

AMENDMENT NO. 1

TO THE OFFICIAL PLAN

FOR

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

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PART “A” – THE PREAMBLE

SECTION 1 – TITLE AND COMPONENTS

This document was approved in accordance with sections 17 and 21 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended and shall be known as Amendment No. 1 to the Official Plan as adopted by By-law No. ————-38-2021 on December 15, 2021.

Part “A”, the Preamble, does not constitute part of this amendment.

Part “B”, the amendment, consisting of the following text constitutes Amendment No. 1 to the Official Plan.

SECTION 2 – PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT

The purpose of the amendment is to include a natural heritage system policy framework in the Northumberland County Official Plan in accordance with the ~~Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the~~ Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Provincial ~~Policy~~ Planning Statement- (2024).

SECTION 3 – LOCATION OF THE AMENDMENT

This amendment applies to the whole of Northumberland County, save and except for the lands within the boundary of the Alderville First Nation and lands that are owned by the Province of Ontario.

SECTION 4 – BASIS OF THE AMENDMENT

Basis section is not an operative part of the OPA and has been re-written

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PART B – THE AMENDMENT

All of this Part of the document entitled Part B - The Amendment consisting of the following text constitutes Amendment No. 1 to the Official Plan of Northumberland County.

Details of the Amendment

The Northumberland County Official Plan is hereby amended as follows:

Item 1: Section A2 (Guiding Principles), is amended by deleting Principle 10 and replacing it with the following: "To protect *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and natural heritage features and areas* within and outside of the County's natural heritage system so that they can be enjoyed by future generations and serve as a legacy to all peoples within the County."

Item 2: Section A2 (Guiding Principles), is amended by deleting words 'features and areas' from Principle 11.

Item 3: Section A3 (Land Use Concept) is amended by deleting the words 'Five primary' and replacing them with '*Seven'Eight*'.

Item 4: Section A3 (Land Use Concept), is amended by deleting Section A3.5 and replacing it with the following:

"A3.5 NATURAL HERITAGE AREA ONE

The Natural Heritage Area One designation applies to ~~known~~ Provincially significant ~~natural heritage features wetlands~~ and ~~areas, key natural heritage features and key hydrological features.~~ Lands within this designation include those lands designated as Regionally important wetlands.

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"A3.6 NATURAL HERITAGE AREA TWO

The Natural ~~Core~~ Heritage Area ~~and Two~~ overlay designation applies to Provincially significant Areas of Natural Linkage Area by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. and Scientific Interest and significant woodlands.

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Item 5: Section A3 (Land Use Concept), is amended by adding Sections A3.~~67~~ and A3.~~78~~ as per below:

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"A3.~~67~~ SUPPORTING FEATURES AND AREAS

The Supporting Features and Areas overlay designation applies to lands that support the *ecological functions* of the *natural heritage system* and includes elements such as linkage areas, enhancement areas and ~~locally~~other important *natural heritage features and areas*.

A3.~~78~~ NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM

The Natural Heritage System is an overlay designation that applies to lands outside of the *urban areas* and *rural settlement areas*. It is comprised of the ~~previously identified Growth Plan nNatural hHeritage sSystem for the Growth Plan established by the Province of Ontario~~, Natural Core Areas and Natural Linkage Areas established by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and additional areas that have been identified by the County in accordance with Provincially recommended technical criteria and best practices for the identification of a *natural heritage system*."

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Item 6: Section A4 (Provincial Plans), is renamed "Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan" and amended by replacing the reference to "Section C6" with "Section D5".

Item 7: Section A7 (Interpretation of this Official Plan), is amended by replacing "Parts B to F" with "Parts B to G" in the last paragraph.

Item 8: Section B3 (Rural Lands), is amended by replacing the reference to 'Schedule A' with 'Schedule A-1'.

Item 9: Section B13 (Planning for Employment), is amended by replacing the reference to 'Schedule A' with 'Schedule A-2'.

Item 10: Section C (Natural Heritage and Water Resources Systems), is added to the Official Plan as per below:

"C NATURAL HERITAGE AND WATER RESOURCES SYSTEMS

C1 OBJECTIVES

It is the objective of this Plan to:

- a) Maintain, restore, or where possible, improve the diversity and connectivity of natural features in the County, and the long-term *ecological function* and biodiversity of *natural heritage systems* recognizing linkages between and among *natural heritage features and areas, surface water features* and *ground water features*;
- b) Establish a resilient, interconnected *natural heritage system* that preserves and enhances natural features, *ecological functions* and native biodiversity, contributes to healthy watersheds, recognizes the important role the agricultural and rural landscape plays in the system, and maintains the unique natural landscape and geography of the County for future generations;
- c) Identify and maintain linkages and related functions among ground water features, hydrologic functions, *natural heritage features and areas*, and surface water features including shoreline areas;
- d) Recognize the role and value of compatible and complementary agricultural and rural uses in and adjacent to the *natural heritage system* and recognize that flexible approaches to existing uses in the *natural heritage system* are required;
- e) Recognize the important role the *natural heritage system* plays in mitigating the impacts of climate change by protecting and enhancing *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and natural heritage features and areas*, ecological functions, and connections within the system-;
- f) Encourage the acquisition of land that is the site of *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and natural heritage features and areas* by public authorities or non-profit land trusts for conservation purposes;
- g) Discourage the introduction, planting and/or use of invasive non-native species to minimize their impact on the County's biodiversity;
- h) Provide the tools to properly assess *development* applications located in close proximity to natural heritage features;

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- i) Ensure that *development* is appropriately setback and buffered from ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and~~ *natural heritage features and areas*; and
- ~~j) Encourage and support the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the appropriate Conservation Authority in conducting evaluations of unevaluated wetlands within the County; and,~~
- kj) Provide opportunities, where appropriate, for passive outdoor recreational activities in the *natural heritage system* provided the features and ecological functions are not adversely impacted.

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C2 THE COUNTY'S NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM

The *Natural Heritage System* is an overlay designation that applies to lands outside of the *urban areas* and *rural settlement areas* as shown on **Schedule A-1** to this Plan.

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It is comprised of the ~~previously identified Growth Plan~~ *Natural Heritage System* ~~for the Growth Plan established by the Province of Ontario~~, Natural Core Areas and Natural Linkage Areas established by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and additional areas that have been identified by the County in accordance with Provincially recommended technical criteria and best practices for the identification of a *natural heritage system*. Components of the *natural heritage system* are identified on ~~Schedules~~ **Schedule B-1 and B-2** to this Plan and are listed in Section C3 of this Plan.

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It is the intent of this Plan a resilient, interconnected *natural heritage system* that preserves and enhances natural features, *ecological functions* and native biodiversity, contributes to healthy watersheds, recognizes the important role the agricultural and rural landscape plays in the system, and maintains the unique natural landscape and geography of the County for future generations be maintained and improved through the life of this Plan.

C3 COMPONENTS OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM

- a) The following are components of the County's *natural heritage system*:
 - i) The previously identified Growth Plan *natural heritage system*;

~~Known key natural heritage features and key hydrological features within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan that are designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan;~~

~~ii) Known key hydrological features outside of the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan;~~

ii) Natural heritage features and areas that are designated Natural Heritage Area One and Natural Heritage Area Two on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan;

iii) Lands that are designated as Natural Core Areas and Natural Linkage Areas by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan ~~that are designated Natural Heritage Area as shown~~ on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan ~~and shown individually on **Schedule B-1**;~~

~~iv) Known significant natural heritage features and areas outside of the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan that are designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan;~~

~~v) Regionally important woodlands within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan that are designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan; and~~

~~vii) Watercourses (permanent and intermittent); and~~

v) Other supporting features and areas that are within the Supporting Features and Areas overlay on **Schedule B-21** to this Plan.

~~b) Policies on the Natural Heritage Area designation are found in Sections D6, D7 and D8 of this Plan and policies on the Supporting Features and Areas overlay are found in Section D9 of this Plan.~~

~~eb) Once the policies in this Plan on the natural heritage system overlay have been approved in accordance with the Planning Act, all subsequent Planning Act decisions shall conform to this Plan, unless this Plan explicitly states otherwise.~~

~~ec) Local municipalities are required to incorporate the nNatural hHeritage sSystem overlay and the Natural Heritage Area One and Natural Heritage Area Two designations in their local Official Plans.~~

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~~e) While the~~ The limits of the ~~n~~*Natural h*eritage ~~s~~ystem overlay ~~for~~and the ~~Growth Plan cannot be modified, local municipalities~~*Natural Heritage Area One and Natural Heritage Area Two designations* may ~~refine the limits of other aspects of the overlay designation~~by refined by *Local Municipalities* in their local Official Plans on the basis of updated information and/or detailed studies in consultation with the County.

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~~f) Any changes to the limits the~~ *Natural Heritage System* overlay in a Local Official Plan requires the approval of the County.

C4 GENERAL POLICIES

C4.1 CONSIDERATION OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- a) The consideration of cumulative impacts shall be required through the preparation of environmental impact studies.
- b) Cumulative impacts shall be assessed on the base conditions that existed from the time the approval authority first requires impact studies to be completed.
- c) Where *development or site alteration* applications are considered, the proponent shall be required to provide an overview of previous studies as provided by the approval authority (if available), related to *development* impacts on the same or adjacent feature as it relates to impacts on the *natural heritage system* and the water balance of features.
- d) In addition to the above, any assessment of impact must include a description of cumulative impacts that have occurred prior to the impact assessment being undertaken.

