

Appendix “C” – Applicable Policies

Provincial Policy Statement - 2020

The Provincial Policy Statement (2020) (‘PPS’) is intended to promote a policy led system, which recognizes that there are complex relationships among environmental, economic and social factors in land use planning. The PPS encourages the wise management of land to achieve efficient development and land use patterns by directing growth to settlement areas and by promoting a compact development form.

The subject lands are located within a settlement area, which are to be the focus of growth and development (policy 1.1.3.1). The land use patterns within the settlement area based on densities and a mix of land uses that, among other matters, efficiently use land and resources, appropriately use the infrastructure and public service facilities that are planned or available and are transit supportive.

Part V: Policies

1.1 Managing and Directing Land Use to Achieve Efficient and Resilient Development and Land Use Patterns

1.1.1 – Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by:

- a) promoting efficient development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term;
- b) accommodating an appropriate affordable and market-based range and mix of residential types (including single-detached, additional residential units, multi-unit housing, affordable housing and housing for older persons), employment (including industrial and commercial), institutional (including places of worship, cemeteries and long-term care homes), recreation, park and open space, and other uses to meet long-term needs;
- c) avoiding development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns;
- d) avoiding development and land use patterns that would prevent the efficient expansion of *settlement areas* in those areas which are adjacent or close to *settlement areas*;
- e) promoting the integration of land use planning, growth management, *transit-supportive* development, *intensification* and *infrastructure* planning to achieve cost-effective development patterns, optimization of transit investments, and standards to minimize land consumption and servicing costs;
- f) improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and older persons by addressing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society;
- g) ensuring that necessary *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* are or will be available to meet current and projected needs;
- h) promoting development and land use patterns that conserve biodiversity; and
- i) preparing for the regional and local impacts of a changing climate.

1.1.2 Sufficient land shall be made available to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of land uses to meet projected needs for a time horizon of up to 25 years, informed by provincial guidelines. However, where an alternate time period has been established for

specific areas of the Province as a result of a provincial planning exercise or a *provincial plan*, that time frame may be used for municipalities within the area.

Within *settlement areas*, sufficient land shall be made available through *intensification* and *redevelopment* and, if necessary, *designated growth areas*.

Nothing in policy 1.1.2 limits the planning for *infrastructure*, *public service facilities* and *employment areas* beyond a 25-year time horizon.

1.1.3 Settlement Areas

Settlement areas are urban areas and rural settlement areas, and include cities, towns, villages and hamlets. Ontario's settlement areas vary significantly in terms of size, density, population, economic activity, diversity and intensity of land uses, service levels, and types of infrastructure available.

The vitality and regeneration of settlement areas is critical to the long-term economic prosperity of our communities. Development pressures and land use change will vary across Ontario. It is in the interest of all communities to use land and resources wisely, to promote efficient development patterns, protect resources, promote green spaces, ensure effective use of infrastructure and public service facilities and minimize unnecessary public expenditures.

1.1.3.1 *Settlement areas* shall be the focus of growth and development.

1.1.3.2 Land use patterns within settlement areas shall be based on densities and a mix of land uses which:

- a) efficiently use land and resources;
- b) are appropriate for, and efficiently use, the infrastructure and public service facilities which are planned or available, and avoid the need for unjustified and/or uneconomical expansion;
- c) minimize negative impacts to air quality and climate change, and promote energy efficiency;
- d) prepare for the *impacts of a changing climate*;
- e) support active transportation;
- f) are transit-supportive, where transit is planned, exists or may be developed; and
- g) are freight-supportive.

Land use patterns within *settlement areas* shall also be based on a range of uses and opportunities for *intensification* and *redevelopment* in accordance with the criteria in policy 1.1.3.3, where this can be accommodated

1.1.3.3 Planning authorities shall identify appropriate locations and promote opportunities for *transit-supportive* development, accommodating a significant supply and range of *housing options* through *intensification* and *redevelopment* where this can be accommodated taking into account existing building stock or areas, including *brownfield sites*, and the availability of suitable existing or planned *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* required to accommodate projected needs.

1.1.3.4 Appropriate development standards should be promoted which facilitate *intensification*, *redevelopment* and compact form, while avoiding or mitigating risks to public health and safety.

1.1.3.5 Planning authorities shall establish and implement minimum targets for *intensification* and *redevelopment* within built-up areas, based on local conditions. However, where provincial targets are established through *provincial plans*, the provincial target shall represent the minimum target for affected areas.

1.1.3.6 New development taking place in *designated growth areas* should occur adjacent to the existing built-up area and should have a compact form, mix of uses and densities that allow for the efficient use of land, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*.

1.2 Coordination

1.2.1 A coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach should be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities, across lower, single and/or upper-tier municipal boundaries, and with other orders of government, agencies and boards including:

- a) managing and/or promoting growth and development that is integrated with *infrastructure* planning;
- b) economic development strategies;
- c) managing natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral, and cultural heritage and archaeological resources;
- d) *infrastructure, multimodal transportation systems, public service facilities and waste management systems*;
- e) ecosystem, shoreline, watershed, and Great Lakes related issues;
- f) natural and human-made hazards;
- g) population, housing and employment projections, based on *regional market areas*; and
- h) addressing housing needs in accordance with provincial policy statements such as the Policy Statement: Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans.

1.4 Housing

1.4.1 To provide for an appropriate range and mix of *housing options* and densities required to meet projected requirements of current and future residents of the *regional market area*, planning authorities shall:

- a) maintain at all times the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 15 years through *residential intensification* and *redevelopment* and, if necessary, lands which are *designated and available* for residential development; and
- b) maintain at all times where new development is to occur, land with servicing capacity sufficient to provide at least a three-year supply of residential units available through lands suitably zoned to facilitate *residential intensification* and *redevelopment*, and land in draft approved and registered plans.

Upper-tier and single-tier municipalities may choose to maintain land with servicing capacity sufficient to provide at least a five-year supply of residential units available through lands suitably zoned to facilitate *residential intensification* and

redevelopment, and land in draft approved and registered plans.

1.4.3 Planning authorities shall provide for an appropriate range and mix of *housing options* and densities to meet projected market-based and affordable housing needs of current and future residents of the *regional market area* by:

- a) establishing and implementing minimum targets for the provision of housing which is *affordable to low and moderate income households* and which aligns with applicable housing and homelessness plans. However, where planning is conducted by an upper-tier municipality, the upper-tier municipality in consultation with the lower-tier municipalities may identify a higher target(s) which shall represent the minimum target(s) for these lower-tier municipalities;
- b) permitting and facilitating:
 1. all *housing options* required to meet the social, health, economic and well-being requirements of current and future residents, including *special needs* requirements and needs arising from demographic changes and employment opportunities; and
 2. all types of *residential intensification*, including additional residential units, and *redevelopment* in accordance with policy 1.1.3.3;
- c) directing the development of new housing towards locations where appropriate levels of *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* are or will be available to support current and projected needs;
- d) promoting densities for new housing which efficiently use land, resources, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*, and support the use of *active transportation* and transit in areas where it exists or is to be developed;
- e) requiring *transit-supportive* development and prioritizing *intensification*, including potential air rights development, in proximity to transit, including corridors and stations; and
- f) establishing development standards for *residential intensification*, *redevelopment* and new residential development which minimize the cost of housing and facilitate compact form, while maintaining appropriate levels of public health and safety.

