
OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

of the

TOWN OF MARKHAM PLANNING AREA

ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA

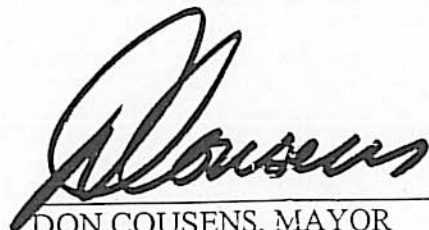
**AMENDMENT NO. 116
TO THE
OFFICIAL PLAN
OF THE
TOWN OF MARKHAM (REVISED 1987) AS AMENDED**

September 2003

OFFICIAL PLAN
of the
MARKHAM PLANNING AREA
ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA
AMENDMENT NO. 116

This Official Plan Amendment was adopted by the Corporation of the Town of Markham by-law number 2003-299 in accordance with Sections 17 and 21 of the Planning Act, 1990 on the 30th day of September 2003.


SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK


DON COUSENS, MAYOR



BY-LAW 2003-299

Being a by-law to adopt Amendment No. 116
to the Official Plan (Revised 1987) as amended.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 17 AND 21 OF THE
PLANNING ACT, R.S.O. 1990 HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT Amendment No. 116 to the Official Plan (Revised 1987) as amended,
of the Markham Planning Area, attached hereto, is hereby adopted.
2. That this by-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of the final
passing thereof.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS
30TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2003.


SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK


DON COUSENS, MAYOR

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PART 1 – BACKGROUND

(This is not an operative part of Official Plan Amendment No. 116)

1.0 GENERAL

PART 1 – The BACKGROUND, is included for information purposes and is not an operative part of this Official Plan Amendment.

PART II – The OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT, including Schedule “J” attached hereto, contains the specific amendments to the Official Plan being affected by Official Plan Amendment No. 116 and is an operative part of this Official Plan Amendment.

2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this amendment is to amend certain provisions of the Official Plan by incorporating the vision, goal and objectives of the Rouge North Management Plan (2001), incorporating the boundary delineation criteria for Rouge Park North and incorporating supporting policies to secure Rouge Valley lands and associated tablelands as Rouge Park North lands in Markham. The amendment adds Schedule ‘J’ – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA to the Official Plan, which defines the areas to which the Rouge North Management Area policies apply.

3.0 LOCATION

This amendment applies to the lands within the Rouge Watershed boundary as shown on Schedule ‘J’ – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA, with the exception of the Oak Ridges Moraine lands as defined by Ontario Regulation 01/02.

4.0 BASIS OF THE AMENDMENT

4.1 ROUGE PARK

In 1995, the Province of Ontario released the Rouge Park Management Plan establishing Rouge Park for the lands between Steeles Avenue and Lake Ontario and created the administrative structure to manage the activities of Rouge Park. Rouge Park south of Steeles Avenue contains over 5,800 acres of forest habitat, lakeshore marsh, the largest nature reserve in southern Ontario and the southern portion of a natural corridor intended to link Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine. The long-term intent for Rouge Park, as identified in the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994), is to extend Rouge Park along the tributaries of the Rouge River north of Steeles Avenue to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

4.2 ROUGE PARK ALLIANCE

The Rouge Park Alliance was created in 1996 to oversee the management and administration of Rouge Park. The Rouge Park Alliance is a voluntary partnership comprised of representatives of all levels of Government, non-government interests and environmental agencies. The Town of Markham has been represented on the Rouge Park Alliance since its creation in 1996. The Alliance is not regulated through statute, but administers its own budget and staff.

4.3 ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT PLAN (2001)

The Rouge North Management Plan (RNMP) is a strategy developed by the Rouge Park Alliance and its north partners (Markham, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, the TRCA and the Region of York) to guide the establishment and management of Rouge Park North along the tributaries of the Rouge River watershed through Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The RNMP is a guideline document that outlines the mechanisms for the Rouge Park partners to implement the RNMP to achieve the Rouge Park North vision of a linear natural park system through Whitchurch-Stouffville, Richmond Hill and Markham connecting to the existing Rouge Park south of Steeles Avenue. One of the main components of the RNMP is the introduction of boundary delineation criteria used to delineate the boundary of the Rouge Park North lands through the development approvals process and other land securement measures. The RNMP also includes urban design/interface and infrastructure guidelines, partnership and stewardship strategies on private lands, management plan zoning recommendations for publicly owned lands, strategies for special management sites, trail and public access objectives, community based Rouge Park North programs and programs for cultural heritage, natural heritage and monitoring.

The Rouge North Management Plan is not a statutory planning document approved under any Provincial legislation. The Rouge North Management Plan is a vision document that provides the framework and guidelines for achieving and managing the evolution of Rouge Park North over time. The RNMP is multi-jurisdictional and its implementation relies on the voluntary efforts of all the Rouge Park Alliance partners.

The Rouge North Management Plan Background Report was released in December 1996 followed by the release of the Preliminary Rouge North Management Plan in March 1997. The final draft of the Rouge North Management Plan was released in October 1999. The final Rouge North Management Plan (2001) has been approved by the Rouge Park Alliance and was endorsed in principle as a guideline by the Town of Markham on July 10, 2001. On May 28, 2002 Markham Council initiated the formal amendment process and authorized staff to prepare an Official Plan Amendment to implement the Rouge North Management Plan. This process is intended to incorporate the appropriate portions of the Rouge North Management Plan with statutory (Official Plan) status, including appeal rights under the *Planning Act, 1990*.

The vision, goal and objectives of the Rouge North Management Plan are stated as follows:

Rouge Park North Management Plan Vision

Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.

