

# Clarington TS Habitat Creation and Visual Screening Workshop

May 4, 2016

Enniskillen Education Centre

Presented by: Doris Chee and Paul Dalmazzi

# Commitments from Class EA

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## **Habitat Creation:**

- Create 2 hectares (ha) of habitat to offset each ha of habitat lost
- Approx. 2.6 ha of habitat will be affected in the long term

## **Visual Screening/Planting:**

- Provide visual screening of TS through planting plan
- Conceptual plan was included in the Environmental Study Report (Fig. 7-2)

# Habitat Creation On-Site

# Your Input is important to us

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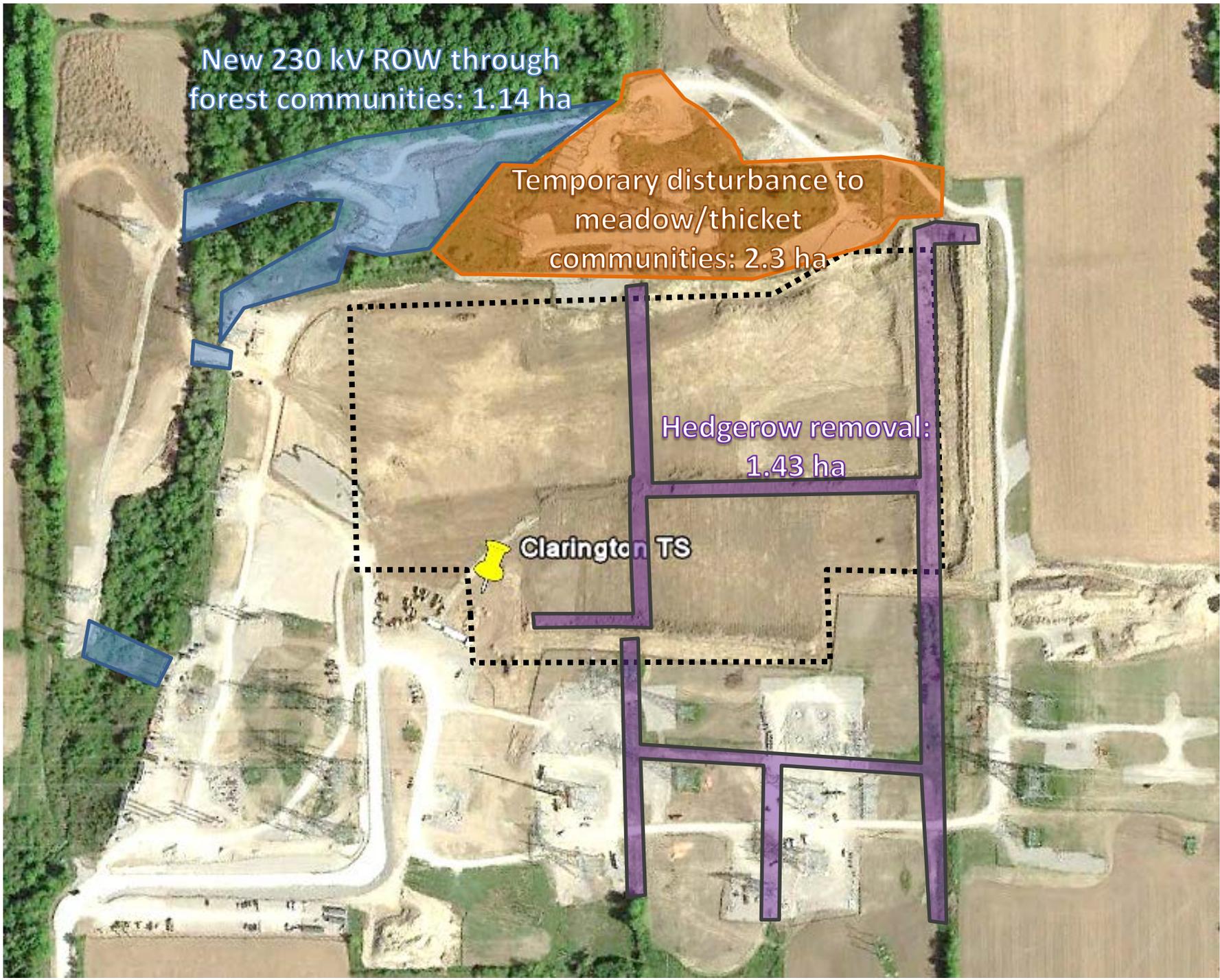
- Which conservation priorities are important to you?
  - Pollination, riparian zone, SAR, birds/wildlife, etc.
- Are there certain plant species you consider desirable/undesirable?
- What observations have you made regarding local habitat/environment?
- Potential off-site habitat creation opportunities
- Other considerations

