

4

LAKE SIMCOE PROTECTION PLAN – DRAFT YORK REGION OFFICIAL PLAN POLICIES

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

- 1. Amending Recommendation No. 2 of this report to include circulation to the County of Simcoe and the Cities of Barrie and Orillia; and**
- 2. Adoption, as amended of the recommendations contained in the following report dated August 5, 2009, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Draft Lake Simcoe Protection Plan policies appended to this report as *Attachment 1* be endorsed for circulation and public review as part of the overall review of the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate copies of this report and *Attachments* to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Environment the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.
3. Staff undertake circulation of the draft policies, public engagement and consultation as outlined in the June 2009 report introducing the Draft York Region Official Plan and fall 2009 consultation program (Clause 3 of Report 5 of the Regional Planning and Economic Development Committee). Staff will report back to Committee and Council at the November 4, 2009, Planning and Economic Development Committee as part of the public input, and comments received on the Draft York Region Official Plan.

2. PURPOSE

This report proposes a set of draft policies to bring the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009 into conformity with the approved Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. Since the Draft York Region Official Plan is currently released for public review and comment, it is anticipated that these policies can be reviewed and discussed at the same time, permitting their inclusion in the Draft Official Plan that goes forward for adoption by Regional Council in late fall 2009.

3. BACKGROUND

Lake Simcoe Protection Plan was approved in June 2009

Regional Council at its meeting of April 23, 2009 endorsed Clause 3 of Report 4 of the Transportation and Works Committee which provided comments on the Draft Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

The Region commended the Province for a comprehensive document that supports many of the initiatives currently approved in York Region as part of the Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt and Growth Plans. Moreover, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan requires adjacent communities to undertake similar water conservation and use reduction strategies that York Region has promoted with the Water for Tomorrow program.

Regional staff, after meeting internally and with area municipal staff however did identify a series of issues with the Draft Plan including:

- Impact of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan on York Region's ability to service the northern portion of the Region, achieve the Growth Plan requirements and provide for development of complete communities.
- Need for funding to support implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.
- Ability of various stakeholders in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan to deliver on the extensive and aggressive work plan.
- Extent of municipal requirements under the Plan which will be costly and are presently unfunded.
- The apparent duplication but lack of linkages between the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, which is focussed on water quality and quantity to ensure ecological health and the Clean Water Act, 2006, which is focussed on drinking water quality to ensure human health. While York Region draws drinking water from Lake Simcoe, and the mitigation actions prescribed by the Clean Water Act will also provide ecological benefits to the health of the Lake, municipalities and Source Water Protection Committees will be required to act on both without adequate linkages and guidance.

The Province approved the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan on June 2, 2009, without the changes recommended by the Region.

Regional and local municipal Official Plans must be brought into conformity with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan at the first five-year review. In the case of York Region, 2009 is the five-year review year. Analysis and formulation of policies to meet the intent of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan as part of the five-year review and update of the Region's Official Plan is therefore timely.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is extremely ambitious, requiring significant Provincial commitment to achieve success

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) seeks to improve the overall health of the Lake and the Lake Simcoe watershed, with a specific focus on restoration of the coldwater fish community in the Lake through reductions in the discharge of phosphorus and other pollutants as well as the control of invasive species. In particular, the Plan proposes to reduce the total loading of phosphorus to the Lake from 70 tonnes/yr (as reported for 2006-2007) to 44 tonnes/yr to achieve proposed target dissolved oxygen levels of 7 mg/L for the Lake.

The Plan aims to work in concert with existing Provincial legislation and programs and to build on science from existing programs, such as the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS).

The LSPP provides targets, indicators and policies organized into chapters that address the following policy themes: aquatic life, water quality, water quantity, shorelines and natural heritage, impacts from other threats and activities (including invasive species, climate change and recreational activities) and implementation. *Attachment 2* to this report identifies the key points of each Chapter of the approved Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

The LSPP's policies are grouped into four categories: designated policies (DP), "have regard to" policies (HR), monitoring policies, and strategic actions (SA). Decisions under the *Planning Act* and the *Condominium Act* must comply with designated policies (DP) and "have regard" to HR policies.

As well as decisions conforming to the Designated policies (DP), advice, submissions and comments given by public bodies relating to such decisions must also conform to DP's and have regard to HR policies.

On this basis, Regional staff analysed the LSPP provisions, identifying those policies that belong in upper and lower tier plans. For upper tier policies, Regional staff has reviewed the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009, identified where the provision is either already included, where a policies requires minor wording changes to comply with the LSPP or where LSPP provision require new policies to be drafted. The status of each LSPP provision and the policy response for the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009, is reflected in *Attachment 3* to this report.

Key Draft York Region Official Plan policies dealing with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

There is a long history of involvement by York Region in the protection of Lake Simcoe. Both the existing and the new Draft Official Plan policies as well as operations and practices in water and wastewater treatment acknowledge the sensitivity and importance of this Lake. This prior commitment was taken into account within the proposed policies. Consequently, the majority of the Draft Official Plan policies require little or no changes to conform to the LSPP.

Key elements that require additional Regional Official Plan policies deal with:

- Protection of Key Natural Heritage and Hydrologic features including fish habitat and wildlife corridors in the Lake Simcoe watershed.
- Minimum vegetative protection zones
- Shoreline and stream alteration
- Requirements and conditions for development and site alteration
- Partnering to implement the LSPP and develop a phosphorus reduction strategy
- Preparation of stormwater management master plans for settlement areas
- Conditions for new or expanded major recreational land uses in the rural area
- Compliance with the LSPP for new aggregate operations
- Compliance with the LSPP for water and wastewater servicing
- Conditions and restrictions for on-site wastewater systems
- Possible studies required to evaluate proposed amendments to the ROP

Attachment 1 to this report identifies the proposed Policy changes and additions in bold within each Draft Official Plan Section to conform to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan provisions. The draft policies reflect consultation to date between staff and MOE and MMAH.

Next Steps including drafting policies to incorporate Provincial direction

The Province will be undertaking municipal information sessions in the near future to ensure that the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is integrated into official plan documents. Regional and local municipal staff will participate in these information sessions however, given the timing of the Draft York Region Official Plan and its current review status, it is appropriate that Regional staff proceed with draft policies for the Draft Official Plan in advance of further Provincial direction. The Province can comment on the Region's policy efforts as they work through Provincial implementation issues.

Regional staff proposes, that the Draft Lake Simcoe Protection Plan policies, (*Attachment 1*) be circulated to appropriate agencies, boards, commissions and parties and included in the public information sessions and open houses to be held in September, 2009. In this way, inclusion of Lake Simcoe Protection Plan policies can proceed by the same

comprehensive review as the balance of the Draft Region of York Official Plan- June 2009.

Relationship to Vision 2026

Vision 2026, York Region's strategic plan for the future, establishes the overall vision and direction for Regional Council. As well, Council has adopted the Sustainability Strategy and the Natural Heritage Directions Strategy. Lake Simcoe is identified in this latter document as an important natural heritage and an economic benefit to the Region of York. The preparation of policies to protect Lake Simcoe and the Lake Simcoe watershed and bring the Draft York Region Official Plan into conformity with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan are an important addition to the Region's work.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Policy formulation to bring the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009 into conformity with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan has been undertaken with the existing staff complement of the Regional Planning and Development Services Department. There are no additional budget implications from this Policy work.

Public consultation on these policies, as well as on the Draft Official Plan is included within the 2009 budget allocations of the Regional Planning and Development Services Department.

Should these policies or other portions of the Draft Region of York Official Plan – June 2009 be appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, then Regional staff will prepare additional reports for Committee and Council consideration.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan will require changes to local planning documents as well as operations and monitoring. Local municipalities are being consulted as part of the review of the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009.

7. CONCLUSION

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) was approved on June 2, 2009. The Region's Official Plan as well as local municipal Official Plans must be brought into conformity with the LSPP at the first five-year review. 2009 is a five-year review date for the Region of York Official Plan and inclusion of LSPP policies at this time during the review of the Draft Official Plan document is appropriate.

The draft LSPP policies have been circulated widely following the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009 and included as part of the public information sessions and open houses. Regional staff will report back on these policies in November 2009, at the same time as the balance of the Draft York Region Official Plan – June 2009. For more information on this report, please contact John Waller, Director of Long Range and Strategic Planning Branch, (905) 830-4444, Ext 1525.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The three attachments referred to in this clause are attached to this report).

CHAPTER 2

A Sustainable Natural Environment

York Region is rich in natural features, from the shores of Lake Simcoe to the major valleys of the Humber, Don, Rouge, Black, Holland and Maskinonge rivers, to the extensive woodlands. The Region's natural areas are dependent upon and contribute to a system of surface and sub-surface water that goes beyond local municipal and Regional boundaries. These areas are the habitat of a variety of species and play an important role in the Region's ecology and native biodiversity. Changes to these natural areas and systems can affect the delicate balance between plant, animal, water, air and landscape systems.

York Region contains some of the most significant and environmentally sensitive geological landforms in Ontario, of which the most predominant is the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Moraine is composed of complex geological systems which have been shaped by glaciation.

The Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt are key defining features of the Region's land structure, comprising 69% of its land base and providing finite limits to growth.

York Region's natural areas provide clean water, water supply and storage, water quality improvements, greenhouse gas mitigation, erosion control, nutrient cycling, native biodiversity, habitat, recreation and cultural pursuits. A strong natural heritage system is fundamental to ensuring the sustainability of York Region. This helps the Region remain an attractive place to invest and ensures economic prosperity; enhances liveability in

communities; provides opportunities for active and passive recreation; and contributes to health and a high-quality of life for residents and workers.

A Sustainable Natural Environment Goal

To conserve and improve the natural environment for this and future generations so that it will sustain life, maintain health and provide an improved quality of life.

2.1 Regional Greenlands System: A Sustainable Natural Environment Legacy

The policies of this section are designed to identify, protect, and enhance a linked Regional Greenlands System as a permanent legacy for York Region. The Regional Greenlands System on Map 2 contains key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and the adjacent lands necessary to maintain these features, in a linked system throughout York Region. York Region's Greenlands are connected to a

IN THIS CHAPTER:

- 2.1 Regional Greenlands System: A Sustainable Natural Environment Legacy
- 2.2 Natural Features: Components of the Greenlands System
- 2.3 Water Systems

Sustainability Benefits of the Regional Greenlands System

Sustainable Natural Environment	Healthy Communities	Economic Vitality
- Provides habitat for plant and animal species - Maintains native biodiversity - Supports species richness and ecosystem complexity - Improves air quality - Contributes to water management - Mitigates the impacts of climate change	- Contributes to liveable neighbourhoods, feeling of well-being, health and quality of life, community identity and sense of place - Provides educational and research opportunities - Provides active and passive recreation for healthier lifestyles	- Encourages eco- and agri-tourism - Enhances property values, creating desirable communities for investment - Helps to prevent disease, resulting in reduced healthcare costs - Reduces infrastructure costs; reduces peak flows and flooding - Helps make York Region an attractive places for businesses

The Regional Greenlands System has been assembled with data from the Province, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and local municipal natural heritage studies.

Regional Greenlands System functions include:

- Climate Regulation
- Water Management
- Soil Retention
- Nutrient Cycling
- Habitat for Flora and Fauna
- Genetic Resources
- Recreation
- Food Production

larger system across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, Ontario and North America.

The original Regional Greenlands System was established in 1994, and there has been a number of successes in identifying, protecting and securing elements of the System through the Regional Greening Strategy partnerships and programs. The Province's Oak Ridges Moraine Plan and Greenbelt Plan have expanded the System. These policy areas cover 69% of York Region's land area, and have placed finite limits to growth and permanent protection to a number of significant natural areas.

The focus of this Plan will now be on connecting and enhancing the Regional Greenlands System through continued partnerships and investment.

The Regional Greenlands System is composed of cores, corridors, and linkages. Core areas are the most significant natural features on the landscape, and include significant woodlands and wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, and Environmentally Significant Areas. Corridors can include existing significant valleylands, and watercourses. Linkages connect core areas, and are either existing or to be established through restoration.

In order to have a healthy, functioning system the cores must be interconnected by natural or restored corridors and linkages. These connections provide a system that allows for the movement of animals and plant dispersion, and provide opportunities for pathways for walking and cycling, and for the creation of a Regional Trail System. All elements of the Regional Greenlands System need to be enhanced through strategic greening initiatives and continued investment.

Urban uses and infrastructure projects should contribute net gains to the Regional Greenlands System and ensure overall health through innovative design, construction and strategic enhancement opportunities.

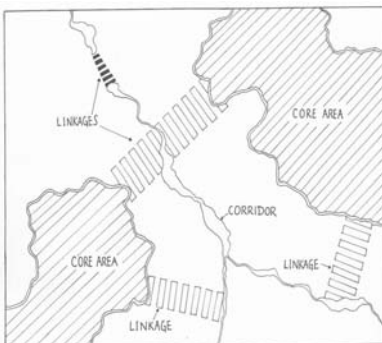
The Regional Greening Strategy implements the vision for the System. The continued successful implementation of this vision lies in creating new and nurturing existing partnerships and seizing every opportunity to invest in enhancing the Greenlands System.

Objective

To identify, protect and enhance the Regional Greenlands System and its functions to ensure a healthy system rich in biodiversity.

It is the policy of Council:

1. (modified 2.1.1) To protect and enhance the Regional Greenlands System and its functions shown on Map 2 and to direct new *development* and *site alteration* away from the System.
2. (modified 2.1.18) That the Regional Greenlands System consists of cores, corridors, and linkages. These include the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations, the Natural Heritage System within the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan, key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and the *adjacent lands* necessary to maintain these features within a system.
3. (new) That the Regional Greenlands System includes regional linkages and will be the focus of enhancement and land securement initiatives.
4. (modified 2.1.2 and 2.1.4) To require local municipalities to develop local greenlands systems that identify enhancement areas and linkage opportunities and include policies, initiatives, and mapping that protect and complement the Regional Greenlands System.
5. (modified 2.1.5) That the boundaries and the extent of the Regional Greenlands System on Map 2 outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine



Conservation Plan Area and the Greenbelt Plan Area are approximate. Refinements to the boundaries may occur through periodic updates by the Region and local municipalities, neither of which will require an amendment to this Plan.

6. (new) That in the Urban Area and Towns and Villages, the Regional Greenlands System shall be identified more specifically in local official plans and secondary plans and integrated into community design. These plans shall contain policies and detail initiatives that encourage System remedial works and enhancement opportunities.
7. (new) That the Regional Greenlands System shall be enhanced through Regional greening initiatives, partnerships, infrastructure projects and urban development to achieve net ecological gains for the System.
8. (modified 2.1.6) That development applications within or in close proximity to the Regional Greenlands System but outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt shall be accompanied by an environmental impact statement. This statement shall detail the impact of the development on the Regional Greenlands System and shall provide details of enhancement opportunities and any mitigative measures. Within the Oak Ridges Moraine the Greenbelt **and the Lake Simcoe watershed**, study requirements for key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features are identified in policy 2.2.18.
9. (new) That in *new community areas*, local official plans shall include policies, programs and initiatives to link and enhance the Regional Greenlands System through community design and the development process. Enhancement opportunities shall be focused on the Natural Heritage System within the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt.
10. (new) That local greenlands systems within *new community areas*, identified in accordance with policies 2.1.4 and 2.1.9, and shown schematically on Map 2 of this Plan, shall be permanently protected from *development* and *site alteration*.
11. (new) That notwithstanding policy 2.1.10, within *new community areas*, non-motorized trails, community gardens, passive recreational uses, and new infrastructure required to service the community including stormwater management systems/facilities, water and wastewater systems, and streets shall be permitted within the Regional Greenlands System subject to the policies of the Greenbelt Plan.
12. (new) To require a Greenlands System Plan as a component of secondary plans within *new community areas* that:
 - a. evaluates the potential impact of development on the System and ensures the protection, enhancement and securement of all elements of the Regional Greenlands System;
 - b. identifies strategic areas for enhancement and restoration to maximize the quality and connectivity of the entire System;
 - c. identifies how infrastructure projects within the System, including stream crossings for streets, water and wastewater systems, contribute to an overall net system gain by increasing natural cover, enhancing ecological function, providing recreational access and/or contributing to offsite enhancements;
 - d. identifies securement opportunities and management requirements;
 - e. identifies a trail network which is integrated into the mobility system of the community; and,

Net ecological gain means achieving an ecological benefit or improvement in the Regional Greenlands System. This could include improvement in the ecological services or functional capacities, providing trails and passive recreational amenities, or enhancing a degraded part of the System and providing linkages.

Environmental Impact Statement

An environmental impact statement determines the potential impacts, direct and indirect, of a proposed development on the Regional Greenlands System or on a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature.

Key components of an environmental impact statement can include:

- a biophysical inventory and analysis
- identification of development constraints and System enhancement opportunities
- an assessment of impacts from the proposed activities
- the analysis of mitigation measures
- the determination of net effects
- the identification of monitoring for developments within and/or adjacent to natural areas or hazards



St. John's Sideroad context sensitive design

York Region's Greening Strategy

The Regional Greening Strategy has had a number of successes between 2001 and 2008 including:

- Over 750,000 trees and shrubs planted with annual planting numbers ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 trees and shrubs
- Environmental education provided to over 10,000 participants, with approximately 1,000 participating every year
- Partnerships with over 50 government and non-government organizations, stakeholders and community groups
- Public programs and stewardship initiatives, which include support for private rural reforestation projects, urban private-yard tree planting, community engagement, and more



- f. examines the feasibility of providing local community gardening plots where appropriate, within the System.