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C4.2 TRANSFER OF ~~KEY NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES, KEY HYDROLOGICAL FEATURES AND NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES AND AREAS INTO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP~~

- a) The County may work with the local municipalities and other public agencies and/or non-profit land trust organizations to develop and implement a land securement strategy that would result in the transfer of private lands with natural heritage attributes into public ownership. However, given the financial limitations of every level of government and consistent with the principle of land stewardship, this policy does not imply that ~~key natural heritage features, key~~

~~hydrologic features and/or natural heritage features and areas~~ will be purchased by the County or other public or non-profit agencies.

- b) The County and the local municipalities shall consider opportunities to obtain, through dedication, lands with natural heritage attributes through the development approval process.
- c) Arrangements for the conveyance of ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and/or natural heritage features and areas~~ into public ownership shall be undertaken before or concurrent with the approval of development applications through the development approval process.

C4.3 AGRICULTURAL USES

Nothing in this plan is intended to limit the ability of *agricultural uses* to continue in areas that are the site of a ~~key natural heritage feature, key hydrologic feature or other natural heritage feature and area~~.

~~C4.4 DEVELOPED SHORELINE AREAS~~

~~In developed shoreline areas of Rice Lake and the Trent-Severn Waterway that are designated or zoned for concentrations of development as of July 1, 2017, infill development, redevelopment and resort development is permitted, subject to municipal and agency planning and regulatory requirements, if the development will:~~

- ~~a) Be integrated with existing or proposed parks and trails, and will not constrain ongoing or planned stewardship and remediation efforts;~~
- ~~b) Restore, to the maximum extent possible, the ecological features and functions in developed shoreline areas; and~~
- ~~c) In the case of redevelopment and resort development:
 - ~~i) Establish, or increase the extent and width of, a vegetation protection zone along the shoreline to a minimum of 30 metres;~~
 - ~~ii) Increase the extent of fish habitat in the littoral zone;~~~~

- iii) ~~Be planned, designed, and constructed to protect *hydrologic functions*, minimize erosion, and avoid or mitigate sedimentation and the introduction of nutrient or other pollutants into the lake;~~
 - iv) ~~Exclude shoreline structures that will impede the natural flow of water or exacerbate algae concerns along the shoreline;~~
 - v) ~~Enhance the ability of native plants and animals to use the shoreline as both *wildlife habitat* and a movement corridor;~~
 - vi) ~~Use lot-level stormwater controls to reduce stormwater runoff volumes and pollutant loadings;~~
 - vii) ~~Use natural shoreline treatments, where practical, for shoreline stabilization, erosion control, or protection;~~
 - viii) ~~Meet other criteria and direction set out in applicable *watershed planning and subwatershed plans*;~~
 - ix) ~~Be serviced by *sewage works* which reduce nutrient inputs to groundwater and the lake from baseline levels; and~~
 - x) ~~Demonstrate available capacity in the receiving water body based on inputs from existing and approved development.~~
- d) ~~Local municipalities shall identify the developed shoreline areas of Rice Lake and the Trent-Severn Waterway within the *natural heritage system for the Growth Plan* that are designated or zoned for concentrations of *development* as of July 1, 2017 when they bring their Official Plans into conformity with this Plan.~~

~~C4.5 — GENERAL POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ALTERATION WITHIN THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM FOR THE GROWTH PLAN~~

~~New development or site alteration within the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* will demonstrate that:~~

- a) ~~There are no *negative impacts on key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features* or their functions;~~

- ~~b) Connectivity along the system and between *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* located within 240 metres of each other will be maintained or, where possible, enhanced for the movement of native plants and animals across the landscape;~~
- ~~e) The removal of other natural features not identified as *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* is avoided, where possible. Such features should be incorporated into the planning and design of the proposed use wherever possible;~~
- ~~d) Except for uses described in and governed by the policies in Section E3 dealing with *mineral aggregate resources*, the disturbed area, including any buildings and structures, will not exceed 25 per cent of the *total developable area*, and the impervious surface will not exceed 10 per cent of the *total developable area*;~~
- ~~e) With respect to golf courses, the disturbed area will not exceed 40 per cent of the *total developable area*; and~~
- ~~f) At least 30 per cent of the *total developable area* will remain or be returned to *natural self-sustaining vegetation*, except where specified in accordance with the policies in Section E3 dealing with *mineral aggregate resources*.~~

~~C4.6~~ **C4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES**

- a) Where the policies of this Plan require that an Environmental Impact Study ('EIS') be prepared, such an EIS shall be prepared in accordance with the requirements of this section of the Plan.
- b) An EIS required under the policies of this Plan shall be submitted with the *development* application and shall be prepared and signed by a qualified person in accordance with relevant environmental impact study guidelines in addition to the relevant policies of this Plan.
- c) An EIS shall include a detailed inventory of the on-site conditions, including detailed inventory and ecological land classification mapping of vegetation communities, and inventories for natural heritage features and species using accepted methods, criteria, and survey protocols undertaken at the appropriate time of year. This inventory and characterization shall extend to adjacent lands, with field surveys undertaken where permission to enter is granted.

- d) The approval authority may scope or waive the requirement for an EIS to support a development proposal within or adjacent to ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and/or natural heritage features and areas~~ if, in the opinion of the approval authority the proposed development is minor and is not anticipated to have a *negative impact* on the ~~key natural heritage feature, key hydrologic feature and/or natural heritage feature and area~~ or its *ecological functions* or if the policies of this Plan provide an exception to the submission of an EIS related to the ~~key natural heritage feature, key hydrologic feature and/or natural heritage feature and area~~.
- e) The approval authority, in consultation with the appropriate Conservation Authority and Parks Canada as appropriate, must be satisfied with an EIS prior to the granting of *development* approvals. The recommendations of an EIS shall be implemented through Official Plan Amendments, zoning by-laws, subdivision conditions, site plan control, and/or applicable regulations.
- f) The approval authority may require an independent peer review of an EIS, with the costs to be borne by the applicant.
- g) The purpose of an EIS is to:
- i) Collect and evaluate the appropriate information in order to have a complete understanding of the boundaries, attributes and functions of ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and natural heritage features and areas~~ and associated ~~ecological and hydrological~~ functions that exist on the subject lands and/or *adjacent lands*;
 - ii) Determine whether there are any additional ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and/or natural heritage features and areas~~ on the subject lands and nearby lands and that meet the accepted criteria established by the Province, as amended from time to time;
 - iii) Undertake a comprehensive impact analysis in order to determine whether or not the proposed development and/or site alteration will have a *negative impact* on ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and/or natural heritage features and areas~~ and their *ecological functions*;
 - iv) Propose appropriate mitigation measures or revisions to the proposed development and/or site alteration to reduce or avoid *negative impacts*;

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- v) Clearly articulate any *negative impacts* that cannot be avoided or mitigated;
- vi) Where appropriate, recommend monitoring provisions to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the identified mitigation measures; and
- vii) Demonstrate that the proposed *development* and/or *site alteration* supports the County's objectives for the *natural heritage system*.

C4.75 SIGNIFICANT WOODLANDS AND ANTHROPOGENIC DISTURBANCES

- a) Where a feature was identified as a *significant woodland* as of the date of approval of this Plan and no longer meets the definition of *significant woodland* due to either a natural or unauthorized anthropogenic disturbance, the feature shall retain its status as a *significant woodland* and the policies of this plan protecting *significant woodlands* will continue to apply.
- b) Notwithstanding the above, this Plan recognizes that the *ecological functions* of some *significant woodlands* or *other woodlands* or portions thereof in *urban areas*, *rural settlement areas* or in ~~areas in~~ developed shoreline areas ~~that were designated and zoned for concentrations of such development as of July 1, 2017~~ may be substantially compromised as a result of prior land use activity and as a result would be difficult to restore and/or manage as a native woodland. In cases such as these, consideration can be given to reclassifying all or a portion of such a woodland as a *cultural and regenerating woodland*. *Woodlands* (including plantations) established and/or managed for the purpose of restoring a native tree community cannot be classified as *cultural and regenerating woodlands*.
- c) In order for a *woodland* to be identified as a *cultural and regenerating woodland*, all of the following must be met, as determined through an *environmental impact study*:
 - i) The *woodland* is regenerating, typically with a dominant proportion of woody species being invasive and non-native (e.g., Norway Maple, Manitoba Maple, Siberian Elm, Scots Pine, European Buckthorn, White Mulberry, Tree-of-heaven, Apple, White Poplar, etc.);
 - ii) The area was not treed approximately 20 to 30 years ago as determined through air photo interpretation or other suitable technique;

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- iii) The soils have been degraded, through compaction, topsoil removal or as a result of substantial erosion from over-use and/or if the woodland may be regenerating on fill; and
- iv) There is limited ability to maintain or restore self-sustaining ecological functions typical of native woodlands.
- d) If the tests set out in Section C4.75 c) have been satisfied to the satisfaction of the approval authority, the removal of the treed area of a *cultural and regenerating woodland* may be permitted subject to preparing a *woodland enhancement plan* that demonstrates an enhancement in *woodland* area is achieved, either on the same property or in the immediate area.

C4.6 ENHANCEMENTS TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The County supports enhancements to the *natural heritage system* to support *ecological functions* and improve *ecological integrity of the natural heritage system*. Enhancements can be as a result of a range of specific actions being undertaken by a landowner, developer, or public agency.