Rouge North Management Plan Goal

To protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural values of the park in an ecosystem context, and to promote public responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.

Rouge North Management Plan Objectives

Natural Heritage - To protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem of the park by ensuring the health and diversity of its native species, habitats, landscapes and ecological processes.

Cultural Heritage - To identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features of the park for their inherent value and depiction of the long-term human use and occupancy of the area.

Land Use - To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the park through innovative planning, management and land use in the park and its environs.

Management - To manage the park to ensure the achievement of all the park objectives and to provide for ongoing public involvement in park planning and management.

Interpretation - To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park, their protection and management requirements, as well as their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships.

Recreation - To provide opportunities for appropriate recreational enjoyment consistent with all other objectives.

4.4 FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL, TRCA AND TOWN LAND HOLDINGS

Rouge Park North is intended to comprise lands held in public ownership by any of the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, the TRCA and local and regional municipalities located along the tributaries of the Rouge River Watershed and expressly identified for Rouge Park North purposes. The Government of Canada (Transport Canada) through the Federal Green Space Program has identified for protection an alternate Rouge Park corridor forming a north-south corridor along the western boundary of the Pickering Airport site to form part of Rouge Park North. The Province of Ontario (Ontario Realty Corporation) has announced the proposed conveyance of an approximate 600 metre corridor of land along the Little Rouge Creek from the 20th Concession (south of Major Mackenzie Drive) southward to Steeles Avenue within their holdings to be conveyed to the Town of Markham and the TRCA for protection and management

for Rouge Park North purposes. The lands forming part of the valley and associated tablelands along the tributaries of the Rouge River owned by the Town and the TRCA are intended to be managed as Rouge North.

4.5 PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Provincial Policy Statement (1997) provides policy guidance on matters of Provincial interest related to land use planning and development. The Provincial Policy Statement is intended to be complemented with local policies which may go beyond the minimum standards in the Policy Statement. The policies in this Official Plan Amendment have been considered in the context of the Provincial Policy Statement.

4.6 OAK RIDGES MORaine CONSERVATION ACT AND PLAN

On December 14, 2001 the Province of Ontario passed Bill 122, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, (2001)*. The Act provides a framework for the establishment of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, which governs land use in the regulated area of the Moraine. The Oak Ridges Moraine extends into Markham at the northern boundary within the Rouge watershed. Municipalities with moraine lands are obligated under Bill 122, *The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001*, to adopt an Official Plan and zoning by-law amendments to implement the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The Province is the approval authority for the conformity Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments. The Town of Markham amendment to implement the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act will be brought forward within the prescribed time period. The boundary of the *Rouge North Management Area* amendment does not include the Oak Ridges Moraine lands as defined by Ontario Regulation 01/02.

4.7 REGIONAL POLICIES

The Region of York Official Plan (1994) contains policies supporting the protection and enhancement of the natural environment including support for the extension of *Rouge Park North* into Region of York. The policies of this Official Plan Amendment conform to the Regional policies and directives.

4.8 TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (TRCA)

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority develops and implements watershed strategies, plans, policies, programs, regulations and projects to address the natural hazards associated with flooding, erosion and slope instability, as well as green space protection and enhancement. The TRCA is a partner in the Rouge Park Alliance and will be an active participant in the implementation of the policies of this Official Plan Amendment.

4.9 ROUGE NORTH AREA

The "Rouge Park" refers to over 5,000 acres of publicly owned lands between Lake Ontario and Steeles Avenue identified by the Province of Ontario for Rouge Park purposes. These lands are in public ownership and comprise tablelands and valleylands. The strategy to extend Rouge Park north of Toronto into Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville was identified by the Rouge Park

Alliance and is referred to as "Rouge North". The distinction relates to the predominant private ownership of land in Markham and the need to develop a planning vocabulary that distinguishes between the public "Rouge Park" and the private "Rouge North" lands. Once lands are secured through the development approvals process, acquisition or other methods of securement, the lands north of Steeles Avenue may be referred to as "Rouge Park North" by the public landowner.

PART II – AMENDMENT

(This is an operative part of Official Plan Amendment No. 116)

1.0 THE AMENDMENT

1.1 The following text and Schedule 'J' attached hereto constitute Amendment No. 116 to the Town of Markham Official Plan (Revised 1987), as amended.

1.2 Schedule 'J' – Rouge North Management Area is hereby incorporated into the Official Plan.

1.3 Part I, Section 1.1 in the second paragraph entitled Part II - THE OFFICIAL PLAN is hereby amended by replacing the word "AND 'I'" with "'I'" and by adding " and 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA" after the words "PROTECTION AREAS".

1.4 Part I, Section 3.2.2 Rouge Park Management Plan is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

"3.2.2 Rouge North Management Plan

The Rouge North Management Plan (RNMP) is a guideline document developed by the Rouge Park Alliance and its north partners (Markham, Richmond Hill, Whitchurch-Stouffville, the TRCA and the Region of York) to guide the implementation of *Rouge Park North* along the tributaries of the Rouge River watershed from Steeles Avenue to the southern boundary of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The RNMP outlines the processes and programs for the Rouge Park Alliance partners to implement the common vision in the RNMP of a natural park system along the valley and stream corridors of the Rouge River. The RNMP is multi-jurisdictional and its implementation relies on the cooperative and voluntary efforts of all the Rouge Park Alliance partners.

The final Rouge North Management Plan (2001) has been approved by the Rouge Park Alliance and endorsed in principle as a guideline by the Town of Markham on July 10, 2001."

1.5 Part II, Section 1.1 a) is hereby amended by replacing the word "and" following CATEGORIES with "," and adding the words "and 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA" following the words "PROTECTION AREAS".