1.5 Public Spaces, Recreation, Parks, Trails and Open Space

1.5.1 Healthy, active communities should be promoted by:

- a) planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity;
- b) planning and providing for a full range and equitable distribution of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, public spaces, open space areas, trails and linkages, and, where practical, water-based resources;
- c) providing opportunities for public access to shorelines; and

- d) recognizing provincial parks, conservation reserves, and other protected areas, and minimizing negative impacts on these areas.

1.6 Infrastructure and Public Service Facilities

- 1.6.1 *Infrastructure and public service facilities* shall be provided in an efficient manner that prepares for the *impacts of a changing climate* while accommodating projected needs.

Planning for *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* shall be coordinated and integrated with land use planning and growth management so that they are:

- a) financially viable over their life cycle, which may be demonstrated through asset management planning; and
- b) available to meet current and projected needs.

- 1.6.3 Before consideration is given to developing new *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*:

- a) the use of existing *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* should be optimized; and
- b) opportunities for adaptive re-use should be considered, wherever feasible.

- 1.6.4 *Infrastructure* and *public service facilities* should be strategically located to support the effective and efficient delivery of emergency management services, and to ensure the protection of public health and safety in accordance with the policies in Section 3.0: Protecting Public Health and Safety.

- 1.6.5 *Public service facilities* should be co-located in community hubs, where appropriate, to promote cost-effectiveness and facilitate service integration, access to transit and *active transportation*.

1.6.6 Sewage, Water and Stormwater

- 1.6.6.7 Planning for stormwater management shall:

- a) be integrated with planning for sewage and water services and ensure that systems are optimized, feasible and financially viable over the long term;
- b) minimize, or, where possible, prevent increases in contaminant loads;
- c) minimize erosion and changes in water balance, and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate through the effective management of stormwater, including the use of green infrastructure;
- d) mitigate risks to human health, safety, property and the environment;
- e) maximize the extent and function of vegetative and pervious surfaces; and
- f) promote stormwater management best practices, including stormwater attenuation and re-use, water conservation and efficiency, and low impact development.

1.6.7 Transportation Systems

- 1.6.7.1 *Transportation systems* should be provided which are safe, energy efficient, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and are appropriate to address projected needs.
- 1.6.7.2 Efficient use shall be made of existing and planned *infrastructure*, including through the use of *transportation demand management* strategies, where feasible.
- 1.6.7.3 As part of a *multimodal transportation system*, connectivity with and among *transportation systems* and modes should be maintained and, where possible, improved including connections which cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- 1.6.7.4 A land use pattern, density and mix of uses should be promoted that minimize the length and number of vehicle trips and support current and future uses of transit and *active transportation*.

1.6.8 Transportation and Infrastructure Corridors

- 1.6.8.1 Planning authorities shall plan for and protect corridors and rights-of-way for *infrastructure*, including transportation, transit and electricity generation facilities and transmission systems to meet current and projected needs.
- 1.6.8.2 *Major goods movement facilities and corridors* shall be protected for the long term.
- 1.6.8.3 Planning authorities shall not permit *development* in *planned corridors* that could preclude or negatively affect the use of the corridor for the purpose(s) for which it was identified.

New *development* proposed on *adjacent lands* to existing or *planned corridors* and transportation facilities should be compatible with, and supportive of, the long-term purposes of the corridor and should be designed to avoid, mitigate or minimize negative impacts on and from the corridor and transportation facilities.

- 1.6.8.4 The preservation and reuse of abandoned corridors for purposes that maintain the corridor's integrity and continuous linear characteristics should be encouraged, wherever feasible.
- 1.6.8.5 The co-location of linear *infrastructure* should be promoted, where appropriate.
- 1.6.8.6 When planning for corridors and rights-of-way for significant transportation, electricity transmission, and *infrastructure* facilities, consideration will be given to the significant resources in Section 2: Wise Use and Management of Resources.

1.8 Energy Conservation, Air Quality and Climate Change

- 1.8.1 Planning authorities shall support energy conservation and efficiency, improved air quality, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate through land use and development patterns which:

- a) promote compact form and a structure of nodes and corridors;
- b) promote the use of active transportation and transit in and between residential, employment (including commercial and industrial) and institutional uses and other areas;
- c) focus major employment, commercial and other travel-intensive land uses on sites which are well served by transit where this exists or is to be developed, or designing these to facilitate the establishment of transit in the future;
- d) focus freight-intensive land uses to areas well served by major highways, airports, rail facilities and marine facilities;
- e) encourage transit-supportive development and intensification to improve the mix of employment and housing uses to shorten commute journeys and decrease transportation congestion;
- f) promote design and orientation which maximizes energy efficiency and conservation, and considers the mitigating effects of vegetation and green infrastructure; and
- g) maximize vegetation within settlement areas, where feasible.

2.1 Natural Heritage

- 2.1.1 Natural features and areas shall be protected for the long term.
- 2.1.2 The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features.
- 2.1.3 Natural heritage systems shall be identified in Ecoregions 6E & 7E1, recognizing that natural heritage systems will vary in size and form in settlement areas, rural areas, and prime agricultural areas.
- 2.1.4 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in:
 - a) significant wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1; and
 - b) significant coastal wetlands.
- 2.1.5 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in:
 - a) significant wetlands in the Canadian Shield north of Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1;
 - b) significant woodlands in Ecoregions 6E and 7E (excluding islands in Lake Huron and the St. Marys River)¹;
 - c) significant valleylands in Ecoregions 6E and 7E (excluding islands in Lake Huron and the St. Marys River)¹;
 - d) significant wildlife habitat;
 - e) significant areas of natural and scientific interest; and
 - f) coastal wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1 that are not subject to policy 2.1.4(b) unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions. ¹ Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E are shown on Figure 1.
- 2.1.6 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in fish habitat except in

accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

- 2.1.7 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted in habitat of endangered species and threatened species, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.
- 2.1.8 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on adjacent lands to the natural heritage features and areas identified in policies 2.1.4, 2.1.5, and 2.1.6 unless the ecological function of the adjacent lands has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or on their ecological functions.
- 2.1.9 Nothing in policy 2.1 is intended to limit the ability of agricultural uses to continue.

2.2 Water

- 2.2.1 Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by:
- a) using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, which can be a foundation for considering cumulative impacts of development;
 - b) minimizing potential negative impacts, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts;
 - c) evaluating and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate to water resource systems at the watershed level;
 - d) identifying water resource systems consisting of ground water features, hydrologic functions, natural heritage features and areas, and surface water features including shoreline areas, which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed;
 - e) maintaining linkages and related functions among ground water features, hydrologic functions, natural heritage features and areas, and surface water features including shoreline areas;
 - f) implementing necessary restrictions on development and site alteration to:
 1. protect all municipal drinking water supplies and designated vulnerable areas; and
 2. protect, improve or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their hydrologic functions;
 - g) planning for efficient and sustainable use of water resources, through practices for water conservation and sustaining water quality;
 - h) ensuring consideration of environmental lake capacity, where applicable; and
 - i) ensuring stormwater management practices minimize stormwater volumes and contaminant loads, and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces.
- 2.2.2 Development and site alteration shall be restricted in or near sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features such that these features and their related hydrologic functions will be protected, improved or restored.

Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches may be required in order to protect, improve or restore sensitive surface water features, sensitive ground water features, and their hydrologic functions.

2.6 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

- 2.6.1 Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.
- 2.6.2 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless significant archaeological resources have been conserved.
- 2.6.3 Planning authorities shall not permit development and site alteration on adjacent lands to protected heritage property except where the proposed development and site alteration has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that the heritage attributes of the protected heritage property will be conserved.
- 2.6.4 Planning authorities should consider and promote archaeological management plans and cultural plans in conserving cultural heritage and archaeological resources.
- 2.6.5 Planning authorities shall engage with Indigenous communities and consider their interests when identifying, protecting and managing cultural heritage and archaeological resources.

3.1 Natural Hazards

- 3.1.1 Development shall generally be directed, in accordance with guidance developed by the Province (as amended from time to time), to areas outside of:
 - a) hazardous lands adjacent to the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and large inland lakes which are impacted by flooding hazards, erosion hazards and/or dynamic beach hazards;
 - b) hazardous lands adjacent to river, stream and small inland lake systems which are impacted by flooding hazards and/or erosion hazards; and
 - c) hazardous sites.
- 3.1.2 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted within:
 - a) the dynamic beach hazard;
 - b) defined portions of the flooding hazard along connecting channels (the St. Marys, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers);
 - c) areas that would be rendered inaccessible to people and vehicles during times of flooding hazards, erosion hazards and/or dynamic beach hazards, unless it has been demonstrated that the site has safe access appropriate for the nature of the development and the natural hazard; and
 - d) a floodway regardless of whether the area of inundation contains high points of land not subject to flooding.
- 3.1.3 Planning authorities shall prepare for the impacts of a changing climate that may

increase the risk associated with natural hazards.

- 3.1.4 Despite policy 3.1.2, development and site alteration may be permitted in certain areas associated with the flooding hazard along river, stream and small inland lake systems:
- a) in those exceptional situations where a Special Policy Area has been approved. The designation of a Special Policy Area, and any change or modification to the official plan policies, land use designations or boundaries applying to Special Policy Area lands, must be approved by the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Natural Resources and Forestry prior to the approval authority approving such changes or modifications; or
 - b) where the development is limited to uses which by their nature must locate within the floodway, including flood and/or erosion control works or minor additions or passive non-structural uses which do not affect flood flows.
- 3.1.5 Development shall not be permitted to locate in hazardous lands and hazardous sites where the use is:
- a) an institutional use including hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, pre-schools, school nurseries, day cares and schools;
 - b) an essential emergency service such as that provided by fire, police and ambulance stations and electrical substations; or
 - c) uses associated with the disposal, manufacture, treatment or storage of hazardous substances.
- 3.1.6 Where the two zone concept for flood plains is applied, development and site alteration may be permitted in the flood fringe, subject to appropriate floodproofing to the flooding hazard elevation or another flooding hazard standard approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.
- 3.1.7 Further to policy 3.1.6, and except as prohibited in policies 3.1.2 and 3.1.5, development and site alteration may be permitted in those portions of hazardous lands and hazardous sites where the effects and risk to public safety are minor, could be mitigated in accordance with provincial standards, and where all of the following are demonstrated and achieved:
- a) development and site alteration is carried out in accordance with floodproofing standards, protection works standards, and access standards;
 - b) vehicles and people have a way of safely entering and exiting the area during times of flooding, erosion and other emergencies;
 - c) new hazards are not created and existing hazards are not aggravated; and
 - d) no adverse environmental impacts will result.
- 3.1.8 Development shall generally be directed to areas outside of lands that are unsafe for development due to the presence of hazardous forest types for wildland fire. Development may however be permitted in lands with hazardous forest types for wildland fire where the risk is mitigated in accordance with wildland fire assessment and mitigation standards.

Growth Plan (2020)

The Growth Plan is a long-term plan that intends to manage growth, build complete communities, curb sprawl and protect cultural heritage resources and the natural environment.

The Growth Plan provides policies for where and how to grow, directing population and employment growth to urban areas and rural settlement areas with delineated built boundaries on full municipal services (policy 2.2.1). The policies of the Growth Plan are to be applied to support complete communities that feature a diverse mix of land uses with convenient access to local stores, services, and public service facilities, provide a diverse range and mix of housing options, expand convenient access to transportation options.

Section 1.2.1 – Guiding Principles

- *Support the achievement of complete communities that are designed to support healthy and active living and meet people’s needs for daily living throughout an entire lifetime.*
- *Prioritize intensification and higher densities to make efficient use of land and infrastructure and support transit viability.*
- *Provide flexibility to capitalize on new economic and employment opportunities as they emerge, while providing certainty for traditional industries, including resource-based sectors.*
- *Support a range and mix of housing options, including second units and affordable housing, to serve all sizes, incomes, and ages of households.*
- *Improve the integration of land use planning with planning and investment in infrastructure and public service facilities, including integrated service delivery through community hubs, by all levels of government.*
- *Conserve and promote cultural heritage resources to support the social, economic, and cultural well-being of all communities, including First Nations and Métis communities.*
- *Integrate climate change considerations into planning and managing growth such as planning for more resilient communities and infrastructure – that are adaptive to the impacts of a changing climate – and moving towards environmentally sustainable communities by incorporating approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

Section 2.2 – Policies for Where and How to Grow

2.2.1 – Managing Growth

2.2.1.2 Forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan will be allocated based on the following:

- a. the vast majority of growth will be directed to settlement areas that:
 - i. have a *delineated* built boundary;
 - ii. have existing or planned *municipal water and wastewater systems*; and
 - iii. can support the achievement of *complete communities*;

- b. growth will be limited in settlement areas that:
 - i. are rural settlements;
 - ii. are not serviced by existing or planned municipal water and wastewater systems;
 - or
 - iii. are in the Greenbelt Area;

- c. within *settlement areas*, growth will be focused in:
 - i. *delineated built-up areas*;
 - ii. *strategic growth areas*;
 - iii. locations with existing or planned transit, with a priority on *higher order transit* where it exists or is planned; and
 - iv. areas with existing or planned *public service facilities*;
- d. development will be generally directed away from hazardous lands;

2.2.1.3 Upper- and single-tier municipalities will undertake integrated planning to manage forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan, which will:

- c. provide direction for an urban form that will optimize infrastructure, particularly along transit and transportation corridors, to support the achievement of complete communities through a more compact built form;
- d. support the environmental and agricultural protection and conservation objectives of this Plan;

2.2.1.4 Applying the policies of this plan will support the achievement of *complete communities* that:

- a) feature a diverse mix of land uses, including residential and employment uses, and convenient access to local stores, services, and *public service facilities*;
- b) improve social equity and overall quality of life, including human health, for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes;
- c) provide a diverse range and mix of housing options, including second units and *affordable* housing, to accommodate people at all stages of life, and to accommodate the needs of all household sizes and incomes
- d) expand convenient access to:
 - i. a range of transportation options, including options for the safe, comfortable and convenient use of active transportation;
 - ii. public service facilities, co-located and integrated in community hubs;
 - iii. an appropriate supply of safe, publicly-accessible open spaces, parks, trails, and other recreational facilities; and
 - iv. healthy, local, and affordable food options, including through urban agriculture;
- e) ensure the development of high quality compact built form, an attractive and vibrant public realm, including public open spaces, through site design and urban design standards;
- f) mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, build resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute towards the achievement of low-carbon communities; and
- g) integrate green infrastructure and low impact development.

