19.6.4 Considerations for Restoration / Rehabilitation, Replication, and Compensation

While avoidance and minimization of impacts are to be prioritized, there will be instances where features will be impacted by proposals within the Symons Campus. Where appropriate, one or a combination of restoration, replication and/or compensation may be used to address these impacts. In some cases, replication or compensation may be a preferred outcome where it provides a net benefit or regenerative outcome for the University Green Network.

Restoration / Rehabilitation, Replication and/or compensation may be considered on a site-by-site basis and will be discussed in consultation with relevant agencies, as appropriate (e.g., City of Peterborough, Otonabee Conservation). Replication or compensation may not be required in all cases where impacts are identified (e.g., the removal of a small cultural meadow).

Restoration / Rehabilitation

Impacts to a feature or system may be offset through restoration / rehabilitation. Where possible, restoration / rehabilitation should offset impacts to a similar habitat or function(s), however alternative opportunities may be considered where there is a clear benefit identified and it supports the goals and objectives of the University Green Network (e.g., a net benefit or regenerative outcome for the system aligned with recommendations of the System-Level Plan).

Replication

Replication is a form of compensation where no negative impact is achieved by recreating the same feature type and/or function as is being impacted in a different location and there is no lag in habitat presence or function on the landscape.

There is a strong preference for replication to occur in close proximity to the feature / function to be removed to support creation of comparable conditions. Timing and phasing of feature replication and impact to the existing feature must be coordinated such that the feature type and/or function(s) are maintained on the landscape. Additional discussion is provided on timing considerations in Section 19.6.5.

Compensation

Compensation is a means of offsetting impacts through creating new natural features or functions on the landscape. Compensation can include like-for-like replacements (e.g., meadow for meadow) where the same feature type is the objective, or creation of a different feature type as compensation for impacts.

To the extent feasible, preference is given to compensation activities being implemented in locations that provide the largest benefit to the system. This may favor on-site compensation, or off-site, but within the Symons Campus, in a location where long-term benefits will be best achieved.

Timing and phasing of compensation activities relative to the proposed impact should be considered. To the extent possible, compensation / offsetting areas should be established early in the construction process to reduce effects of lag between implementation and reaching full function. Additional discussion is provided on timing considerations in Section 19.6.5.