Where the preparation of a *subwatershed* study or an environmental impact study is required, the study will demonstrate how enhancements to ecological function, *ecological integrity*, or biodiversity of the *natural heritage system* can be achieved, and will be implemented, through for example:

- a) increases in the spatial extent of a feature or features;
- b) increases in biological and habitat diversity;
- c) enhancement of ecological system function;
- d) enhancement of *wildlife habitat*;
- e) enhancement or creation of *wetlands*, water systems or *woodlands*;
- f) enhancement of riparian corridors;
- g) enhancement of *ecological services*;
- h) enhancement of groundwater recharge areas; and,

- i) establishment or enhancement of linkages or connectivity between natural heritage features and areas.

Item 11: Section D1 (Natural Heritage Resources), is deleted, except Section D1.12 (Watercourses) which is re-numbered as Section C5.

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Item 12: Section D2 (Water Resources), including all its subsections, is renumbered as Section ~~C5~~C6 (Water Resources).

~~Item 13:~~ Section C5 (Water Resources) is amended by adding a new Section C5.5 as set out below:

~~C5.5~~ — SPECIAL POLICY ON LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT

~~Proposals for large-scale development proceeding by way of plan of subdivision, vacant land plan of condominium or site plan may be permitted within a key hydrologic area where it is demonstrated that the hydrologic functions, including the quality and quantity of water, of these areas will be protected and, where possible, enhanced or restored through:~~

- ~~a) — The identification of planning, design, and construction practices and techniques;~~
- ~~b) — Meeting other criteria and direction set out in the applicable watershed planning or subwatershed plans; and~~
- ~~c) — Meeting any applicable provincial standards, guidelines, and procedures.~~

~~Item 14~~**Item 13:** Section C (Land Use Designations), is renumbered as Section D (Land Use Designations), and all of its sub-sections are renumbered accordingly.

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Item 1514: The new Section D (Land Use Designations) (formerly C) is amended by deleting “five”, replacing the reference to “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-~~12~~” and adding the following to the end of the first sentence “and the Supporting Features and Areas overlay designation on Schedule B-~~21~~”.

Item 1615: The new Section D1.2 (General Land Use Objectives for Urban Areas) (formerly C1.2) is amended by replacing the reference to “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-~~12~~”.

Item 1716: The new Section D2.1 (Objectives) (formerly C2.1) is amended by replacing the reference to “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-2”.

Item 1817: The new [Section D2.4 \(Development Requirements\)](#) (formerly C2.4) is amended by replacing “Section C2.5” with “Section D2.5” in a).

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Item 1918: The new [Section D2.5 \(Secondary Plans\)](#) (formerly C2.5) is amended by replacing “Section C2.4” with “Section D2.4” in a).

Item 2019: The new [Section D3.2 \(Location\)](#) (formerly C3.2) is amended by replacing “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-2” in a).

Item 2120: The new [Section D3.3 \(Permitted Uses\)](#) (formerly C3.3) is amended by replacing “Section C” with “Section D” in b), c), d), e), g) and i), and replacing “Section D” with “Section E” in k).

Item 21: [The new Section D3.3 \(Location\) \(formerly C3.3\) is amended by replacing “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-2” in the last paragraph.](#)

Item 22: The new [Section D3.6.2 \(Types of On-Farm Diversified Uses\)](#) (formerly C3.6.2) is amended by replacing “Section C” with “Section D” in b), c) and e).

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Item 23: The new [Section D3.7 \(Bed and Breakfast Establishments\)](#) is amended by replacing “Section C3.6.5” with “Section D3.6.5”.

Item 24: The new [Section D4.2 \(Location\)](#) (formerly C4.2), is amended by replacing “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-2” and replacing “*Urban Areas or Rural Settlement Areas*” with “*Urban Areas, Rural Settlement Areas or Natural Heritage Area* [One designation](#)”.

Item 25: The new [Section D4.3 \(Lot Creation\)](#) (formerly C4.3) is amended by replacing “sub-section C4.3 a)” with “sub-section D4.3 a)”.

Item 26: The new [Section D4.4 \(Permitted Uses\)](#) (formerly C4.4) is amended by replacing “Section C” with “Section D” in a) and e).

Item 27: The new [Section D4.6 \(Land Use Compatibility\)](#) (formerly C4.6) is amended by replacing “Section C3.11” with “Section D3.11”.

Item 28: The new [Section D5 \(Oak Ridges Moraine\)](#) (formerly C5) is amended by inserting “(2017)” before “shall apply to all of these lands” in a).

Item 29: The new [Section D5 \(Oak Ridges Moraine\)](#) (formerly C5) is amended by deleting c) and replacing it with the following:

- "c) On lands subject to ~~Within~~ the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan designation, only applications for development and site alteration that conform with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan will be considered. The following land use categories ~~;~~ govern the use of land within the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- i) **Natural Core Areas** are areas with a high concentration of key natural heritage features, hydrologically sensitive features or landform conservation areas. Natural Core Areas are designated **Natural Heritage Area** on ~~Schedules~~**Schedule A-2 and B-1** to this Plan ~~in accordance with Section C3 of this Plan.~~ Their purpose is to maintain, improve and restore the ecological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine as a whole. Permitted uses in Natural Core Areas are set out in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
 - ii) **Natural Linkage Areas** are areas forming part of a central corridor system, the purpose of which is to maintain, improve and restore the ecological integrity of the Moraine. Natural Linkage Areas are designated **Natural Heritage Area** on ~~Schedules~~**Schedule A-2 and B-1** to this Plan ~~in accordance with Section C3 of this Plan.~~ Natural Linkage Areas support, or have the potential to support, movement of plants and animals among the Natural Core Areas and along river valleys and stream corridors. Permitted uses in Natural Linkage Areas are set out in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
 - iii) **Countryside Areas** are areas of existing rural land use, intended to protect prime agricultural areas, provide for the continuation of agricultural and other rural land uses. Countryside Areas are designated on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan. Permitted uses in Countryside Areas are set out in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
 - iv) **The Oak Ridges Moraine** Conservation Plan's identification of Settlement Areas on the Oak Ridges Moraine includes those areas designated as Rural Settlement Area on ~~Schedules A-1 and~~**Schedule A-2** to this Plan. These *rural settlement areas* are intended to provide opportunities for minor residential infill and small-scale industrial, commercial and institutional uses. Permitted uses in Settlement Areas that are identified as *rural*

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settlement areas on ~~Schedules A-1 and Schedule A-2~~ to this Plan are set out in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

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Item 30: The new Section D5 (Oak Ridges Moraine) (formerly C5) is amended by deleting e), f) and g), and replacing it with the following:

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“e) Development and site alteration shall be prohibited within *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features* and *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest* (Earth Science) and their related minimum vegetation protection zones as identified by the Table in Part III of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.”

Item 31: The former Section C6 (Environmental Protection Area), is deleted and replaced with a new Section D6 (Natural Heritage Area (NHA) Designation within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan), as Section D6 as follows:

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D6 NATURAL HERITAGE AREA (NHA) ONE (NHA1) DESIGNATION WITHIN/OUTSIDE OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM FOR THE GROWTH PLAN/ORMCP

D6.1 LOCATION

a) All lands that are the site of known *key natural heritage features* Provincially *significant wetlands, significant coastal wetlands* and *key hydrologic features* ~~within the Regionally important wetlands~~ are designated Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan are designated NHA Area One on Schedule A-2 to this Plan and then shown as NHA – Growth Plan on Schedule B-1. Where information is known, *individual key natural heritage features and key hydrological features* Provincially *significant wetlands* and *Regionally important wetlands* are shown on Schedule B-21 for information purposes.

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b) While ~~some of the key natural heritage features and key hydrological features~~ are known ~~and some~~ Provincially *significant wetlands, significant coastal wetlands* and *Regionally important wetlands* have been designated NHA Natural Heritage Area One on Schedule A-2, the identification, mapping and significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.

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~~e) Included within the NHA designation is a 30-metre wide vegetation protection zone adjacent to known *key hydrologic features, fish habitat, and significant woodlands.*~~

D6.2 PERMITTED USES

Development or site alteration is not permitted in *key natural heritage features* that are part of the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* or in *key hydrologic features* anywhere in County (but outside of *urban areas* and *rural settlement areas*), except for:

- a) ~~Forest, fish, and wildlife management;~~
- b) ~~Conservation and flood or erosion control projects, but only if they have been demonstrated to be necessary in the public interest and after all alternatives have been considered;~~
- c) ~~Activities that create or maintain *infrastructure* authorized under an environmental assessment process;~~
- d) ~~Mineral aggregate operations and wayside pits and quarries;~~
- e) ~~Expansions to existing buildings and structures, accessory structures and uses, and conversions of legally existing uses which bring the use more into conformity with this Plan, subject to demonstration that the use does not expand into the *key hydrologic feature* or *key natural heritage feature* or *vegetation protection zone* unless there is no other alternative, in which case any expansion will be limited in scope and kept within close geographical proximity to the existing structure;~~
- f) ~~Expansions or alterations to existing buildings and structures for *agricultural uses*, *agriculture-related uses*, or *on-farm diversified uses* and expansions to existing residential dwellings if it is demonstrated that:
 - i) ~~There is no alternative, and the expansion or alteration in the feature is minimized and, in the *vegetation protection zone*, is directed away from the feature to the maximum extent possible; and~~
 - ii) ~~The impact of the expansion or alteration on the feature and its functions is minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent possible; and~~~~
- g) ~~Small scale structures for recreational uses, including boardwalks, footbridges, fences, docks, and picnic facilities, if measures are taken to minimize the number of such structures and their *negative impacts*.~~

