



Legislation & Planning Services
Office of the Commissioner
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

VIA EMAIL

April 22, 2022

Ewa Downarowicz, Director (Acting)
Provincial Planning Policy Branch
College Park 13th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation

Dear Ms. Downarowicz:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input with respect to the Province's phase 2 consultation proposal on growing the Greenbelt. Halton Region is pleased to provide the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with a submission in response to the Environmental Registry of Ontario postings (ERO 019-4485, ERO 019-4483, and ERO 019-4803) on this proposal.

At its April 20, 2022 meeting, Regional Council discussed this proposal and endorsed Report No. LPS37-22 (Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation) as a basis for Halton Region staff to prepare a submission to the Province. The submission, enclosed with this letter, expresses support for the inclusion of the Fourteen Mile Creek Urban River Valley to the Greenbelt Plan and Greenbelt Area boundary and recommends that the Ministry consider additional Urban River Valleys and other candidate study areas for inclusion within the Greenbelt Plan only in the circumstance where there is direct and meaningful engagement with those landowners that are affected by the change.

Please find enclosed herewith:

- Attachment #1 – Halton Region submission on “Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan - Growing the Size of the Greenbelt”.
- Attachment #2 – Halton Staff Report No. LPS37-22 – Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation.
- Attachment #3 – Halton Regional Council minutes dated April 20, 2022.
- Attachment #4 - Halton's response submission to the phase 1 Growing the Size of the Greenbelt consultation submitted on April 19, 2021.

.../page 2

Halton Region staff welcome the opportunity to arrange a meeting with Provincial staff in the near future to discuss this submission and provide additional information to support growing the Greenbelt in Halton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curt Benson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Curt Benson, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning Services and Chief Planning Official
905-825-6000 x7181
curt.benson@halton.ca

attachments

Halton Region Submission regarding the “Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan - Growing the Size of the Greenbelt”

Halton Region welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing’s request for comments regarding the phase 2 consultation proposals on the Environmental Registry of Ontario to Grow the Size of the Greenbelt (ERO 019-4485, ERO 019-4483, and ERO 019-4803. Halton Regional Council received Staff Report LPS37-22 titled “Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation” (Attachment #2) at its meeting on April 20, 2022 which directed staff to prepare a submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing based on the information identified in the report on this matter (Attachment #3).

As part of the Province’s phase 1 consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt in 2021, Halton Region recommended that the Province consider studying various locations for inclusion in the Greenbelt Urban River Valleys, including Fourteen Mile Creek and Joshua Creek Valley in the Town of Oakville and portions of the Credit River east of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills.

Halton Region is supportive of the proposal to add the Fourteen Mile Creek Urban River Valley to the Greenbelt Plan and associated Greenbelt Area boundary regulation. However, it is noted that the Province’s phase 2 proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan do not include any additional Urban River Valleys and other candidate study areas that were recommended to be considered for further evaluation and consultation in Halton’s response submission to the phase 1 Growing the Size of the Greenbelt consultation submitted on April 19, 2021 (Attachment #4). Halton Region continues to support the further study and inclusion of the following study areas as the Ministry continues its process to improve and grow the Greenbelt area:

- Adding the Joshua Creek Urban River Valley in the Town of Oakville and portions of the Credit River Urban River Valley east of Georgetown to the Greenbelt.
- Including the Paris Galt Moraine in the Greenbelt due to its critical hydrological and ecological functions.
- Studying River Valley designations for public lands beyond 60-metres for inclusion in the Greenbelt, where appropriate, consistent with natural heritage designations in local official plans.

In addition to the above, Regional Council only supports the consideration of an additional area of focused study within the Town of Halton Hills (adjacent to the Greenbelt Protected Countryside as depicted on the maps in Attachment #5) provided that the Province provide opportunities for direct notification and extensive engagement with landowners and robust consultation with the public related to these or any other lands being studied for inclusion. For study areas in the rural area, it is imperative that the Province recognize consultation challenges due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to maximize outreach to rural communities.

Halton Regional staff welcome the opportunity to meet with Ministry staff to discuss this submission further or provide any additional details that may assist with the consideration of other recommended candidate study areas to grow the Greenbelt.