2.2.2.3 – Delineated Built-up Areas

All municipalities will develop a strategy to achieve the minimum intensification target and *intensification* throughout *delineated built-up areas*, which will:

- a) encourage *intensification* generally to achieve the desired urban structure;
- b) identify the appropriate type and scale of development and transition of built form to adjacent areas;
- c) identify *strategic growth areas* to support achievement of the intensification target and recognize them as a key focus for development;
- d) ensure lands are zoned and development is designed in a manner that supports the achievement of *complete communities*;
- e) prioritize planning and investment in *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* that will support *intensification*; and
- f) be implemented through official plan policies and designations, updated zoning and other supporting documents.

2.2.6.3 – Housing

To support the achievement of complete communities, municipalities will consider the use of available tools to require that multi-unit residential developments incorporate a mix of unit sizes to accommodate a diverse range of household sizes and incomes.

Section 3.2.7 - Stormwater Management

1. Municipalities will develop stormwater master plans or equivalent for serviced settlement areas that:
 - a) are informed by watershed planning or equivalent;
 - b) protect the quality and quantity of water by assessing existing stormwater facilities and systems;
 - c) characterize existing environmental conditions;
 - d) examine the cumulative environmental impacts of stormwater from existing and planned development, including an assessment of how extreme weather events will exacerbate these impacts and the identification of appropriate adaptation strategies;
 - e) incorporate appropriate low impact development and green infrastructure;
 - f) identify the need for stormwater retrofits, where appropriate;
 - g) identify the full life cycle costs of the stormwater infrastructure, including maintenance costs, and develop options to pay for these costs over the long-term; and
 - h) include an implementation and maintenance plan.

2. Proposals for large-scale development proceeding by way of a secondary plan, plan of subdivision, vacant land plan of condominium or site plan will be supported by a stormwater management plan or equivalent, that:
 - a) is informed by a subwatershed plan or equivalent;
 - b) incorporates an integrated treatment approach to minimize stormwater flows and reliance on stormwater ponds, which includes appropriate low impact development and green infrastructure;
 - c) establishes planning, design, and construction practices to minimize vegetation removal, grading and soil compaction, sediment erosion, and impervious surfaces; and

- d) aligns with the stormwater master plan or equivalent for the settlement area, where applicable.

Section 4.2 - Policies for Protecting What is Valuable

4.2.1 Water Resource Systems

1. Upper- and single-tier municipalities, partnering with lower-tier municipalities and conservation authorities as appropriate, will ensure that watershed planning is undertaken to support a comprehensive, integrated, and long-term approach to the protection, enhancement, or restoration of the quality and quantity of water within a watershed.
2. Water resource systems will be identified to provide for the long-term protection of key hydrologic features, key hydrologic areas, and their functions.
3. Watershed planning or equivalent will inform:
 - a) the identification of water resource systems;
 - b) the protection, enhancement, or restoration of the quality and quantity of water;
 - c) decisions on allocation of growth; and
 - d) planning for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.
4. Planning for large-scale development in designated greenfield areas, including secondary plans, will be informed by a subwatershed plan or equivalent.
5. Municipalities will consider the Great Lakes Strategy, the targets and goals of the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015, and any applicable Great Lakes agreements as part of watershed planning and coastal or waterfront planning initiatives.

4.2.2 Natural Heritage System

1. A Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan has been mapped by the Province to support a comprehensive, integrated, and long-term approach to planning for the protection of the region's natural heritage and biodiversity. The Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan excludes lands within settlement area boundaries that were approved and in effect as of July 1, 2017.
2. Municipalities will incorporate the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan as an overlay in official plans, and will apply appropriate policies to maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity and connectivity of the system and the long-term ecological or hydrologic functions of the features and areas as set out in the policies in this subsection and the policies in subsections 4.2.3 and 4.2.4.
3. Within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan:
 - a) new development or site alteration will demonstrate that:
 - i. there are no negative impacts on key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features or their functions;

- ii. 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;
 - iii. 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;
 - iv. except for uses described in and governed by the policies in subsection 4.2.8, 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;
 - v. with respect to golf courses, the disturbed area will not exceed 40 per cent of the total developable area; and
 - vi. 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 subsection 4.2.8;
6. Beyond the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan, including within settlement areas, the municipality:
- a) will continue to protect any other natural heritage features and areas in a manner that is consistent with the PPS; and
 - b) may continue to protect any other natural heritage system or identify new systems in a manner that is consistent with the PPS.

4.2.5 Public Open Space

1. Municipalities, conservation authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties are encouraged to develop a system of publicly-accessible parkland, open space, and trails, including in shoreline areas, within the GGH that:
 - a) clearly demarcates where public access is and is not permitted;
 - b) is based on a co-ordinated approach to trail planning and development; and
 - c) is based on good land stewardship practices for public and private lands.
2. Municipalities are encouraged to establish an open space system within settlement areas, which may include opportunities for urban agriculture, rooftop gardens, communal courtyards, and public parks.

4.2.7 Cultural Heritage Resources

1. Cultural heritage resources will be conserved in order to foster a sense of place and benefit communities, particularly in strategic growth areas.
2. Municipalities will work with stakeholders, as well as First Nations and Métis communities, in developing and implementing official plan policies and strategies for the identification, wise use and management of cultural heritage resources.
3. Municipalities are encouraged to prepare archaeological management plans and municipal cultural plans and consider them in their decisionmaking.

4.2.10 Climate Change

1. Upper- and single-tier municipalities will develop policies in their official plans to identify actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change adaptation goals, aligned with other provincial plans and policies for environmental protection, that will include:
 - a) supporting the achievement of complete communities as well as the minimum intensification and density targets in this Plan;
 - b) reducing dependence on the automobile and supporting existing and planned transit and active transportation;
 - c) assessing infrastructure risks and vulnerabilities and identifying actions and investments to address these challenges;
 - d) undertaking stormwater management planning in a manner that assesses the impacts of extreme weather events and incorporates appropriate green infrastructure and low impact development;
 - e) recognizing the importance of watershed planning for the protection of the quality and quantity of water and the identification and protection of hydrologic features and areas;
 - f) protecting the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan and water resource systems;
 - g) promoting local food, food security, and soil health, and protecting the agricultural land base;
 - h) providing direction that supports a culture of conservation in accordance with the policies in subsection 4.2.9; and
 - i) any additional policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience, as appropriate, provided they do not conflict with this Plan.

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1.2.2 Protected Countryside Goals

To enhance our urban and rural areas and overall quality of life by promoting the following matters within the Protected Countryside:

2. Environmental Protection

- a) Protection, maintenance and enhancement of natural heritage, hydrologic and landform features, areas and functions, including protection of habitat for flora and fauna and particularly species at risk;
- b) Protection and restoration of natural and open space connections between the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Niagara Escarpment, Lake Ontario, Lake Simcoe and the major river valley lands while also maintaining connections to the broader natural systems of southern Ontario beyond the GGH, such as the Great Lakes Coast, the Carolinian Zone, the Lake Erie Basin, the Kawartha Highlands and the Algonquin to Adirondacks Corridor;
- c) Protection, improvement or restoration of the quality and quantity of ground and surface water and the hydrological integrity of watersheds; and
- d) Provision of long-term guidance for the management of natural heritage and water resources when contemplating such matters as watershed/subwatershed

and stormwater management planning, water and wastewater servicing, development, infrastructure, open space planning and management, aggregate rehabilitation and private or public stewardship programs.