13. (new) That infrastructure design and construction be sensitive to the features and functions of the System, and include context sensitive design and innovative technologies to minimize impacts and enhance the Regional Greenlands System.
14. (new) That the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects shall enhance and invest in the Regional Greenlands System, including providing passive recreational amenities and environmental restoration where appropriate.
15. (modified 2.1.16) To undertake land securement, with partners, focused primarily within the Regional Greenlands System. Land securement can include conservation easements, donations, or land purchases, and education and stewardship promotion.
16. (modified 2.1.10) That where lands within the Regional Greenlands System are held in private ownership, nothing in this Plan requires that these lands be free and available for public use. Similarly, York Region Council is not obligated to purchase lands identified as part of the Regional Greenlands System.
17. (new) To update the Regional Greening Strategy, including the land securement criteria, to ensure implementation complementary to the policies of this Plan.
18. (new) To undertake a Regional Trails Master Plan to identify a Greenlands System trails network that connects local municipal trail systems.
19. (new) To focus strategic land securement initiatives on the proposed alignment of the Regional Greenlands System trails network.
20. (new) To work with local municipalities and trail organizations on initiatives that contribute to, or complement, the creation of a Regional Greenlands System trails network.
21. (modified 2.5.2a and b) That applications for *development or site alteration* within the Oak Ridges Moraine will be considered only if they comply with the provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The following land use designations and permitted uses apply:
 - a. The Natural Core Area, as identified on Map 1, has a high concentration of key natural heritage features, hydrologically sensitive features, and/or landform conservation areas and are critical to maintaining and improving the integrity of the Moraine as a whole. New permitted uses are very limited and may include conservation and resource management, low intensity recreation, or agriculture uses, as detailed in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; and,
 - b. The Natural Linkage Area forms part of a corridor system that support or have the potential to support the movement of plants and animals between the Natural Core Area, Natural Linkage Area, river valleys and stream corridors. Limited new uses may include those permitted in the Natural Core Area designation as well as mineral aggregate operations and wayside pits, as detailed in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
22. (new) To ensure that within the portions of the Regional Greenlands System that are identified as the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside within the Greenbelt:

- a. the full range of existing and new *agricultural, agricultural-related* and *secondary agricultural uses* and *normal farm practices* is permitted;
 - b. new buildings or structures for *agriculture, agricultural-related* and *secondary agricultural uses* are not subject to policies 2.1.22.c(i) through 2.1.22.c(iii), but are subject to Section 2.2 of this Plan;
 - c. new *development* or *site alteration* permitted by the Greenbelt Plan shall:
 - i. cause no negative effects on key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features or their functions;
 - ii. enhance connectivity between key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features for the movement of native plants and animals across the landscape; and,
 - iii. ensure that the disturbed area of any site does not exceed 25%, and the impervious surface does not exceed 10%, of the total developable area, except where otherwise permitted within the Greenbelt Plan.
 - d. where permitted non-agricultural uses are proposed within the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside, applicants shall demonstrate that:
 - i. at least 30% of the total developable area of the site will remain or be returned to natural self-sustaining vegetation;
 - ii. connectivity between key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features located within 240 metres of each other is maintained or enhanced; and,
 - iii. buildings or structures do not occupy more than 25% of the area outside of key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and their minimum vegetated protection zones.
23. (modified 2.1.11) To prohibit pits or quarries, wayside pits or quarries, batching/asphalt plants and new waste disposal sites within the Regional Greenlands System as identified on Map 2. Notwithstanding the above, mineral aggregate operations or wayside pits are permitted within those portions of the Regional Greenlands System designated as Natural Linkage Area and Countryside Area on Map 1 and are subject to all applicable provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
- 24. (new) That outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt areas in the Lake Simcoe watershed, no new mineral aggregate operations, wayside pits, quarries or ancillary or accessory uses are permitted in key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features or related vegetative protection zone except as provided in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
25. (new) To examine the feasibility of undertaking studies complementary to the Regional Greenlands System, such as wildlife and terrestrial linkage plans.
26. (modified 2.1.12) To work with conservation authorities, local municipalities and the Province in establishing, maintaining and improving a database on the Regional Greenlands System.
27. (modified 2.1.17) To work with municipal partners and stakeholders in implementing and monitoring the Rouge North Management Plan.

Land Securement in York Region

Between 2001 and 2008, over 879 hectares of conservation lands have been protected in perpetuity.

Securement depends on successful partnerships. York Region's securement partners include:

- Local Municipalities
- York Environmental Stewardship
- Ontario Streams
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- The Province
- University of Toronto
- Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation
- Natural Resources Canada
- GTA Clean Air Committee



2.2 Natural Features: Components of the Greenlands System

Key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features are the building blocks of York Region's natural system. Many of these features are cores and corridors and can function as potential linkages.

Key natural heritage and key hydrologic features within York Region are subject to three policy regimes: the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, and the Provincial Policy Statement. The three policy regimes contain minor differences in terminology. For consistency in terminology, natural features within York Region are identified as "key natural heritage features" and "key hydrologic features."

Key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features can exist within the Regional Greenlands System or outside of the System. Key features within the System are subject to the policies in Section 2.1 and 2.2. Key features outside of the System shall be protected subject to the policies of Section 2.2.

The following sections contain specific requirements for key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features throughout the Region, including the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt.

Key Natural Heritage Features and Key Hydrologic Features

Policies of this section identify the key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features within York Region, and provide general policy requirements for all features. More specific feature policies can be found in the sections following.

Objective

To ensure that key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and functions are protected.

It is the policy of Council:

1. (new) That key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features within York Region include:
 - a. habitat of endangered species, threatened species and special concern species;
 - b. fish habitat;
 - c. wetlands;
 - d. Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;
 - e. Environmentally Significant Areas;
 - f. significant valleylands;
 - g. significant woodlands;
 - h. significant wildlife habitat;
 - i. sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies;
 - j. lakes and their littoral zones;
 - k. permanent and intermittent streams;
 - l. kettle lakes;
 - m. seepage areas and springs; and,
 - n. Lake Simcoe Shoreline.

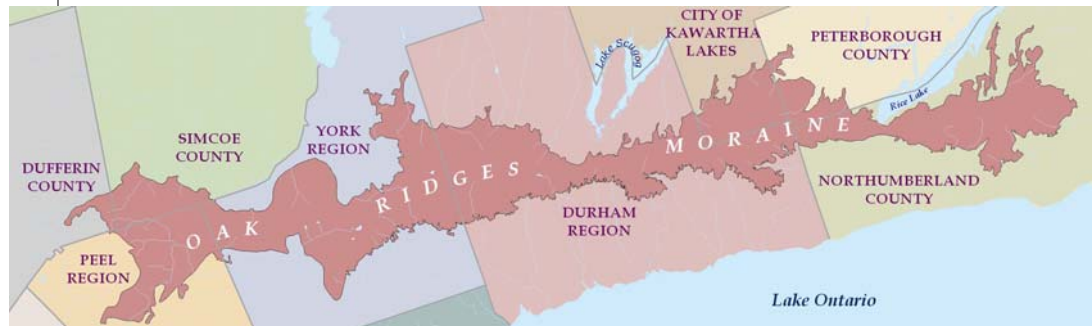
2. (modified 2.5.7) That key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features in policies 2.2.1.b through 2.2.1.e, 2.2.1.g, and 2.2.1.j through 2.2.1.l above are shown on Maps 3, 4, 5 and Figure 1 of this Plan.
3. (modified 2.5.7) That key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features in policies 2.2.1.a, 2.2.1.f, 2.2.1.h, 2.2.1.i and 2.2.1.m above are not mapped in this Plan. These features shall be identified in accordance with criteria provided by the Province on a site-by-site basis or through the appropriate study such as a watershed plan, environmental impact statement, or natural heritage or hydrological evaluations, prior to undertaking any *development* or *site alteration*.
4. (new) To prohibit *development* and *site alteration* within key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, and *adjacent lands*, unless it is demonstrated through a natural heritage evaluation, hydrological evaluation, or environmental impact statement that the *development* or *site alteration* will not result in a negative impact on the feature or its functions.
5. (new) To prohibit removal of a key natural heritage feature or a key hydrologic feature by unauthorized *development* or *site alteration*. Such removal will result in the features and functions being restored to their previous state.
6. (new) That notwithstanding policy 2.2.4 of this Plan *development* and *site alteration* is not permitted within fish habitat except in accordance with federal and provincial requirements.
7. (modified 2.2.5) To require local municipalities to identify key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features or equivalents in local official plans and zoning by-laws, to provide appropriate policies for their protection, including the definition of permitted uses, and to discourage incompatible uses.
8. (new) That where a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature overlaps the boundaries of the Oak Ridges Moraine, **the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan**, or the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt or the remainder of York Region, the policies which are most protective of the feature will apply.
9. (new) That the policies of this section must be read in conjunction with the policies of Section 2.1.
10. (modified 2.2.7) To prohibit lands identified on Map 3 as Environmentally Significant Areas or Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest from being used for the purpose of a pit or quarry, a wayside pit or quarry, batching/asphalt plants or a new waste disposal site.
11. (modified 2.2.6) To co-operate with conservation authorities, the Province and local municipalities in order to further define and better understand key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and to promote improved stewardship and protection strategies.
12. (modified 2.2.11) To encourage private and public landowners with lands containing key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features to manage the lands in a manner that conserves and enhances the features in accordance with the policies of this Plan.

Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt, and Lake Simcoe Plan Features

The Province has established specific policies for the protection of key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, **and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan**

A Natural Heritage System has been identified for the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan. Only key natural heritage features within this Natural Heritage System are protected by the policies of the Greenbelt Plan. All key hydrologic features are protected by the policies of the Greenbelt Plan regardless of their inclusion within this Natural Heritage System.

This section of this Plan addresses the protection requirements for these **three** Provincial Plans.



Lake Simcoe Shoreline Settlement Areas within Georgina include:

Sutton
Keswick
Pefferlaw
Serviced Lakeshore residential
Hamlet of Virginia
Moore's Beach
McRae Beach
Duclos Point

Vegetation Protection Zones are vegetated buffers surrounding a key natural heritage feature or a key hydrologic feature. These areas protect the feature and its functions from the impacts of land use changes and associated activities that will occur before, during and after construction, and where possible, restore or enhance the features and its functions.

Objective

To ensure that the key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features on the Oak Ridges Moraine, **Greenbelt, and the Lake Simcoe Watershed** are protected in accordance with Provincial Plans.

It is the policy of Council:

- 13.** (modified 2.5.8) That within key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features on the Oak Ridges Moraine, in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt, **or in the Lake Simcoe watershed, development or site alteration** is not permitted in the feature or its associated vegetation protection zone, except as provided in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan **and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
- 14.** (modified 2.5.8) That on the Oak Ridges Moraine, **or in the Lake Simcoe watershed outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan,** the minimum vegetation protection zone for key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features is 30 metres or as required by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan **or the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
- 15. (new) That the minimum vegetation protection zone for the Lake Simcoe Shoreline outside of existing settlement areas as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan shall be 100 metres.**
- 16. (new) That significant alteration of the shore of Lake Simcoe or the shore of a fresh water estuary of a stream connected to Lake Simcoe is not permitted except as provided in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
- 17. (new) That within the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan, the minimum vegetation protection zone shall be a**

minimum of 30 metres for wetlands, seepage areas and springs, fish habitat, permanent and intermittent streams, lakes, and significant woodlands.

18. (modified 2.5.9) That applications for *development* or *site alteration* shall be supported by a natural heritage and/or hydrological evaluation as detailed in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan **and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan**, if it occurs:
- a. within 120 metres from a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature anywhere within the Oak Ridges Moraine;
 - b. within 120 metres of a key natural heritage feature within the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan;
 - c. within 120 metres of a key hydrologic feature anywhere within the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan;
 - d. within 120 metres of key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features within the Lake Simcoe watershed outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, in the Lake Simcoe watershed; or,**
 - e. within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline and built up areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, within the Lake Simcoe watershed unless otherwise specified by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
19. (new) That an application for new *development* or *site alteration* in the Lake Simcoe watershed that is within 120 metres of a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrologic feature or the Lake Simcoe shoreline outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the application shall provide for the establishment or reestablishment and maintenance of natural self sustaining vegetation except as provided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.
20. (new) That outside settlement areas as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, a proposal for *development* or *site alteration* within 240 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline must demonstrate that it will maintain, enhance or restore functional wildlife movement corridors between key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features as determined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.
21. (new) That within the Lake Simcoe watershed settlement and rural settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, an application for *development* or *site alteration* shall, where applicable shall:
- a. increase or improve fish habitat in streams, lakes and wetlands, and any adjacent riparian areas;
 - b. include landscaping and habitat restoration that increase the ability of native plants and animals to use valleylands or riparian areas as wildlife habitat and movement corridors;
 - c. seek to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts associated with the quality and quantity of urban run-off into receiving streams, lakes and wetlands; and

Oak Ridges Moraine

The Oak Ridges Moraine is one of Ontario's most significant landforms.

Located north of and parallel to Lake Ontario, the Moraine in York Region divides the watersheds draining south into Lake Ontario from those draining north into Lake Simcoe.

The Moraine shapes the present and future form and structure of the Greater Toronto Region. The Moraine's ecological and hydrological features and functions are critical to the Region's continuing health.

f. establish or increase the extent and width of a self sustaining vegetation protection zone adjacent to Lake Simcoe to a minimum of 30 metres where feasible.

22. (modified 2.5.10) That minor changes to the extent or presence of key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features resulting from site specific studies conducted in accordance with the requirements in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, **the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan** and updated information from the Province or the appropriate conservation authority, will not require an amendment to this Plan.

However, where a minor change may negatively affect a wetland, Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, fish habitat or significant portions of endangered, rare or threatened species, confirmation will be required from the Province prior to any *development* or *site alteration* occurring in these areas. In regard to minor changes to Environmentally Significant Areas, confirmation will be required by the appropriate conservation authority.

23. (modified 2.5.6) That Environmentally Significant Areas on the Oak Ridges Moraine or within the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan, which have been identified by a conservation authority, are also considered to be key natural heritage features, subject to the same requirements for protection and study as those identified in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan for Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.
24. (modified 2.5.11) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the Greenbelt Plan Areas, no new *agricultural uses*, *agriculture-related uses*, or accessory uses shall be permitted within key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features and their associated minimum vegetation protection zone if the lands were not being used for that use on November 15, 2001, and February 28, 2005 respectively.
25. (same as 2.5.12) That in the Urban Area and Towns and Villages, as designated on April 22, 2002, where secondary plans, official plans, zoning by-laws, or Master Environmental Servicing or Functional Servicing Plans are approved based on environmental studies that have identified minimum vegetation protective zones that are different from those identified in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, then the standards established within those plans shall prevail.
26. (new) That in the Urban Area, Towns and Villages, and Hamlets designated on February 28, 2005, where secondary plans, official plans, zoning by-laws, or Master Environmental Servicing or Functional Servicing Plans are approved based on environmental studies that have identified minimum vegetation protective zones that are different from those identified in the Greenbelt Plan, then the standards established within those plans shall prevail.
27. (revised 2.5.13) That every application for *development* or *site alteration* on the Oak Ridges Moraine shall identify planning, design and construction practices that ensure that no buildings or other *site alterations* impede the movement of plants and animals between key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features and *adjacent lands* within the Natural Core Area and the Natural Linkage Area as identified on Map 1.
28. (new) That the technical papers associated with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan be consulted to provide clarification in implementing the policies related to key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features within the Provincial Plans. In the event

of a conflict in the interpretation of the provincial guidelines and the policies of this Plan, the policy which is more protective of the feature will apply.

Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species and their Habitats

Habitats of endangered, threatened and special concern species contain species that have been listed by the Province as occurring in significantly low population numbers, restricted geographic areas, or are threatened by human activities that their continued presence in Ontario is a matter of conservation concern. The actual species falling into categories of threatened or endangered vary from region to region throughout the Province, and can change over time.

Endangered, threatened and special concern species are listed in regulations under the Endangered Species Act. Current lists of endangered, threatened, vulnerable, and species of conservation concern are designated by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario and are placed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List regulation.

Objective

To protect endangered, threatened and special concern species and their habitats to ensure that biological diversity within the Region is not diminished.

It is the policy of Council:

29. (new) That notwithstanding policy 2.2.4 of this Plan, *development* and *site alteration* is not permitted within the habitat of endangered or threatened species, as identified on the Species at Risk in Ontario List.
30. (new) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt, notwithstanding policy 2.2.4, and 2.2.29 of this Plan, *development* and *site alteration* is not permitted within the habitat of endangered, threatened, or special concern species as identified on the Species at Risk in Ontario List.
31. (new) To encourage private land stewardship which protects and enhances the habitat of threatened, endangered and special concern species.
32. (new) To work with the Province, as appropriate, on the preparation of recovery strategies or management plans for endangered, threatened, and special concern species in York Region.

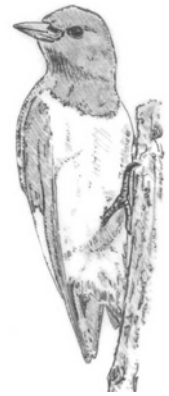
Wetlands

Wetlands are essential natural elements of the Regional ecosystem, providing environmental, economic and social benefits. These lands, which are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water or where the water table is close to or at the surface, are characterized by hydric soils and hydrophytic or water-tolerant plants. Among other functions, wetlands control and store surface water to assist in flood control and groundwater recharge. Wetlands also act as sediment traps to improve water quality and act as habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species.

The Province has enacted a policy statement under the Planning Act that prohibits development in provincially significant wetlands. Wetlands that have not been identified as provincially significant also exist within the Region. Map 4 shows the general location of evaluated wetlands in the Region. More detailed information, as well as more recent wetland evaluations may be available through the Province.

Objective

To ensure no loss of wetland function or area in the Region.



