

Stakeholder Written Comments Summary

	Stakeholder Name	Summary of Key Written Comments
1.1	Town of Markham	▪ Shares the approach of a linked and integrated natural heritage system ▪ Natural heritage system within the whitebelt lands should be connected to the system outside of the whitebelt, and should address a sustainable balance between natural heritage and other community priorities. ▪ No apparent conflict between Region's paper and Town's Environmental Policy Review and Consolidation Study. ▪ Supports the Region's efforts to establish a Regional Trail network
1.2	LSRCA	▪ LSRCA has developed a Natural Heritage System, which is referenced in the paper. ▪ Policy implementation is key to achieving a sustainable natural heritage system. ▪ LSRCA hopes to work with the Region in implementing their Natural Heritage System though York Region's Official Plan. ▪ Specific recommendations are made on various sections of the paper including; being strategic with restoration and enhancement, and principle of "no net loss" in relation to infrastructure projects.
1.3	North East Sutton Ratepayers Association	▪ Treatment of the natural heritage system in the northern settlement areas of York Region (still largely not built-out) is just as critical in determining the overall success and health of the system, as in the new "Whitebelt" communities. ▪ Concern about the real ability to balance growth and natural heritage protection ▪ The protection of extant urban forest should precede increasing urban green space. ▪ NESRA strongly supports that the updated natural heritage system for York Region incorporate the findings and recommendations of the <i>Significant Woodlands Study</i> (2005).
1.4	Harold Reinthaler Schaeffers Consulting Engineers	▪ Comments relate to the permissions for infrastructure, specifically storm water management ponds, within the Greenbelt.
1.5	Town of Georgina	▪ The discussion paper has been referred to planning staff for their disposition.
1.6	Susan Lloyd Swail Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation	▪ The strategy heavy on forestry and deficient in protecting wetlands ▪ The Region has an opportunity to lead, by promoting green communities that go beyond regulation to ensure healthy liveable communities that protect our natural water systems. ▪ York should encourage more green communities: encouraging grey water reuse and green communities by providing incentives for developers like a quicker turn around on planning approvals if they bring in green practices.
1.7		▪ The Oak Ridges Trail Association is interested and willing to participate in this project.

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		▪ In particular, they are supportive of Action 6, establish a Regional Trail Network. The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail would be a “backbone” to such a network, they would be happy to assist in any way that we can.
1.8	Kim Gavine Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation	▪ The letter expresses general support for the paper and a desire to continue the successful partnership between the Foundation and the Region in natural heritage securement and stewardship.
1.9	East Gwillimbury	▪ East Gwillimbury Council passed the following resolutions with regard to the Natural Heritage Discussion Paper: ○ That York Region continue to coordinate the Natural Heritage work with the work being undertaken by Beacon Environmental on behalf of the Town and the LSRCA ○ The Region’s Significant Woodland Study needs to have more field investigations prior to being included in the Natural Heritage System mapping. ○ The Town supports the Region’s efforts to have a flexible approach to Natural Heritage planning in the Places to Grow “whitebelt”
1.10	Town of Richmond Hill, Tracey Steele, Manager of Parks Planning and Natural Heritage	▪ Support the Region’s focus on improving the environmental protection component of infrastructure planning and construction. ▪ Opportunity to showcase successful natural heritage projects and programs such as the Healthy Yards Program in Richmond Hill (partially funded by the Regional Greening Strategy) ▪ Define the Regional Natural Heritage system using terminology within the 2005 PPS. ▪ Consider examining other negative impacts to the natural heritage system (e.g. Pesticide use, encroachments, human disturbances) within the action areas. ▪ Examine the use of the term “sustainability” within the document ▪ Investigate trail funding strategies. ▪ Continuing interest in partnering with York Region to implement natural heritage programs.
1.11	TRCA Dena Lewis, Manager, Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology	▪ Pleased to see the Region’s commitment to the implementation of an updated natural heritage system and integration with infrastructure planning, design and construction. ▪ Systems approach to natural heritage is strongly supported. ▪ The list of natural heritage features in the document could be expanded to include all of the features listed in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. ▪ TRCA does not use the concepts of “cores” and “corridors” however the system model that the TRCA uses covers the same features. ▪ The concept of ecological connectivity is extremely complex and should be examined further. ▪ Strongly supports Action Area #4 “Restore and Strengthen the Natural Heritage System”
1.12	MPIR (Ontario Growth Secretariat)	▪ Important relationship between natural heritage and other aspects of growth management such as urban form and densities. ▪ The natural heritage systems being identified by the conservation authorities are not automatically protected under the land use planning system. This

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		information is one input into the development of official plan policies. ▪ The natural heritage features listed in the document should reflect the 2005 PPS. ▪ The consideration of the linkages between growth management and infrastructure needs and natural heritage should be an iterative process
1.13	Town of Newmarket	▪ The following resolution was passed by Newmarket Council: That all comments contained within the attached report be considered by the Regional Municipality of York and more specifically: <i>Priority financial assistance be provided to local municipalities to acquire natural heritage properties within the urban areas that restore and strengthen local municipal natural heritage systems adjacent to or within the Regional Greenlands system for their value related to heritage significance and cultural and quality of life emphasis.</i> ▪ The Town requests that their “Natural Heritage Study” which was a partnership between the Town, the Region, LSRCA, and the MNR be identified as a success story within the Discussion Paper. Other Regional successes could also be identified. ▪ Natural heritage lands owned by the local municipalities should also be recognized as components of the Region’s natural heritage system. ▪ Stronger wording should be include in action area 5 “Adopt a New Approach to Infrastructure” in order to ensure successful implementation. ▪ Action area 6 regarding a Regional trail network should recognize the work of the local municipalities to develop inter-municipal trails such as the Nokiidaa trail. ▪ Newmarket recommends that all municipalities receive fair funding for assistance in advancing the Greening Strategy.
1.14	Don Watershed Regeneration Council	▪ Strongly supports an integrated, linked green system in rural and urban areas and the Region’s efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the system. ▪ Support using the Sustainability Strategy as the filter for evaluating development proposals and new initiatives. ▪ Discussion paper should mention the protection of the agricultural land base. ▪ The paper should include climate change adaptation as a consideration in the preparation of the natural heritage strategy. ▪ This strategy should be connected to the work being conducted on the watershed strategy for the Don.