~~h) Through the implementation of sub-section f) by the local municipalities in their Official Plans and zoning by laws, the pre-identification of the nature and scale of minor expansions within *significant woodlands* that can proceed as-of-right and without the need for an environmental impact study is permitted by this Plan. In this regard, such minor expansions shall be small in scale and generally not exceed 25% of the floor area of the existing building or dwelling that is being expanded. Expansions beyond this size will require a Planning Act approval.~~

Item 32: Section D6.3 (Natural Heritage Area One Designation Outside of the ORMCP - Development and Site Alteration on Adjacent Lands) is modified by replacing all of Section D6.3 with the following:

D6.3 DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ALTERATION IN REGIONALLY IMPORTANT WETLANDS

a) Development and site alteration in Regionally Important Wetlands is subject to the policies of Section D7

~~D6.3 DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ALTERATION ON ADJACENT LANDS~~

~~a) A proposal for new *development* or *site alteration* within 120 metres of a *key natural heritage feature* within the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* or a *key hydrologic feature* anywhere in County (but outside of *urban areas* and *rural settlement areas*) will require a natural heritage evaluation or hydrologic evaluation that identifies a *vegetation protection zone*, which:~~

~~i) Is of sufficient width to protect the *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature* and its functions from the impacts of the proposed change;~~

~~ii) Is established to achieve and be maintained as *natural self-sustaining vegetation*; and~~

~~iii) For *key hydrologic features*, *fish habitat*, and *significant woodlands*, is no less than 30 metres measured from the outside boundary of the *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature*.~~

~~b) Evaluations undertaken in accordance with Section D6.3 a) will identify any additional restrictions to be applied before, during, and after development to protect the *hydrologic functions* and *ecological functions* of the feature.~~

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- e) ~~Development or site alteration is not permitted in the vegetation protection zone, with the exception of that described in Section D6.2 or shoreline development as permitted in accordance with Section C4.4;~~
- d) ~~Notwithstanding Sections D6.3 a), b) and c), a natural heritage or hydrologic evaluation will not be required for a proposal for development or site alteration on a site where the only key natural heritage feature is the habitat of endangered species and threatened species.~~
- e) ~~Notwithstanding Sections D6.3 a), b) and c), new buildings and structures for agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, or on-farm diversified uses will not be required to undertake a natural heritage or hydrologic evaluation if a minimum 30-metre vegetation protection zone is provided from a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature.~~
- f) ~~Notwithstanding Sections D6.3 a), b) and c), uses permitted in accordance with Section D6.3 e):~~
 - i) ~~Are exempt from the requirement of establishing a condition of natural self-sustaining vegetation if the land is, and will continue to be, used for agricultural purposes; and~~
 - ii) ~~Will pursue best management practices to protect and restore key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, and their functions.~~
- g) ~~Notwithstanding Section D6.3 c) the following types of minor construction is not considered to be development or site alteration and it is permitted within vegetation protection zones without an environmental impact study:~~
 - i) ~~New agricultural buildings that are generally below 100 m²;~~
 - ii) ~~New accessory buildings to a residential use (garage, workshop etc.) that are generally below 50 m²;~~
 - iii) ~~Expansions to existing residential dwellings that are generally below 50% of the size of the original building, provided the expansion is less than 50 m²;~~
 - v) ~~Expansions to existing agricultural buildings that are generally below 50% of the size of the original building, provided the expansion is less than 100 m²; and~~
 - vi) ~~Expansions to existing accessory buildings for a residential use that are~~

generally below 50% of the size of the original building.

New buildings and expansions that are greater in size shall require a Planning Act approval.

Item 33: Section D6.1 (Natural Heritage Area One Designation Outside of the ORMCP - Location) is modified by deleting Section D6.4 (Regionally Important Woodlands) and Section D6.5 (Significant Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest).

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D6.4 REGIONALLY IMPORTANT WOODLANDS

- a) Regionally important woodlands are smaller than the significant woodlands that have been identified as key natural heritage features within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan. The location of regionally important woodlands is shown on **Schedule B-2** of this Plan.
- b) While regionally important woodlands are not considered to be a key natural heritage feature, all or a portion of the regionally important woodland may be considered a key natural heritage feature if for example the lands were identified as significant wildlife habitat or other key natural heritage feature.
- e) Development and site alteration within and adjacent to regionally important woodlands in the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan is subject to Section D8 of this Plan. Notwithstanding the above, Section D8 does not apply to new or expanding mineral aggregate operations, agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses.

D6.5 SIGNIFICANT EARTH SCIENCE AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

- a) Significant earth science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest have been identified as key natural heritage features within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan. The location of significant earth science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest is shown on **Schedule B-2** of this Plan.
- b) While significant earth science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are not considered to be a key natural heritage feature as defined, all or a portion of the significant earth science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest may be considered a key natural heritage feature if for example the lands were identified as significant wildlife habitat or other key natural heritage feature.

~~e) — Development and site alteration within and adjacent to significant earth science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are subject to the policies of Section D8 of this Plan.~~

Item 34: Section D7 (Natural Heritage Area Designation Within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan) Outside of the ORMCP - Location) is deleted in its entirety and replaced with a new Section D7 as set out below:

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~~D7 — NATURAL HERITAGE AREA (NHA) DESIGNATION WITHIN THE OAK RIDGES MORAIN~~ CONSERVATION PLAN

~~D7.1 — LOCATION~~

- ~~a) — Lands within the Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are designated NHA — Natural Core Area (ORM) and NHA — Natural Linkage Area (ORM) on **Schedule A-2** and also shown on **Schedule B-1** to this Plan.~~
- ~~b) — Other known *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* that are outside of the Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations and as defined by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are also designated NHA on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan.~~
- ~~c) — Where information is known, individual *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrological features* as defined by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are shown on **Schedule B-2** for information purposes.~~
- ~~d) — While some of the *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrological features* are known and some have been designated NHA on **Schedule A-2**, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.~~

~~D7.2 — PERMITTED USES~~

- ~~a) — All development and site alteration on lands subject to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan boundary shown on the schedules to this Plan is subject to the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.~~

~~**D8 — NATURAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION OUTSIDE OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM FOR THE GROWTH PLAN AND OUTSIDE OF THE OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ CONSERVATION PLAN**~~

~~**D8.1 — LOCATION**~~

- ~~a) — All lands that are the site of known *significant natural heritage features and areas* are designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2** and then shown as NHA — PPS on **Schedule B-1** to this Plan. Where information is known, individual *natural heritage features and areas* are shown on **Schedule B-2** for information purposes.~~
- ~~b) — While some of the *significant natural heritage features and areas* are known and some have been designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2**, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.~~
- ~~c) — *Key hydrological features* outside of the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* are also designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan and identified on **Schedule B-2**. *Key hydrological features* do not extend into *urban areas or rural settlement areas*.~~
- ~~d) — Included within the NHA designation is a 30-metre-wide vegetation protection zone adjacent to known *key hydrologic features*.~~

~~**D8.2 — KEY HYDROLOGIC FEATURES**~~

~~*Key hydrologic features* that are designated Natural Heritage Area on **Schedule A-2** and identified as such on **Schedule B-2** are subject to the policies of Section D6 of this Plan and the balance of Section D8 does not apply to *key hydrological features*.~~

D8.3 PERMITTED USES IN SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS AND SIGNIFICANT COASTAL WETLANDS

- a) *Development and site alteration* is not permitted in *significant wetlands* and *significant coastal wetlands*.
- b) Permitted uses in *significant wetlands* and *significant coastal wetlands* are limited to:
 - i) Forestry in the form of reforestation and regeneration, and excluding commercial logging and managed woodlots;

- ii) Uses connected with the conservation of water, soil, wildlife and other natural resources; and
- iii) The continuation of existing *agricultural uses*.

~~D8.4~~ ~~PERMITTED USES~~ ~~D6.3~~ **DEVELOPMENT AND SITE ALTERATION IN OTHER REGIONALLY IMPORTANT WETLANDS**

- a) Development and site alteration in Regionally Important Wetlands is subject to the policies of Section D7.

~~"D7~~ **NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES AND AREAS AREA TWO (NHA2) OVERLAY DESIGNATION OUTSIDE OF THE ORCMP**

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D7.1 LOCATION

- a) All lands that are the site of known Provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and significant woodlands are designated Natural Heritage Area Two on **Schedule A-2**. Where information is known, Provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and significant woodlands are shown on **Schedule B-1** for information purposes.
- b) While known Provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and significant woodlands have been designated Natural Heritage Area Two on **Schedule A-2**, the identification, mapping and significance of others can only be determined after evaluation either by the Province in the case of an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest or the County, in the case of a woodland.

D7.2 PERMITTED USES

- a) As the NHA2 designation in an overlay designation, permitted uses are those in the underlying land use designation shown on **Schedule A-2**.
- b) The policies in this section apply to *significant woodlands, significant valleylands, non-significant coastal wetlands, significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, significant wildlife habitat, fish habitat and habitat of endangered and threatened species*.
- b) Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in fish habitat except in accordance with Provincial and Federal requirements.