Red Headed Woodpecker (special concern)



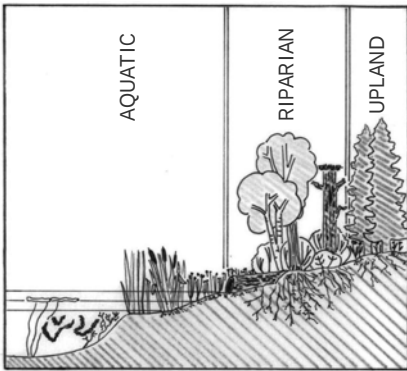
Monarch Butterfly (special concern)

Species at Risk in Ontario List Categories

- EXTIRPATED - a native species that no longer exists in the wild in Ontario, but still exists elsewhere
- ENDANGERED - a native species facing extinction or extirpation
- THREATENED - a native species at risk of becoming endangered in Ontario
- SPECIAL CONCERN - a native species that is sensitive to human activities or natural events which may cause it to become endangered or threatened



Butternut Tree (endangered)



Typical Wetland

It is the policy of Council:

33. (modified 2.2.12) To prohibit *development* or *site alteration* within wetlands as shown on Map 4, notwithstanding policy 2.2.4 of this Plan, and to require a minimum vegetation protection zone of 30 metres from any part of the feature.
34. (modified 2.2.13) To permit *development* or *site alteration* in accordance with other policies of this Plan within 120 metres of wetlands, but not within the 30-metre minimum vegetation protection zone, only if it does not result in any of the following:
 - a. loss of wetland function, including maintenance of water balance;
 - b. demand for future development that will negatively affect existing wetland functions;
 - c. conflict with existing site-specific wetland management practices; or,
 - d. loss of contiguous wetland area.
35. (modified 2.2.15) To encourage local municipalities, public agencies and private landowners to protect wetlands not identified in this Plan.
36. (modified 2.2.16) That boundary refinements or reclassification of existing wetlands by the Province will not require an amendment to Map 4 of this Plan. Where new wetlands are identified by the Province, the Region will consider an amendment to this Plan.

Significant Woodlands

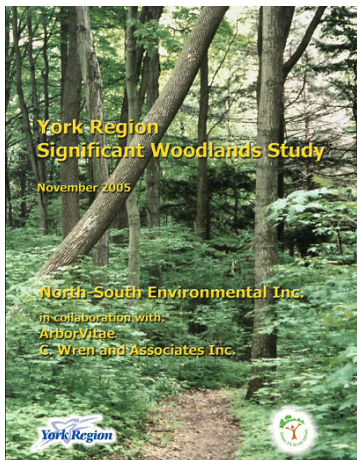
Woodlands are significant components of York Region's natural systems and provide a variety of important environmental, social and economic benefits. These benefits include clean air and water, erosion prevention, water retention, provision of wildlife habitat, recreation and the sustainable harvest of woodland products.

At the time of settlement by Europeans, woodlands covered 90% of the Region. Woodland cover has dwindled to 22.5% today. Because much of the remaining woodland cover is fragmented and lacking in interior habitat areas, maintaining and enhancing significant woodlands and integrating them into the Region's communities is extremely important.

York Region has a Woodland Conservation By-law, requiring that permits be issued to restrict and regulate the destruction of trees on private lands. There are many tools available to private landowners to assist in the sustainable management of woodlands, including the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program and the Ontario Stewardship Program.

York Region manages 22 Regional Forest tracts, totalling over 2,200 hectares. These areas undergo silvicultural management (tree planting, tending and harvesting activities) and hazard tree management, and are important for educational initiatives. The York Regional Forest is the first publicly owned forest in Canada to be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. This third party audit process ensures that the Region is maintaining the forest in a sustainable manner.

The policies of this section of this Plan support the York Region Significant Woodlands Study. This section provides policies for the identification, management and improvement of woodlands to ensure that the Region will have better-quality woodland cover in the future and greater biodiversity, and that the Region will continue to recognize the importance of the urban forest.



Objective

To protect significant woodlands and encourage reforestation to provide environmental, social and economic benefits for the residents of York Region.

It is the policy of Council:

37. (new) To increase woodland cover to a minimum of 25% of the Region's total land area.
38. (new) To prohibit *development* and *site alteration* within significant woodlands.
39. (new) That significant woodlands, confirmed through site level analysis, include any *woodland* meeting one of the following criteria:
 - a. contains G1, G2, G3, S1, S2, or S3 plant or animal species, or community as designated by the Natural Heritage Information Centre;
 - b. contains species designated by the Committee of the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada or by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario as threatened, endangered, or of special concern;
 - c. is within 30 metres of a watercourse, surface water feature or evaluated wetland;
 - d. is over 2 hectares and:
 - i. is within 100 metres of another significant feature; or,
 - ii. occurs within the Regional Greenlands System.
 - e. is south of the Oak Ridges Moraine and is 4 hectares or larger in size;
 - f. is north of the Oak Ridges Moraine and is 10 hectares or larger in size; or,
 - g. on the Oak Ridges Moraine the *woodland* will be evaluated for significance based on the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and associated technical papers.
40. (new) That an amendment to this Plan shall not be required if a site level analysis of a significant woodland determines that a *woodland* does not meet the criteria identified in policy 2.2.39.
41. (new) That Map 5 identifies significant woodlands based on available information and data. Due to the scale of the mapping in this Plan the extent of the significant woodland coverage may not be clearly visible on Map 5. Detailed mapping of significant woodlands, based on available data, will be provided by York Region upon request.
42. (new) That outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt, a minimum vegetation protection zone of 10 metres shall be provided from the outer limits of a significant woodland.
43. (new) That notwithstanding policy 2.2.38 of this Plan, within *new community areas*, *development* and *site alteration* may be permitted within a significant woodland if all of the following are met:
 - a. the *woodland* does not meet criteria in policies 2.2.39.a and 2.2.39.b of this Plan;

York Region Continues to Work Towards 25% Woodland Cover

Since 2001, York Region has been working to increase forest cover through initiatives including:

- the York Natural Planting Partnership, delivered by the Conservation Authorities, which provides subsidized tree planting on private lands
- support of community naturalization initiatives on public and private land
- large-scale reforestation of public lands (e.g., Rouge Park)
- acquiring strategic lands for reforestation

Reforestation of existing public lands will help achieve a portion of the Region's woodland cover target. Private land reforestation and stewardship are essential to achieving this target.

Good Forestry Management is the proper implementation of woodland harvest, renewal and maintenance activities which are known to be appropriate for the forest and environmental conditions under which they are being applied. These practices minimize injury to significant ecosystems, important fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality and quantity, forest productivity and health, and the aesthetic and recreational values.

Urban Forest Effects Model, also known as "UFORE", is an evaluation tool that can be used in urban forest management to measure the type, value and extent of the economic and environmental benefits of the urban forest. Urban forests provide more than aesthetic values, they assist in increasing energy efficiency and pollution abatement. The data generated from the Urban Forest Effects Model analysis is key to an urban forest management plan.

- b. the *woodland* is located in an area strategic to the development of a *new community area*, is evaluated in the context of the secondary plan process required in Section 5.6 of this Plan, and it is determined that the woodland functions can be maximized through relocation and will be replaced by an appropriate urban use meeting the sustainable community objectives of this Plan; and,
- c. the Greenlands System Plan, required by Section 5.6 of this Plan, details the location and implementation plan for the replacement of the woodland to enhance the Regional Greenlands System consistent with policy 2.2.44 of this Plan.

- 44. (new) That should the criteria in policy 2.2.43 be met, the *woodland* may be replaced as detailed in Greenlands System Plan, as required in Section 5.6 of this Plan, with significant enhancements to the Regional Greenlands System within *new community areas* or adjacent areas to the satisfaction of York Region.
- 45. (new) That local municipalities shall develop an Urban Forest Management Plan, together with York Region that may include additional locally significant woodlands.
- 46. (new) That York Regional Forests shall be sustainably managed in a manner that enhances their ecological, educational and recreational functions to ensure their long-term health.
- 47. (modified 2.2.21) To encourage and work with the Province and other stakeholders involved in woodlands management, to maintain and enhance publicly and privately owned forested lands, and to encourage landowners through stewardship initiatives, to use good forestry practices.

Landform Conservation

Significant landscapes exist throughout York Region, providing scenic views and vistas, and a sense of place. Such significant landscapes include many portions of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the former Lake Algonquin shoreline, major river valleys, Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and the Lake Simcoe shoreline.

Landform features help define the Regional character. The policies of this Plan encourage appropriate treatment of these areas during development and incorporate these features into the Regional Greenlands System.

Objective

To encourage and support the conservation of significant landscapes, views and vistas.

It is the policy of Council:

- 48. (modified 2.2.23) To encourage the protection of significant landscapes in a manner compatible with surrounding lands, and minimize the disruption and destruction of landscape features caused by extensive land alteration activities including mass grading, locating and constructing streets, pipelines and transmission lines.
- 49. (modified 2.2.26) That local municipalities shall adopt *site alteration* by-laws in conformity with the Municipal Act **and the Lake Simcoe Plan** to prevent the removal of topsoil or vegetation, **to prevent runoff and sedimentation, and to control erosion, prior to** the approval of an application for *development* or *site alteration*.
- 50. (existing 2.2.28) That landform conservation areas within the Oak Ridges Moraine are shown on Figure 1. Figure 1 is to be consulted whenever *development* or *site alteration* is proposed to determine whether the

landform conservation policies of this Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan apply.

51. (modified 2.2.27) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine, applications for *development* or *site alteration* in a landform conservation area shall be accompanied by the appropriate study as required by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Planning, design and construction practices for any *development* or *site alteration* are required to satisfy the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
52. (modified 2.2.29) To require local municipalities to incorporate the Oak Ridges Moraine landform conservation mapping and policies into local official plans. Policies in the local plans shall require that applications for *development* or *site alteration* in a landform conservation area identify planning, design and construction practices that will keep disturbance to landform character to a minimum, subject to the requirements established in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Local municipalities are also encouraged to consider the need for landform conservation planning outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine.
53. (modified 2.2.30) That mineral aggregate operations are exempt from certain landform conservation requirements in accordance with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
54. (modified 2.2.31) That in considering *development* and *site alteration* applications in the Urban Area and Towns and Villages, local municipalities shall consider the importance of adopting planning, design and construction practices that will keep disturbance of landform character to a minimum, so as to satisfy the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
55. (modified 2.2.32) That applications for *development* and *site alteration* in an Earth Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest on Figure 1, or within the related minimum area of influence, shall be accompanied by an earth science heritage evaluation that meets the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

2.3 Water Systems

York Region's water systems and key hydrologic functions include underground aquifers as well as rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands and lakes, including Lake Simcoe. Although Lake Ontario is not located in York Region, rivers and drinking and wastewater systems connect the Region to the lake. These systems are part of the hydrological cycle and interact through rain, runoff, percolation and evaporation. These systems are not static, but are constantly evolving and changing elements of a broader ecosystem and can continue to be a sustainable, renewable resource for the Region if protected, conserved and enhanced.

Groundwater is important as a supply of drinking water, and provides significant quantities of cool water to the Region's streams and rivers as base flow. Water systems play a crucial role in ecological function and are also important for recreation, agriculture and industrial purposes.

River drainage basins, known as watersheds, provide an ecological basis for the protection of land and water resources. This Plan recognizes the watershed as the basic ecological unit upon which planning should be based. The Oak Ridges Moraine is the origin of headwaters for the watersheds in York Region, and is also a significant source of groundwater recharge and discharge.

Water balance must be managed to maintain the ecological integrity of key natural heritage features and hydrologic function. Changes in land use must take into

York Region's water strategies include the York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan, watershed plans prepared with our partner conservation authorities, as well as groundwater and stream studies.

The York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan's action areas address:

- the provision of safe and clean drinking water
- healthy watersheds
- respect for natural and cultural heritage
- the wise use of water
- community well-being
- full and equitable funding and value for money
- timely and integrated service delivery
- climate change and energy efficiency
- communications, consultation and engagement
- monitoring, performance measurement and adaptive management

account immediate impacts and cumulative changes to watersheds, and off-site impacts, such as increased stormwater runoff or water contamination.

Because water resources are part of a more complex system and are essential to ecosystem and human function, policies relating to water resources are also contained elsewhere in this Plan, specifically Chapters 5 and 7. These chapters collectively articulate the Region's objectives for water resources.

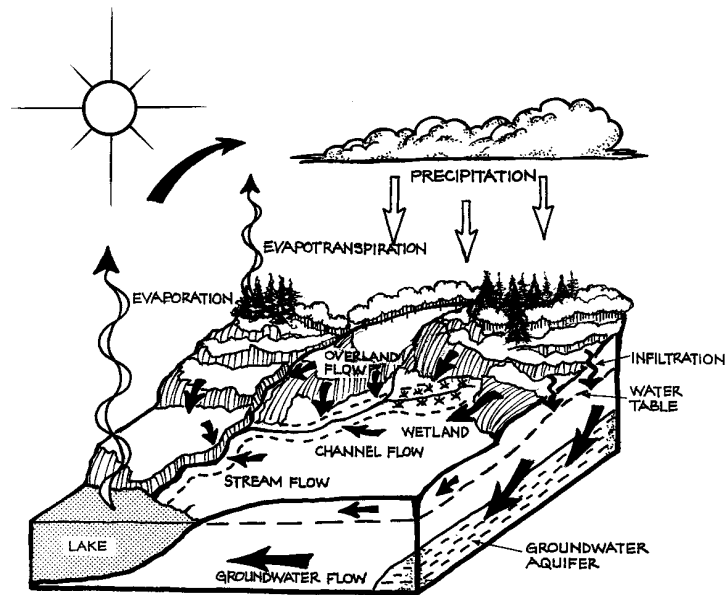
Objective

To maintain and enhance water system health to ensure water quality and quantity, and to maintain the natural hydrologic function of water systems.

It is the policy of Council:

1. To prepare a comprehensive Regional water strategy for both piped services and surface and groundwater sources that will include long-term protection strategies, enhancement guidelines and monitoring requirements for streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, kettle lakes, Lake Simcoe, and other natural aquatic systems.
2. (modified 2.3.4) That the natural quality and hydrological characteristics of watercourses and lakes, including aquatic habitat, base flow, water quality, temperature, storage levels and capacity, will be maintained, and that *development* be designed with the goal of maintaining water balance.
3. To maintain linkages and related functions among surface water features, ground water features, hydrologic function and natural heritage features.
4. To direct *development* away from sensitive groundwater recharge and discharge areas.
5. **Notwithstanding policy 2.3.4, an application for major development within a significant groundwater recharge area shall be accompanied by an environmental impact study that demonstrates that the quality and quantity of groundwater recharge areas will be protected and enhanced.**
6. To amend mapping and policies in this Plan when significant recharge areas or vulnerable aquifer areas are identified.
7. To prepare source water protection plans with the Province, local municipalities, and conservation authorities to protect the quality and quantity of Regional water supply from incompatible uses and sources of contamination.
8. To continue to partner with the Regions of Peel and Durham, the City of Toronto and the conservation authorities to study, analyze and monitor

THE HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE



groundwater and surface water resources to ensure a unified approach to protecting and enhancing water quality and quantity.

9. (modified 2.3.2) To monitor the quantity and quality of surface water and groundwater systems in York Region, in co-operation with local municipalities and conservation authorities, by:
 - a. assessing the sustainability of current activities and land uses; and,
 - b. identifying those areas that are susceptible to, or currently experiencing, water quality and quantity problems.
10. To require local municipalities to establish policies and programs to protect, enhance and monitor water systems.
11. To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies in establishing procedures for water taking permits that protect and enhance water resources.
12. To require the preparation of a community water management plan as part of secondary plans to protect and enhance the natural hydrologic function of water systems. Such plans will emphasize water conservation and reuse, and will incorporate innovative technologies with a goal that water balance and hydrologic functions will be maintained.
13. (modified 2.3.6) To encourage agricultural land management practices that minimize the application of pesticides and nutrients.

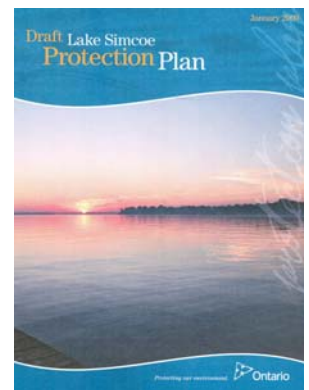
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

The Province has released the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008 and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan to restore and protect the ecological health of the lake. The Lake Simcoe Plan is a watershed-based plan to improve the quality of the water in the lake, protect the watershed's natural heritage resources, and manage the effects of climate change and invasive species.

This Plan recognizes the importance of restoring and protecting the health of Lake Simcoe **and reflects the relevant policies of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**

It is the policy of Council:

- 14. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to implement the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
- 15. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to develop and support monitoring programs, identify emerging issues, support the adaptive management approach of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to develop a phosphorus reduction strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed.**
- 16. (new) To recognize existing uses within the Lake Simcoe watershed in accordance with the policies of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
- 17. (new) That within the York Region portion of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, settlement areas are considered to be urban areas, town and villages as they existed the day prior to the day of approval of this Plan by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.**
- 18. (new) To amend this Plan as necessary to ensure consistency with the recommendations of Lake Simcoe subwatershed evaluations and shoreline management strategy.**



Policies relating to land uses and permitted uses within the **Lake Simcoe Protection Plan** are dispersed throughout this Plan, specifically within the following sections:

- 2.1 Regional Greenlands System: A Sustainable Natural Environment Legacy
- 2.2 Natural Features: Components of the Greenlands System
- 2.3 Water Systems**
- 6.4 Rural Area
- 6.5 Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas
- 7.3 Water and Wastewater Servicing
- 8.3 The Planning Process**

Approved Special Policy Areas in York Region

- Woodbridge Special Policy Area
- Unionville Special Policy Area
- Lake Wilcox Special Policy Area
- Schomberg Special Policy Area

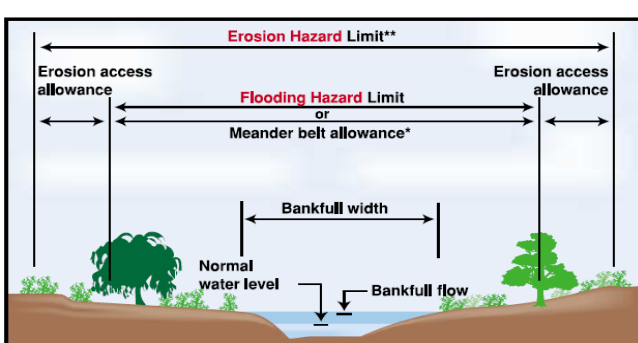
Natural Hazards

Natural hazards such as flooding, erosion and slope failures pose a risk to human health and safety, as well as property. It is important to reduce the potential risks and costs associated with natural hazards by ensuring that development is directed away from these areas.