The Regional Municipality of Halton

Report To:	Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council
From:	Bob Gray, Commissioner, Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel
Date:	April 20, 2022
Report No:	LPS37-22
Re:	Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Regional Council endorse Report No. LPS37-22 re: “Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation” as the basis to prepare a submission by the Province’s April 23, 2022 Environmental Registry deadline.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS37-22 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Halton’s Members of Provincial Parliament for their information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- On March 24, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO posting 019-4485) entitled “Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan – Growing the size of the Greenbelt” (Attachment #1).
- The proposal is seeking feedback during the phase 2 of the Growing the Size of the Greenbelt consultation, on proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan to include 13 new Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt Area, one of which is to extend the protection of the Fourteen Mile Creek Urban River Valley southwards to Lake Ontario in the Town of Oakville (Attachment #2) and to make corresponding adjustments to the Greenbelt Area boundary to reflect this change.

- The phase 2 consultation to Grow the Greenbelt includes two related Environmental Registry postings. One posting is seeking public feedback on changes to the mapping of the new Urban River Valleys through proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Area Boundary regulation (ERO posting 019-4483) (Attachment #2). The other posting is seeking public feedback on ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt (ERO posting 019-4803) (Attachment #3).
- The proposals are posted on the Environmental Registry for a 30-day public consultation period ending on April 23rd, 2022.
- On March 24, 2021 Regional Council endorsed staff Report No. LPS29-21 with amendments, as a basis to prepare Halton Region's submission on the Province's phase 1 consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt and it recommended that the Province consider studying various locations for inclusion in the Greenbelt Urban River Valleys within Fourteen Mile Creek and Joshua Creek Valley in the Town of Oakville and the portions of the Credit River east of Georgetown as shown in Attachment #5.
- Staff are supportive of the proposal to add the Fourteen Mile Creek Urban River Valley to the Greenbelt Plan boundary. However, staff note that the Province's phase 2 proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan do not include any other candidate study areas that were recommended by Regional Council to be considered for further evaluation and consultation in Halton's response submission to the phase 1 Growing the Size of the Greenbelt consultation.
- In order to meet the Province's commenting deadline, staff recommend that Regional Council endorse this as the basis for a formal submission to the Province in response to the Growing the Size of the Greenbelt Phase 2 proposals.

Background

The Greenbelt area, which includes the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Protected Countryside, protects agricultural and natural heritage areas from urbanization pressures over the long-term. Regional Council has supported enhancing the size of the Greenbelt area over the last several years.

The Urban River Valley designation in the Greenbelt Plan applies to lands in river valleys within an urban context, connecting the Greenbelt area to the Great Lakes and inland lakes. Five of the Greenbelt's existing 21 Urban River Valleys run through Halton Region to Lake Ontario. The policies apply only to publicly owned lands within this designation and are generally lands designated in municipal official plans as parks, open space, recreation, conservation and/or environmental protection. In Halton Region, these policies apply only to publicly owned lands in urban areas along Grindstone Creek, Bronte Creek, Fourteen Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek, and the Credit River.

Phase 1 Consultation

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing sought feedback on ways to grow the size and further enhance the quality of the Greenbelt through phase 1 of their consultation that occurred from February 17 to April 19, 2021 (ERO posting 019-3136). The phase 1 consultation to Grow the Size of the Greenbelt identified a number of Key Principles for identifying candidate areas to be studied for inclusion in the Greenbelt:

- No removal or land exchanges proposed,
- No policy changes proposed that would reduce existing protections in the Greenbelt,
- Supports Greenbelt Plan objectives, vision and goals,
- Follows the existing amendment process,
- Connects physically and/or functionally to the current Greenbelt, and
- Considers impacts on existing provincial priorities.

On March 24, 2021 Regional Council endorsed staff Report No. LPS29-21 with amendments, as a basis to prepare Halton Region's submission on the Province's phase 1 consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt. Halton Region's submission titled *RE: Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt* was sent to the Province on April 19, 2021 and recommended that the Province consider studying multiple locations for inclusion in the Greenbelt Urban River Valleys as shown in Attachment #5 and noted below:

- Fourteen Mile Creek Valley extending south of QEW/North Service Road to Lake Ontario,
- Joshua Creek Valley extending on the eastern side of the Town of Oakville which connects to Lake Ontario, and
- Credit River extending on the east side of Georgetown which connects to the existing Urban River Valley designated area in certain segments such as in a section which passes through the hamlet of Glen Williams, north of Georgetown.

Regional Council also requested staff to include the following additional matters in Halton Region's submission to the Province in response to the phase 1 consultation. Halton Region's submission, dated April 19, 2021, recommended that the Province:

- Further study the Paris Galt Moraine for inclusion in the Greenbelt due to its critical hydrological and ecological functions.
- Study River Valley designations for public lands beyond 60-metres for inclusion in the Greenbelt, where appropriate, consistent with natural heritage designations in local official plans.
- Consider an additional area of focused study within the Town of Halton Hills as an appropriate candidate area for expanding the Greenbelt in Halton Region. The lands are located west of the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System corridor (between 5th Line and 6th Line) and adjacent to the Greenbelt Protected Countryside as depicted on the maps in Attachment #5.
- Provide direct notification and extensive consultation with owners of land being studied for inclusion in the Greenbelt and tailor the engagement to reach the rural community recognizing broadband limitations.