~~e~~) *Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in habitat of endangered species and threatened species, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.*

~~e~~) *Development ~~of and~~ site alteration ~~is~~ shall not ~~be~~ permitted in ~~significant~~the following *natural heritage features and areas* unless it has been demonstrated through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Study in accordance with Section C4.4 of this Plan that there will be no *negative impacts* on the natural features or their *ecological functions*:*

~~i) *Significant woodlands, significant;*~~

~~ii) *Significant valleylands, non-significant coastal wetlands, significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and significant;*~~

~~iii) *Significant wildlife habitat, except for:-; and,*~~

~~i) *Forest, fish, and wildlife management;*~~

~~ii) *Conservation and flood or erosion control projects, but only if they have been demonstrated to be necessary in the public interest and after all alternatives have been considered;*~~

~~iii) *Activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment process;*~~

~~iv) *Expansions to existing buildings and structures, accessory structures and uses, and conversions of legally existing uses which bring the use more into conformity with this Plan, subject to demonstration that the use does not expand into significant woodlands, significant valleylands, non-significant coastal wetlands, significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, significant wildlife habitat unless there is no other alternative, in which case any expansion will be limited in scope and kept within close geographical proximity to the existing structure;*~~

~~v) *Expansions iv) Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.*~~

~~f) *Notwithstanding the above, expansions or alterations to existing buildings and structures for agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, or on-farm diversified*~~

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uses and expansions to existing residential dwellings and existing ancillary buildings may be permitted in the NHA2 designation if it is demonstrated that:

- aa) There is no alternative, and the expansion or alteration in the feature is minimized and, ~~in the vegetation protection zone,~~ is directed away from the feature to the maximum extent possible; and
 - ab) The impact of the expansion or alteration on the feature and its functions is minimized and mitigated to the maximum extent possible; ~~and~~
- ~~vig)~~ Small-scale structures for recreational uses, including boardwalks, footbridges, fences, docks, and picnic facilities may be permitted in the NHA2 designation, if measures are taken to minimize the number of such structures and their *negative impacts*.
- ~~viih)~~ Through the implementation of ~~sub-this section v)~~ by the local municipalities in their Official Plans and zoning by-laws, the pre-identification of the nature and scale of minor expansions to existing residential dwellings and existing ancillary buildings within *significant woodlands* that can proceed as-of-right and without the need for an environmental impact study is permitted by this Plan. In this regard, such minor expansions shall be small in scale and generally not exceed 25% of the floor area of the existing ~~building or residential~~ dwelling and/or existing ancillary building that is being expanded. Expansions beyond this size will require a Planning Act approval where it shall be demonstrated that conformity with Section D7.2 f) can be achieved.
- ~~e)~~ ~~Development and site alteration that is not exempted from this Section by Section D8.4 d) shall not be permitted in the following features unless it has been demonstrated through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Study in accordance with Section C4.6 of this Plan that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions:~~
- ~~i) Significant woodlands;~~
 - ~~ii) Regionally important woodlands in the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan;~~
 - ~~iii) Significant valleylands;~~

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- v) ~~Significant wildlife habitat; and,~~
- vi) ~~Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.~~
- f) ~~Notwithstanding the above, Section D8.4 e) does not apply to new or expanding mineral aggregate operations, agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses.~~

1. Section D7.3 (Adjacent Lands) is modified by creating a new Section D8 and a new Section D8.1 as set out below:

D8 OTHER GENERAL POLICIES THAT APPLY TO THE NHA1 AND NHA2 DESIGNATIONS

D8.1 ADJACENT LANDS

D8.5 ADJACENT LANDS

- a) *Adjacent lands* are the lands contiguous to a *natural heritage feature or area* where it is likely that *development or site alteration* would have a *negative impact* on the feature or area. For the purposes of this Plan, *adjacent lands* are defined as all lands within the specified distance of the boundary of *natural heritage features and areas* ~~outside of the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan and~~ outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan as set out in **Table K**.

TABLE K
Adjacent Lands

NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE	ADJACENT LANDS (metres)
Provincially Significant Wetlands <i>significant wetlands</i> and Coastal Wetlands <i>coastal wetlands</i>	120
<i>Significant woodlands</i>	120
Regionally important woodlands in the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan	120
<i>Significant wildlife habitat</i> and wildlife core areas	120
<i>Habitat of endangered species and threatened species</i>	120
Provincially Significant <i>significant</i> Areas of natural <i>Natural</i> and scientific interest – Earth Science <i>Scientific Interest – earth science</i>	50

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TABLE K
Adjacent Lands

NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURE	ADJACENT LANDS (metres)
Provincially Significant <i>significant</i> Areas of natural <i>Natural</i> and scientific interest — Life Science <i>Scientific Interest – life science</i>	120
Significant Valleylands <i>valleylands</i>	120
Fish Habitat <i>habitat</i> ,	120
Non- Significant Coastal Wetlands <i>significant coastal wetlands</i>	120
Regionally important wetlands	50

- b) No *development* or *site alteration* shall be permitted on these *adjacent lands* unless the *ecological function* of the *adjacent lands* has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated, through an Environmental Impact Study in accordance with Section C4.64 of this Plan that there will be no *negative impact* on the natural features or their *ecological functions*.
- c) The approval authority may reduce the width of the *adjacent lands* set out in **Table K** if, in the opinion of the approval authority, the proposed *development* or *site alteration* is minor and is not anticipated to have a *negative impact* on the *natural heritage feature* *or area*.

2. Section D7.4 (Criteria for Significant Woodlands) is modified by changing the section number to Section D8.2 and replacing all of the text with the following:

D8.2 CRITERIA FOR SIGNIFICANT WOODLANDS

- a) Significant woodlands have a minimum average width of 40 metres and are a minimum of:
 - i) 1 hectare in urban areas and/or rural settlement areas; or
 - ii) 4 hectares in the Agricultural Area or Rural Area designation; or
- Have a minimum average width of 40 metres and are a minimum of:
 - iii) 0.5 hectares in urban areas and/or rural settlement areas; or

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iv) 2 hectares in the Agricultural Area or Rural Area designations; or

v) 2 hectares within 5 kilometres of Lake Ontario; or

vi) 2 hectares within 1 kilometre of Rice Lake;

and

vii) Occurs within 30 metres of *significant valleylands, significant wildlife habitat, significant life science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest* and/or a permanent watercourse; or

viii) Occurs wholly or partially within a linkage area as defined by this Plan.

3. Section D7.5 (Minimum Buffers) is modified by changing the section number to Section D8.3 and replacing all of the text with the following:

D8.3 MINIMUM BUFFERS

a) Table L sets out the minimum buffers required from certain *natural heritage features and areas* outside of urban areas and rural settlement areas:

Table L: Minimum Buffers

<u>Natural Heritage Feature or Area</u>	<u>Minimum Buffer</u>
<u><i>Significant life science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest</i></u>	<u>15 metres</u>
<u><i>Valleyland (significant)</i></u>	<u>15 metres</u>
<u><i>Wetland (evaluated as non-Provincially significant)</i></u>	<u>15 metres</u>
<u><i>Wetland (significant)</i></u>	<u>30 metres</u>
<u><i>Wildlife habitat (significant)</i></u>	<u>15 metres</u>
<u><i>Woodland (significant)</i></u>	<u>20 metres</u>

Note: Conservation Authority regulatory allowances apply separate from the *buffers* in this table

b) Buffers in *urban areas* and *rural settlement areas* are to be informed by both existing conditions and sensitivities, and the anticipated impacts that a buffer is being used to mitigate. Where possible, opportunities to address impacts (avoid, minimize) through the siting and design of land uses should be considered as part of a layered approach to mitigation. This approach will reduce the overall impact of developments, encourage sustainable design and support

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development of resilient system(s) and communities.

c) Based on the above, minimum buffer widths in urban areas and rural settlement areas will be established in studies prepared to the satisfaction of the approval authority. When determining the appropriate buffer width, consideration will be given to the following matters:

i) enhancement and mitigation opportunities such as vegetative planting within the buffers or fencing on abutting lands;

ii) achieving adequate buffers to stormwater management components, which may necessitate wider buffer widths;

iii) the intensity of the abutting land uses as illustrated through specific plans for such uses (i.e., grading, setbacks, maintenance, servicing, built form including height, location of buildings and structures and other activities); and,

iv) the ecological functions, characteristics, significance and sensitivity of the feature the buffer is required from.

d) Where a feature is regulated by a Conservation Authority within an urban area or rural settlement area, and the regulatory requirements exceed the required buffer as determined through the policies of this Plan, those regulatory requirements will apply, subject to the provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act.

4. Former Section D8 (Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area Designations Within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan) is modified by changing the section number to Section D9 and replacing the entirety of the section with the following:.

D9 NATURAL CORE AREA AND NATURAL LINKAGE AREA DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THE OAK RIDGES MORAINÉ CONSERVATION PLAN

D9.1 LOCATION

a) Lands within the Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are designated Natural Core Area (ORM) and Natural Linkage Area (ORM) on Schedule A-2.

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- b) Other known *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* that are outside of the Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations and as defined by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are also designated NHA1 and NHA2 on **Schedule A-2** to this Plan.
- c) Where information is known, individual *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* as defined by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are shown on **Schedule B-1** for information purposes.
- d) While some of the *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* are known and some have been designated NHA1 and NHA2 on **Schedule A-2**, the identification, mapping and significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.