It is the policy of Council:

19. To direct *development* away from areas subject to flood and erosion risk, including lands adjacent to rivers, streams or inland lake systems.
20. To support conservation authorities in the management of floodplain areas based on the one zone concept, with two zone and *Special Policy Areas* concepts used only with provincial approval.
21. That *development* be planned and designed to minimize flooding impacts.
22. That *development* and *site alteration* are generally prohibited within defined portions of the floodplain, subject to conservation authority regulations.
23. To prohibit new lot creation in hazardous lands.
24. To require setbacks, buffers and/or access allowance from hazardous lands based on a minimum buffer defined by the Conservation Authority, or such greater distance as may be determined through a geotechnical study or to conform to provincial regulations.
25. To dedicate public ownership of hazardous lands to public agencies through the *development* process.
26. To require local official plans and zoning by-laws to contain appropriate mapping and/or policies to:
 - a. identify floodplain and regulated lands;
 - b. identify permitted uses and minimum setbacks or buffers; and,
 - c. regulate land use within and adjacent to floodplains and regulated areas which may include *Special Policy Areas*.
27. (modified 2.3.14) To work with conservation authorities and local municipalities to update floodplain mapping.

Hazard Land Cross-Section



28. (modified 2.3.17) To protect and enhance aquatic habitats, including fish and wildlife habitats, in co-operation with the Province and conservation authorities.

29. To work with local municipalities and conservation authorities to prepare for climate change impacts by ensuring public health and safety, infrastructure security, emergency services, and that evacuation routes are maintained during flood events.

30. That emergency management plans be updated regularly and reflect disaster response best practices for severe weather events, including flooding.

31. To work with local municipalities, conservation authorities and other partners to ensure that climate change effects are considered in flood management and natural heritage areas.

Watershed Planning

Watershed plans emphasize the importance of managing both ground and surface water systems in a comprehensive way that support more sustainable land use planning decisions. This is particularly important in new and intensifying areas of

growth. The Region works closely with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority in the preparation of watershed plans for York Region.

It is the policy of Council:

32. That the goals and objectives of watershed plans shall be achieved through the implementation of this Plan.
33. (modified 2.3.1) To work in partnership with local municipalities, conservation authorities, adjacent regions/cities and other agencies to co-ordinate watershed planning initiatives and implement watershed plan recommendations that:
 - a. protect and enhance river system function, linkages and sensitivities;
 - b. achieve water quality and quantity objectives for the watershed in the Urban Area and *new community areas*;
 - c. address the long-term cumulative impact of *development* on the watershed through regular monitoring, reporting and adaptive management as necessary;
 - d. protect and enhance existing geology, hydrology, hydrogeology, , limnology, aquatic and terrestrial habitats **and the quality, quantity and function of groundwater recharge areas**;
 - e. provide guidelines for sustainable development, design and construction; and,
 - f. provide retrofits of existing neighbourhoods to ensure better hydrologic function.
34. To increase public awareness and the understanding of watershed health and protection in partnership with local municipalities, conservation authorities and other stakeholders.
35. That *major development* on the Oak Ridges Moraine shall comply with the applicable watershed plan.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater is the runoff that occurs in urbanized areas, increasing downstream watercourse erosion, pollution and increased water temperatures. Stormwater can intensify flooding during storm events. Careful management of stormwater through innovative techniques is required, especially in new development.

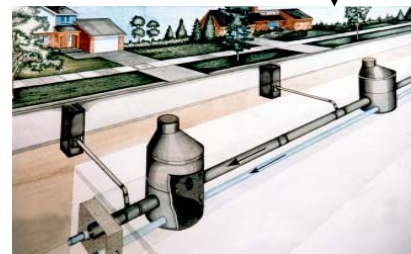
It is the policy of Council:

36. To work in partnership with local municipalities, the Province, conservation authorities and other agencies in the implementation of stormwater management initiatives.
37. To require the preparation of community water management plans as a component of secondary plans to manage stormwater quality, quantity, and infiltration through an integrated treatment approach, which may include techniques such as rainwater harvesting, runoff reduction of solids and materials at source, **phosphorus reduction**, constructed wetlands, bioretention swales, green roofs, permeable surfaces, clean water collection systems, and the preservation and enhancement of native vegetation cover.
- 38. (new) That owners and operators of stormwater management works inspect, maintain and monitor effluent quality on a periodic basis.**

The Stormwater Management



Source Controls



Conveyance Controls



"End of Pipe" Controls

39. (new) To work with local municipalities and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive stormwater management master plans for each settlement area within the Lake Simcoe Watershed by June 2014.

CHAPTER 3

Healthy Communities

Healthy communities are places where people can live, work, play and learn in an accessible and safe environment. Communities that provide a strong sense of belonging and identity contribute to a high-quality of life, health and well-being. Healthy communities offer affordable housing choices and access to transit, a range of quality human services, schools, public spaces, and local amenities. The natural environment, including clean air, land and water, is an essential component of a healthy community. A vibrant economy offers meaningful employment and opportunities for local business to thrive.

York Region has a wide variety of communities, ranging from Hamlets to Regional Centres. As York Region continues to grow there is a unique opportunity to create healthier, more sustainable and compact communities.

York Region reflects the Canadian cultural mosaic and continues to attract an increasingly diverse population that contributes to a rich and changing cultural landscape. Accessible and responsive human services play an important role in developing a sense of community.

Healthy Communities Goal

To improve the health and well-being of residents and workers in the Region by planning and developing sustainable active communities.

3.1 Human Health and Well-Being

Human health is strongly related to the built and natural environments. Personal health and well-being is linked to opportunities to live, work, play and learn in their own community.

Designing and building communities to encourage active lifestyle choices, protecting the natural environment and ensuring access to clean air, water, and healthy food can significantly improve overall health and well-being and can prevent or delay the onset of diseases and premature death.

Community design has an important role to play in increasing levels of physical activity. Reducing the amount of automobile dependency helps prevent obesity and other physical and mental health diseases related to physical inactivity, adverse air and environmental quality.

York Region plays an important role in promoting health and well-being. This includes increasing public understanding and attitudes towards health and lifestyle choices, as well as providing human services.

Objective

To promote human health and well-being in York Region, where people can live, work, play and learn in accessible and safe communities.

It is the policy of Council:

1. (new) To recognize that the design of communities is directly related to human health.
2. (new) To promote healthy active lifestyle choices and disease prevention through education, information and supportive communities.
3. (new) To require high-quality urban design and pedestrian-friendly communities that provide safety, comfort and mobility so that residents can walk to meet their daily needs.

The definition of a healthy community as adopted by the World Health Organization is one that is “continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential.”

Key Elements of Healthy Communities

- Opportunities to live, work and play in the same community
- Acceptable and affordable housing
- Linked natural heritage system
- A range of quality human services
- Sustaining a vibrant and competitive economy
- Community design that promotes active lifestyles, human interaction, safety and accessibility
- Protection of heritage and culture
- Public transit
- Clean air, land and water
- Safe, efficient infrastructure
- Access to locally grown food

The World Health Organization defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Health and Economic Impacts of Ground Level Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter – York Region		
Impacts of Air Pollution	2008	2018
Health impact		
Premature deaths	592	775
Economic impact (in \$ millions)		
Pain and suffering	\$0.8	\$1.0
Premature death	\$1,470	\$1,926
Healthcare costs	\$6.6	\$8.7
Lost productivity	\$0.2	\$0.2
Total	\$1,480	\$1,936
Canadian Medical Association		

York Region recognizes that the health of a community is based on the following social factors defined as the determinants of health:

- Income and social status
- Social support networks
- Education and literacy
- Employment/working conditions
- Social environments
- Physical environments
- Personal health practices and coping skills
- Healthy child development
- Biology and genetic endowment
- Health services
- Gender equity
- Culture

Count me in! Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse, 2006

- (new) To encourage citizen engagement and shared responsibility in decisions affecting individual and community health and well-being.
- (new) That public health and other human services be incorporated into the design and evaluation of *new community areas* and Regional Centres and Corridors.
- (new) To work with local municipalities to understand the impacts of climate change on the health and well-being of residents.
- To design communities to be more resilient to the effects of climate change.
- (new) To promote the development of local food production and distribution and community gardens.
- (new) To support a continuum of healthcare needs at all stages of life.
- To encourage a strong sense of community and belonging through volunteerism.

3.2 Air Quality and Climate Change

The release of air pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere contributes to poor air quality, with far-reaching impacts on health and the environment. Human activities and the use of fossil fuels for transportation, manufacturing, electricity generation, heating, and cooling contribute to climate change.

Climate change has significant implications for services that York Region provides. As our climate continues to change and the Region continues to grow, more people, property and infrastructure will be at risk, including air quality, water, wastewater, transportation, energy, and healthcare systems, and emergency response capabilities.

Almost half of York Region's air pollution comes from sources beyond our borders, however, we can reduce local sources of air pollution. York Region is committed to addressing air quality and climate change by pursuing initiatives that reduce emissions and greenhouse gasses. This will be accomplished through compact urban form, a mix of land uses, active transportation, public transit, energy conservation and renewable energy sources, and by protecting natural areas and agricultural lands.

The York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region contains over 117 action items of which half are underway, including the implementation of the Corporate Clean Air Strategy.

Objective

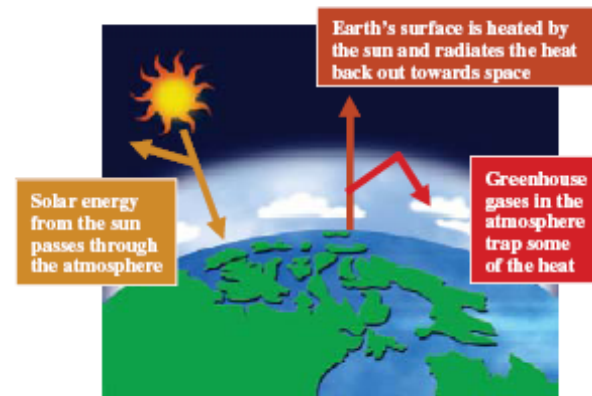
To improve air quality, and mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

It is the policy of Council:

- To implement the York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region.
- (new) To prepare a climate change adaptation action plan in keeping with the York Region Sustainability Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Region.
- (new) To reduce vehicle emissions by ensuring that communities are designed to prioritize pedestrians, reduce single occupancy automobile use, and support public transit and transportation demand management initiatives.
- (new) To establish greenhouse gas reduction targets for York Region in partnership with community stakeholders and local municipalities.

5. (new) To require health, environmental and cumulative air quality impact studies that assess the impact on human health for development with significant known or potential air emission levels near sensitive uses such as schools, daycares and seniors' facilities.
6. That sensitive uses such as schools, daycares and seniors' facilities not be located near significant known air emissions sources such as controlled access provincial 400-series highways.
7. (new) To work with partners such as the GTA Clean Air Council to conduct research, develop toolkits and share information on air quality and climate change impacts.
8. (new) To work with local municipalities, agencies and stakeholders on the development and implementation of clean air initiatives.
9. **(new) To work with other levels of government, agencies, and stakeholders to identify the links between climate change, community planning and public health.**
10. (new) To work with other levels of government, agencies and stakeholders to develop climate change adaptation measures that address such issues as urban heat island effect, infrastructure resiliency, emergency preparedness, vector-borne diseases, and extreme-weather event responses.
11. To work with the Province to increase air quality monitoring stations in York Region and to improve air quality monitoring.
12. (new) To investigate emissions trading and carbon offsets to finance and showcase clean air initiatives in consultation with the Province and Federal government.
13. (new) To investigate strategies related to reducing the industrial use of toxic materials in consultation with provincial, municipal and business partners.
14. (new) To work with local municipalities and the building industry to develop best practices in construction to reduce airborne pollutants.

The greenhouse effect



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CHAPTER 6

Agricultural and Rural Areas

6.4 Rural Area

The Rural Area includes viable farms, businesses, and land uses such as equestrian facilities, farm markets, rural settlements, existing rural residential and estate residential development and golf courses. A number of factors, including soil capability, topography, land use fragmentation by non-agricultural uses such as large churches and cemeteries, as well as natural features and conflicting uses in the area have combined to make these lands more rural in character than lands in the Agricultural Area designation. Regardless of these challenges, viable agriculture and agriculture-related activities within the Rural Area are expected to continue for the long term.

The Rural Area is protected by the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and contains areas of environmental significance, including large portions of the Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Within the Rural Area, outside of Towns and Villages and Hamlets, development will be limited in order to retain the rural character of the landscape and ensure viable agricultural uses remain.

Objective

To retain the character of lands in the Rural Area and to protect the viability of existing *agriculture, agriculture-related* and *secondary agricultural uses*.

It is the policy of Council:

1. (modified 5.8.1) To recognize and protect the Rural Area on Map 8, as a natural resource of major importance to the economic and social viability of the Region.
2. The Rural Area designation of this Plan and local municipal official plans establishes the permitted uses within the Greenbelt Plan and acts as an overlay within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan to inform the range of uses permitted within some of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan land use designations.
3. (modified 5.9.1) That existing and new *agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, normal farm practices*, forestry, conservation, land extensive recreational uses, and resource-based commercial and industrial uses are permitted in the Rural Area, consistent with the policies of the Provincial Plans and local municipal official plans and zoning by-laws.
4. (new) That new land uses, consents, and new and expanding livestock operations shall comply with the Province's *Minimum Distance Separation Formulae*.
5. (new) That within the Rural Area, applications for redesignation of lands for non-agricultural uses are only permitted if they comply with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation and Greenbelt Plans.

Such applications may require an amendment to this Plan and the local official plan and zoning by-law, demonstrating:

- a. that the proposed use is appropriate in the Rural Area when considered in the context of Provincial Plans and local official plans;

- b. that the proposed use will not adversely impact the ability of adjacent agricultural activities to undertake normal farm practices;
 - c. that the proposed water and wastewater servicing is appropriate for the type of use; and,
 - d. that there are no negative impacts on key natural heritage or hydrologic features and functions, biodiversity or connectivity of the Regional Greenlands System.
- 6. (modified 5.9.2) That non-resource-based industrial and commercial uses and institutional uses shall be directed to the Urban Area, Towns and Villages and Hamlets.
- 7. (modified 5.9.3) That new land extensive *major recreational uses*, such as golf courses and outdoor playing fields, or expansion to these uses where they currently exist, may be permitted in the Rural Area subject to an amendment to this Plan and the local official plan and zoning by-law, where the following provisions are met to the satisfaction of the Region and local municipality:
 - a. the size of the use is appropriate for the area and will not further fragment the Rural Area;
 - b. the proposed use will not introduce a conflicting use that adversely impacts ongoing agricultural activities or related uses in the immediate and surrounding areas;
 - c. there is a plan to enhance and improve connections between key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features;
 - d. there is an integrated pesticide and fertilizer management plan that minimizes or excludes applications; and,
 - e. water, wastewater and stormwater management plans that ensure adequate water quality and quantity are submitted.
 - f. where these uses are proposed within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan or the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, they shall comply with the applicable Provincial plan in place.**
- 8. (new) That notwithstanding policy 6.4.5, new *cemeteries* and accessory uses such as mausolea, columbaria, small scale chapels, expansions of existing *cemeteries*, but not freestanding places of worship, may be permitted in the Rural Area of the Greenbelt Plan subject to an amendment to this Plan and the local municipal official plan and zoning by-law, where the following provisions are met to the satisfaction of the Region and local municipality:
 - a. the area and capacity of the *cemetery* and the accessory uses are appropriate for the Rural Area and intended to serve the Region's population, as demonstrated by a demand analysis based on the 2031 planning horizon;
 - b. the proposal demonstrates opportunities for alternative internment or burial practices meeting the needs of a diverse cultures and efficient use of the land area;
 - c. lands are not available for *cemetery* uses in the existing Urban Area, Towns and Villages or Hamlets in the Regional market area;
 - d. the *cemetery* and accessory uses will not create the need to develop other uses, such as a freestanding place of worship on the site in the future;

- e. appropriate hydrological and hydrogeological studies have been completed, which indicate that the use will not have adverse impacts on the quality and quantity of ground and surface water on or nearby the site or a *Wellhead Protection Area*;
 - f. the proposal has no adverse traffic, parking or visual impacts on the surrounding land uses or residents and maintains the rural character of the area;
 - g. there is an enhancement plan that demonstrates the use of existing site characteristics, such as topography and vegetation, identifies natural native vegetation enhancement and sequential plantings, including opportunities for memorial groves and the establishment of arboreta, improvements to connectivity between key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features, provides for the development of a forest canopy; and,
 - h. the use conforms with the policies in Chapter 2 of this Plan.
9. (modified 5.9.6) That consents may be permitted in the Rural Area subject to the criteria contained in policy 6.3.7, and local official plans and zoning by-laws.
 10. (modified 5.9.5) That notwithstanding policy 6.4.9, fragmentation of the Rural Area in existing *agricultural use* through consents shall generally be discouraged.
 11. To work with the Town of Georgina and others in formulating additional local official plan policies to recognize the unique aspects of the municipally serviced lakeshore areas between the urban area of Keswick and Sutton/Jackson's Point. Such policies will conform with the Greenbelt Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and the policy direction of this Plan.
 12. That *alternative energy systems* and *renewable energy systems* shall be permitted within the Rural Area in accordance with provincial and federal requirements. Any such systems within the Greenbelt Plan Area shall be subject to the policies of the Greenbelt Plan.
 13. That within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Countryside Designation in the Town of Aurora, on lands described as Part 2 of Plan 65R-11866 and Plan 65R-15508, a cluster residential development in condominium ownership is permitted subject to the following:
 - a. servicing shall be by a privately owned and operated communal wastewater treatment system and a privately owned and operated communal water system, approved through a Class Environmental Assessment or equivalent process which includes the following:
 - i. an inventory of the existing environment and possible impacts;
 - ii. an evaluation of alternatives in consultation with affected agencies;
 - iii. preliminary design of the preferred alternative, which will ensure construction of collection and distribution systems to municipal standards;
 - iv. specifications of the interrelationship with the adjacent recreational use; and,
 - v. preparation of a maintenance, monitoring and system failure contingency plan.

