

Sample Policy from “Watershed Planning From Recommendations to Municipal Policies: A Guidance Document”

4.2 WATER

Issue W1: Defining and identifying important ground and surface water areas

Why the issue is important

Ground and surface water areas whose protection is critical to the candidate planning goals in Section 3 need to be defined and identified in planning documents, as a precondition to and basis for any policies intended to protect them specifically.

Model policies

Model Policy W1-1: Identify and map feature types that important areas include

Important ground and surface water areas include the following feature types, all of which will be mapped, and the aquatic ecosystems within those features.

1. *Municipal wellhead protection areas*, divided into the following:
 - 1a. within 100 m of the well or well field
 - 1b. 100 m from the well or well field, to two years *groundwater travel time*
 - 1c. two to five years *groundwater travel time*
 - 1d. five to 25 years *groundwater travel time*
 - 1e. 25 years *groundwater travel time* to limit of *groundwater capture zone*.

(Additional direction or guidance on the division of wellhead protection areas may be provided as the proposed *Drinking Water Source Protection Act* progresses. 1a through 1e may need to be revised accordingly in future versions of the guidance document.)

2. *Areas of high aquifer vulnerability*.
3. *Significant recharge areas*, divided into the following:
 - 3a. areas identified through site-specific study
 - 3b. areas identified through *watershed*-wide studies.
4. *Significant discharge areas*, divided into the following:
 - 4a. areas identified through site-specific study

- 4b. areas identified through *watershed*-wide studies.
- 5. *Headwater areas* that are not within developed portions of *areas of settlement* served by *municipal sewage and water services*, divided into the following:
 - 5a. *headwater areas of cold water streams*
 - 5b. *headwater areas of warm water streams*.
- 6. *Stream corridors*.
- 7. *Wetlands*.
- 8. The *flooding hazard* limit of Lake Ontario.
- 9. *Lakes* other than Lake Ontario, divided into the following:
 - 9a. *kettle lakes*
 - 9b. *other lakes*.

Model Policy W1-2: Identify important areas not yet known

It is the policy of the municipality to appropriately identify as important ground and surface water areas any lands and waters that have not been so mapped or identified, but that meet the requirements of policy W1-1 and come to the attention of the municipality due to new information or correction of previous inaccurate or incomplete information.

Discussion

Policy W1-1 could be varied by:

- Adding feature types.
- Varying the definitions of feature types.
- Giving the map the status of a schedule (legally part of the official plan) or a figure (information and guideline).
- Separating wellhead protection areas from other feature types, so that there is one set of maps and policies for wellhead protection areas and another for other feature types.

Policy W1-2 could be varied by:

- Requiring the map or maps to be fully updated at each regular review of the official plan.

Policies W1-1 and W1-2 could also be implemented by zoning bylaw.