

## Niagara Health partners to preserve and honour South Niagara Site

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Q: Why does the woodlot thicket need to be removed on the southeast corner of the future South Niagara Site?**

- Based on preliminary site plans, the area of the thicket will impede with development and construction of the South Niagara hospital.
- To avoid the risk of new habitat species inhabiting the area.
- In accordance with the Migratory Bird Convention Act, reports conducted advised that the removal of the woodlot thicket should be completed between September 15th and April 1st (colder months) in order to avoid the breeding bird nesting season.
- Reduce overall risks or issues to the project schedule in the coming years.

#### **Q: What site investigations were completed as part of Niagara Health's due diligence?**

- *Tree Impact Study: October 2020*
  - Trees are considered immature. Advanced signs of Emerald Ash Borer/damaged.
  - No rare or endangered species found.
  - Recommendation: Removal and the collection of acorns for distribution along the north edge of the project site.
- *Natural Heritage Assessment: October 2019*
  - The assessment identified the majority of the feature in the southeast corner of the site predominantly thicket community with approximately 10% tree cover.
  - No endangered, threatened or species of concern.
  - Consists of younger trees, no older growth trees present.
  - No significant natural areas located.
- *Environmental Site Assessment – Phase 1 and Phase 2 ESA*
- *Archaeological Assessment Stage 2-4*

#### **Q: What has been, or will be done, to preserve or conserve environmental aspects of the South Niagara Site?**

- **Pin oak acorn collection:** In the fall of 2020, volunteers harvested pin oak acorns and have started the cold stratification process, in preparation to replant the acorns on the north edge of the project site in the spring.
- **Select cutting for recycling:** Opportunities to select cut suitable trees are being investigated to use repurposed lumber in, or in support of, the future South Niagara hospital.

- **Harvest and wood-recycling by Indigenous community members:** Members from our Indigenous community have been invited to harvest/extract materials for their use.
- **Creation of an Outdoor Landscape Strategy:** Niagara Health has developed an Outdoor Landscape Design Strategy to set the overall goals and priorities for the outdoor spaces of the South Niagara Site. The outdoor landscape will be designed to make the best use of nature, preserve the natural habitat, provide a connection to nature for all and, provide a healing environment for patients.
- **Planting new trees:** Niagara Health will be planting at least 600 new trees to restore the natural environment of the site.

**What other due diligence has been considered in the decision to remove the woodlot thicket?**

- In accordance with the **Niagara Region Policy Plan:**
  - Thicket is **not** considered to be an Environmental Protection Area.
  - Environmental Conservation Area is limited to a portion of significant woodland in the northwest corner of the property.
- In accordance with the **Regional Tree and Forest Conservation By-Law 3-2008:**
  - The Regional Forest By-Law allows the City of Niagara Falls to provide support of projects that may require removal of trees through the exemption noted in section 4.4d of the by-law.
  - Niagara Health received a **Support Letter from the City of Niagara Falls in October 2020** in support of the thicket removal.

**Q: What are the timelines of the South Niagara Project?**

The South Niagara Project remains on schedule.

It is difficult for us to commit to specific start and completion dates before a construction company has been selected, as this company will include a schedule with its bid submission. Niagara Health, in partnership with Infrastructure Ontario, plan to release the request for qualifications in early 2021.

## Illustrative Site Plan

### LEGEND

- ① MAIN ENTRANCE
- ② COMMUNITY PLAZA
- ③ AMBULATORY CARE ENTRANCE
- ④ DIALYSIS ENTRANCE
- ⑤ STAFF ENTRANCE
- ⑥ CAFETERIA COURTYARD
- ⑦ LOADING DOCKS
- ⑧ HELIPAD
- ⑨ PATIENT TRANSFER ENTRANCE COURTYARD
- ⑩ AMBULANCE GARAGE
- ⑪ EMERGENCY WALK-IN ENTRANCE
- ⑫ INDIGENOUS HEALING GARDEN
- ⑬ SENIOR WELLNESS GARDEN
- ⑭ MENTAL HEALTH TERRACE
- ⑮ AUDITORIUM TERRACE
- ⑯ SPIRITUAL CARE COURTYARD
- ⑰ TRANSIT STOP
- ⑱ PEDESTRIAN / CYCLIST NETWORK
- ⑲ VEGETATED BUFFER
- ⑳ STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND
- ㉑ NATURAL AREA
- ㉒ CORNER GATEWAY PLAZA
- ㉓ STAFF TERRACE



The illustrative site plan is for conceptual purposes only. It is subject to change.



## Aerial photo and approximate site boundary