- b. a Responsibility Agreement(s) being executed for the communal wastewater treatment and water systems, identifying among other things the following:
 - i. operation and maintenance standards;
 - ii. the definition of default and required remediation;
 - iii. financial guarantees that no public funds will be required in the case of a malfunction;
 - iv. easements, rights of entry and inspection; and,
 - v. monitoring systems.
- c. an economic/fiscal impact analysis shall be completed to confirm the financial viability of the proposal, the proposed economic benefits to the Region and to ensure that the local and Regional financial impacts are accounted for in keeping with policy 4.5.14;
- d. prior to any development taking place, approval shall have been given to an amendment to the local official plan, supported at a minimum by the following:
 - i. a market support study;
 - ii. an engineering report;
 - iii. an environment and landscaping analysis; and,
 - iv. an economic/fiscal impact analysis confirming the viability of the proposal and the proposed economic benefits to the municipality.
- e. overall density of development shall generally be compatible to that achieved through estate residential policies of the local municipal plan and shall be determined through supporting environmental and servicing studies; and,
- f. design shall effectively screen development from arterial roads and existing uses through sensitive siting and landscaping. Access shall be from internal paved streets constructed to municipal standards and designed to discourage through traffic.

6.5 Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas

The Region has limited sand and gravel resources remaining. The majority of these are located on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Oak Ridges Moraine land use designations permit new aggregate extraction only in Natural Linkage and Countryside Areas and subject to Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan provisions for key natural heritage features. It is important that remaining aggregate resource areas be protected from incompatible uses or uses that would limit the extraction of the resource in the future, as they provide local building materials for communities and infrastructure.

The availability of aggregates close to market is important for economic and environmental reasons. It is equally important that these resources be extracted in an environmentally sensitive way and that exhausted pits and quarries be rehabilitated to uses compatible with agriculture, rural or open space.

Objective

To protect mineral resources for possible future extraction and to ensure rehabilitation of extraction areas.

It is the policy of Council:

1. (same as 5.10.1) To protect remaining primary and secondary Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas as shown on Map 9.
2. (same as 5.10.2) To recognize and provide for the continued operation of currently licensed pits and quarries and to encourage the extraction of mineral aggregate from locations within Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas, subject to the policies of this Plan and local official plans and by-laws.
3. (same as 5.10.3) To protect Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas from land uses and activities incompatible with extractive operations. New uses, other than extractive uses may be considered within these areas only if it can be shown through detailed studies that:
 - a. the proposed land use would not significantly preclude future extraction of mineral aggregate resources;
 - b. the proposed land use would serve the long-term interest of the public better than would aggregate extraction; and,
 - c. aggregate extraction would not be economically, socially or environmentally feasible.
4. (same as 5.10.4) That local official plans shall identify Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas and existing licensed Aggregate extraction uses and provide policies for the location, expansion, operation and rehabilitation of pits and quarries.
5. (same as 5.10.5) To consult with the Province and local municipalities regarding new licences to establish or expand pits or quarries.
6. (same as 5.10.7) That local municipalities enact by-laws that:
 - a. regulate truck traffic to minimize adverse impacts on surrounding residents; and,
 - b. regulate the removal of topsoil.
7. (same as 5.10.8) That local municipalities may protect additional areas for extraction.
8. (same as 5.10.6) To ensure that all extraction and processing activities are conducted in a manner that minimizes negative environmental and social impacts, in accordance with all government legislation, standards and policies.
9. (modified 5.10.11) To permit portable asphalt plants, wayside pits and quarries on a temporary basis, in consultation with local municipalities, without requiring an official plan amendment or zoning by-law amendment. A zoning by-law amendment shall be required to permit such facilities in areas of existing development.
10. (same as 5.10.12) To minimize the adverse effects of wayside pits and quarries in accordance with all government legislation, standards and policies.
11. (modified as 5.10.14) To encourage the use of alternative materials to sand and gravel and the reuse of construction materials where possible to ensure conservation of existing aggregate supply.
12. (same as 5.10.9) To require the rehabilitation of abandoned pits and quarries and the progressive rehabilitation of operating pits and quarries in a manner that is in conformity with other policies of this Plan.
13. (new) That where the rehabilitation of a pit or quarry uses fill materials, the owner/operator may be required to provide financial guarantees to ensure

groundwater or adjacent Regional or private well supplies will not be contaminated. Further, the owner/operator of the pit or quarry shall be required to retain an on-site environmental inspector to ensure that all fill materials are appropriate.

14. (same as 5.10.10) That mineral aggregate extraction and accessory uses are temporary uses and that the policies of this Plan are applicable to the temporary use and the rehabilitated use.
15. (same as 5.10.15) That mineral aggregate extraction may occur in the Agricultural Area on an interim basis provided rehabilitation of the site will be carried out so that substantially the same areas and same average soils quality for agriculture is restored. In the following cases, complete agricultural rehabilitation is not required:
 - a. where there is a substantial quantity of aggregate below the water table such that the depth of the extraction makes restoration to pre-extraction levels unfeasible; or,
 - b. where other alternatives have been considered by the applicant and found unfeasible in accordance with the Provincial Policy Statement.
16. (modified 5.10.16) That within the Greenbelt Plan Area, and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area, existing and new mineral aggregate operations shall comply with the provisions of the applicable Provincial Plans.
- 17. (new) That outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine area and Greenbelt area, but within the Lake Simcoe watershed, applications for new mineral aggregate operations and wayside pits and quarries shall comply with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**

Servicing Our Population

7.3 Water and Wastewater Servicing

York Region is committed to providing long-term water and wastewater services to its communities that are safe, well-managed, sustainable and delivered in a fiscally responsible manner, in addition to ensuring that the Region's environment is protected and enhanced. It is York Region's goal that the delivery of works and services will be integrated with the Region's other infrastructure, planning, and growth management responsibilities.

Without direct access to the Great Lakes, York Region relies on agreements with the City of Toronto, and the Regions of Durham and Peel to provide the safe and effective delivery of water and wastewater services to the Urban Area. There are two main sources of drinking water in the Region: surface water from Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe and a limited amount of groundwater from Regional aquifers.

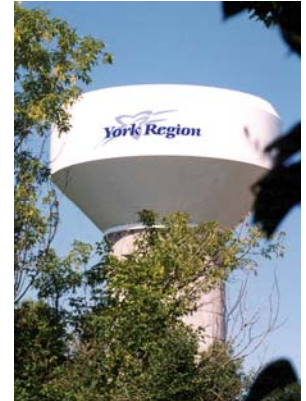
The policies of this Plan support the sustainability principles within the York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan, and ensure the careful co-ordination of infrastructure delivery, land use planning and financial planning.

Objective

To deliver safe, clean drinking water and provide long-term water and wastewater services to York Region's communities, that are safe, well-managed, and sustainable.

It is the policy of Council:

1. (modified 6.7.6) To regularly update water and wastewater service planning through the Master Plan process and to co-ordinate infrastructure and phasing growth by:
 - a. undertaking groundwater studies to support source water protection planning;
 - b. regularly evaluating existing infrastructure;
 - c. using a 40- to 50-year time horizon to ensure full life cycle infrastructure planning and costing;
 - d. considering the value of ecological services in all infrastructure investment decisions;
 - e. investigating new technologies and sustainable innovative practices; and,
 - f. providing implementation and phasing plans including the York Region 10-Year Capital Plan.
2. (new) To ensure that the provision of appropriate water and wastewater infrastructure and servicing capacity is co-ordinated with plans of subdivision, plans of condominium, site plans or any other *development* applications in order to ensure services are available prior to occupancy.
3. (new) To plan water and wastewater services to ensure co-ordinated land use approvals, capital plans and master plans.
4. (new) That the provision of water and wastewater servicing within communities be co-ordinated with land use planning approvals to:
 - a. achieve complete communities;



ISO 14001 and ISO 9000 are internationally recognized standards of excellence for environmental management and business practices. In order to achieve registration status, an organization must establish, maintain and continually improve upon their activities to reduce pollution, improve compliance and efficiency. This process also includes evaluations and reviews by a third party registrar at least annually.

York Region has been a leader in the implementation of these management systems in the municipal sector.

Key milestones include:

- 2000: First in North America to apply the ISO 14001 to a wastewater distribution system (York-Durham Wastewater System)
- 2001: First municipality in Canada to register five wastewater treatment plants
- 2001: Achieved ISO 9001:2000 registration for the York Water System (distribution system for City of Toronto water)
- 2002: Achieved ISO 9001:2000 registration for the North Water System (treatment and supply from production wells)

- b. achieve balanced communities with residential and employment opportunities;
 - c. assist in the sequencing of growth within communities;
 - d. achieve intensification targets;
 - e. promote energy efficient green buildings; and,
 - f. capitalize on intensification and more compact development opportunities as they arise.
- 5. (modified 6.7.3) To work with partners in the provision of water and wastewater services for the Region.
- 6. (modified 6.7.1) To provide full municipal water and wastewater servicing to accommodate growth in the Urban Area.
- 7. (modified 6.7.1) To consider alternatives to servicing northern York Region in keeping with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act, the York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan and the Upper York Servicing Solution Individual Environmental Assessment.
- 8. (modified 6.7.20) To require local official plans to identify Regional water wells and wastewater treatment plants, and appropriate buffer areas according to provincial guidelines.
- 9. (new) To require local official plans to identify all Regional wells to protect drinking water quality.
- 10. (modified 6.7.18) That where local official plans permit minor infill in Towns and Villages and Hamlets on private individual wastewater systems, these systems will be permitted only if it can be demonstrated to the local municipality that there are no adverse impacts on soil or **surface or groundwater quality and quantity**.
- 11. (same as 6.7.13) That where the protection of public health is an issue, in areas of existing groundwater contamination as determined by a Medical Officer of Health, and where full municipal water and wastewater services cannot be provided, communal water supply and wastewater treatment systems may be considered. Consideration of communal systems shall be reviewed in the context of suitable administrative and financial arrangements to the satisfaction of the Region and the Province.
- 12. (new) To supply the Urban Area and Towns and Villages with water from the Great Lakes or from Lake Simcoe, subject to the restrictions of the Greenbelt Plan, **Lake Simcoe Protection Plan**, or other provincial **plans and statutes**. A limited amount of groundwater resources will be used and managed in a way that sustains healthy flow into creeks, streams and rivers.
- 13. To support the Great Lakes water balance by returning flow to Lake Ontario and support current investment in Lake Ontario oriented infrastructure.
- 14. To provide water and wastewater treatment capacity from Lake Simcoe to service the Keswick, Sutton and Georgina Lakeshore communities.
- 15. (modified 6.7.2) That *development* within and expansions to the urban uses within Towns and Villages identified on Map 1 will occur on the basis of full municipal water and wastewater treatment services where such facilities currently exist. For existing or previously approved *development* in Towns and Villages, water and wastewater treatment services will be continued where feasible and in keeping with the provisions of local official plans and this Plan.

16. (modified as 6.7.21) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine, all improvements **or new** water and wastewater infrastructure systems shall conform with the Transportation, Infrastructure and Utilities provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Infrastructure provisions of the Greenbelt Plan **and the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
17. (modified as 6.7.22) That the construction or expansion of partial services is prohibited in the Oak Ridges Moraine unless it has been deemed necessary to address a serious health or environmental concern identified by the Medical Officer of Health or other designated authority.
18. (new) To provide reliable water and wastewater services to residents and businesses to ensure continuing community well-being and the economic vitality of the Region.
19. (new) To provide high-quality, safe, and clean drinking water while protecting surface and groundwater resources by:
- a. meeting and exceeding water quality standards defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act;
 - b. protecting the drinking water supply through source water protection strategies;
 - c. protecting and enhancing the Region's system of lakes, rivers and streams;
 - d. ensuring groundwater use sustains the long-term health of aquifers;
 - e. maintaining and updating the groundwater monitoring program; and,
 - f. identifying source water protection areas.
20. (new) To ensure that the Region continues to provide state-of-the-art wastewater treatment while investigating innovative new technologies.
21. (new) To protect surface water quality by addressing both point and non-point sources of pollution in partnership with local municipalities and conservation authorities.
22. (modified 7.3.10) To encourage local municipalities to promote safe and effective maintenance of individual private wastewater systems in order to protect and improve groundwater **and surface water** quality.
- 23. (new) That no new on site wastewater system will be permitted within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, other lakes, or any permanent streams within the Lake Simcoe watershed except under the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.**
24. To work with local municipalities to reduce the amount of inflow and infiltration in both local and Regional wastewater systems.
25. (new) To ensure that wastewater effluent is managed to minimize impacts on the quality of the receiving water.
26. (new) To ensure that biosolids resulting from wastewater treatment are managed sustainably.
27. (new) To incorporate energy-recovery systems into water and wastewater facilities where possible in order to reduce the health and environmental impacts of greenhouse gas and other emissions on air quality.
28. (new) That water and wastewater facilities will be designed and operated to reduce energy use and, where possible, energy recovery.

29. (new) To ensure that full cost recovery applies to all water and wastewater services reflecting social and environmental, as well as internal and external economic costs.
30. (new) That the planning and design of water and wastewater infrastructure will consider potential impacts from climate change.
31. (new) To ensure secure and resilient Regional water and wastewater systems to maintain continual service.
32. (new) That water and wastewater services will be planned, constructed and operated in a manner that protects, enhances, and provides net benefit to the Region's natural and cultural heritage.
33. (new) To work with local municipalities to engage the public on water resource use reduction and conservation, pollution prevention and awareness of lifestyle decisions that can reduce carbon footprints.
34. (new) That the water and wastewater systems be sized to consider the potential for expansion of the service area, intensification and increased allocation where permitted by York Region Master Plans and Provincial Plans.

Table 3: Possible Regional Planning Studies Required to Evaluate a Proposed Amendment to this Plan (1)

Planning Studies	Circumstance
Planning Justification	All Regional Official Plan Amendment applications
Environmental Impact Statement	Development within or in close proximity to the Regional Greenslands System but outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt
Natural Heritage Evaluation	Development within the Oak Ridges Moraine or the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt or the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan that is within 120 metres of a key natural heritage feature
Hydrological Evaluation	Development within the Oak Ridges Moraine or the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt that is within 120 metres of a hydrological feature
Agricultural Impact Study	Non-agricultural development within the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt
Landform Conservation Area Study	Development on landform conservation areas within the Oak Ridges Moraine
Earth Science Heritage Evaluation	Development within the minimum area of influence of an earth science area of natural or scientific interest
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Conformity	Development within the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Archeological Assessment	Development on lands containing significant or potentially significant archeological resources
Regional Impact Analysis	Applications for retail spaces greater than 30,000 square metre of gross leasable area
Transportation Study	All Regional Official Plan Amendment applications
Greenbelt Plan Conformity	Development within the Greenbelt Plan
Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Conformity	Development within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
Mineral Aggregate Study	Development adjacent to mineral aggregate resources
Detailed Service Plan	All Regional Official Plan Amendment applications

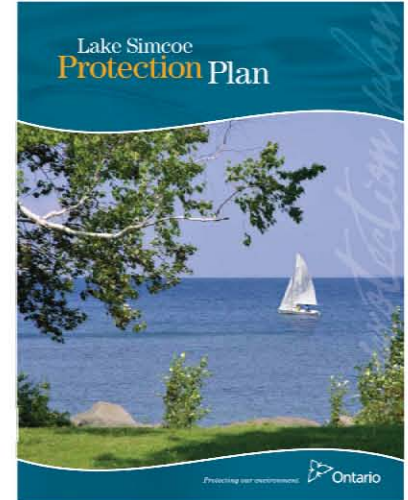
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan - Key Chapter Points

Chapter 1 Introduction

- Establishes the general direction and authority for the Plan to proceed
- Establishes the Plan objectives and principles
- Establishes priorities for the Plan
- Provides interpretation and for the Plan

Chapter 2 – Building on Past Actions

- Provides a history of cooperative efforts to remediate Lake Simcoe including the Lake Simcoe Environmental management Plan (LSEMS), Intergovernmental Action Plan (IGAP) and Agricultural, Community, Municipal and LSRCA actions, among others.



Chapter 3 - Aquatic Life

- *Target:*
 - Mean Dissolved Oxygen Concentration of 7 mg/l on September 15th of any year
- *Indicators:*
 - Natural reproduction and survival of native aquatic communities
 - Presence and abundance of key sensitive species (lake trout and brook trout)
 - Shifts in cold and warm water fish community composition
- *Policies:*
 - Within 2 years MNR to develop Fish Community Objectives with key stakeholders for the watershed to inform agency decisions related to land, water and natural resource management.
 - A review of the Ministry of Natural Resource's (MNR) coldwater species program will be undertaken including: establishing new stocking targets, reviewing the importance of aquatic resources in terms of socioeconomics, baseline mapping of aquatic habitats, and research and monitoring projects.