3. Culture, Recreation and Tourism

- a) Identification, conservation, use and wise management of cultural heritage resources to support the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of all communities, including First Nations and Métis communities;
- b) Provision of a wide range of publicly accessible built and natural settings for recreation, including facilities, parklands, open space areas, trails and water-based/shoreline uses that support hiking, angling and other recreational activities; and
- c) Enabling continued opportunities for sustainable tourism development.

2.3 Lands within the Parkway Belt West Plan Area

The requirements of the Parkway Belt West Plan, deemed to be a development plan under the Ontario Planning and Development Act, 1994, continue to apply to lands within the Parkway Belt West Plan Area and the Protected Countryside policies do not apply, with the exception of sections 3.2 and 3.3.

Livable Oakville Official Plan

Section 4 – Managing Growth

4.3 Residential Intensification Outside of the Growth Areas

It is the policy of the Plan that the key focus for *development* and redevelopment to accommodate *intensification* will be the locations identified as Growth Areas. Lands outside of Growth Areas are predominantly stable residential communities which consist of established neighbourhoods. While the Plan encourages *intensification* generally throughout the *built up area*, it also recognizes that some growth and change may occur in these areas provided the *character* of the areas is preserved and the overall urban structure of the Town is upheld. *Intensification* outside of the Growth Areas including additional *intensification* opportunities such as infill, redevelopment and *greyfield* and *brownfield* sites, will be considered in the context of this Plan.

Section 5 – Cultural Heritage

- 5.3.1 The Town shall encourage the conservation of cultural heritage resources identified on the register and their integration into new development proposals through the approval process and other appropriate mechanisms.
- 5.3.2 A cultural heritage resource should be evaluated to determine its cultural heritage values and heritage attributes prior to the preparation of a heritage impact assessment of a proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.

- 5.3.3 The Town shall conserve cultural heritage landscapes in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy.
- 5.3.4 Where protected or registered under the Ontario Heritage Act, a Heritage Conservation District or cultural heritage landscape:
- a) shall be identified on Schedule A1, Urban Structure;
 - b) shall be subject to applicable powers and tools for its conservation; and,
 - c) may be subject to an area-specific land use designation and policies consistent with the applicable Heritage Conservation District plan or cultural heritage landscape conservation plan.
- 5.3.5 Heritage Conservation Districts and cultural heritage landscapes on Appendix 1 shall be conserved through the careful consideration of any proposals for change within their boundaries, on adjacent lands, or in their immediate vicinity. In reviewing proposals for construction, demolition, relocation, removal or for alteration within, adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of a Heritage Conservation District or cultural heritage landscape identified on Schedule A1, the Town will be guided by the applicable Heritage Conservation District plan or cultural heritage landscape conservation plan.
- 5.3.6 The Town should require a heritage impact assessment where development or redevelopment is proposed:
- a) on, adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of, an individually designated heritage property;
 - b) within, adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of, the boundaries of a Heritage Conservation District;
 - c) within, adjacent to, or in the immediate vicinity of, a cultural heritage landscape; or,
 - d) on a property listed on the Oakville Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest.
- 5.3.7 The Town may impose, as a condition of any development approvals, the implementation of appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of any affected cultural heritage resources, and where appropriate, their integration into new development.
- 5.3.8 Where the Town is considering a proposal to alter, remove, or demolish a cultural heritage resource that is protected or registered under the Ontario Heritage Act, or repeal a designating by-law under that Act, it shall ensure that it has before it any required heritage impact assessment or sufficient information to review and consider:
- a) how the proposal affects the heritage attributes and the cultural heritage value and interest of the cultural heritage resource; and,
 - b) options that reduce, minimize or eliminate impacts to the cultural heritage resource.
- 5.3.9 Designated or listed heritage buildings shall be exempt from the minimum height requirements of this Plan.

- 5.3.12 Lost historical sites may be documented and are encouraged to be commemorated through the development process or works undertaken by a public agency.
- 5.3.13 The Town shall develop a set of criteria for determining trees of cultural heritage value.

Section 6 – Urban Design

6.4 Streetscape

- 6.4.2 New *development* should contribute to the creation of a cohesive streetscape by:
- a) placing the principal building entrances towards the street and where applicable, towards corner intersections;
 - b) framing the street and creating a sense of enclosure;
 - c) providing variation in façade articulation and details;
 - d) connecting active uses to the public realm to enhance the liveliness and vibrancy of the street, where applicable;
 - e) incorporating sustainable design elements, such as trees, plantings, furnishings, lighting, etc.;
 - f) coordinating improvements in building setback areas to create transitions from the public to private realms; and,
 - g) improving the visibility and prominence of and access to unique natural, heritage, and built features.

6.9 Built Form

- 6.9.1 Buildings should be designed to create a sense of identity through massing, form, placement, orientation, scale, architectural features, landscaping and signage.
- 6.9.2 Building design and placement should be compatible with the existing and planned surrounding context and undertaken in a creative and innovative manner.
- 6.9.3 To achieve compatibility between different land uses, *development* shall be designed to accommodate an appropriate transition through landscape buffering, spatial separation, and compatible built form.
- 6.9.7 Development should be designed with variation in building mass, façade treatment and articulation to avoid sameness.
- 6.9.8 Buildings located on corner lots shall provide a distinct architectural appearance with a high level of detailing and articulated façades that continue around the corner to address both streets.
- 6.9.9 New *development* shall ensure that proposed building heights and form are compatible with adjacent existing *development* by employing an appropriate transition of height

and form from new to existing *development*, which may include setbacks, façade step backs or terracing in order to reduce adverse impacts on adjacent properties and/or the public realm.

- 6.9.10 Continuous streetwalls of identical building height are discouraged. Variety in rooflines should be created through subtle variations in roof form and height.
- 6.9.14 Outdoor amenity areas on buildings should incorporate setbacks and screening elements to ensure compatibility with the local context.
- 6.9.15 Buildings should be sited to maximize solar energy, ensure adequate sunlight and skyviews, minimize wind conditions on pedestrian spaces and adjacent properties, and avoid excessive shadows.

6.10 Landscaping

- 6.10.1 Landscaping design and treatments should:
 - a) enhance the visual appeal and human scale of *development*;
 - b) create an attractive environment for pedestrian movement;
 - c) frame desired views or focal objects;
 - d) define and demarcate various functions within a *development*; and,
 - e) provide seasonal variation in form, colour, and texture.
- 6.10.2 *Development* should preserve and enhance the urban forest by:
 - a) maintaining existing healthy trees, where possible;
 - b) providing suitable growing environments;
 - c) increasing tree canopy coverage;
 - d) incorporating trees with historic or cultural significance; and,
 - e) integrating a diverse mix of native plant species.
- 6.10.3 Landscaping should be incorporated to provide shade and wind protection.
- 6.10.4 Landscaping treatments should preserve and complement the existing natural landscape.
- 6.10.5 Landscaping shall enhance natural areas and open space features by incorporating native and non-invasive species.

