo	% trees/shrubs; grasses rbs dominant)	4. Meadow ((<20% trees/shrubs; grasses nd forbs dominant)
1.5 – 10 m 2 Lawn (mowed grasses) 4. Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses	1.5 – 10 m 2 Lawn	(mowed grasses)	4. Meadow (<pre>(<20% trees/shrubs; grasses</pre>

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10 - 3	0 m
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4. Meadow (<20% trees/shrubs; grasses and forbs dominant)

Fish and Fish Habitat Classification (Step 3) Instream Vegetation: 2. No discernible difference from riparian vegetation Approximate Patch Size (cm): Watercress Present? no Fish Visual Observation? no Species: Number: **Fish Habitat Present: Barriers to Fish Perched Culvert:** Jumping Height (m): No barriers Perched Height (m): Log Jam: % Flow Being Blocked: **Blocked Culvert:** % Flow Being Blocked: Other:

% Flow Being Blocked:

Linkages			
What is upstream of this reach?	UCT2		
What is downstream of this reach?	Brock Street		
Major Nutrient Source Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active		
Potential Contamination Source Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active		
Channel Hardening:	4. No evidence		
Barriers and/or Dams In Proximity:	4. No evidence		
On-Line Ponds Upstream:	1. Ongoing and active		
Springs or Seeps at the Sight:	5. Unknown		
Evidence of Channel Scouring/Erosion:	4. No evidence		
BMPS or Restoration Activities:	4. No evidence		
Comments:	One small pool of water at downstream extent by culvert		