1.6 Part II, Section 1.1.2 is amended by the addition of the number "116" to the list of amendments, to be placed in numerical order including any required grammatical and punctuation changes.

1.7 Part II, Section 2.1.1a) is amended by deleting the paragraph beginning with the words "The boundary of the Future..." and ending with the words "...mid point of the corridor".

- 1.8 Part II, Section 2.2.2.1 b) is amended by deleting the sentence beginning with the words "The Town shall consider the requirement..." after the heading "Application of Environmental Management Policies"
- 1.9 The following new Section "2.16 Rouge North Management Area" is incorporated into the Official Plan and reads as follows:

"2.16 ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA

The Town of Markham supports the following vision, goal and objectives for *Rouge Park North* in Markham consistent with the Rouge North Management Plan.

2.16.1 Vision

Rouge Park North lands are intended to be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage, in urban and rural settings protected and flourishing as a diverse and healthy ecosystem. Human activities are intended to exist in harmony with the natural environment. *Rouge Park North* is intended to be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.

2.16.2 Goal

The Town of Markham, in partnership with the Rouge Park Alliance, supports the goal of the Rouge North Management Plan (2001) to protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural features of *Rouge Park North* in an ecosystem context, and to promote public responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.

2.16.3 Objectives

The objectives of this Plan with respect to *Rouge Park North* are:

Natural Heritage

- To protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem of *Rouge Park North* by ensuring the health and diversity of its native species, habitats, landscapes and ecological processes.

Cultural Heritage

- To identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features within *Rouge Park North* for their inherent value and depiction of the historic long-term human use and occupancy of the area.

Land Use

- To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural heritage features within *Rouge Park North* through innovative planning, management and land use in *Rouge Park North* and surrounding area.

Management

- To manage *Rouge Park North* to ensure the achievement of all the objectives for *Rouge Park North* identified in this Plan and

provide for ongoing public involvement in park planning and management.

Interpretation

- To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural, ecological and cultural attributes of *Rouge Park North*, their protection and management requirements, as well as their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships.

Recreation

- To provide opportunities for appropriate recreational uses and human enjoyment where consistent with all the other objectives for *Rouge Park North*.

Securement

- To identify and secure and/or protect those lands within the *Rouge North Management Area* identified as *Rouge Park North* through the development approvals process and using other land securement options as opportunities arise.

2.16.4 Definitions

The following definitions apply to Section 2.16 of this Plan:

"Rouge Park" and *"Rouge Park North"* refers to lands secured in public ownership and identified by the landowner for *Rouge Park* purposes. The *"North"* reference refers to *Rouge Park* lands within the municipality of Markham.

"Rouge North" refers to lands located on the tributaries of the *Rouge River* currently in private ownership but which are intended over time to be secured and/or protected for *Rouge Park North* through the development approvals process and/or other land securement options provided for in this Plan.

"Rouge North Management Area" refers to the *Rouge River* watershed boundary and encompasses both *"Rouge Park North"* and the *"Rouge North"* lands.

2.16.5 Planning Approach

- a) To implement the vision, goal and objectives for the *Rouge North Management Area* within the Town of Markham, a series of Policy Area overlays are utilized. Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan identifies the boundary of the *Rouge River* watershed where the policies of the *Rouge North Management Area* articulated in this Plan shall apply. The *Rouge North Management Area* policies are further articulated by a series of more specific overlays that are intended to provide more detailed policy direction based on the varying circumstances found within the broader *Rouge North Management Area*. The more detailed Policy Areas, which are identified on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan, include:

- Urban Policy Area;
 - Middle Reaches Policy Area; and,
 - Little Rouge Creek Policy Area.
- b) Within the Policy Areas, identified in subsection a) the Alternate Rouge Park Corridor and Special Management Sites have been identified symbolically on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan.
 - c) The planning regime for implementing *Rouge Park North* and *Rouge North* is based on the use of Policy Area overlays. The intent of this approach is to augment current planning policy by adding an additional layer of policy to the current land use designations included in this Plan. All existing land use designations and policies continue to apply.
 - d) Where there is a conflict between the policies of the land use designations identified on Schedule 'A' – LAND USE of this Plan, and the policies of any of the Policy Areas identified on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan, the policies that best support the objectives of Rouge Park North shall apply.

2.16.6 General Policies

- a) The *Rouge North Management Area* identified on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan includes all lands within the Town of Markham that are located within the Rouge River watershed, excluding lands within the Oak Ridges Moraine boundary as defined by Ontario Regulation 01/02.
- b) *Rouge Park North* lands shall be comprised of lands in public ownership within and adjacent to the valley and stream corridors of the tributaries of the Rouge River that are identified by the public landowner for *Rouge Park North* purposes. It is the intent of the Town to identify its publicly owned lands as *Rouge Park North* and to acquire new *Rouge Park North* lands through the application of the policies of this Plan. Publicly owned lands adjacent to the Rouge River and its tributaries of the Rouge River may also be considered for *Rouge Park North* purposes subject to agreement by the public landowner without the need for an amendment to this Plan.
- c) Within the Rouge North Management Area, a series of manuals, guidelines and maps will be prepared that are intended to assist in the implementation and management of *Rouge Park North* over time. These shall include a Rouge North Implementation Manual, Community Interface and Infrastructure Guidelines and a *Rouge Park North* Lands map. It is the intent of the Town of Markham to establish the boundaries of *Rouge Park North* by application of the

boundary delineation criteria identified in the Rouge North Implementation Manual and the policies of this Plan.

