

Assessment. It would be important to address both the impact of the utilities and the impact of the construction process on the natural environment area.

In section 1.6.3 of the Region's Official Plan, it is stated that public utility facilities subject to requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* may be permitted in all land use designations. This means that piped utilities would be permitted under the Region's Official Plan as long the requirements are met under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Subsection 3.3.2 of the City of Kanata's Official Plan states that public uses are permitted in all of the land use classifications except Agricultural Resource. Subsection 3.3.6 emphasizes the responsibility to evaluate impacts pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

For piped utilities all other options should be explored first and pipng in the Kanata Lakes NEA should be discouraged and only considered as a last resort. In cases where this is considered an Environmental Assessment should be done and to consider the short and long-term impacts and recommend mitigation measures for both the permanent installation and the construction techniques to be used.

3.3 Boundaries

At the present time, the boundaries of the Kanata Lakes NEA are defined at a high level and do not consider the natural features or recreational benefit of certain areas.

It is recommended that the boundaries of the existing NEA be adjusted to reflect the location of natural features. This will result in a slight gain in overall area. The vegetative communities and natural features are shown on Figure 1. The Official Plans of both the City of Kanata and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton state that the boundaries are approximate and can be altered without an amendment to the Official Plan (ROC Official Plan s.5.4.1.2 and s.5.4.2.2, City of Kanata Official Plan s.6.4.2.1).

In addition to the natural value of the Kanata Lakes NEA there is also an extensive network of pathways. It is recommended that some areas of the boundary be redefined to retain existing recreational pathway systems. The recreational pathway system is described in more detail in the next section (3.4).

As part of the scope of work, CH2M HILL was asked to investigate the feasibility of expanding the Kanata Lakes NEA between the First Line Road Allowance and the proposed extension of Terry Fox Drive. It is recommended that a portion of land be added to the Kanata Lakes NEA. See Figure 6. The provincially significant wetlands and higher quality forest within the lands are compatible with the existing NEA. Terry Fox Drive would serve as a development buffer between the surrounding residential/commercial developments and the conservation area (Brunton 1992). Protecting this land which includes a portion of Provincially Significant wetland is consistent with the Ontario Wetlands Policy, issues 24 June 1992. Each municipality in Ontario, under the Planning Act is obliged to "...have regard to..." this policy, which prohibits development in all wetlands in Kanata (Brunton 1992). In 1992, Brunton suggested that Kanata's Official Plan should be revised, as it allows for compatible development in a wetland area in section 3.7.4 and is not consistent with the Provincial Policy (Brunton 1992).