The Province's decision related to the phase 1 consultation posting (ERO posting 019-3136) was released on March 24, 2022 (Attachment #6). It notes that feedback from phase 1 consultation was considered and that impacted municipalities, landowners, and stakeholders raised concerns about the impact and timing regarding a significant Greenbelt expansion in the Paris Galt Moraine area while municipalities are finalizing decisions on growth management. The Province's decision indicates that more time is needed to understand how the proposed addition of the Paris Galt Moraine to the Greenbelt may impact the priority to create housing and jobs. It also notes that the Province is still open to considering this area for future expansion and other potential opportunities to grow the Greenbelt, including adding more Urban River Valleys.

Phase 2 Consultation

On March 24, 2022 the Ministry released phase 2 for consultation seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan to include 13 new Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt, one of which is the extension of the Fourteen Mile Creek Urban River Valley in the Town of Oakville south of North Service Road to Lake Ontario (Attachment #2). The proposed Urban River Valleys were identified based on Greenbelt Plan policies, feedback from municipalities and conservation authorities, technical input from partner ministries, phase 1 consultation results, and other site characteristics.

There were also a number of Key Factors and Key Principles that were applied in evaluating suggested areas for inclusion which led to the 13 proposed Urban River Valleys in the phase 2 consultation:

Key Factors:

- Support from a municipal council resolution and/or staff report from municipalities and/or conservation authorities.
- The Province can also lead the identification of candidate Urban River Valleys.

Key Principles:

- Located in an urban settlement area, outside of the Greenbelt, to allow for the ecological connection and integration of the Greenbelt into urban settings through river valley connections,
- Connected physically and/or have a strong functional connection to the current Greenbelt, Greenbelt Plan, and Great Lakes, inland lakes or areas beyond,
- Contain natural and hydrologic features, including coastal wetlands, in keeping with Greenbelt Plan's vision and goals and Urban River Valley policies to protect natural and open space lands to assist in ecological connections, natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions of river valleys,
- Generally designated in official plans for uses that meet Greenbelt Plan objectives,
- Include mostly or entirely publicly owned lands, as the Urban River Valley policies apply only to publicly owned and not privately owned lands,
- Supported by a municipal council resolution and/or staff report from municipalities and/or conservation authorities, and

- Provincial priorities were also considered such as the Province's current use and future plans for publicly owned lands.

The proposal for phase 2 consultation was posted on the Environmental Registry (ERO posting 019-4485) for a 30-day public consultation period ending on April 23rd, 2022. (Attachment #1).

As part of phase 2 consultation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has posted two related Environmental Registry of Ontario postings for public consultation ending on April 23rd, 2022:

- Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (ERO posting 019-4483) (Attachment #3) – is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to O.Reg. 59/05 to grow the size of the Greenbelt Area to enable Greenbelt Plan Urban River Valley policies to be applied to the 13 proposed new Urban River Valley areas (described in ERO posting 019-4485).
- Ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys (ERO posting 019-4803) (Attachment #4) – is seeking ideas for future potential expansions to the Greenbelt Area in addition to the 13 new Urban River Valleys proposed in ERO posting 019-4485.

Discussion

The Province's phase 2 consultation proposals focus on amending the Greenbelt Plan and Greenbelt Area boundary regulation to add 13 new Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt including the extension of the Fourteen Mile Creek Urban River Valley southwards to Lake Ontario in the Town of Oakville. Staff support adding this portion of the Fourteen Mile Creek Valley to the Greenbelt Plan Urban River Valley designation and Greenbelt Area boundary as this is one of the main valley systems in Oakville as noted in the Region's comments on the Phase 1 consultation submission. The Greenbelt Urban River Valley designation also supports the Natural Heritage goals and objectives of Halton's Strategic Plan and Regional Official Plan.

The phase 2 consultation proposal is also seeking feedback on ideas for additional Urban River Valleys that meet the Province's Key Factors and Principles for inclusion in the Greenbelt. However, staff note the Province's proposal does not include any of the additional candidate River Valley areas that were identified in Halton's April 19, 2021 submission to the Province on the Phase 1 consultation including:

- Joshua Creek Valley extending on the eastern side of the Town of Oakville which connects to Lake Ontario, and
- Credit River extending on the east side of Georgetown which connects to the existing Urban River Valley designated area in certain segments such as in a section which passes through the hamlet of Glen Williams, north of Georgetown.