- d) The Town shall have regard for the Rouge North Management Plan (2001) in regard for planning approvals affecting the *Rouge Park North* or lands identified by Council for *Rouge Park North* purposes.
- e) *Rouge Park North* lands may include any of the OPEN SPACE, HAZARD LANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREAS, URBAN RESIDENTIAL, PARKWAY BELT WEST, AGRICULTURE A1, AGRICULTURE A2, AGRICULTURE A3 designation, and/or lands identified as Special Policy Area on Schedule 'A' – LAND USE of this Plan.
- f) Notwithstanding the land uses provided for on Schedule 'A' – LAND USE, in each designation, publicly owned *Rouge Park North* lands shall generally be used for environmental protection and conservation, passive recreation and compatible agricultural uses, interpretation and education uses and may also include active municipal parkland and compatible active recreation where appropriately integrated with the Rouge River valley in a manner consistent with the management objectives of *Rouge Park North* and the parkland standards of the Town. Structures associated with passive recreational uses shall be permitted in *Rouge Park North* subject to approval by the Town in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, where required, and having regard for *Rouge Park North* objectives.
- g) Existing and future municipal parkland located on tableland contiguous with or within *Rouge Park North* shall be planned and managed in accordance with the parkland standards and policies of this Plan and having regard for the *Rouge Park North* objectives and Urban Interface and Infrastructure Guidelines.
- h) Municipal infrastructure, including stormwater management, transportation and servicing facilities may be permitted in *Rouge Park North* and *Rouge North*, but shall be minimized where possible, having regard for the Community Interface and Infrastructure Guidelines and subject to other applicable planning and environmental review processes including *Planning Act* and *Environmental Assessment Act* review procedures. All new municipal infrastructure shall be planned in a manner which provides opportunities for enhanced environmental benefits which support the goal and objectives for *Rouge Park North*.
- i) Any lands designated OPEN SPACE, HAZARD LANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AREAS, PARKWAY BELT WEST, URBAN RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURE 1, AGRICULTURE 3, and/or lands identified as Special Policy Area on Schedule 'A' - LAND USE of this Plan that are in public

ownership and identified for *Rouge Park North* purposes by the public landowner, may be incorporated into *Rouge Park North* at any time, without the need for an amendment to this Plan.

- j) Zoning by-laws passed to implement *Rouge Park North* shall be consistent with *Rouge Park North* objectives and have regard for any Management or Restoration Plans identified in section 2.16.10:
- k) A public process is required to update or revise the Rouge North Management Plan prior to endorsement of the proposed changes by Markham Council. The Town shall participate, as necessary, with the Rouge Park Alliance and its partners in a process to amend the Rouge North Management Plan from time to time as necessary to reflect the acquisition of lands for *Rouge Park North* purposes and to ensure the management policies remain current and relevant.
- l) Urban Interface and Infrastructure Guidelines shall be prepared to the satisfaction the Town of Markham which shall be generally consistent with the guidelines identified in the Rouge North Management Plan (2001).

The Urban Interface and Infrastructure Guidelines shall guide the development of lands adjacent to *Rouge Park North*. The Guidelines will be considered in the preparation of all future Secondary Plans, Community Design Plans, Servicing Plans and in the review of all development applications adjacent to the Rouge River tributaries within the Middle Reaches and Little Rouge Creek Policy Areas identified on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA. The Town shall also have regard for the Urban Interface and Infrastructure Guidelines for development applications within the Urban Area Policy Area, where opportunities exist on larger development or redevelopment sites.

- m) The Town, in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, shall implement a monitoring program to record the implementation of *Rouge Park North* in the Town of Markham. Lands secured for *Rouge Park North* purposes shall be identified on a map included within a monitoring report to be prepared by the Town of Markham. *Rouge Park North* lands map will be updated regularly to identify newly secured *Rouge Park North* lands.

If the monitoring program undertaken by the Town, or ecological monitoring undertaken by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, identifies conditions or trends that do not support the goal and objectives of this Plan, the Town will work cooperatively with the Rouge Park Alliance and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to review opportunities for amendments to the implementation measures of the Rouge North Management Plan (2001) to improve the overall success of *Rouge Park North*.

- n) The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority has initiated the preparation of a comprehensive Watershed Strategy for the Rouge River watershed. The Watershed Strategy will be prepared in consultation with the Town of Markham and other public agencies, and will include a process of public consultation. Future initiatives to extend the Urban Service Area as shown on Schedule 'D' - Urban Service Area, with, the exception of initiatives requiring extension of the Urban Service Area to incorporate additional lands identified in amendments to this Plan already adopted by Council or the Eastern Markham Strategic Review process, should only be considered by Council following appropriate justification and consultation with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority in regard to technical requirements arising from the Watershed Strategy, including a water budget. The Town of Markham encourages the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to complete the Watershed Strategy by the summer of 2006, in order that any new policies and requirements, to the satisfaction of the Town and Toronto Region Conservation Authority, can be in place to guide and regulate development arising from any future expansion of the urban service area of the Town of Markham.

2.16.7 Urban Policy Area

- a) The Urban Policy Area overlay generally includes lands within the Town of Markham that are both within the Urban Service Area identified on Schedule 'D' - URBAN SERVICE AREA of this Plan and also within the Rouge River watershed boundary, identified on Schedule 'J' - ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan. The extent of the Urban Policy Area overlay is shown on Schedule 'J' - ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan.
- b) The Urban Policy Area overlay is intended to ensure that all lands in public ownership protect and enhance the aquatic resources of the tributaries of the Rouge River and recognize and permit uses within *Rouge Park North* consistent with the Park objectives and policies of this Plan.
- c) *Rouge Park North* within the Urban Policy Area overlay shall include all lands within and adjoining the Rouge River and its tributaries that are owned by the Region of York, Town of Markham, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and other senior levels of government, and that are identified for *Rouge Park North* purposes.
- d) Lands within or adjacent to the tributaries of the Rouge River which come into public ownership through the development approvals process and/or land securement measures, and are identified specifically by Council for *Rouge Park North* purposes shall form part of *Rouge Park North*.

