



Discussion Questions: Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt

ERO # 019-3136

The Grand River Conservation Authority has provided detailed comments on the consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt. Please see GRCA Board report GM-03-21-25 dated March 26, 2021. This report has been submitted to the Province along with the responses to these questions.

Discussion Questions	Grand River Conservation Authority Comments
<p>What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?</p>	<p>The Grand River Conservation Authority has provided detailed comments on the consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt. Please see Board report GM-03-21-25 dated March 26, 2021. This report has been submitted along with the responses to these questions.</p> <p>The province should consider deferral of the Greenbelt expansion. Many of the Greenbelt policies protecting natural heritage and water resources system were incorporated into the Growth Plan in 2018. A deferral would allow municipalities the opportunity to incorporate the most recent protective policies for the moraine from the Growth Plan into their Official Plans.</p>
<p>What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?</p>	<p>The province should work with affected municipalities, GRCA and other stakeholders within the Grand River watershed to prepare mapping that is acceptable to the province for inclusion in municipal Official Plans e.g. Paris Galt moraine (as a key hydrologic area as defined by the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan).</p> <p>In addition, the province should provide their data and information to municipalities to identify all components of Water Resource Systems including key hydrologic features and areas such as the Paris Galt moraine.</p> <p>GRCA would be pleased to work with watershed municipalities and the province to provide technical expertise and any data or information that may assist in the implementation of the Growth Plan requirements and review of changes to the boundaries of the Greenbelt Plan.</p>
<p>What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?</p>	<p>The province should review the Urban River Valley (URV) designation for the portions of the Speed River and Eramosa River identified in this review. This review should take into account the difference in this study area and the GTA.</p>

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	<p>The objectives of the URV designation may already be achieved through the Provincial Planning Policy Statement, Growth Plan policies, municipal Official Plan policies in addition to regulations available through Zoning By-laws and Conservation Authorities.</p> <p>The province should implement future amendments to the Greenbelt policies to remove conservation authority lands or clarify that these properties are not public lands. Some of these lands are environmentally sensitive and contain hazards and some infrastructure or access by the public would not be appropriate.</p>
<p>Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?</p>	<p>At this time, the province should defer consideration of expansion of the Greenbelt where the Growth Plan is in effect.</p>
<p>How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above? (see ERO posting for priorities)</p>	<p>The province should provide a policy analysis that clearly identifies the policy gaps or benefits between the current land use planning framework (with Growth Plan policies implemented in municipal Official Plans) and the Greenbelt Plan to ensure all stakeholders and the public are fully informed on the benefits or challenges with each policy framework.</p> <p>The province will review and approve the Official Plans following the municipal comprehensive review process. This review will provide an opportunity to complete an analysis of any gaps in the protection of Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems. The policy gaps could be addressed by the province through future amendments to the Growth Plan or an expansion to the Greenbelt Plan.</p> <p>The province should consider the option of policy amendments to the Greenbelt Plan to allow any Official Plan policies which offer more protection to Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems to supersede any less restrictive policies of the Greenbelt Plan.</p>
<p>Are there other priorities that should be considered?</p>	<p>Provincial Technical Guidelines for water resource systems should be developed.</p> <p>Consultation with the public, municipalities, conservation authorities and other stakeholders on any proposals to modify the boundaries of the existing Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Plan should be provided.</p>