D9.2 PERMITTED USES

- a) All *development* and *site alteration* on lands subject to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan boundary shown on the schedules to this Plan is subject to the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

D9.3 CRITERIA FOR SIGNIFICANT WOODLANDS

- a) Within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan area, *significant woodlands* have a minimum average width of 40 metres and are:
 - i) 4 hectares or larger in size in the Countryside and Settlement Areas; or
 - ii) 0.5 hectares or larger if located in the Natural Core or natural Linkage Areas; or
 - iii) 0.5 hectares or larger located within or intersecting with a *key natural heritage feature* or hydrologically sensitive feature or their *vegetation protection zone*.

D109 SUPPORTING FEATURES AND AREAS (SFA)

D109.1 LOCATION

~~a) All lands that are the site of the known supporting features and areas listed below are designated SFA on Schedule B-2 to this Plan:~~

a) The Supporting Features and Areas (SFA) overlay designation includes the following:

i) *Alvars;*

ii) *Conservation oriented lands;*

iii) *Enhancement areas;*

iv) *Linkages;*

v) *Other valleylands (non-significant);*

vi) *Other wetlands located in urban areas and rural settlement areas that are not considered to be key hydrologic features or Provincially-significant wetlands or significant coastal wetlands; or regionally important wetlands;*

~~ii) Watercourses located in urban areas and rural settlement areas that are not considered to be key hydrologic features;~~

~~iii) *Other woodlands (non-significant);*~~

viii) *Regionally important Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;*

ix) *Regionally important wildlife habitat;*

~~iv) *Other woodlands;*~~

~~v) *Other valleylands;*~~

~~vi) *Conservation oriented lands;*~~

~~viix) *Sand barrens;*~~

xi) *Savannahs;*

xii) *Seepage areas and springs;*

xiii) *Sensitive ground water features;*

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xiv) Sensitive surface water features;

xv) Shoreline features;

viii) Linkages; and

ix) Enhancement areas.

xvi) Tallgrass prairies.

- b) Where information is known, individual supporting features and areas are shown on **Schedule B-21** for information purposes.
- c) While some of the supporting features and areas are known and some have been identified as SFA on **Schedule B-2**, the importance, the identification, mapping and significance of others can only be determined after evaluation.

D109.2 PERMITTED USES

- a) As the SFA designation in an overlay designation, permitted uses are those in the underlying land use designation shown on **Schedule A-2**.

D109.3 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- a) When *development* or *site alteration* is proposed within a supporting feature or area shown on **Schedule B-21**, or within 30 metres of the boundary of the supporting feature or area, an ~~environmental evaluation~~Environmental Impact Study shall be completed that assesses and determines:
 - i) Whether the supporting feature or area is ~~a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrological feature or~~ a *significant natural heritage feature or area* and if it is determined that a supporting feature or area is determined to be one of these features or areas, the relevant policies that apply to those features or areas apply;
 - ii) The boundary of the supporting feature or area along with its *ecological functions* and relationship to nearby ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrological features or~~ a *significant natural heritage feature or areas*; and

- iii) What conditions should be attached to the approval of the proposed development to enhance the supporting feature or area where possible and to mitigate and minimize impacts on the supporting feature or area.
- b) *Development and site alteration* in and within 30 metres of other *wetlands in urban areas* and *rural settlement areas* that are regulated by the applicable Conservation Authority is subject to the policies of the Conservation Authority.
- c) In cases where an other *wetland* in an *urban area* or *rural settlement area* is not regulated by the Conservation Authority, the approval authority ~~or the Conservation Authority~~ may require that an evaluation be carried out to determine if the other wetland should be protected in situ with appropriate *buffers*, or if the *hydrologic function* provided by other wetland should be maintained or managed as part of the design of the development.

D109.4 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES - ENHANCEMENT AREAS

In addition to satisfying Section D109.3, if the supporting feature or area is an enhancement area shown on **Schedule B-21**, the required ~~environmental evaluation~~Environmental Impact Study should:

- a) Assess the ecological benefit of an enhancement to the nearby ~~key natural heritage feature, key hydrological feature or~~ *significant natural heritage feature or area* (e.g., does it fill a gap, close in an indent, connect two separate features, etc.);
- b) Consider the most appropriate shape/extent of the enhancement area so that the ecological functions of the nearby ~~key natural heritage feature, key hydrological feature or~~ *significant natural heritage feature or area* are enhanced;
- c) Consider how the function and spatial extent of the enhancement area can be incorporated into the design and layout of the proposed development, if located within an *urban area* or *rural settlement area*; and
- d) Make recommendations on minimizing the amount of disturbed area in the enhancement area, where it is currently in a natural state or under agricultural production, if located in the Rural Area designation.

D109.5 DEVELOPMENT POLICIES - LINKAGE AREAS

In addition to satisfying Section D109.3, if the supporting feature or area is a linkage area shown on **Schedule B-21**, the required ~~environmental evaluation~~Environmental Impact Study should:

- a) Assess the ecological features and functions of a linkage, including its vegetative, wildlife, and/or landscape features or functions;
- b) Identify appropriate boundaries/widths that permit the movement of wildlife between nearby ~~key natural heritage features, key hydrological features or significant natural heritage feature or areas~~;
- c) Describe the *ecological function* the linkage is intended to provide and identifies how these *ecological functions* can be maintained or enhanced within a *development* proposal;
- d) Assess potential impacts on the linkage as a result of the *development*; and,
- e) Make recommendations on how to protect, enhance, or mitigate impacts on the linkage and its *ecological functions*.

Former Section D10 (Implementing the NHA Designation) is modified by changing the section number to Section D11 and the titles such that it states the following:

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D110 IMPLEMENTING THE NHA1 AND NHA2 DESIGNATIONS AND TRANSITION

- a) Local municipalities are required to incorporate the ~~Natural Heritage Area designation~~NHA1 and NHA2 designations in their local Official Plans.
- b) Through the process of implementation, local municipalities may refine the boundaries of *natural heritage features and/or areas* on the basis of updated information and or detailed studies in consultation with the County.
- c) Local municipalities are required to incorporate the ~~Natural Heritage Area~~NHA1 and NHA2 designations as determined in the local Official Plan in their Zoning By-laws.

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~~e) If the Natural Heritage Area designation includes a *vegetation protection zone*, it shall also be zoned in a manner that implements this Plan.~~

~~e)d) Where a secondary plan has been approved, those portions that are not yet the~~

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site of a draft approved Plan of Subdivision or Plan of Condominium shall be reviewed to determine how the intent of this Plan with respect to the ~~n~~Natural ~~h~~Heritage ~~s~~System can be achieved on the lands affected.

~~f~~e) For secondary plans in process, the policies of this Plan shall be taken into account in the work program and final product, to the satisfaction of the County.

~~g~~f) Where a site plan pursuant to Section 41 of the Planning Act has been approved, that approval can be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the County Official Plan and the Local Official Plan as they existed when the site plan was approved.

~~h~~g) Where lands have been draft approved for development by way of Plan of Subdivision or Plan of Condominium, that approval can be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the County Official Plan and the local Official Plan as they existed when the lands were draft approved and any conditions that were put in place at the time of approval.

~~i~~h) If a draft plan approval is proposed to be extended, the County may review the findings and recommendations made in the studies that supported the initial draft plan approval and request that the studies be updated to determine if changes to the layout of the draft plan and/or any of the conditions need to be made before the extension request is granted.

~~j~~i) The County encourages the local municipalities to review older existing draft plan approvals to determine if updates are required.

~~k~~j) If a draft plan lapses or is withdrawn, any subsequent application shall conform to this Plan.

~~l~~k) Where major modifications to a draft plan are proposed, the revised plan shall be designed to reduce impacts on the ~~n~~Natural ~~h~~Heritage ~~s~~System.

Item ~~3132~~: Section D (Resource Areas and Constraint Areas), is renumbered and renamed as Section E (Other Resource Areas and Constraint Areas), and all ~~of its remaining sub-sections are renumbered~~references to Section D within this section are re-numbered accordingly.

Item ~~3233~~: Section D3 (Cultural Heritage Resources), is renumbered as Section E1 and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 3334: Section D4 (Minerals and Petroleum Resources), is renumbered as Section E2 and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 3435: Section D5 (Mineral Aggregate Resources), is renumbered as Section E3 and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 3536: The new Section E3.2 (Location) (formerly D5.2) is amended by adding “-2” after “**Schedule B**” in a), b) and c).

Item 3637: The new Section E3.3.2 (Mineral Aggregate Operations) (formerly D5.3.2) is amended by replacing “Section D5.3.3” with “Section E3.3.3” in a).