- e) The policies of this Plan, including approved Secondary Plans, plans of subdivision, implementing zoning by-laws, site plan approvals and other planning approvals with respect to delineation of limits of development and associated buffers adjacent to the tributaries of the Rouge River shall continue to apply, as approved.
- f) Where opportunities exist through required planning approvals, the Town shall undertake discussions and negotiations with landowners, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and/or other public agencies, as appropriate, in an effort to protect additional natural features which contribute to the significance of the Rouge Park, within the land base of *Rouge North* within the Urban Policy Area. The Town shall pursue opportunities to increase the lands intended for *Rouge Park North* purposes using any or all of the land securement options provided for in this Plan.

2.16.8 Middle Reaches Policy Area

- a) The Middle Reaches Policy Area overlay generally includes all lands within the Town of Markham that are outside of the Urban Service Area identified on Schedule 'D' - URBAN SERVICE AREA of this Plan and are within the Rouge River watershed, excluding the sub-watershed area of the Little Rouge Creek. The extent of the Middle Reaches Policy Area overlay is shown on Schedule 'J' - ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Official Plan.
- b) The Middle Reaches Policy Area overlay is intended to protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage resources of the Rouge River on lands encompassed within the Middle Reaches Policy Area; permit uses in *Rouge Park North* consistent with the Park objectives and policies of this Plan; and, ensure that all lands that meet the boundary delineation criteria in the Rouge North Implementation Manual are identified and conveyed in public ownership.
- c) The boundaries of *Rouge Park North* will be determined along the Rouge River tributaries within the Middle Reaches Policy Area by the application of the Study Area Boundary followed by the Boundary Delineation Criteria in the Rouge North Implementation Manual, to the satisfaction of the Town of Markham in cooperation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
- d) Prior to the determination of a *Rouge Park North* boundary, a Rouge Park Boundary Study Area shall be established in accordance with the Study Area Boundary as outlined in the Rouge North Implementation Manual. The Study Area Boundary shall generally comprise a study area of 130 m from the stable top of bank, or 130 metres from the centerline of the tributary where there is no defined top of bank along the length of both sides of the tributary, plus an additional study area setback of 100 metres from any significant natural features which intersect with the primary

study area boundary as identified in the Rouge North Implementation Manual including:

- i) Wetlands and wetlands complexes that have not been classified or designated as Provincially Significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources, designated Provincially Significant Wetlands, Environmentally Significant areas, Areas of National and Scientific Interest and Locally Significant Areas;
 - ii) Woodland and vegetation communities;
 - iii) Seepage zones and groundwater discharge;
 - iv) Habitats or locations of rare, vulnerable, threatened and endangered plant communities or wildlife species;
 - v) Watercourses as defined by the TRCA;
 - vi) Sites of archaeological or historic importance; and,
 - vii) Habitat for location of species of concern.
- e) Within the Rouge Park Boundary Study Area identified in subsection (d) the following boundary delineation criteria as detailed in the Rouge North Implementation Manual, shall be applied to determine a *Rouge Park North* boundary:
- i) Watercourses and Existing Regulatory Floodplain to protect form, function, ecological health and floodplain function of the watercourses;
 - ii) Meander Belt to provide for the natural evolution of stream morphology and minimize long-term risk to life and property;
 - iii) Valley and Stream Corridor Features to preserve the stability and integrity of the valley stream corridors and to preserve and enhance valley and stream corridors consistent with the intent of the TRCA policy;
 - iv) Natural Vegetation Communities and Riparian Vegetation Communities and Interior Forest Conditions to preserve and protect existing natural vegetation, riparian zones, aquatic habitats, woodlands and interior forest condition consistent with TRCA programs;
 - v) Wetlands, Evaluated Wetlands, Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs), Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) and Locally Significant Areas (LSAs) to preserve and protect wetlands, ESAs, ANSIs, and LSAs in accordance with Town, TRCA and Provincial policy and regulations;
 - vi) Habitat for Vulnerable, Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern to protect habitats for vulnerable, threatened and endangered species and species of concern as identified by TRCA, provincial and federal governments;
 - vii) Terrestrial Corridor Habitat Function and Woodland Restoration Requirement to provide, maintain and enhance corridors required for species movement, maintain