New 230 kV ROW through forest communities: 1.14 ha

Temporary disturbance to meadow/thicket communities: 2.3 ha

Hedgerow removal: 1.43 ha

Clarington TS



# Our Objectives

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- Priorities:
  - **Restore** through mitigation (new ROW, temporary construction disturbance)
  - **Compensate** through habitat creation
- Achieve as many desirable habitat values as possible
- Select habitat appropriate for site conditions and compatible with on-site infrastructure
- Integrate local conservation priorities and surrounding landscape
- Net gain in habitat, where feasible

# Local Conservation Priorities

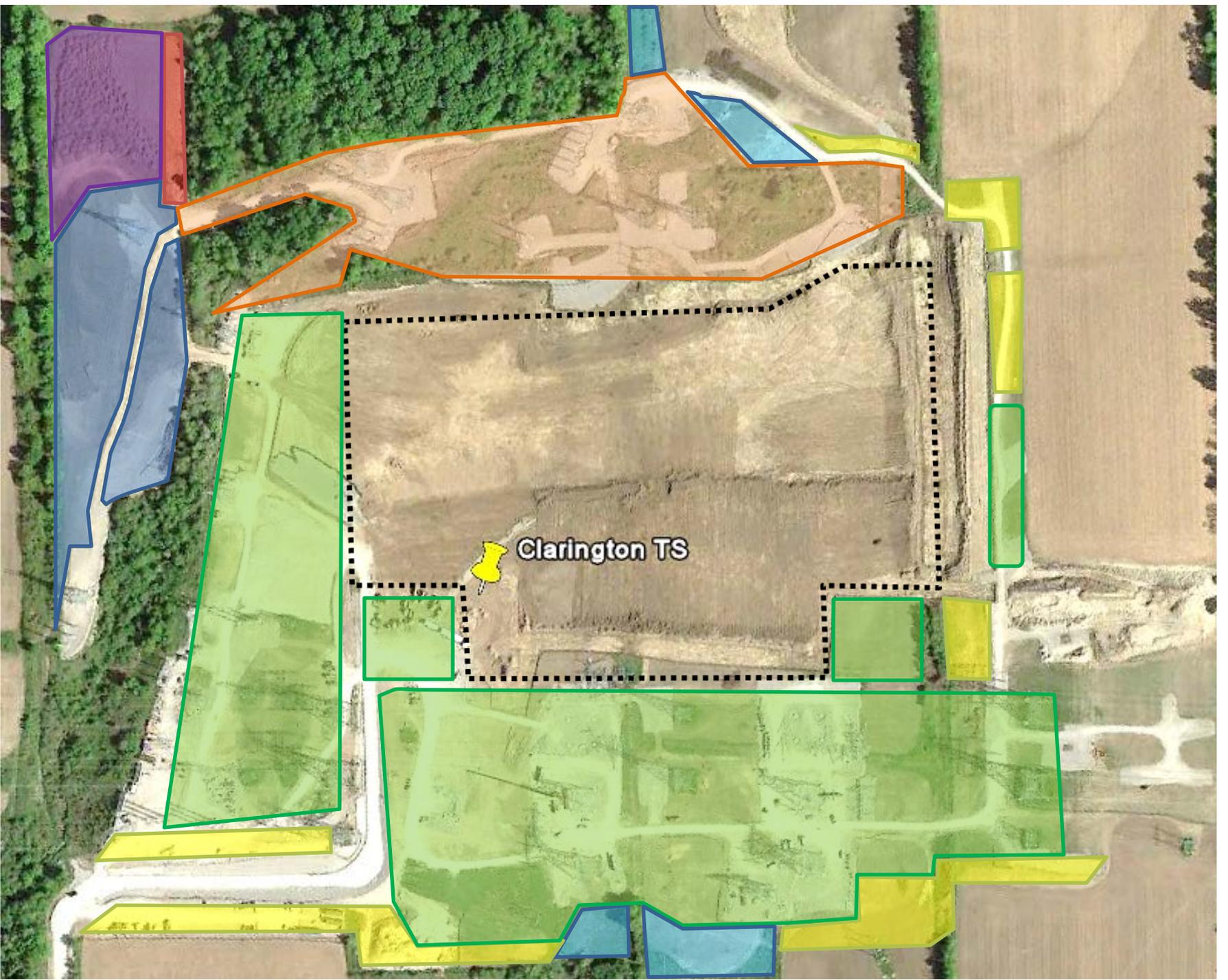
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- Maintain ecological integrity and diversity of existing (and nearby) habitats
  - Avoid “single-species management”
- Connect habitat patches
- Promote native/desirable species
- Increase pollinator habitat
- Riparian zone (stream-bank plantings) enhancement
- Control invasive species