Chapter 4 - Water Quality

- *Targets:*
 - Reduce Phosphorus to 44 tonnes /annum to achieve DO of 7 mg/l
 - Reduce pathogen loading to eliminate beach closures
 - Reduce contaminants to achieve provincial water Quality Objective
- *Indicators:*
 - Indicators of environmental health:
 - DO of the Lake

- Total P – concentration and loading
 - Pathogens
 - Other water quality parameters
 - Chlorides
 - Nutrients such as nitrogen
 - Total suspended solids
 - Heavy metals
 - Organic chemicals
- *Policies:*
 - The Plan proposes to impose more stringent controls on sewage treatment plants (STP), stormwater management, septic systems, and construction activities, and encourage best management practices for agricultural, rural, and urban communities.
 - Significant requirements for stormwater management programs include: specific amendments to Official Plans (OP) related to reducing stormwater runoff volume and pollutant loadings from major development and existing settlement areas; retrofit, inspection and maintenance activities; achievement of “Enhanced Protection level” standards for new development; and the development of stormwater management master plans.
 - Under the Plan, the expansion or creation of new settlement areas, or a development outside of a settlement area, that would trigger an increase in the existing rated capacity of, or creation of a new, STP cannot be approved prior to the completion of an environmental assessment (EA) for the STP.
 - Within one year of the Plan’s effective date, MOE to review and amend all approvals for STPs within the watershed to ensure the following requirements are included:
 - to demonstrate compliance with the average concentration limit for phosphorus on a monthly basis (currently governed by O.Reg. 60/08 and eventually incorporated into STPs certificate of approval);
 - to complete an effluent characterization within 5 years of approval amendments and report this back to the MOE within 6 months of completing this characterization.
 - No new municipal STPs will be approved in the watershed, unless it is to replace an existing facility, or provide services to developments on partial services or developments experiencing failing septic systems. This policy also applies to non-municipal STPs, however, non-municipal STPs have the opportunity to satisfy the MOE that the works will result in a net reduction of phosphorus loadings to the watershed or will not result in an increase in overall phosphorus loadings to the lake.
 - The MOE, in collaboration with stakeholders, will develop a Phosphorus Reduction Strategy within one year of the Plan. This Strategy will, among other things, propose a long-term phosphorus

loading cap for each STP in the watershed, based upon a consideration of a number of factors such as: detailed evaluations of treatment efficiency, flow capacity and economic feasibility of achieving various effluent limits, the flow capacity needed to accommodate population and employment growth in the servicing area, minimum standards for phosphorus removal, and timelines required to achieve compliance. The Strategy will also evaluate effluent reuse opportunities from STPs. The Strategy may develop individual phosphorous loading targets for areas in the watershed such as Kempenfelt Bay, Cook's Bay and the main basin.

- Within one year of the effective date of the Plan, the MOE will conduct a feasibility study for implementing a Water Quality Trading program.
- The MOE, in consultation with municipalities, will develop and implement a plan to promote the use of low-phosphate or phosphate-free products within the watershed.

Chapter 5 - Water Quantity

- *Targets:*
 - None provided
- *Indicators:*
 - Indicators of environmental health:
 - Maintenance of in-stream flow regimes protective of aquatic ecosystem needs
 - Effective water conservation and efficiency plans
- *Policies:*
 - Within two years of the effective date of the Plan, in-stream flow targets will be developed by the MOE and MNR for stressed subwatersheds, including the development of targets and water extraction limits for the Maskinonge River.
 - The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and municipalities will develop Tier 2 water budgets for the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River subwatersheds that have not been completed through the *Clean Water Act, 2006* source protection process.
 - Water conservation and efficiency plans are required for municipalities around Lake Simcoe within five years of the Plan's effective date. York Region is not affected as the 'Water For Tomorrow' program is already in place.
 - The Plan commits the Province to working with other sectors, such as the agricultural community and major recreational sectors to assist with and encourage water conservation and efficiency and adoption of best management practices.

- The Plan imposes specific requirements for development and water conservation and efficiency in applications to establish or expand a major recreational use (under the *Planning Act*).

Chapter 6 - Shorelines and Natural Heritage

- *Targets:*
 - No further loss of natural shorelines
 - Achieve greater proportion of natural vegetation in large high quality patches
 - Minimum 40% high quality vegetation in the watershed
 - Achieve protection of wetlands
 - Naturalized riparian habitats on lake Simcoe and along streams
 - Restore natural areas and features
 - Archive increased ecological health based on status of indicator species and maintenance of natural biodiversity
- *Indicators:*
 - Change over time in proportion of wetlands, forested valleyland, natural riparian and upland forest
 - Degree of fragmentation of above features
 - Integrity of natural shoreline
 - Change over time in status of key biological indicators
 - Integrity of significant recharge areas
- *Policies:*
 - The Plan's overall direction for areas subject to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP), Greenbelt Plan (GBP) and existing settlement areas is to leave the existing policy regime established under these plans intact.
 - The Plan introduces a stricter policy regime for areas along shorelines of Lake Simcoe, permanent and intermittent streams and in Whitebelt lands in the Town of East Gwillimbury, outside of settlement areas.
- *Details:*
 - ***Outside of existing settlement areas***
 - The Plan prohibits development and site alteration, (these terms have virtually the same meaning as used in the ORMCP and GBP), in Lake Simcoe and along the Lake Simcoe shoreline except for: forest, fish and wildlife management projects, existing uses (the parameters of this policy are detailed in the Plan), conservation and floodplain projects, infrastructure (only if need is demonstrated through an EA and there is no reasonable alternative), retrofits of existing stormwater management works and low intensity recreational uses.
 - The Plan establishes a minimum vegetative protection zone (MVPZ) of 30 metres for a "shoreline built-up area". A natural

heritage evaluation is required when any development and site alteration is proposed within 120 metres of the shoreline that is not related to an “exception use”, listed in the preceding point. The MVPZ for the remaining areas around the lake, outside of existing settlement areas, is 100 metres.

- The Plan permits structures in a MVPZ only when the following conditions are met: there is no alternative; the area the structure occupies is minimized; the ecological function of the zone is maintained; and pervious materials and designs are used.
- The Plan prohibits structures in Lake Simcoe, or in a permanent or intermittent stream, if the structure would impede flow, would be used as a dwelling, or would harm fish habitat.
- Within three years of the effective date of the Plan, a shoreline management strategy will be developed by the Province, along with key stakeholders; municipal OPs shall be amended upon its completion to ensure consistency with the strategy.
- The Plan encourages public bodies to renaturalize the public areas adjacent to the shorelines and streams, to a minimum of 30 metres.
- ***Proposed Shoreline Regulation***
 - Within one year of the effective date of the Plan, the Province will develop draft regulations under the Act which may address: the use of fertilizer for non-agricultural lands, activities contributing to the spread of invasive species, peat extraction, filling/drainage of wetlands, and the prevention of removal of vegetation and coarse woody debris.
- ***Key Natural Heritage Features (KNHF) and Key Hydrologic Features (KHF)***
 - The Plan adopts the definitions of KNHF (wetlands, significant woodlands and valleylands) and KHF (wetlands, permanent and intermittent streams and lakes, other than Simcoe) from the ORMC and GB Plans.
 - Outside of existing settlement areas, Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) and Greenbelt areas, the Plan prohibits development and site alteration in KNHF and KHF areas and the MVPZ of 30 metres (or such distance as identified by natural heritage evaluation). This policy will impact the East Gwillimbury Whitebelt lands.
- ***Settlement Areas***
 - The Plan requires that, where applicable, applications for development or site alteration must improve fish habitat; restore native plants; avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts;

and, where feasible, increase the MVPZ to at least 30 metres.

- **Recharge Areas**
 - The Plan classifies significant groundwater recharge as areas identified: for the purposes of implementing the Provincial Policy Statement; in the assessment report required under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*; or by the LSRCA in accordance with provincial guidance developed under the Plan.
 - The Plan requires municipalities to incorporate these areas and policies to protect, improve or restore these areas into their Ops
 - Outside of the ORM area, the Plan suggests urban settlement area expansions should avoid significant recharge areas.
- **Mineral Aggregate Areas**
 - Outside of Greenbelt and ORM areas, the Plan prohibits new operations in significant wetlands, significant habitat of endangered or vulnerable species and significant woodlands.
 - The Plan permits new operations, outside of these areas, in KNHF and KHF only where the health, diversity and size of the feature will be maintained or improved and rehabilitation occurs.
- **Site Alteration and Tree Cutting Bylaws**
 - Within two years of the Plan's effective date, the Province, in consultation with stakeholders, will lead the development of a template for municipal site alteration and tree cutting bylaws in the watershed, as related to natural heritage features, and will encourage implementation of the bylaw.
- **Natural Areas Protection, Improvement and Enhancement**
 - Within two years of the effective date of the Plan, the Province, along with stakeholders, will delineate priority areas for riparian area restoration and other areas to focus natural heritage protection, improvement, restoration, securement and enhancement efforts.

Chapter 7 - Other Threats and Activities

7.1 - Newly introduced Invasive Species

- *Targets:*
 - Prevent new invasive species
- *Indicators:*
 - Presence of newly introduced species
- *Policies:*

- This chapter of the Plan focuses on the control of invasive species, although policies are also directed towards climate change and recreational activities in the watershed.
- The main policy direction is to prevent the introduction of new invasive species into the Lake Simcoe watershed. The Province will partner with other stakeholders in studies and implementation activities to prevent the introduction of new invasive species and prevent the spread of those already introduced.

7.2 - Climate Change

- *Indicators:*
 - Meteorological Data
 - Lake thermal structure and heat budget
 - Lake hydrodynamics
 - River hydrology
 - Timing of seasonal process like fish spawning
- *Policies:*
 - The Plan considers the potential effects of climate change on the watershed. Within two years of the Plan's effective date, the Province and stakeholders will develop a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the watershed.

7.3 - Recreational Activities

- *Policies:*
 - Beginning within one-year of the Plan approval, the province in collaboration with municipalities, recreation and tourism industry develop a multi-seasonal recreation strategy for the watershed to improve conditions for environmental sustainable recreation, including potential amendments to the Plan to ensure actions are undertaken by 2012
 - When approving development municipalities shall ensure public access to the Lake is maintained

Chapter 8 - Implementation

- Implementation of the Plan will be managed using a subwatershed approach. Evaluations of subwatersheds will reflect the goals of the Plan but will be tailored to meet specific needs and local issues. Within one year of the Plan's effective date, the MOE, the LSRCA and stakeholders will develop guidelines for subwatershed evaluations, building on the source protection plan work done under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, as well as the relevant work of watershed municipalities and the LSRCA.
- The Plan requires municipal OPs to be amended to ensure consistency with recommendations resulting from subwatershed evaluations.
- Implementation activities under the Plan also include stewardship, education and outreach geared towards agricultural and rural sectors and

- Aboriginal communities. A structured educational and incentive-based stewardship program will be developed for landowners in the watershed.
- The two advisory committees established under the Act, the Lake Simcoe Science Committee and the Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee are expected to advise public bodies tasked with implementation of strategic actions under the Plan.
 - Coordination of the Plan will be undertaken by the Province (Lake Simcoe Project Team). The Minister of the Environment is required to annually report on the progress of the Plan's implementation and is required to report, in five year intervals, on the results of monitoring programs and the extent to which objectives of the Plan are being achieved. All such reports will be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry.
 - *Funding*
 - Funding is discussed in slightly more detail in the final version than in the previous draft of the Plan. The Province indicates that the majority of their funding will be directed towards supporting the operational requirements of the Plan's implementation including assisting farmers and rural landowners in managing non-point source phosphorus, supporting scientific research and monitoring, and coordinating Plan implementation.
 - The Federal government has established the 'Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund' to provide support for priority projects in the watershed. York Region's application for phosphorus reduction was not selected as a candidate for this program.
 - There is no long-term, sustainable program funding formula suggested at this time.

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
		R = Responsible for action item C = Responsible party(ies) will collaborate/consult with P = Partnership					
<u>Introduction</u>							
In relation to any matter affected by a policy in this Plan, the boundary of the Lake Simcoe watershed that applies to the matter is the boundary that was in effect at the time the matter is commenced. Whether a matter is considered commenced shall be determined in accordance with the rules specified in the General Regulation under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008 .							
<u>Aquatic Life</u>							
Develop Fish Community Objectives for Lake Simcoe and its tributaries. This process will be undertaken in collaboration with First Nations and Métis communities, public bodies, the Lake Simcoe Fisheries Stakeholder Committee, key stakeholders and the general public. These objectives will focus on the warm and coldwater fish communities of Lake Simcoe; however, the objectives will also address the entire aquatic community in both the Lake and tributaries. The Fish Community Objectives will be used by public bodies to inform decisions relating to the management of land, water and natural resources, increase the resilience of Lake Simcoe's aquatic communities to future impacts of invasive species and climate change, and ensure sustainable resource use and social benefit.		R					Within two years
Initiate, using an adaptive management approach, a review of its coldwater species stocking program, and will establish new stocking targets. This review will be done in collaboration with First Nations and Métis communities, public bodies, the Lake Simcoe Fisheries Stakeholder Committee, and other key stakeholders.		R					Within two years
Complete a socio-economic evaluation of the monetary, ecological, social and cultural value and impact of the aquatic life resources within the Lake Simcoe watershed, beginning in the first year with a feasibility study of the socio-economic benefits of maintaining a healthy Lake Simcoe to foster a thriving recreational fishery.		R					Within five years

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	<i>Province</i>	<i>Local Municipalities</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Developers</i>	<i>Other</i>	Timeline
Establish baseline mapping of aquatic habitats in Lake Simcoe and its tributaries building on existing monitoring programs and established databases. The MNR will regularly review and update this information and include, where feasible, shoreline and in-water developments, including inwater structures, tributary barriers, channelizations, and hardened shorelines.		R					Date Plan comes into effect
Undertake research projects on the aquatic communities of Lake Simcoe and its tributaries. The focus of the research will be on filling knowledge gaps associated with the aquatic communities in the watershed that may include recommendations by the Lake Simcoe Science Committee among others. Research projects will be identified and undertaken that examine the biological components of the ecosystem, their processes and linkages. The research projects would build on existing knowledge or address knowledge gaps, and be integrated with existing and any new research programs in the watershed. Collaboration among research groups is encouraged. The focus of initial research projects may include: a. production dynamics and ecological function research tied to the coldwater fish community and the function of offshore food webs and ecosystems; or b. an evaluation of the impacts of nearshore water quality, nutrients, primary production dynamics, invasive species and climate change on the fish community and the function of the nearshore foodwebs and		R					Date Plan comes into effect

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	<i>Province</i>	<i>Local Municipalities</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Developers</i>	<i>Other</i>	Timeline
Develop and implement an annual aquatic community monitoring program for the Lake Simcoe watershed. Once the program is fully implemented, it is intended to cover the Lake, the tributaries and other inland lakes in the watershed. The program shall build upon existing aquatic community monitoring programs undertaken by the MNR, the MOE and the LSRCA. This program shall support an adaptive management approach, and may be altered from time to time to respond to changing environmental conditions and land, water and natural resource management needs. The components of the annual aquatic community monitoring program shall include one or more of the following: a. surveys of winter and open-water anglers; b. fish diet and growth studies; c. monitoring of nearshore and offshore fish communities; d. monitoring of fish biodiversity; e. monitoring of invasive species; f. monitoring of benthic invertebrates; or g. monitoring of aquatic habitat including macrophyte surveys.		R					Date Plan comes into effect
<u>Water Quality</u> For a proposed settlement area expansion, establishment of a new settlement area or a development proposal outside of a settlement area that requires an increase in the existing rated capacity of a sewage treatment plant or the establishment of a new sewage treatment plant, an environmental assessment of the undertaking shall be completed or approved prior to giving any approvals for the proposal under the Planning Act or the Condominium Act, 1998.	7.3.16 (modified as 6.7.21) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine, all improvements or new water and wastewater infrastructure systems shall conform with the Transportation, Infrastructure and Utilities provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Infrastructure provisions of the Greenbelt Plan and the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Director shall review and amend the approvals for all sewage treatment plants in the Lake Simcoe watershed to ensure each sewage treatment plant owner and operator is required to do the following: a. demonstrate compliance with the Average Concentration Limit for total phosphorus specified in the approval: i. at a minimum on a monthly basis, or ii. in the case of a sewage treatment plant with a seasonal discharge, on the frequency specified in the approval; b. conduct an initial characterization of effluent using a manner specified by the Director within five years of the amendment; and c. report back to the Director within six months of the initial characterization of effluent being completed.	7.3.16 (modified as 6.7.21) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine, all improvements or new water and wastewater infrastructure systems shall conform with the Transportation, Infrastructure and Utilities provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Infrastructure provisions of the Greenbelt Plan and the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			Within one year
No new municipal sewage treatment plant shall be established in the Lake Simcoe watershed unless: a. the new plant is intended to replace an existing municipal sewage treatment plant; or b. the new sewage treatment plant will provide sewage services to, i. a development that is on partial services, or ii. a development where one or more subsurface sewage works or on-site sewage systems are failing.	7.3.16 (modified as 6.7.21) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine, all improvements or new water and wastewater infrastructure systems shall conform with the Transportation, Infrastructure and Utilities provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Infrastructure provisions of the Greenbelt Plan and the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			
No new non-municipal sewage treatment plant shall be established in the Lake Simcoe watershed unless the person applying to establish the plant can demonstrate that: a. the plant will result in a net reduction of phosphorous loadings to the watershed from the baseline conditions for the property that would be serviced by the new plant; or b. the undertaking that the plant will serve will not add phosphorous loadings to the Lake Simcoe watershed.	7.3.16 (modified as 6.7.21) That within the Oak Ridges Moraine, all improvements or new water and wastewater infrastructure systems shall conform with the Transportation, Infrastructure and Utilities provisions of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Infrastructure provisions of the Greenbelt Plan and the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.	R			R	R	
Prepare and implement comprehensive stormwater management master plans for each settlement area in the Lake Simcoe watershed. The stormwater management master plans will be prepared in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment and will include...	2.3.38. To work with local municipalities and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive stormwater management master plans for each settlement area within the Lake Simcoe Watershed by June 2014		R	C			Within five years