6.12 Vehicular Access and Circulation

- 6.12.1 *Developments* should incorporate safe and direct vehicular access and circulation routes with defined internal driving aisles to direct traffic, establish on-site circulation, and frame parking areas.
- 6.12.2 Consolidated driveway accesses are encouraged to maximize the areas available for landscaping, minimize disruption of the public sidewalk, and minimize expanses of pavement.

6.13 Parking

- 6.13.1 To provide safe and attractive pedestrian environments, surface parking areas should be organized into appropriately sized areas (parking courts) separated by a combination of built form, landscaping, and pedestrian facilities.
- 6.13.2 Surface parking areas should be:
- a) located in the rear or side yard, or in areas that can be appropriately screened, so they do not dominate the streetscape, but are sufficiently visible for safety and functionality; and,
 - b) connected to the on-site pedestrian network and streetscape through landscaped pedestrian linkages.
- 6.13.3 Barrier-free parking spaces should be located in close proximity to principal building entrances.
- 6.13.4 Surface parking areas should incorporate planted landscaped areas that:
- a) effectively screen parked vehicles from view from the public realm;
 - b) provide shade, wind break, and visual relief from hard surfaces;
 - c) clearly define the vehicular circulation route(s); and,
 - d) are sufficiently sized to support the growth of trees and other vegetation.
- 6.13.5 Parking areas within a structure should be screened from view from the public realm. Structured parking facilities should be underground structures, wherever possible.
- 6.13.6 Above-ground structured parking facilities abutting a street in Mixed Use and Commercial areas should:
- a) include active uses at grade,
 - b) locate parking spaces towards the rear of the structure; and
 - c) complement the surrounding local context through well-designed façades.

Section 10 – Sustainability

10.9 Subwatershed Planning

- 10.9.1 Individual plans of subdivision shall be reviewed in conjunction with the overall concept and objectives of the applicable subwatershed study.
- 10.9.2 The Town shall, in partnership with the Conservation Authority, consider an adaptive environmental management approach to existing subwatershed studies. This approach may require applicants to update existing subwatershed studies. The need to update these studies shall be determined jointly by the Town, the Conservation Authority and the Region.
- 10.9.3 The Town, in consultation with the Conservation Authority, may require subwatershed studies to be undertaken prior to, or in conjunction with, Special Policy Area studies. Such studies shall determine the appropriate method and locations of stormwater management facilities. Studies shall be completed prior to the draft plan approval of any plans of subdivision within a subwatershed. The subwatershed study will also update current inventories of natural hazards, groundwater, surface water, fish habitat, water balance, natural features and functions of natural systems, in order to identify constraints, opportunities and appropriate buffers, prior to the approval of a Special Policy Area study.
- 10.9.4 Where there is no existing subwatershed study, and a study is not required under section 10.9.3, an environmental impact statement may be required to be prepared by the proponent of a planning application for lands adjacent to watercourses, headwaters, aquifers, natural features, and related physiographic or topographic formations that contribute to groundwater recharge or discharge.

10.10 Stormwater Management

- 10.10.1 Stormwater management techniques shall be used in the design of new *developments* to control both the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff. In areas where soil types permit, on-site infiltration shall be encouraged to the maximum extent feasible.
- 10.10.2 Where existing *watercourses* are sufficiently wide to carry storm flows, there shall be no modification of these areas, except for *erosion* control and water quality maintenance measures to the satisfaction of the Town, the Conservation Authority and the Province.
- 10.10.3 Where the *watercourse* is not sufficient to accommodate storm flows and to ensure water quality, realignment or deepening of the *watercourse* may be accepted, if the following guidelines are satisfied:
- a) The *watercourse* realignment must meet all of the requirements of the Town, the Conservation Authority and the Federal government.
 - b) *Erosion* control and/or stream bed and bank stabilization techniques shall be implemented to the satisfaction of the Town and the Conservation Authority.
 - c) All alterations to *watercourses*, floodplains, meander belts, valleylands and fish habitat will require the approval of the Conservation Authority.
- 10.10.4 Potential recharge and infiltration areas shall require further studies to be conducted at the *development* application stage. The purpose of these studies is to determine whether site specific recharge and/or infiltration is feasible on the subject property and to ensure protection of their function.
- 10.10.5 The provision of stormwater drainage facilities shall be in accordance with master plans established through subwatershed studies, where applicable, or the Town's engineering standards.
- 10.10.6 Stormwater management plans and facilities for watersheds that extend beyond the municipal boundary shall be developed in conjunction with the adjacent municipalities.
- 10.10.7 Existing groundwater recharge rates shall be maintained in all *developments*, where possible.
- 10.10.8 The use of permeable surfaces and soft landscaping shall be encouraged where possible.
- 10.10.9 All *development* shall follow the current Provincial and Federal guidelines for stormwater management (best management practices). The Town also encourages innovative stormwater management strategies, especially within the Growth Areas.
- 10.10.10 Where permanent facilities are required to service the full watershed, as determined in the subwatershed study, or are to be located outside the area of application for draft plan of subdivision approval, *development* of the subdivision may be delayed until required facilities are built.

- 10.10.11 Notwithstanding the above, the proponent of an application for draft plan of subdivision approval may provide interim stormwater management for the subdivision on their own property, subject to the approval of the Town and the Conservation Authority. Such handling shall be of a temporary nature and shall not be an alternative to optimum stormwater management as identified in the watershed and subwatershed studies.
- 10.10.12 The Town may pursue opportunities to implement quantity and quality controls for stormwater management within the Town's developed areas where current controls do not exist or are not adequate.

10.13 Hazard Lands

- 10.13.1 The delineation and regulation of *hazard lands* are administered by the Conservation Authorities. The general location of floodplain limits and shoreline *hazard lands* are conceptually shown on Schedule B. The limits of *hazard lands* on Schedule B may be updated without a Plan amendment.
- 10.13.2 No new *development* or site alteration is permitted within *hazard lands* without the approval of the Conservation Authority.
- 10.13.3 The Town recognizes the *one zone concept* for floodplain management as administered by the conservation authorities. The following uses may be permitted in the floodplain, subject to Conservation Authority approval:
- a) *flood or erosion* control structures;
 - b) *utilities* and other related facilities which by their nature must be located near water or traverse *watercourses*;
 - c) passive recreational facilities; and,
 - d) replacement of legally existing uses, buildings and structures.

Section 11 – Residential

The following objectives shall apply to all Residential Areas:

- a) maintain, protect and enhance the *character* of existing residential areas;
- b) encourage an appropriate mix of housing types, densities, design and tenure throughout the Town;
- c) promote housing initiatives to facilitate revitalization, compact urban form and an increased variety of housing alternatives;
- d) promote innovative housing types and forms to ensure accessible, affordable, adequate and appropriate housing for all socio-economic groups;

11.1 General

- 11.1.4 *Development* shall conform with the policies relating to urban design and sustainability set out in Part C.