# Other Considerations

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- Location of biodiversity offsets
  - Secured land
  - Close proximity to project area
- Retaining agricultural use, where feasible
- Likelihood of success (e.g. ash trees)
- Area hydrology



Clarington TS



Langmaid Rd

# Habitat Creation Schedule

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## Spring 2016

- Butternut planting
- Finalize habitat creation plan with your input

## Summer 2016

- Prepare and release RFP for habitat creation plan
- Butternut monitoring (through Fall 2017)

## Fall 2016

- Select contractor for habitat creation and restoration work
- Begin planting (westernmost field, some restoration planting)

## 2017

- Continue with restoration plantings/seeding, where possible
- Farewell Creek right-of-way riparian planting

## 2018

- Complete habitat creation planting (pollinator meadow seeding)
- Complete restoration planting as temporary access roads are removed (new 230 kV ROW, pocket wetland)

# Topics for Workshop Discussion

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- Not all priorities (values) can feasibly be addressed
- Selecting one habitat value over another may be necessary
- Which conservation priorities are important to you?
  - Pollination, riparian zone, SAR, birds/wildlife, etc.
- Are there certain plant species that you consider desirable/undesirable?
- Would you prefer pollinator habitat vs. bird/wildlife habitat?
- Observations you have made in the area
- Possible off-site habitat creation opportunities
- Other considerations

# Discussion/Breakout Session

# Visual Screening and Planting

# Your Input is Important to us

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- Which view(s) of the station do you want to focus on screening?
- Should we use more coniferous (evergreen) or deciduous (seasonal) plants to screen views?
- Should we focus on additional habitat creation and enhancement instead of screening views?

# Visual Screening and Planting Objectives

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- Identify possible visual effects of Clarington TS and mitigation solutions
- A conceptual plan was developed with consideration for neighbouring properties/views, as well as compatibility requirements. The plan is included in the Environmental Study Report (ESR).
- Visual screening of the station will be accomplished through the planting of various species, creating berms or using a combination of both