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Encouraged to implement a stormwater retrofit prior to the completion of a stormwater management master plan if a stormwater retrofit opportunity has been identified as a priority for a settlement area and is determined to be economically feasible.	2.3.32. (modified 2.3.1) To work in partnership with local municipalities, conservation authorities, adjacent regions/cities and other agencies to co-ordinate watershed planning initiatives and implement watershed plan recommendations that: f. provide retrofits of existing neighbourhoods to ensure better hydrologic function		R	C			
Incorporate into their official plans policies related to reducing stormwater runoff volume and pollutant loadings from major development and existing settlement areas including policies that...	related policies include: 2.3.36 To require the preparation of community water management plans as a component of secondary plans to manage stormwater quality, quantity, and infiltration through an integrated treatment approach, which may include techniques such as rainwater harvesting, runoff reduction of solids and materials at source, phosphorus reduction, constructed wetlands, bioretention swales, green roofs, permeable surfaces, clean water collection systems, and the preservation and enhancement of native vegetation cover. 2.3.38 To work with local municipalities and the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive stormwater management master plans for each settlement area within the Lake Simcoe Watershed by June 2014		R	C			
An application for major development shall be accompanied by a stormwater management plan that demonstrates...	2.3.36. To require the preparation of community water management plans as a component of secondary plans to manage stormwater quality, quantity, and infiltration through an integrated treatment approach, which may include techniques such as rainwater harvesting, runoff reduction of solids and materials at source, phosphorus reduction, constructed wetlands, bioretention swales, green roofs, permeable surfaces, clean water collection systems, and the preservation and enhancement of native vegetation cover.		R	C			
Stormwater management works that are established to serve new major development in the Lake Simcoe watershed shall not be permitted unless the works have been designed to satisfy the Enhanced Protection level specified in Chapter 3 of the MOE's "Stormwater Management Planning and Design Manual 2003", as amended from time to time			R				

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Every owner and operator of a new stormwater management works in the Lake Simcoe watershed shall be required to inspect and maintain the works on a periodic basis.	2.3.37. (new) That owners and operators of stormwater management works inspect, maintain and monitor effluent quality on a periodic basis.		R	R			
Every owner and operator of a new priority stormwater management works in the Lake Simcoe watershed shall be required to monitor the operation of works, including monitoring the quality of the effluent from the works, on a periodic basis.	2.3.37. (new) That owners and operators of stormwater management works inspect, maintain and monitor effluent quality on a periodic basis.		R	R			
Review the approvals issued under section 53 of the Ontario Water Resources Act in respect of existing priority stormwater management works within the Lake Simcoe watershed. If a review of an approval for an existing priority stormwater management works determines that the conditions in the approval are inadequate, having regard to the objectives of the Plan, including the conditions related to inspection, maintenance and monitoring, the approval will be referred to the Director for the purpose of determining whether an amendment to the approval is necessary to assist in meeting the objectives of the Plan.		R					
Develop a proposal for a regulation under the Ontario Building Code Act, 1992, to designate the lands within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, other lakes, and any permanent stream of Lake Simcoe, as a prescribed area for required on-site sewage system maintenance reinspections.		R					Within one year
Consider new standards, including those being developed by the Bureau de Normalisation du Québec for small on-site sewage systems that evaluate new treatment unit technologies with respect to the reduction of pathogens and nutrients. The MMAH will consider the appropriateness of an amendment to Ontario's Building Code to incorporate the new standards.		R		C			
Subject to other policies of the Plan, a new on-site sewage system or subsurface sewage works shall not be permitted within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, other lakes, or any permanent stream except in the following circumstances...	7.3.23. (new) That no new on site wastewater system will be permitted within 100 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, other lakes, or any permanent streams within the Lake Simcoe watershed except under the provisions of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			
Complete a study that identifies the sources of atmospheric deposition contributing phosphorus to the Lake Simcoe watershed.		R					Within two years

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
a. Review measures, including regulatory controls and best management practices, to reduce water quality impairment, including the contribution of phosphorus loadings to the Lake Simcoe watershed from construction activities; b. evaluate the effectiveness of the measures; and c. identify preferred measures based on the review and the study referred to in policy 4.17, including the types of policies that could be included in the Plan.		R					Within three years
Determine the need for additional standards in the Aggregate Resources of Ontario-Provincial Standards for mineral resource aggregate activities within the Lake Simcoe watershed. The determination will be based on the findings of the study identified in policy 4.17 and the MNR's review of the Aggregates Resources of Ontario-Provincial Standards		R					Within three years
The mineral aggregate resources industry is encouraged to adopt best management practices as a proactive measure to reduce potential contribution of phosphorus loadings to the Lake Simcoe watershed.						R	
Ensure that the following measures are incorporated into subdivision agreements and site plan agreements: a. keep the removal of vegetation, grading and soil compaction to the minimum necessary to carry out development activity; b. removal of vegetation shall not occur more than 30 days prior to grading or construction; c. put in place structures to control and convey runoff; d. minimize sediment that is eroded offsite during construction; e. seed exposed soils once construction is complete and seasonal conditions permit; and f. ensure erosion and sediment controls are implemented effectively.	2.2.49. (modified 2.2.26) That local municipalities shall adopt site alteration by-laws in conformity with the Municipal Act and the Lake Simcoe Plan to prevent the removal of topsoil or vegetation, to prevent runoff and sedimentation, and to control erosion, prior to the approval of an application for development or site alteration.		R	R			
Site alteration in the Lake Simcoe watershed shall be undertaken in a manner that incorporates the measures set out in policy 4.20.			R			R	
Develop and implement an enhanced scientific water quality monitoring program that builds upon the monitoring program implemented through the LSEMS. This monitoring program shall be based on an adaptive management approach, and may be altered from time to time to respond to changing environmental conditions and management needs. At a minimum this monitoring program shall include		P					

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Promote, conduct and support scientific research projects. These projects will build on existing research and monitoring programs, identify emerging issues and support the overall adaptive management approach of the Plan. Initial research will focus on one or more of the following...	2.3.14. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to develop and support monitoring programs, identify emerging issues, support the adaptive management approach of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to develop a phosphorus reduction strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed.	R					
Develop a Phosphorus Reduction Strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed for the purpose of reducing phosphorus loadings to achieve the target of dissolved oxygen of 7 mg/L. The Strategy will be designed to accommodate the implementation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, where relevant. The components of the Phosphorus Reduction Strategy will include...	2.3.14. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to develop and support monitoring programs, identify emerging issues, support the adaptive management approach of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to develop a phosphorus reduction strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed.			C			Within one year
Conduct a feasibility study for Water Quality Trading pursuant to subsection 75, (1.8), of the Ontario Water Resources Act.		R					Within one year
Develop and implement a plan to promote the use of low-phosphate or phosphate-free products within the Lake Simcoe watershed.		R		C			Within one year
<u>Water Quantity</u>							
Develop in-stream flow targets for water quantity stressed subwatersheds in collaboration with LSRCA. This includes the development of targets for in-stream flow regimes and water extraction limits for the Maskinonge River subwatershed within two years of the date the Plan comes into effect. The targets will build on watershed information and assessments developed through Drinking Water Source Water Protection Program (Clean Water Act, 2006) and will consider the potential impacts of climate change and will be used to inform future strategies related to water taking. These strategies may lead to policies that...		R					
Complete Tier 2 water budgets for all subwatersheds that have not been completed in the assessment report required under the Clean Water Act, 2006 for the Lake Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Area. Priority should be given to all stressed subwatersheds identified in Policy 5.1, where Tier 2 water budgets have not been completed under the Clean Water Act, 2006. The water budgets may be used to inform...	* the Region is already involved in the processes and studies under the Clean Water Act.			P			

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Municipalities of Barrie, Orillia, New Tecumseth, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Innisfil, Oro-Medonte and Ramara will prepare and begin implementation of a water conservation and efficiency plan, that has regard to the recommended standards and practices for the municipal sector including those recommended by the Ontario Water Works Association. A water conservation and efficiency plan will, at a minimum...				R			Within five years
Assist and encourage water conservation and efficiency efforts in the agricultural community through stewardship programs aimed at promoting the adoption of best management practices. Specific opportunities may include...		R					
Work with other water use sectors, such as the major recreational use sector and other commercial and industrial sectors, in the Lake Simcoe watershed to encourage the development and implementation of water conservation and efficient use practices for their sector.		R					
An application to establish or expand a major recreational use shall be accompanied by a recreation water use plan that demonstrates...	6.4.7. (modified 5.9.3) That new land extensive major recreational uses, such as golf courses and outdoor playing fields, or expansion to these uses where they currently exist, may be permitted in the Rural Area subject to an amendment to this Plan and the local official plan and zoning by-law, where the following provisions are met to the satisfaction of the Region and local municipality: f. where these uses are proposed within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Greenbelt Plan or the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, they shall comply with the applicable Provincial plan in place.				R	R	
<u>Shorelines and Natural Heritage</u>							
Subject to the other policies of the Plan, development and site alteration outside of existing settlement areas is not permitted in Lake Simcoe and within a related vegetation protection zone referred to in policy 6.2, except in relation to the following...	2.2.13. (modified 2.5.8) That within key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features on the Oak Ridges Moraine, in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt, or in the Lake Simcoe watershed, development or site alteration is not permitted in the feature or its associated vegetation protection zone, except as provided in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.				R	R	

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
The minimum vegetation protection zone in a shoreline built-up area is 30 metres from the Lake Simcoe shoreline, or larger if determined appropriate by an evaluation required by policy 6.3. The vegetation protection zone for the remaining Lake Simcoe shoreline, outside of existing settlement areas and outside of shoreline built-up areas, is 100 metres from the Lake Simcoe shoreline.	2.2.15. (new) That the minimum vegetation protection zone for the Lake Simcoe Shoreline outside of existing settlement areas as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan shall be 100 metres. 21. 2.2.21. (new) That within the Lake Simcoe watershed settlement and rural settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, an application for development or site alteration shall, where applicable shall: a. increase or improve fish habitat in streams, lakes and wetlands, and any adjacent riparian areas; b. include landscaping and habitat restoration that increase the ability of native plants and animals to use valleylands or riparian areas as wildlife habitat and movement corridors; c. seek to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts associated with the quality and quantity of urban run-off into receiving streams, lakes and wetlands; and f. establish or increase the extent and width of a self sustaining vegetation protection zone adjacent to Lake Simcoe to a minimum of 30 metres where feasible.		R				
Within shoreline built-up areas, an application for development or site alteration within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline shall be accompanied by a natural heritage evaluation that satisfies the requirements of policy 6.26, unless the development or site alteration is for a purpose specified by policy 6.1.	2.2.18. (modified 2.5.9) That applications for development or site alteration shall be supported by a natural heritage and/or hydrological evaluation as detailed in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, if it occurs: e. within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline and built up areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, within the Lake Simcoe watershed unless otherwise specified by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan		R	R	R	R	
Subject to the other policies in this Plan, structures shall only be permitted in a vegetation protection zone along the Lake Simcoe shoreline if: a. there is no alternative but to place the structure in this area and the occupied by such structures is minimized; b. the ecological function of the vegetation protection zone is maintained; and c. pervious materials and designs are used to the extent feasible			R		R	R	

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Outside of existing settlement areas, a proposal for development or site alteration within 240 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline must demonstrate that the development or site alteration will maintain and, to the extent feasible, enhance or restore functional wildlife movement corridors between any key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic features identified in policies 6.21 and 6.22 that is located along the Lake Simcoe shoreline and from the Lake Simcoe shoreline to another key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature within 240 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline.	2.2.20. (new) That outside settlement areas as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, a proposal for development or site alteration within 240 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline must demonstrate that it will maintain, enhance or restore functional wildlife movement corridors between key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features as determined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R	R	R	
Subject to the other policies in this Plan, a shoreline built-up area may only be expanded to provide for minor rounding out of the area, and only in accordance with provincial plans and the PPS.	5.6.25. That local official plans and zoning by-laws shall designate the boundaries of Hamlets and provide policies that limit future growth to minor residential infilling, subject to the ability to service growth by individual private on-site water and wastewater systems. 5.6.31. That local municipalities may undertake minor rounding out of Hamlet boundaries in accordance with the Greenbelt Plan. 5.6.33. That local municipalities are required to update Hamlet policies in accordance with policies of this Plan and applicable provincial policies.						
Significant alteration of the shore of Lake Simcoe or the shore of a fresh water estuary of a stream connected to Lake Simcoe is not permitted unless the significant alteration is for the purpose of stabilizing, protecting, restoring or rehabilitating the shore or the alteration will be undertaken by a public body and the project is consistent with the objectives of this Plan. A significant alteration of the shoreline includes any alteration that has an adverse effect on the ecological functions of the shoreline.	2.2.16. (new) That significant alteration of the shore of Lake Simcoe or the shore of a fresh water estuary of a stream connected to Lake Simcoe is not permitted except as provided in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R	R	R	

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
No structures, including boathouses, shall be permitted in Lake Simcoe, other lakes or in a permanent or intermittent stream if the structure impedes the natural flow of water along the shoreline or in the stream, if the structure is intended to be used as a dwelling, or if the structure or its construction harmfully alters fish habitat. This policy does not prohibit drainage works such as those permitted under the Drainage Act, those required for infrastructure or those structures required for the purposes of stewardship, conservation, restoration or remediation undertakings.			R			R	
The alteration of the shore of Lake Simcoe, other lakes or any permanent or intermittent stream for the purpose of establishing or altering drainage works such as those works under the Drainage Act, infrastructure or for stabilization, erosion control or protection purposes shall only be permitted if it is demonstrated that natural shoreline treatments (e.g. planting of natural vegetation, bioengineering) that maintain the natural contour of the shoreline will be used where practical, and a vegetative riparian area will be established to the extent feasible. In relation of such works, lands used for agricultural purposes do not require the establishment of a vegetative riparian area if the land is, and will continue to be, used for agricultural purposes.							
Where, in accordance with the policies of the Plan, development and site alteration is permitted within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, other lakes in the Lake Simcoe watershed, or any permanent or intermittent stream or a wetland, the development or site alteration should be integrated with and should not constrain ongoing or planned stewardship and remediation efforts.		R					

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Where, in accordance with the policies of this Plan, a proposal for development or site alteration is permitted within 30 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, other lakes in the Lake Simcoe watershed, or a permanent or intermittent stream or wetland outside of settlement areas and the Greenbelt area and Oak Ridges Moraine area, the proposal for development or site alteration shall comply with the following where applicable...	2.2.14. (modified 2.5.8) That on the Oak Ridges Moraine, or in the Lake Simcoe watershed outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the minimum vegetation protection zone for key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features is 30 metres or as required by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan or the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan 2.2.4. (new) To prohibit development and site alteration within key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, and adjacent lands, unless it is demonstrated through a natural heritage evaluation, hydrological evaluation, or environmental impact statement that the development or site alteration will not result in a negative impact on the feature or its functions. 2.2.7. (modified 2.2.5) To require local municipalities to identify key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features or equivalents in local official plans and zoning by-laws, to provide appropriate policies for their protection, including the definition of permitted uses, and to discourage incompatible uses.		R	R	R	R	
Develop a shoreline management strategy that, for various reaches of the shoreline, identifies ecological values, best management practices, standards, guidelines, and priority areas for restoration, securement and acquisition.	2.3.17. (new) To amend this Plan as necessary to ensure consistency with the recommendations of Lake Simcoe subwatershed evaluations and shoreline management strategy.	R		C			Within three years
Upon completion of the shoreline management strategy, municipal official plans shall be amended to ensure they are consistent with the recommendations of the strategy.				R			
Public bodies are encouraged to actively re-naturalize public areas adjacent to shorelines and streams to a minimum of 30 metres where practical and feasible.							
Through the implementation of the stewardship, education and outreach policies (8.5-8.11) owners of existing cottages and residences will be encouraged to re-naturalize shorelines and areas adjacent to streams up to 30 metres where practical and feasible.							

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Release for consultation proposed draft regulations under section 26 of the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008 based on further advice from the Lake Simcoe Science Committee. These regulations will build on and are not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulations that apply to the shoreline areas including the Conservation Authorities Act, Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act and the Public Lands Act.		C					Within one year
The area to which the shoreline regulation proposed under policy 6.16 would apply includes the littoral zone, the riparian area, on-land areas beyond riparian areas and wetlands where an activity may affect ecological functions. This regulated area must be described in the Plan once the regulation is made.							
The proposed regulation under policy 6.16 may address the following...							
Delineate the areas outside of its jurisdiction, but within the Lake Simcoe watershed, for the purpose of consistently applying Ontario Regulation 179/06 (Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses) made under section 28 of Conservation Authorities Act to development along watercourses within the Lake Simcoe Watershed. Within this same period, the LSRCA and MNR will prepare a regulation to include these areas within the regulated area.		R					Within one year
Policies 6.20 – 6.29 apply to those areas outside of existing settlement areas and outside of the Greenbelt area and Oak Ridges Moraine area.							