11.1.8 *Intensification* within the stable residential communities shall be provided as follows:

- b) Within the stable residential communities, on lands designated Low Density Residential, there may also be sites at the intersection of arterial and/or collector roads, or sites with existing non-residential uses, that have sufficient frontage and depth to accommodate appropriate intensification through *development* approvals. *Intensification* of these sites may occur with Low Density Residential uses in accordance with section 11.1.9 and all other applicable policies of this Plan; and,
- c) Within the stable residential communities, on lands designated Medium Density Residential and High Density Residential, there may be underutilized lands on which additional *development* may be appropriate. *Intensification* of these lands may occur within the existing density permissions for the lands and may be considered subject to the requirements of section 11.1.9 and all other applicable policies of this Plan.

11.1.9 Development within all stable residential communities shall be evaluated using the following criteria to maintain and protect the existing neighbourhood character:

- a) The built form of development, including scale, height, massing, architectural character and materials, is to be compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood.
- b) Development should be compatible with the setbacks, orientation and separation distances within the surrounding neighbourhood.
- c) Where a development represents a transition between different land use designations or housing forms, a gradation in building height shall be used to achieve a transition in height from adjacent development.
- e) Roads and/or municipal infrastructure shall be adequate to provide water and wastewater service, waste management services and fire protection.
- f) Surface parking shall be minimized on the site.
- h) Impacts on the adjacent properties shall be minimized in relation to grading, drainage, location of service areas, access and circulation, privacy, and microclimatic conditions such as shadowing.
- i) The preservation and integration of heritage buildings, structures and uses within a Heritage Conservation District shall be achieved.
- j) Development should maintain access to amenities including neighbourhood commercial facilities, community facilities including schools, parks and community centres, and existing and/or future public transit services.

- k) The transportation system should adequately accommodate anticipated traffic volumes.
- l) Utilities shall be adequate to provide an appropriate level of service for new and existing residents.

16. NATURAL AREA

Oakville's rivers and streams, forests and natural areas will be protected and accessible for residents to enjoy their beauty. The purpose of the Natural Area designation is for the long-term preservation of natural features and functions. Therefore the diversity and connectivity of natural features in creating a system, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage features, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing links or corridors between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and groundwater features. The features may also have some passive recreational amenity for paths, trails, and education, and contribute to a continuous open space system.

16.1 General

16.1.1 Permitted Uses

- a) The following uses may be permitted within the Natural Area designation, subject to applicable Conservation Authority policies:
 - i) legally existing uses, buildings and structures including existing agricultural uses;
 - ii) fish, *wildlife* and conservation management including forestry management;
 - iii) essential public works including transportation, *utility*, watershed management, and *flood* and *erosion* control facilities; and,
 - iv) passive recreation features such as trails, walkways, and bicycle paths.
- b) Where planning applications to establish or expand a permitted use are not subject to the *Environmental Assessment Act*, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be required, to the satisfaction of the Town, to establish that the use will not negatively impact the natural features or ecological functions contained within the Natural Area designation.

16.1.2 Lands designated Natural Area may contain one or more of the following natural features together with required buffers:

- a) significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species;
- b) wetlands;
- c) woodlands;
- d) valleylands;
- e) significant *wildlife* habitat;

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- f) Environmentally Sensitive Areas;
 - g) areas of natural and scientific interest;
 - h) fish habitat; or,
 - i) natural corridors.
- 16.1.3 Schedule B, Natural Features and Hazard Lands, indicates the general locations of the known natural features which are located within the Natural Area designation. Schedule B may be updated by an official plan amendment as additional features are identified.
- 16.1.4 Lands designated Natural Areas where no *development* is permitted shall be zoned to prohibit the erection, location or use of any buildings or structures other than those which legally exist.
- 16.1.5 Existing agricultural activities may be permitted on lands adjacent to a Natural Area designation or a natural feature without an EIS.
- 16.1.6 Significant Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species
- a) *Development* and site alteration shall not be permitted in the significant habitat of endangered or threatened species.
 - b) *Development* proposed on lands within 120 metres of a significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species shall require a satisfactory EIS to demonstrate that there will be no negative impact on the significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species or its ecological function.
 - c) The Town will work with the Conservation Authorities to implement the recommendations of any approved and final Recovery Strategies document regarding endangered and threatened species.
- 16.1.7 Wetlands
- a) *Development* and site alteration shall not be permitted within provincially, regionally or locally significant wetlands or within the required buffer width, which should be a minimum of 30 metres measured from the boundary of the wetland.
 - b) The final width of the required buffer shall be established through an approved EIS or an approved subwatershed study. A greater buffer width may be required as a result of environmental impacts evaluated by the EIS or subwatershed study. Reduced buffers may only be considered by the Town based upon the existing context and the sensitivity of the wetland.

- c) Unless otherwise directed by the Conservation Authority, *development* proposed on lands within 120 metres of an individual wetland area, or on lands connecting individual wetland areas within a wetland complex, which was not considered during a subwatershed study, shall require a satisfactory EIS. Where *development* is proposed on lands within 120 metres of an individual wetland area, or on lands connecting individual wetland areas within a wetland complex, and a subwatershed study has been completed, the Town and Conservation Authority may require a site-specific EIS to demonstrate no negative impact to the features or ecological functions of the wetland.

16.1.8 Woodlands

- a) *Development* or site alteration shall not be permitted within regionally significant woodlands or within the required buffer width, which should be a minimum of 10 metres measured from the drip line of the woodland.
- b) The final width of the required buffer shall be established through an approved EIS or an approved subwatershed study. A greater buffer width may be required as a result of environmental impacts evaluated by the EIS or subwatershed study. Reduced buffers may only be considered by the Town based upon the existing context and the sensitivity of the woodland.
- c) Unless otherwise directed by the Conservation Authority, *development* proposed on lands within 120 metres of a significant woodland shall require a satisfactory EIS to demonstrate that there will be no negative impact on the woodland or its ecological function.
- d) The Town will pursue forest certification for Town-owned and/or managed woodlands.

16.1.9 Valleylands

- a) Valleylands include lands within a defined setback from the limit of the valleyland as identified in subsections b) and c), and all lands within a valley, from *stable top-of-bank* to *stable top-of-bank* as determined through a geotechnical study completed to the satisfaction of the Town and Conservation Authority.
- b) The valleylands shown on Schedule B, which are subject to the policies of this section are:
 - i) the major valleys and tributaries known as:
 - Bronte Creek
 - Sixteen Mile Creek

-
- ii) the minor valleys and tributaries known as:
- Fourteen Mile Creek
 - Glen Oak Creek
 - Joshua's Creek
 - McCraney Creek
 - Morrison Creek
 - West Morrison Creek
 - Munn's Creek
 - Osenego Creek
 - Shannon's Creek
 - Sheldon Creek
 - Sheridan Creek
 - Taplow Creek
 - Wedgewood Creek
 - Clearview Creek
 - Falgarwood Creek
- c) *Development* or site alteration shall not be permitted within the valley or within 15 metres of the *stable top-of-bank* of major valleys and tributaries, and 7.5 metres of the *stable top-of-bank* of minor valleys and tributaries, except for *compatible* permitted recreational uses, essential public works and *utilities* subject to the requirements of this Plan. Greater setbacks may be required as a result of environmental impacts evaluated through an approved EIS.
- d) Where feasible, the lands below the *stable top-of-bank* shall be maintained in a natural state. In cases where these lands have been impacted by agriculture or urban uses, the applicant may be required to rehabilitate and revegetate the valleylands, to the satisfaction of the Town and Conservation Authority, as a condition of *development* approval.
- e) No *development*, alterations to *watercourses*, or filling, except where permitted by the Conservation Authority, shall be permitted within the valleylands.