~~**Item 37:** A new Section E3.6 (Mineral Aggregate Operations and Wayside Pits and Quarries within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan) is added:~~

~~**E3.6 — MINERAL AGGREGATE OPERATIONS AND WAYSIDE PITS AND QUARRIES WITHIN THE NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM FOR THE GROWTH PLAN**~~

~~**E3.6.1 — Notwithstanding Policy**~~

~~Notwithstanding Sections D6.2, D6.4 and D6.6 of this Plan, *mineral aggregate operations* and wayside pits and quarries are subject to the following:~~

- ~~a) No new *mineral aggregate operation* and no new wayside pits and quarries, or any ancillary or accessory use thereto, will be permitted in the following *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features*:~~
 - ~~i) *Significant wetlands*;~~
 - ~~i) *Habitat of endangered species and threatened species*; and~~
 - ~~i) *Significant woodlands* unless the woodland is occupied by young plantation or early successional habitat, as defined by the Province, in which case, the application must demonstrate that Sections E3.6.2 b) and c) and E3.6.3 c) have been addressed and that they will be met by the operation;~~
- ~~b) Any application for a new *mineral aggregate operation* will be required to demonstrate:~~
 - ~~i) How the connectivity between *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features* will be maintained before, during, and after the extraction of *mineral*~~

~~aggregate resources;~~

~~ii) How the operator could replace key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features that would be lost from the site with equivalent features on another part of the site or on adjacent lands;~~

~~iii) How the water resource system will be protected or enhanced; and~~

~~iv) How any key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and their associated vegetation protection zones not identified in Section E3.6.2 a) will be addressed in accordance with Section E3.6.2 b) and c) and E3.6.3 c); and~~

~~c) An application requiring a new approval under the Aggregate Resources Act to expand an existing mineral aggregate operation may be permitted in the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, including in key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and any associated vegetation protection zones, only if the related decision is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and satisfies the rehabilitation requirements in Sections E3.6.2 and E3.6.3.~~

E3.6.2 REHABILITATION

~~For rehabilitation of new mineral aggregate operation sites, the following apply:~~

~~a) The disturbed area of a site will be rehabilitated to a state of equal or greater ecological value and, for the entire site, long-term ecological integrity will be maintained or enhanced;~~

~~b) If there are key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features on the site, or if such features existed on the site at the time of the application:~~

~~i) The health, diversity, and size of these key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features will be maintained or enhanced; and~~

~~i) Any permitted extraction of mineral aggregate resources that occurs in a feature will be completed, and the area will be rehabilitated, as early as possible in the life of the operation;~~

~~c) Aquatic areas remaining after extraction are to be rehabilitated to aquatic enhancement, which will be representative of the natural ecosystem in that particular setting or ecodistrict, and the combined terrestrial and aquatic rehabilitation will meet the intent of Section E3.6.2; and~~

~~d) Outside the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan*, and except as provided in Section E3.6.2 a), b) and c), final rehabilitation will appropriately reflect the long-term land use of the general area, taking into account applicable policies of this Plan and, to the extent permitted under this Plan, existing municipal and provincial policies. In *prime agricultural areas*, the site will be rehabilitated in accordance with Section E3.5.1 of this Plan.~~

E3.6.3 FINAL REHABILITATION

Final rehabilitation for new *mineral aggregate operations* in the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* will meet these additional criteria:

- ~~a) Where there is no extraction below the water table, an amount of land equal to that under natural vegetated cover prior to extraction, and no less than 35 per cent of the land subject to each license in the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan*, is to be rehabilitated to forest cover, which will be representative of the natural ecosystem in that particular setting or ecodistrict. If the site is also in a *prime agricultural area*, the remainder of the land subject to the license is to be rehabilitated back to an *agricultural condition*;~~
- ~~a) Where there is extraction below the water table, no less than 35 percent of the non-aquatic portion of the land subject to each license in the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* is to be rehabilitated to forest cover, which will be representative of the natural ecosystem in that particular setting or ecodistrict. If the site is also in a *prime agricultural area*, the remainder of the land subject to the license is to be rehabilitated in accordance with Section E3.5.1 of this Plan; and~~
- ~~a) Rehabilitation will be implemented so that the connectivity of the *key natural heritage features* and the *key hydrologic features* on the site and on adjacent lands will be maintained or enhanced.~~

E3.6.4 DECISIONS ON PLANNING MATTERS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

Except as provided by the policies of this subsection, decisions on planning matters must be consistent with the policies in the Provincial Policy Statement that pertain to the management of *mineral aggregate resources*.

~~**E3.6.5 APPLICATIONS UNDER THE AGGREGATE RESOURCES ACT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND DEEMED COMPLETE BY THE PROVINCE AS OF JULY 1, 2017,**~~

~~Where an application under the Aggregate Resources Act has been received and deemed complete by the Province as of July 1, 2017, any applications under the Planning Act to permit the making, establishment or operation of the pit or quarry to which the Aggregate Resources Act application relates, if approved, will not be subject to the policies of Section E3.6 of this Plan.~~

Item 38: Section D6 (Natural Hazards), is renumbered as Section E4 and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

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Item 39: The new Section E4.4 (Karst Topography) (formerly D6.4), is amended by adding “-2” after “**Schedule B**”.

Item 40: Section D7 (Human Made Hazards), is renumbered as Section E5 and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 41: The new Section E5.3 (Development Adjacent to Known Landfill Sites) (formerly D7.3) is amended by adding “-32” after “**Schedule B**” in a).

Item 42: The new Section E5.3 (Development Adjacent to Known Landfill Sites) (formerly D7.3) is amended by replacing “Section D7.3 c)” with “Section E5.3 c)”.

Item 43: Section D8 (Promoting Sustainable Development), is renumbered as Section E6 and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 44: Section D9 (Lands Owned by the Provincial and Federal Governments), is renumbered as Section E7.

Item 45: The new Section E7 (Lands Owned by the Provincial and Federal Governments), (formerly D9) is amended by adding “-2” after “**Schedule B**”.

Item 46: Section E (General Development Policies) is renumbered as Section F and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 47: The new Section F1.5.1 (General Criteria) (formerly E1.5.1) is amended by ~~deleting~~ replacing 'Policy D1.12.2.c)' with "Section C5" in sub-section I) ~~and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly.~~

Item 48: The new Section F2.2.7 (Rail Network) (formerly E2.2.7) is amended by replacing “Section E2.4” with “Section F2.4” in c).

Item 49: Section F (Implementation and Administration) is renumbered as Section G and all subsequent sections are renumbered accordingly.

Item 50: The new Section G9.3 (Supplemental Submission Requirements) (formerly F9.3) is amended by replacing 'Section F9.4' with "Section G9.4", replacing 'Section F9.5' with "Section G9.5" and adding “/Natural Heritage Evaluation” to the end of b) v) and c) iv).

Item 51: The new Section G12.2 (Interpretation of Land Use Designation Boundaries) (formerly F12.2) is amended by replacing “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-1” in a).

Item 52: The new Section G12.2 (Interpretation of Land Use Designation Boundaries) (formerly F12.2) is amended by deleting b) and replacing it with the following:

“b) It is recognized that the boundaries of the Natural Heritage Area One designation, the Natural Heritage Area Two overlay designation and the Supporting Features and Areas overlay designation on Schedule A-2 may be imprecise and subject to change. An amendment to this Plan will not be required if changes to the boundaries of the Natural Heritage Area One designation, the Natural Heritage Area Two overlay designation and the Supporting Features and Areas overlay designation are proposed based on new information and are deemed to be appropriate by the approval authority. Changes to the boundaries of evaluated wetlands and significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest requires the approval of the Provincial ministry with jurisdiction. Changes to the boundaries of key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, significant natural heritage features and or areas and individual supporting features and areas shown on Schedules Schedule B-1 and B-2 do not require an Amendment to this Plan.”

Item 53: The new Section G12.2 (Interpretation of Land Use Designation Boundaries) (formerly F12.2) is amended by replacing “Schedule A” with “Schedule A-2” in c) and d).

Item 54: The new Section G12.7 (Definitions) (formerly F12.5) is amended by:

A. Amending the Adjacent Lands definition by replacing “Section E2.2.8” with “Section F2.2.8” in a), replacing “Section D1.9.2” with “Section ~~D8-5D6~~” in b), replacing “Sections D5.3.3 and D4.3 b)” with “Sections E3.3.3 and ~~E2E4.3~~ b)” in c), and

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replacing “Section D3.5 g)” with “Section ~~E1E3~~.5 g)” in d).

- B. Adding the following ~~definition after the definition for Alternative Energy System~~new definitions in alphabetical order:

“**Alvars**: Means naturally open areas of thin or no soil over essentially flat limestone, dolostone, or marble rock, supporting a sparse vegetation cover of mostly shrubs and herbs.”

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- C. Adding the following definition after the definition of Conserved:

“**Cultural and regenerating woodland**: Means *woodlands* where the ecological functions of the site are substantially compromised as a result of prior land use activity and would be difficult to restore and/or manage as a native woodland and which provide limited *ecological function* and ecosystem services. A *woodland* or portion thereof is considered a *cultural and regenerating woodland* if all of the following are met:

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- a) The removal of a portion of *woodland* will not result in a *negative impact* to the *ecological functions* of the remaining portion;
- b) There are no other important *ecological functions* that the *woodland* provides (e.g., critical function zone for *wetlands*, etc.);
- c) The *woodland* or part therefore is not identified as another component of the *Natural Heritage System* (e.g., *significant wildlife habitat, linkage, enhancement area, buffer*);
- d) The canopy is dominated by invasive, non-native species including, but not limited to: Norway Maple, Manitoba Maple, Siberian Elm, Scots Pine, European Buckthorn, White Mulberry, Tree-of-heaven, Apple, Black Locust and White Poplar, or any combination thereof;
- e) The area was not treed approximately 20 to 30 years ago as determined through air photo interpretation or other suitable techniques;
- f) The soil is deemed to preclude the development of a native *woodland*; for example: soil that is not native woodland soil or is degraded, soil that is compacted, the top soil has been removed, soil displaying substantial erosion from over-use and/or the woodland is regenerating on fill or spoil that was

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introduced to the site; and

- hg) The *woodland* provides limited social values (e.g., does not contain sanctioned trails, nor currently provides organized research or educational opportunities).