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Key natural heritage features are wetlands, significant woodlands, significant valleylands, and natural areas abutting Lake Simcoe.	2.2.1. (new) That key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features within York Region include: a. habitat of endangered species, threatened species and special concern species; b. fish habitat; c. wetlands; d. Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest; e. Environmentally Significant Areas; f. significant valleylands; g. significant woodlands; h. significant wildlife habitat; i. sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies; j. lakes and their littoral zones; k. permanent and intermittent streams; l. kettle lakes; m. seepage areas and springs; and, n. Lake Simcoe Shoreline.		R	R			
Key hydrologic features are wetlands, permanent and intermittent streams, and lakes other than Lake Simcoe.	SEE 6.21		R	R			
Development and site alteration is not permitted within a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrologic feature and within a related vegetation protection zone referred to in policy 6.24, except in relation to the following...	2.2.13. (modified 2.5.8) That within key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features on the Oak Ridges Moraine, in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside in the Greenbelt, or in the Lake Simcoe watershed, development or site alteration is not permitted in the feature or its associated vegetation protection zone, except as provided in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan		R	R			
The minimum vegetation protection zone for all key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features is the area within 30 metres of the key natural heritage feature and key hydrologic feature, or larger if determined appropriate by an evaluation required by policy 6.25.	2.2.14. (modified 2.5.8) That on the Oak Ridges Moraine, or in the Lake Simcoe watershed outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the minimum vegetation protection zone for key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features is 30 metres or as required by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan or the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan		R	R			

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
An application for development or site alteration within 120 metres of a key natural heritage feature or key hydrologic feature shall be accompanied by a natural heritage evaluation meeting the requirements of policy 6.26, unless the development or site alteration is for a purpose specified by policy 6.23.	18. 2.2.18. (modified 2.5.9) That applications for development or site alteration shall be supported by a natural heritage and/or hydrological evaluation as detailed in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, if it occurs: d. within 120 metres of key natural heritage features or key hydrologic features within the Lake Simcoe watershed outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, in the Lake Simcoe watershed; or, e. within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline and built up areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, within the Lake Simcoe watershed unless otherwise specified by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			
A natural heritage evaluation referred to in policies 6.3 and 6.25 shall be carried out in accordance with guidelines developed by the MNR and shall...	2.2.4. (new) To prohibit development and site alteration within key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, and adjacent lands, unless it is demonstrated through a natural heritage evaluation, hydrological evaluation, or environmental impact statement that the development or site alteration will not result in a negative impact on the feature or its functions.		R	R	R		
A proposal for new development or site alteration within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, a key natural heritage feature or a key hydrologic feature shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of natural selfsustaining vegetation to the extent and width of the associated vegetation protection zone required by the policies in this Chapter, except in relation to uses and structures in the vegetation protection zone that are permitted by the policies of this Chapter.	2.2.19. (new) That an application for new development or site alteration in the Lake Simcoe watershed that is within 120 metres of a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrologic feature or the Lake Simcoe shoreline outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the application shall provide for the establishment or reestablishment and maintenance of natural self sustaining vegetation except as provided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R		R	R	
Where, through an application for development or site alteration, a buffer or vegetation protection zone is required to be established as a result of the application of the policies in this Plan, the buffer or vegetation protection zone shall be composed of and maintained as natural self-sustaining vegetation.			?				

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
If the natural self-sustaining vegetation is removed along the Lake Simcoe shoreline, from a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrologic feature or from any related vegetation protection zone, as a result of any development or site alteration permitted under policies 6.1, 6.23, 6.43 and 6.45, the natural self sustaining vegetation shall be re-established to the extent feasible following completion of that activity.	2.2.19. (new) That an application for new development or site alteration in the Lake Simcoe watershed that is within 120 metres of a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrologic feature or the Lake Simcoe shoreline outside of existing settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the application shall provide for the establishment or reestablishment and maintenance of natural self sustaining vegetation except as provided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			
Further define the key natural heritage and key hydrologic features as described in policies 6.21 and 6.22.		R					Within one year
Map natural areas abutting Lake Simcoe as described in policy 6.21.		R					Within one year
Policies 6.32 - 6.34 apply to existing settlement areas and areas of Lake Simcoe adjacent to these lands, including the littoral zone, and these areas are not subject to policies 6.1 – 6.3, 6.5, 6.11 and policies 6.20 - 6.29.							
An application for development or site alteration shall, where applicable: a. increase or improve fish habitat in streams, lakes and wetlands, and any adjacent riparian areas; b. include landscaping and habitat restoration that increase the ability of native plants and animals to use valleylands or riparian areas as wildlife habitat and movement corridors; c. seek to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts associated with the quality and quantity of urban run-off into receiving streams, lakes and wetlands; and d. establish or increase the extent and width of a vegetation protection zone adjacent to Lake Simcoe to a minimum of 30 metres where feasible.	21. 2.2.21. (new) That within the Lake Simcoe watershed settlement and rural settlement areas, as defined by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, an application for development or site alteration shall, where applicable shall: a. increase or improve fish habitat in streams, lakes and wetlands, and any adjacent riparian areas; b. include landscaping and habitat restoration that increase the ability of native plants and animals to use valleylands or riparian areas as wildlife habitat and movement corridors; c. seek to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts associated with the quality and quantity of urban run-off into receiving streams, lakes and wetlands; and f. establish or increase the extent and width of a self sustaining vegetation protection zone adjacent to Lake Simcoe to a minimum of 30 metres where feasible.		R	R			
Where, through an application for development or site alteration, a buffer is required to be established as a result of the application of the PPS, the buffer shall be composed of and maintained as natural self-sustaining vegetation.							

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	<i>Province</i>	<i>Local Municipalities</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Developers</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
For greater certainty, where lands have been incorporated into a settlement area after the effective date of the Plan, an application for development or site alteration within those lands are subject to the policies in this Chapter other than policies 6.32 to 6.34.						?	
A significant groundwater recharge area is an area identified, a. as a significant groundwater recharge area by any public body for the purposes of implementing the PPS; b. as a significant groundwater recharge area in the assessment report required under the Clean Water Act, 2006 for the Lake Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Area; or c. by the LSRCA in partnership with MOE and MNR as an ecologically significant groundwater recharge area in accordance with the guidelines developed under policy 6.37.						?	
MOE and MNR, in collaboration with LSRCA, municipalities and other ministries will develop guidance associated with protecting, improving or restoring significant groundwater recharge areas, including defining ecologically-significant groundwater recharge areas.		R		C			

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Once identified, municipalities shall Incorporate significant groundwater recharge areas into their official plans together with policies to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of groundwater in these areas and the function of the recharge areas.	2.3.33. (modified 2.3.1) To work in partnership with local municipalities, conservation authorities, adjacent regions/cities and other agencies to co-ordinate watershed planning initiatives and implement watershed plan recommendations that: d. protect and enhance existing geology, hydrology, hydrogeology,, limnology, aquatic and terrestrial habitats and the quality, quantity and function of groundwater recharge areas; 7.3.19. (new) To provide high-quality, safe, and clean drinking water while protecting surface and groundwater resources by: a. meeting and exceeding water quality standards defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act; b. protecting the drinking water supply through source water protection strategies; c. protecting and enhancing the Region’s system of lakes, rivers and streams; d. ensuring groundwater use sustains the long-term health of aquifers; e. maintaining and updating the groundwater monitoring program; and, f. identifying source water protection areas.		R	R			
Outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine area, urban settlement area expansions should avoid significant groundwater recharge areas.	2.3.4. To direct development away from sensitive groundwater recharge and discharge areas. 7.3.10. (modified 6.7.18) That where local official plans permit minor infill in Towns and Villages and Hamlets on private individual wastewater systems, these systems will be permitted only if it can be demonstrated to the local municipality that there are no adverse impacts on soil or surface or groundwater quality and quantity.		R	R			

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine area, an application for major development within a significant groundwater recharge area shall be accompanied by an environmental impact study that demonstrates that the quality and quantity of groundwater in these areas and the function of the recharge areas will be protected, improved or restored	2.3.5. Notwithstanding policy 2.3.4, an application for major development within a significant groundwater recharge area shall be accompanied by an environmental impact study that demonstrates that the quality and quantity of groundwater recharge areas will be protected and enhanced.		R	R			
Policies 6.41 -6.44 apply to applications for new mineral aggregate operations and wayside pits and quarries that are outside of the Greenbelt area and the Oak Ridges Moraine area.	2.1.24. (new) That outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt areas in the Lake Simcoe watershed, no new mineral aggregate operations, wayside pits, quarries or ancillary or accessory uses are permitted in key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features or related vegetative protection zone except as provided in the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.		R	R			
No new mineral aggregate operations and no wayside pits and quarries, or any ancillary or accessory use thereto shall be permitted in the following key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features: a. significant wetlands; b. significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species; and c. significant woodlands unless the woodland is occupied by young plantation or early successional habitat (as defined by the MNR).	SEE 6.41		R	R			
An application for a new mineral aggregate operation or a new wayside pit or quarry may only be permitted in a key natural heritage feature, a key hydrologic feature or its related vegetation protection zone, other than a feature mentioned in policy 6.42, where the application demonstrates the following...	SEE 6.4.1		R	R			
Every application for a new mineral aggregate operation must demonstrate: a. how the connectivity between key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features will be maintained before, during and after the extraction of mineral aggregates; and b. how the operator could immediately replace or restore any habitat that would be lost from the site with equivalent habitat on another part of the site or on adjacent lands.	SEE 6.4.1.		R	R			

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Where a policy in this Chapter permits development or site alteration in relation to existing uses, the following policies apply...	2.2.22. (modified 2.5.10) That minor changes to the extent or presence of key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features resulting from site specific studies conducted in accordance with the requirements in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and updated information from the Province or the appropriate conservation authority, will not require an amendment to this Plan.		R	R			
Lead the development of a template for municipal site alteration and tree cutting bylaws within the watershed as related to natural heritage features including wetlands and woodlands, and following development will encourage implementation of such a bylaw.		R		C			Within two years
Delineate priority areas for riparian area restoration and other areas to focus natural heritage protection, improvement, restoration, securement and enhancement efforts including the definition or delineation of important corridors and linkages. The delineation will build on existing natural heritage systems identified by the Province, the LSRCA and municipalities within the Lake Simcoe watershed and identified anchor sites (high quality connected natural features) to support the development of a comprehensive stewardship strategy throughout the watershed.	2.3.13. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to implement the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.	R	C	C		C	Within two years
Identify and map areas of high quality natural cover that are 25 hectares or greater.		R					Within two years
Identify stressed subwatersheds or portions of stressed subwatersheds.		R					Within one year

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Develop a monitoring program in relation to the targets and indicators associated with natural heritage and hydrologic features and areas. The monitoring program shall be based on an adaptive management approach and may be altered from time to time to respond to changing environmental conditions (including climate change), new information and to changing management needs. The components of the monitoring program may include monitoring changes in the proportion of natural cover in the watershed, for example as a result of the implementation of the Plan policies including stewardship initiatives, and monitoring biological indicators that provide inference on the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed. Once the monitoring program is developed, the MNR, LSRCA and MOE shall implement the program.		R					Within one year
<u>Other Threats and Activities</u>							
Deliver information and education programs annually for the general public and key stakeholders on how to prevent the spread of, and how to detect, aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Some of the more common pathways include recreational boating, aquarium, water garden and horticulture trades, live food fish trade, and movement of live bait for fishing. Stewardship actions which help identify and respond to invasive species will be incorporated into broader stewardship programming developed under this Plan and into existing stewardship initiatives.		R					Annually
Conduct a community based social marketing project. The project will identify effective methods to engage stakeholders for the purpose of modifying their behaviour to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Lake Simcoe watershed.		R					Within two years
Develop a regulatory proposal that would require anglers who are fishing with live bait in the Lake Simcoe watershed to only use live bait caught in the watershed. The regulatory proposal would be subject to public consultation before MNR proceeds with the proposal and makes a recommendation to the Federal Government to consider a regulation under the Federal Fisheries Act.¹ The regulatory approach would help to mitigate the risk of invasive species entering the watershed.		R					Within three years

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Develop a prioritized watch list of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species (including fish and wildlife diseases and insect pests) likely to be introduced to the Lake Simcoe watershed. And, within five years of the date the Plan comes into effect, the MNR in collaboration with other public bodies will develop and implement response plans to invasive species present in the watershed and on the watch list. The compilation of the watch list and the preparation of the response plans will be risk-based with response plans for highest priority species being prepared first. Response plans will identify the resource requirements, partnership roles and funding mechanisms to implement the plans. The watch list and the response plans will be updated from time to time.		R					Within one year
Complete a study to evaluate the potential risk of movement of invasive species through the Trent-Severn Waterway resulting from natural dispersal and boat traffic. The MNR will release to the public a summary of the study's findings.		R					Within two years
Evaluate and report on the extent of the live food fish trade in the Lake Simcoe watershed and, if warranted, evaluate the level of risk associated with the practice and determine appropriate management options.		R					Within two years
Evaluate and report on the level of risk related to ponds in the floodplain contributing to the spread of invasive species, including baitfish holding ponds, private water gardens, and holding ponds associated with the water garden trade that may be holding fish, plants and invertebrates. If the identified risk warrants further action, in subsequent years the MNR will develop a facility risk assessment/security policy.		R					Within six years
Develop and implement a three-year mobile boat wash program to increase awareness of best management practices for boaters and encourage improved behaviour by boaters.		R					Commencing in third year
Review existing provincial science funding programs and partnerships to identify opportunities for research funding and partnerships that will help improve knowledge related to the impact and control of invasive species in the Lake Simcoe watershed.		R					Annually

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Develop and implement an annual monitoring program for terrestrial invasive species (including pests/ wildlife diseases) in the Lake Simcoe watershed that will facilitate early detection and response and help inform and adapt public education, outreach, and stewardship programming.		R					Within one year
Develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed. The climate change adaptation strategy will identify key recommended adaptation actions needed to increase the resiliency of the Lake Simcoe watershed to the impacts of climate change; identify roles and responsibilities for relevant parties; and identify potential amendments to the Plan to ensure the recommended actions are undertaken. As new information becomes available, the strategy will be amended, as necessary...	3.2.9. (new) To work with other levels of government, agencies, and stakeholders to identify the links between climate change, community planning and public health.	C	C	C			Within two years
Develop a multi-seasonal recreational strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed to improve conditions for environmentally sustainable recreation by...		R		C			Within one year
When approving a development along the Lake Simcoe shoreline, municipalities shall ensure that public access to the Lake is maintained.			R	C			
Where, in accordance with the policies of the Plan, development and site alteration is permitted within 120 metres of the Lake Simcoe shoreline or a permanent or intermittent stream or a wetland, the development or site alteration will be integrated with existing or proposed parks and trails to the extent feasible.			R			R	
Continue to promote sustainable recreation and tourism practices to help protect the ecological and cultural heritage of the Lake Simcoe watershed.	CHAPTER 3.4 OP POLICIES SUPPORT THIS	R	R	C		R	
Owners and operators of marinas, golf courses and other recreational businesses in collaboration with recreational associations should develop and implement programs that promote best management practices and sector-led initiatives to help protect and restore the ecological integrity of Lake Simcoe and its watershed						R	
Monitor and promote environmental certification for marinas, golf courses and other recreational businesses.				C			
<u>Implementation</u>							

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Develop guidelines to provide direction on: a. identifying sub-lake areas and subwatersheds of the Lake Simcoe watershed and determining which sub-lake areas and subwatersheds are of priority; b. preparing subwatershed evaluations including, where appropriate, developing subwatershed-specific targets and recommending actions that need to be taken within subwatersheds in relation to: i. the phosphorus reduction strategy (Chapter 4), ii. stormwater management master plans, including consideration of the amount of impervious surfaces within subwatersheds (Chapter 4), iii. water budgets (Chapter 5), iv. instream flow regime targets (Chapter 5), v. preventing invasive species and mitigating the impacts of existing invasive species (Chapter 7.1), vi. natural heritage restoration and enhancement (Chapter 6), vii. increasing public access (Chapter 7.3), and viii. climate change impacts and adaptation (Chapter 7.2); c. monitoring and reporting in relation to subwatershed targets that may be established; and d. consultation to be undertaken during	2.3.17. (new) To amend this Plan as necessary to ensure consistency with the recommendations of Lake Simcoe subwatershed evaluations and shoreline management strategy.	R		C			Within one year
In developing the guidance outlined in 8.1, the partners identified above will develop approaches to undertake the subwatershed evaluations in a way that builds upon and integrates with source protection plans required under the Clean Water Act, 2006, as well as relevant work of the LSRCA and watershed municipalities.		R		C			
Develop and complete subwatershed evaluations for priority subwatersheds.		C		P			Within five years
Municipal official plans shall be amended to ensure that they are consistent with the recommendations of the subwatershed evaluations.	2.3.17. (new) To amend this Plan as necessary to ensure consistency with the recommendations of Lake Simcoe subwatershed evaluations and shoreline management strategy.		R	R			
Establish a broad-based, watershed-wide stewardship network/alliance. The network/alliance will strengthen the strategic focus of stewardship programs and activities and enhance collaboration among landowners, agencies, industry, and citizen/community organizations to support implementation of the Plan	2.3.13. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to implement the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.	R		C			Within one year

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

LSPP Policy Theme / Policy	Draft York Region Official Plan Policy	Province	Local Municipalities	Region	Developers	Other	Timeline
Develop a structured educational and incentive-based stewardship program for rural and urban (non-farm) landowners in the watershed to promote the adoption of best management practices that support implementation of the Plan.		R		C			
Continue to develop and implement broad-based agrienvironmental stewardship programs to promote the adoption of best management practices to support Plan priorities, including phosphorus load reduction, and riparian, soil and water management.		C					
Promote the development and implementation of best management practices, demonstration and pilot projects focused on innovation and technology advancement as a means of supporting agricultural stewardship activities.		C					
Based on the results of other agri-environmental stewardship initiatives and scientific work completed in the watershed...reassess stewardship programming, and modify as necessary, to address priority needs in the watershed.		R					Within three years
Based on the findings of the study identified in policy 4.16, 4.17...determine the need for additional or modified stewardship and best management practice measures to reduce phosphorus loadings and windborne erosion from agricultural activities in the Lake Simcoe watershed.		R					
Review operational, building and development standards and best management practices. Innovative design elements, for example, site-level storm water controls such as rain barrels or permeable pavements, and other site-specific options for stewardship will be encouraged.	2.3.14. (new) To work with the Province, local municipalities, conservation authorities and other relevant agencies to develop and support monitoring programs, identify emerging issues, support the adaptive management approach of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and to develop a phosphorus reduction strategy for the Lake Simcoe watershed	R	C	C		R	
Organize an event or events that focus on scientific monitoring and research related to the protection of the ecological health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. The event will facilitate the transfer of scientific information and knowledge and coordinate monitoring and research activities among watershed partners to promote the efficient use of resources and funds.		R					Every two years
Pursuant to paragraph 10 of subsection 5 (2) of the Act, the following types of Plan amendments may be approved by the Minister of the Environment...							

Responsi

Final Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
Summary of Strategic Actions and Policies

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