# Berms

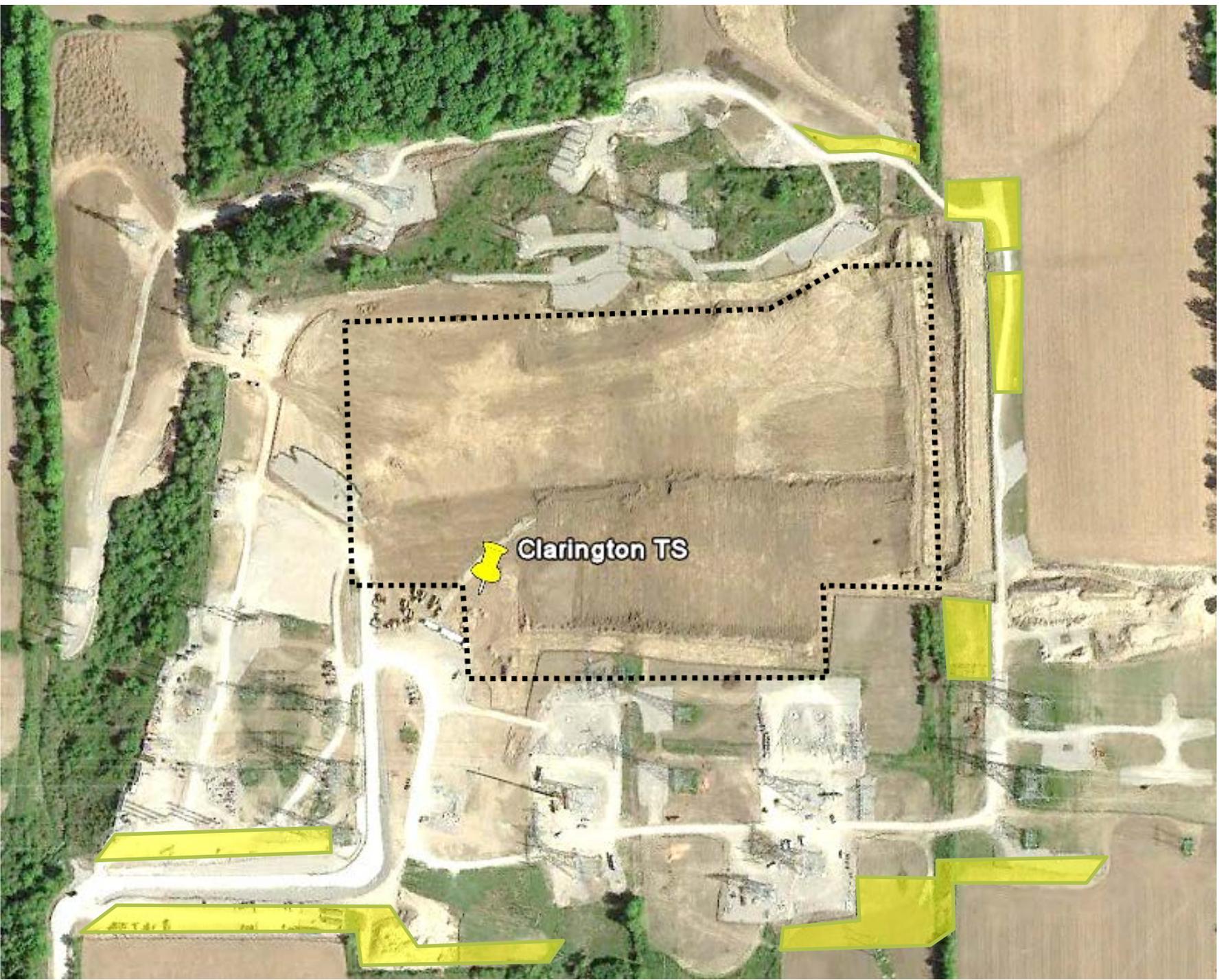
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- Earthen mounds will be constructed using excess material from construction
- Berms will be shaped, seeded and may have plantings on their slopes
- Berm restrictions:
  - Cannot be taller than 1.5 m
  - Maximum slope 3:1
  - Must maintain surface water flows
  - Must consider proximity/clearances to overhead lines (i.e., berm height + vegetation height at maturity)

# Planting for Visual Screening

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- General Hydro One practices:
  - plants are planted on slopes of berms
  - plants are native/non-invasive
  - plants are sourced locally
- Height/size restrictions must be considered (at planting and maturity)
- Plants must have low maintenance requirements
- Other planting may be possible in areas where natural connections and linkage can be achieved



Clarington TS

# Examples of Visual Plantings









# Visual Screening Schedule

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- 2017
  - Finalize visual screening plans
  - Issue RFP/select contractor for visual screening and landscaping
- 2018
  - Complete planting and visual screening work

# Topics for Workshop Discussion

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- Which view(s) of the station do you want to focus on screening?
- Should we use more coniferous (evergreen) or deciduous (seasonal) plants to screen views?
- Should we focus on additional habitat creation and enhancement instead of screening views?

Discussion/Breakout Session