Intermittent streams: means stream-related watercourses that contain water or are dry at times of the year that are more or less predictable, generally flowing during wet seasons of the year but not the entire year, and where the water table is above the stream bottom during parts of the year.

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~~**Key hydrologic areas:** means significant groundwater recharge areas, highly vulnerable aquifers, and significant surface water contribution areas that are necessary for the ecological and hydrologic integrity of a watershed.~~

~~**Key hydrologic features:** means permanent streams, intermittent streams, inland lakes and their littoral zones, seepage areas and springs, and wetlands.~~

~~**Key natural heritage features:** means habitat of endangered species and threatened species; fish habitat; wetlands; life science areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs); significant valleylands, significant woodlands; significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species); sand barrens, savannahs, and tallgrass prairies; and alvars."~~

D. Adding the following definition after the definition for Legal or Technical Reasons:

~~**Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest:** means an area that has been identified as having life science values related to protection, scientific study, or education; and further identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by that Ministry, as amended from time to time."~~

E. Deleting the definition for Natural Heritage System and replacing it with the following:

~~**Natural heritage system:** means a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, and linkages intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level) and support natural processes which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. These systems can include key natural heritage features, key hydrologic~~

~~features, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, other natural heritage features and areas, lands that have been restored or have the potential to be restored to a natural state, associated areas that support hydrologic functions, and working landscapes that enable ecological functions to continue.”~~

~~F. Adding the following definitions after the definition for Natural Heritage System:
“Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan: means the natural heritage system mapped and issued by the Province in accordance with the Growth Plan.~~

~~Natural self-sustaining vegetation: means vegetation dominated by native plant species that can grow and persist without direct human management, protection, or tending.”~~

~~G. Amending the definition for Negative Impacts by adding “potential risks to human health and safety and” after “Section B14 of this Plan,” in a), and replacing “Section D2.1 b)” with “Section C5.1 b)” and adding “and key hydrologic features” after “sensitive ground water features,” in b).~~

~~H. Amending the definition for Provincial and Federal Requirements by deleting a) and renumbering the subsequent points accordingly and replacing “Section D1.5” with “Section D8.4” in the new a) and b).~~

~~I. Adding the following definitions after the definition for Rural Settlement Areas:~~

~~“Sand barren: means land (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits sand barren characteristics) that:~~

- ~~a) Has sparse or patchy vegetation that is dominated by plants that are:
 - ~~i) Adapted to severe drought and low nutrient levels; and~~
 - ~~ii) Maintained by severe environmental limitations such as drought, low nutrient levels, and periodic disturbances such as fire;~~~~
- ~~b) Has less than 25 per cent tree cover;~~
- ~~c) Has sandy soils (other than shorelines) exposed by natural erosion, depositional process, or both; and~~
- ~~d) Has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.~~

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Savannah: Means land (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits *savannah* characteristics) that:

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- a) Has vegetation with a significant component of non-woody plants, including *tallgrass prairie* species that are maintained by seasonal drought, periodic disturbances such as fire, or both;
- b) Has from 25 per cent to 60 per cent tree cover;
- c) Has mineral soils; and
- d) Has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.

Seepage Areas and Springs: Means sites of emergence of groundwater where the water table is present at the ground surface.

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J. ~~Deleting the definition for Significant and replacing it with the following:~~

~~“Significant” means~~

- a) ~~In regard to *wetlands, coastal wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest*, an area identified as provincially significant by the Province;~~
- b) ~~In regard to *woodlands*, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Province;~~
- c) ~~In regard to *wildlife habitat*, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or *natural heritage system*. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Province~~
- d) ~~In regard to *valleylands*, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an~~

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~~identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Province;~~

- ~~e) In regard to other features and areas in Section C3 of this Plan, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system;~~
- ~~f) In regard to mineral potential, an area identified as provincially significant through evaluation procedures developed by the Province, as amended from time to time, such as the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index; and~~
- ~~g) In regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people.~~

~~Criteria for determining significance for the resources identified in sections (e)-(f) are recommended by the Province, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.~~

~~While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation."~~

K. Adding the following definitions after the definition for Surface Water Feature:

~~"**Tallgrass prairie:** means land (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits *tallgrass prairie* characteristics) that:~~

- a) Has vegetation dominated by non-woody plants, including *tallgrass prairie* species that are maintained by seasonal drought, periodic disturbances such as fire, or both;
- b) Has less than 25 per cent tree cover;
- c) Has mineral soils; and
- d) Has been further identified, by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.

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~~**Total developable area:** means the total area of the property less the area occupied by key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and any related vegetation protection zone."~~

~~L. Adding the following definition after the definition of Valleylands:~~

~~"**Vegetation protection zone:** means a vegetated buffer area surrounding a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature."~~

~~M. Adding the following definition after the definition of Watershed:~~

~~**Water Resource System:** means a system consisting of ground water features and areas and surface water features (including shoreline areas), and hydrologic functions, which provide the water resources necessary to sustain healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and human water consumption. The water resource system will comprise key hydrologic features and key hydrologic areas.~~

~~N. Amending the definition for Wetlands by adding the following to the end of the definition:~~

~~"Wetlands are further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.~~

~~O. Adding the following definition after the definition of Woodlands:~~

Woodland enhancement plan: means a study that is carried out when a proponent proposes to remove a *woodland* or portion of a *woodland*, including *cultural and regenerating woodlands* where the purpose of the *woodland* enhancement is to increase *woodland* cover in the County as part of a longer term perspective. The *woodland enhancement plan* must be prepared to the satisfaction of the approval authority, in consultation with other agencies. As part of requirement for a *woodland enhancement plan* the following should be taken into consideration:

- a) If the removal occurs within a *settlement area* that the enhancement also be provided in the *settlement area*;
- b) If the removal occurs within a developed shoreline areas that was designated and zoned for concentrations of such development as of July 1, 2017 that the enhancement also be provided in the same general area;

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- c) That the enhancement be in the form of a *woodland* and not just the planting of individual trees, i.e., street planting or ornamental tree planting in a park setting is not considered *woodland* enhancement;
- d) The goal of the *woodland* enhancement is it so create a native *woodland* of equal or greater size;
- e) Landscape ecology principles including size, patch shape, connectivity, edge to area ratio should be considered;
- f) Responsibilities will be determined for who will undertake the restoration of the woodland and the schedule for implementing the plan;
- g) The *woodland enhancement plan* includes a program for the long-term maintenance and management of the restoration woodland until such time as it is deemed to be self-sufficient or when a public agency assumes responsibility for it; and,
- h) The plan includes a monitoring plan and periodic reporting to determine if the *woodland* is progressing toward the approved goal(s) and objectives of the plan."

D. Replacing the following definitions with new definitions:

Habitat of endangered species and threatened species: means habitat within the meaning of Section 2 of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007.*

"Institutional use: for the purposes of Section E7.5, means land uses where there is a threat to the safe evacuation of vulnerable populations such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and those who are sick or young, during an emergency as a result of flooding, failure of floodproofing measures or protection works, or erosion."

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Negative impacts: means

- a) in regard to Section B14 potential risks to human health and safety and degradation to the *quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic*

functions, due to single, multiple or successive development. Negative impacts should be assessed through environmental studies including hydrogeological or water quality impact assessments, in accordance with provincial standards;

- b) in regard to fish habitat, any harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat, except where an exemption to the prohibition has been authorized under the Fisheries Act;
- c) in regard to other natural heritage features and areas, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities.
- d) in regard to Section C6, degradation to the quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic functions, due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities; and
- e) in regard to Section F2.2.8, any development or site alteration that would compromise or conflict with the planned or existing function, capacity to accommodate future needs, and cost of implementation of the corridor."

Provincial and federal requirements: means

- a) in regard to Section D7.2 c), legislation and policies administered by the federal or provincial governments for the purpose of fisheries protection (including fish and fish habitat), and related, scientifically established standards such as water quality criteria for protecting lake trout populations; and
- b) in regard to Section D7.2 d), legislation and policies administered by the provincial government or federal government, where applicable, for the purpose of protecting species at risk and their habitat.

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- a) in regard to *wetlands, coastal wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest, an area identified as provincially significant using evaluation criteria and procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time;*
- b) in regard to *woodlands, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history. These are to be identified using criteria and procedures established by the Province;*
- c) in regard to other features and areas in Section C3 of this Plan, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or *natural heritage system; and*
- d) in regard to *mineral potential, an area identified as provincially significant through provincial guidance, such as the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index.*
- f) in regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest. Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the *Ontario Heritage Act.*

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Criteria for determining significance for the resources identified in section c)-d) are provided in provincial guidance, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.

While some significant resources may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation."

Wetlands: means lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of *wetlands* are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens.

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Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit wetland characteristics are not considered to be wetlands for the purposes of this definition.

Item 55: Schedule A (Land Use) is replaced by a new Schedules A-1 and A-2 (attached to this amendment as Schedules A-1 and A-2).

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Item 56: ~~Schedules~~Schedule B-1 and B-2 are added to the Plan (attached to this amendment as ~~Schedules~~Schedule B-1 and B-2).

Item 57: Schedule B (Resource Areas, Constraint Areas and Waste Management) is re-named as Schedule B-~~3~~2.