- appropriate biodiversity consistent with TRCA policy and programs and to provide for the enhancement of natural vegetation communities and interior forest conditions and to enhance woodland connectivity and reduce fragmentation;
- viii) Seepage Areas and Areas Exhibiting Groundwater Discharge to ensure maintenance of baseflow for habitat for aquatic and wetland species and maintain and enhance water quality, consistent with TRCA programs;
 - ix) Vegetation Community Maintenance Area to protect riparian zones; to protect vegetation communities, species and habitats from edge effects; to protect from invasive species colonization; to achieve TRCA restoration targets; to protect interior forest habitat; to accommodate access; to protect adjacent properties from damage, and to accommodate recreational uses; and,
 - x) Cultural and Archaeological Resources to identify and protect cultural heritage and archaeological resources and to provide for cultural heritage interpretation.
- f) The Rouge North Implementation Manual (2003), as it applies to Markham, shall outline and detail the application of the boundary delineation criteria identified in subsection e). The Rouge North Implementation Manual (2003) has been prepared by the Rouge Park Alliance to assist with the *Rouge Park North* boundary delineation policies and shall be endorsed by Council. The Rouge North Implementation Manual may be modified from time to time, to reflect emerging policies and programs, however, prior to modifications to the Manual, Council shall consult with all interested stakeholders, the Rouge Park Alliance and TRCA. In the event that changes to the Manual are made and approved by Council any necessary modifications to subsection e) shall require an amendment to the Official Plan.
- g) As a condition of approval of development applications, on lands identified Middle Reaches Policy Area on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA, the delineation of the lands that meet the boundary delineation criteria and arrangements made for their dedication into public ownership shall be completed to the satisfaction of the Town in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority prior to, or concurrent with, adjacent lands being designated for urban development.
- h) The delineation and designation of lands that meet the Boundary Delineation Criteria for inclusion within *Rouge Park North* shall be implemented through an Official Plan Amendment supported by an Urban Service Area Expansion Study and a Subwatershed Study, or in the case of small-scale development or land severances, justification in accordance with the policies of this Plan. These supporting documents shall be prepared to the

satisfaction of the Town of Markham in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. All new Secondary Plans for lands within the Middle Reaches Policy Area shall contain policies implementing the policies of this Plan.

2.16.9 Little Rouge Creek Policy Area

- a) The Little Rouge Creek Policy Area overlay identifies all lands within the Town of Markham that are outside of the Urban Service Area identified on Schedule 'D' – URBAN SERVICES AREA of this Plan, and within the subwatershed area of the Little Rouge Creek. The extent of the Little Rouge Creek Policy Area overlay is shown on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA of this Plan.
- b) It is the intent of the Town to establish the *Rouge Park North* boundary along the Little Rouge Creek including a corridor of a minimum 600 metres generally centred along the main branch of the Little Rouge Creek. Until the lands are secured in public ownership or where privately owned lands are protected for *Rouge Park North* purposes through easements and/or other agreements, the lands within the 600 metre corridor shall be used in accordance with the HAZARD LANDS, HAMLET, OPEN SPACE and AGRICULTURAL designations of this Plan. Once secured and/or protected for *Rouge Park North* purposes, the Little Rouge Corridor may be used for *Rouge Park North* purposes including ecological enhancements, recreation and interpretation uses, consistent with the objectives of this Plan, notwithstanding the AGRICULTURAL, HAMLET, OPEN SPACE and HAZARD LANDS designation.
- c) The delineation of the Little Rouge Creek corridor comprising the *Rouge Park North* boundary along the Little Rouge Creek corridor shall be undertaken using the boundary delineation criteria identified in Section 2.16.8 e), plus the additional requirement for a corridor width of 600 metres to support the interior forest objectives along the main branch of Little Rouge Creek.
- d) The long-term vision for the Little Rouge Creek corridor will be further articulated through the preparation of a Little Rouge Creek Management Plan, as identified in Section 2.16.11 of this Plan. The Little Rouge Creek Management Plan will reflect the priority to establish a functional and sustainable terrestrial corridor with interior forest habitat conditions and will generally comprise:
 - i) a 400 metre forested area, generally centred on the main branch of the Little Rouge Creek; and,
 - ii) 200 metres including approximately 100 metres adjacent to each edge of the 400 metre forested corridor intended for compatible open space uses which may include stormwater

management ponds, recreation uses and other uses which support both an urban interface and park related uses.

- e) Notwithstanding the policies of Section 2.16.9, the boundary of *Rouge Park North* along the Little Rouge Creek, south of Major Mackenzie Drive, shall be determined in accordance with Section 3.14.3a) iii) of this Plan.
- f) Where lands within the Little Rouge Creek corridor remain in private ownership, severance and plan of subdivision applications shall only be permitted in accordance with the justification policies in the Official Plan for lands designated "AGRICULTURE" and "HAMLET" and where the severance or plan of subdivision application contributes to the long-term vision for a publicly owned and continuous forested Little Rouge Corridor.
- g) The Town, in considering future Urban Service Area expansions shall require that the boundary of the Little Rouge Creek corridor is delineated in accordance with the boundary delineation criteria identified in Section 2.16.8e). It is the intent that lands which fall into the Middle Reaches boundary delineation criteria identified in Section 2.16.8e) shall be secured in public ownership to the satisfaction of the Town and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority prior to, or concurrent with, adjacent lands being designated for urban development. In addition, arrangements shall be secured for the dedication and/or protection of lands within the remaining 600 metre corridor to the satisfaction of the Town and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- h) It is recognized that the successful achievement of the long-term vision may require that the majority of the lands be in public ownership. However, securement of the entire Little Rouge Corridor into public ownership may not be possible or appropriate in all circumstances. Where public ownership of lands within the 600 metre corridor is not immediately achievable, the Town, in cooperation with the Rouge Park Alliance and its partners, will work with the landowners to achieve the environmental objectives of *Rouge Park North* using the land securement tools identified in Section 2.16.12. Nothing in this Plan obligates the Town to purchase lands within the 600 metre corridor.
- i) Once the Town has made the appropriate arrangements to secure and/or protect for the long-term vision for the Little Rouge Creek corridor in accordance with the policies of this Plan, an amendment shall not be required to establish the interior forest habitat and compatible open space uses for the lands designated "AGRICULTURE", "OPEN SPACE", "HAMLET" or "HAZARD LANDS" within the defined corridor.

- j) The Government of Canada (Transport Canada) has identified a Green Space Strategy to protect Federal Lands identified for *Rouge Park North* purposes and the Oak Ridges Moraine.