- f) Unless otherwise directed by the Conservation Authority, all *development* on lands within 120 metres of a major valley or directly abutting the top of bank of a minor valley must demonstrate through an EIS that *erosion* and any adverse impacts to water quality, slope stability, *wildlife* habitat, existing vegetation and drainage shall be minimized and existing valley slopes shall not be disturbed.
- g) Geotechnical studies to establish the limit of the *stable top-of-bank*, as required by subsection a), may also be required to provide recommendations to ensure long-term slope integrity, to the satisfaction of the Town and Conservation Authority. However, the setbacks shall not be less than those established in subsection c).
- h) Notwithstanding subsection a), the Town, in consultation with Conservation Halton, may undertake a comprehensive geotechnical study within the Downtown and Midtown Oakville Growth Areas to determine whether modification to the setbacks from Sixteen Mile Creek valley in these areas is appropriate and/or warranted given the location of existing *development* within and immediately adjacent to the valleylands.

19. PARKWAY BELT WEST

The Parkway Belt West Plan, 1978, applies to lands designated as Parkway Belt West on the accompanying schedules.

19.1 General

- 19.1.1 The policies within the Parkway Belt West Plan, 1978, shall govern the use of land within the Parkway Belt West designations on the accompanying schedules.
- 19.1.2 Any *development* within Bronte Creek Provincial Park is subject to the policies of the Parkway Belt West Plan and the provisions of the *Provincial Parks Act*. Lands adjacent to Bronte Creek Provincial Park shall be planned and developed in consultation with the Province.
- 19.1.3 The Town will encourage the Province to continue to remove lands subject to the Parkway Belt West Plan from its jurisdiction. Any such lands will then be under the jurisdiction of the Town and this Plan, unless superseded by another Provincial plan.

27.3.8 Bronte Road West Lands

The Bronte Road West Lands comprise the lands on the west side of Bronte Road municipally known as part of 1300 Bronte Road, and 1316, 1326, 1342, 1350, 1354 and 1372 Bronte Road.

The Bronte Road West Lands are within a larger area known as the Merton Lands that are generally located north of the QEW and south of Upper Middle Road between Fourteen Mile Creek and Third Line to the east and Bronte Road to the west. The

Bronte Road West Lands comprise the portion of the Merton Lands located west of Bronte Road and east of the Bronte Creek.

The following policies provide a framework for *development* of the Bronte Road West Lands.

27.3.8.1 Development Concept

The Bronte Road West Lands are adjacent to and include a portion of a preserved natural environment area along Bronte Creek, and Fourteen Mile Creek and its tributaries. *Development* of the Bronte Road West Lands shall provide for the long-term protection, preservation and enhancement of the related features, functions and linkages of the natural environment area.

Development of the Bronte Road West Lands shall contribute to a *complete community*.

Development within 400 m of Bronte Road, a *higher order transit* corridor with *frequent transit* service, shall be *transit-supportive* with built form oriented toward Bronte Road.

A public road shall be the primary access into the Bronte Road West Lands supporting multiple mobility choices and connections.

The proposed road shall form a minor gateway location at the intersection of Bronte Road.

27.3.8.2 Functional Policies

In addition to the policies in Part C of this Plan, the following policies apply to the Bronte Road West Lands.

a) Cultural Heritage

- i) *Cultural heritage resources* shall be maintained and integrated into new *development*.
- ii) A heritage impact assessment shall be required on sites containing *cultural heritage resources*.
- iii) *Cultural heritage resources* shall be *conserved* through *compatible* transition in height and built form from adjacent lands designated Medium Density Residential.

b) Urban Design

- i) *Development* should be designed to provide a sense of place and neighbourhood *character*.
- ii) *Development* shall provide a seamless transition between the public and private realms and promote pedestrian access between the built form and public realm along the street edge.

- iii) *Development* shall be designed to provide for various lot patterns and housing choices.
 - iv) Buildings should be oriented towards higher-order street frontages, parks, if required, and open space to provide interest and comfort at ground level for pedestrians.
 - v) Residential buildings should feature active frontages with living spaces and/or porches to support pedestrian streetscape.
 - vi) Residential uses shall be designed to reduce the visual appearance of garage doors along the street edge.
 - vii) To avoid garage-dominated streetscape where lot frontages are narrow, rear laneways may be permitted.
 - viii) For *development* adjacent to Bronte Road:
 - Buildings should be located close to Bronte Road to provide visual interest to pedestrians and a sense of enclosure to the street.
 - Building frontages and main entrances shall address Bronte Road.
 - Midblock pedestrian connections from Bronte Road into the interior of the community shall be provided for blocks longer than 200 meters.
 - ix) Land uses directly abutting the Natural Area and Bronte Creek shall be comprised of a combination of residential lots and open space.
 - x) Views and pedestrian connections from the developed area into the Natural Area shall be encouraged.
 - xi) Gateways
 - The intersection of Bronte Road with the proposed road shall be a minor gateway location.
 - Gateway locations should be enhanced by features including prominent buildings, strategic building placement, landscape features and public art.
- c) Transportation
- i) The development of the proposed road and access to the Bronte Road West Lands shall be on a public road and coordinated with the intersection and access to *development* to the east of Bronte Road.

- b) Transit-supportive density targets
 - i) Residential *development* within 400m of Bronte Road shall achieve an overall minimum *transit-supportive* density target of 37 units per net hectare.
- c) Low Density Residential
 - i) Development shall be on public roads.
- d) Medium Density Residential
 - i) On the lands designated Medium Density Residential adjacent to Bronte Road the minimum building height shall be 3 storeys and the maximum building height shall be 6 storeys.
 - ii) An office use may be permitted in conjunction with adaptive reuse and conservation of the identified *cultural heritage resources*.
- e) Natural Area
 - i) The Natural Area as shown on Schedule H includes the buffer to the natural heritage features and corresponds to a refinement to the boundaries of the Regional Natural Heritage System on the Bronte Road West Lands. A minimum 30 m buffer shall be required from the following components of the Regional Natural Heritage System on the Bronte Road West Lands: significant wetlands, significant woodlands and watercourses that are within a Conservation Authority Regulation Limit or that provide a linkage to a wetland or significant woodlands and watercourses, as such components are defined in sections 115.3(1) b), 115.3(1) d) and 115.3(5), respectively, of the Regional Official Plan. The 30 m buffer, as shown on Schedule H, West Land Use may only be further refined through an EIA approved by the Region.

27.3.8.4 Implementation Policies

- a) The uses and buildings that legally existed prior to the adoption of this Plan may be permitted to continue, however, they are intended to be redeveloped in conformity with this Plan
- b) For any subsequent planning or *development* applications on the Bronte Road West Lands, the completion of a noise study shall be required to confirm there are no negative impacts from adjacent land use and transportation facilities.
- c) For any subsequent planning or *development* applications on the Bronte Road West Lands, the proposed *development* must be supported by a geotechnical assessment to confirm there are no negative impacts to slope stability.
- d) Any *development* or site alteration, as these terms are defined in the Regional Official Plan, on the Bronte Road West Lands shall be subject to the policies of the Regional Official Plan, including without limitation section 118(3).