It is the intent of the Town to work cooperatively with the Federal Government to establish a comprehensive Master Plan for the Alternate *Rouge Park North* Corridor identified on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA and an environmental protection strategy for the remainder of the Federal lands comprising the tributaries of the Rouge River within the Little Rouge Creek Policy Area overlay.

- k) Where lands are owned by the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada, or any other public agency, and are also within the Little Rouge Creek Policy Area overlay, they shall be encouraged to support the objectives and policies of this Plan.

2.16.9 Oak Ridges Moraine

The southern boundary of the Oak Ridges Moraine as defined by the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* is identified on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT PLAN of this Plan. These lands are subject to the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* and shall be subject to detailed policies implementing the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the approval authority.

2.16.10 Policies for Special Management Sites

- a) The Special Management Sites are identified symbolically on Schedule 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT PLAN. They include:
 - o Milne Park Conservation Area;
 - o Markham Centre;
 - o Little Rouge Creek Corridor including Cedarena and Cedar Grove Community Park;
 - o Berczy Creek through historic Unionville and Toogood Pond;
 - o Beaver Creek; and,
 - o Alternate Rouge Park Corridor (Federal Greenspace Lands Initiative)
- b) Special Management Sites are areas in the Town which are either historically more actively used, require naturalization, restoration and management efforts or are subject to approved Secondary Plans. These areas may require further design and use consideration reflecting their historic context, natural features, existing circumstances, recreational functions and/or planning approvals.
- c) Special Management Sites may be subject to area specific Management Plans or Restoration Plans prepared by the landowners to the satisfaction of the Town of Markham, in

collaboration with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Rouge Park Alliance. The purpose of these management plans or restoration plans is to identify and manage the distinct characteristics of each Special Management Site. It is recognized that Special Management Sites may accommodate more intensive uses and active recreation and/or accommodate intense reforestation or ecological enhancements. Management or Restoration Plans shall have regard for the Rouge North Management Plan (2001).

2.16.11 Land Securement Strategy

- a) The Town shall work cooperatively with the Rouge Park Alliance, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Region of York, the Town of Richmond Hill, the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to establish ongoing financial, policy and legislative support for the implementation of *Rouge Park North* in the Town of Markham.
- b) The Town shall work cooperatively with the Government of Canada, Province of Ontario, Region of York, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Rouge Park Alliance to establish a funding program with sufficient funds and long-term commitment to secure the lands identified by the boundary delineation criteria in Section 2.16.8 e) and for the securement/protection of the 600 metre Little Rouge Creek Corridor.
- c) Notwithstanding any other policy of this Plan, it shall be a requirement of approval of an expansion of the Town's Urban Service Area, as identified on Schedule 'D' – URBAN SERVICE AREA of this Plan, that all lands meeting the Boundary Delineation Criteria for inclusion within *Rouge Park North*, be identified for *Rouge Park North* and conveyed into public ownership. Where urban expansion is proposed along the Little Rouge Creek arrangements shall be made for the securement or protection of the 600 m corridor to the satisfaction of the Town and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.
- d) Mechanisms to secure lands through the development approvals or other processes include:
 - i) land dedications/conveyance;
 - ii) voluntary sale and public purchase through funds allocated in the Town's budget or from funds raised through the cash-in-lieu of parkland dedications, where appropriate;
 - iii) land swaps/exchanges;
 - iv) donations, gifts, bequests from individuals and/or corporations;
 - v) density transfers and/or bonuses;
 - vi) through any applicable requirement relating to parkland or environmental resource area acquisition in the Town's Development Charges By-law; and/or,

vii) other appropriate land acquisition methods.

- e) The Town of Markham, in cooperation with its partners, shall establish an Environmental Land Securement Fund that may be used to contribute to the costs of acquisitions for specific properties that meet *Rouge Park North* objectives and/or boundary delineation criteria for inclusion within *Rouge Park North*.
- f) Council may consider an annual budget allocation for the Environmental Land Securement Fund and may authorize staff to pursue funding partners and other funding opportunities to achieve the objectives for *Rouge Park North* identified in this Plan.
- g) The Town of Markham includes substantial land areas that are owned by various public agencies and senior levels of government. The Town shall enter into negotiations with these public agencies to have the lands that meet the *Rouge North* objectives and/or boundary delineation criteria, to remain in public ownership and be managed or conveyed for *Rouge North* purposes.
- h) It is recognized that the Town of Markham may not be able to secure in public ownership all of the lands that meet the Boundary Delineation Criterion for inclusion within *Rouge Park North*. Where substantial efforts have been undertaken in accordance with the land securement policies of this Plan, the Town will negotiate with the landowners in an effort to protect the identified natural, environmental and cultural features and functions in private ownership and enhance environmental features and/or functions on private lands. In these instances, the Town shall consider the following stewardship techniques to ensure the appropriate level of protection and, where appropriate, public access to the privately owned lands that would otherwise meet the Boundary Delineation Criteria:
 - i) Municipal land use controls including zoning;
 - ii) Information and education programs;
 - iii) Stewardship agreements;
 - iv) Charitable tax receipts;
 - v) Conservation easements; and/or,
 - vi) Any other appropriate agreements with the landowners.
- i) The Town, in consultation with the Rouge Park Alliance and the TRCA, shall support and work cooperatively with private landowners to meet the objectives of this Plan on privately owned lands within or adjacent to the Rouge River tributaries."

1.10 Part II, Section 8.1 a) is hereby amended by replacing the word "and" following "CATEGORIES" with "," and adding the words "and 'J' – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA" following the words "PROTECTION AREAS".

1.11 Part II, Section 8.11 is hereby renumbered to 8.12.

1.12 Part II, Section 8.11 is hereby added as follows:

“8.11 Schedule ‘J’ – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA

- a) Schedule ‘J’ – ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA identifies the *Rouge North* policy areas.
- b) The policy area boundaries are generally intended to follow the Rouge Watershed boundaries. Where the general intent of the *Rouge North Management Area* policies are maintained, minor adjustments to the policy area boundaries may be made in the context of a Secondary Plan.”

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

The provisions of the Official Plan, as amended, regarding the implementation and interpretation of the Plan, shall apply in regard to the Amendment, except as specially provided for in this amendment.

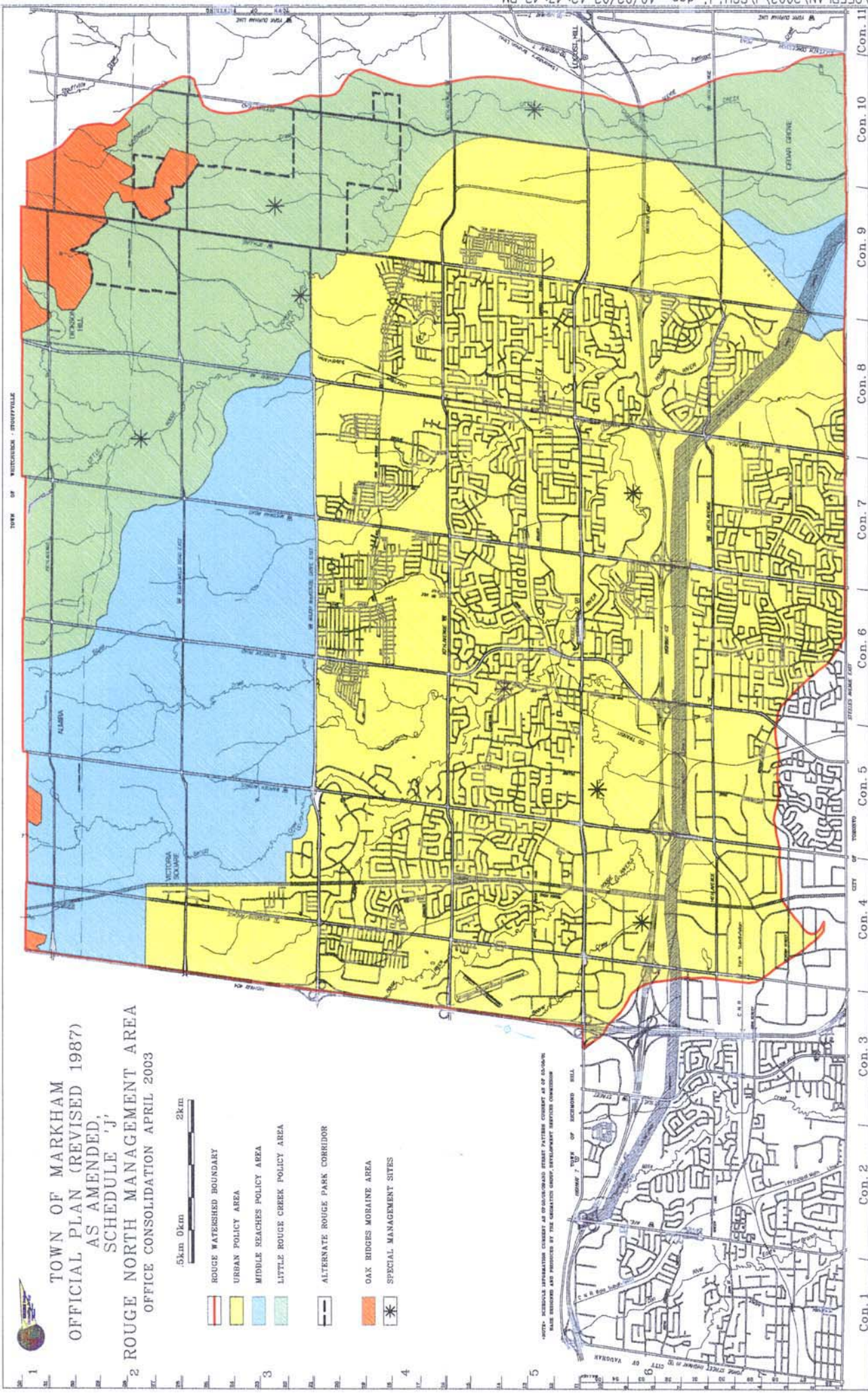


TOWN OF MARKHAM
OFFICIAL PLAN (REVISED 1987)
AS AMENDED,
SCHEDULE 'J'
2 ROUGE NORTH MANAGEMENT AREA
OFFICE CONSOLIDATION APRIL 2003



- ROUGE WATERSHED BOUNDARY
- URBAN POLICY AREA
- MIDDLE REACHES POLICY AREA
- LITTLE ROUGE CREEK POLICY AREA
- ALTERNATE ROUGE PARK CORRIDOR
- OAK RIDGES MORaine AREA
- SPECIAL MANAGEMENT SITES

NOTES: REVENUE APPROPRIATION CURRENT AS OF 2003-04-01 STREET PATTERN CURRENT AS OF 2003-04-01
ALL SHOWN AND PROVIDED AT THE VARIATION UNIT, DEVELOPMENT SERVICE DIVISION



Con. 1 | Con. 2 | Con. 3 | Con. 4 | Con. 5 | Con. 6 | Con. 7 | Con. 8 | Con. 9 | Con. 10 | Con. 11