Staff are recommending to advance the additional candidate study areas for inclusion in the Greenbelt as they were included in the Region's submission in response to the phase 1 consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt and no rationale has been provided by the Province to exclude these candidate areas from further study.

The Province's phase 2 consultation is not seeking feedback on studying additional candidate areas to be added to the Greenbelt beyond Urban River Valleys. At this point it is uncertain whether the Province will consider any of the additional areas that were supported by Regional Council to be studied as candidate areas for further consultation in response to the Province's phase 1 consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt. These study areas included lands located west of the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System corridor (between 5th Line and 6th Line) as well as the Paris Galt Moraine that extends into the northern edge of Halton Region. Staff are supportive of continuing to advance these candidate study areas for further evaluation and public consultation for inclusion in the Greenbelt but are seeking Council's direction whether these areas should continue to be identified as part of the Region's submission in response to phase 2 Growing the Size of the Greenbelt consultation.

Conclusion

Staff are supportive of the proposed inclusion of the extended Fourteen Mile Creek Valley to the Greenbelt Plan Urban River Valley designation and adjusted Greenbelt Area boundary regulation. Staff are recommending to continue to advance additional candidate study areas for inclusion in the Greenbelt that were included in the Region's submission in response to the phase 1 consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt.

Subject to Council direction, staff will prepare a formal submission to the Province's phase 2 Growing the Greenbelt consultation proposals to meet the April 23, 2022 commenting deadline.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Curt Benson
Director, Planning Services and Chief
Planning Official



Bob Gray
Commissioner, Legislative and Planning
Services and Corporate Counsel

Approved by



Jane MacCaskill
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,
please contact:

Curt Benson

Tel. # 7181

Attachments: Attachment #1 - ERO Post #019-4485 - Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan – Growing the size of the Greenbelt
Attachment #2 – Proposed Fourteen Mile Creek Greenbelt Urban River Valley extension map
Attachment #3 - ERO Post#019-4483 - Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation
Attachment #4 - ERO Post#019-4803 - Ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys
Attachment #5 – Excerpt April 19, 2021 Halton Region Phase 1 Consultation Submission to the Province Identifying candidate study area for Inclusion in the Greenbelt
Attachment #6 - ERO Post#019-3136 - Decision on Phase 1 Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt



Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan - Growing the size of the Greenbelt

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-4485
Notice type	Policy
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	March 24, 2022
Comment period	March 24, 2022 - April 23, 2022 (30 days) Open
Last updated	March 24, 2022

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m. on:
April 23, 2022

Proposal summary

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan (including the schedules) that could add new 13 new Urban River Valley areas to the Greenbelt.

Proposal details

In Ontario's 2020 and 2021 budgets, the government committed to protecting the Greenbelt for future generations by expanding its quantity and quality.

To deliver on this commitment, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is launching a phase 2 consultation to grow the Greenbelt to seek feedback on proposed amendments to the [Greenbelt Plan](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017) (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) and Greenbelt Area boundary regulation ([Ontario Regulation 59/05](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>)) to add 13 Urban River Valley areas to the Greenbelt.

The maps available for this consultation outline proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan Schedules 1, 2 and 4 and proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation. Proposed maps can be found on [Ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps \(https://www.ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps).

While this ERO posting relates specifically to the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Plan, there are two related ERO postings as part of the phase 2 consultation:

- [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\) number 019-4483 seeking feedback on changes to the boundary of the Greenbelt Area through a proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation O. Reg. \(Ontario Regulation\) 59/05 \(https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059\)](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059).
- [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\) number 019-4803 seeking ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt.](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059)

Context

The [Greenbelt Plan \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017) and [A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe) (A Place to Grow), have worked together for over 15 years to provide a framework for where and how growth should be accommodated in southern Ontario.

The Greenbelt Area includes lands covered by the policies of the [Greenbelt Plan \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017), as well as the [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan \(https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-ridges-moraine-conservation-plan-2017\)](https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-ridges-moraine-conservation-plan-2017) and the [Niagara Escarpment Plan \(https://files.ontario.ca/appendix_-_niagara_escarpment_plan_2017_-_oc-10262017.pdf\)](https://files.ontario.ca/appendix_-_niagara_escarpment_plan_2017_-_oc-10262017.pdf). Collectively, these plans identify where major urbanization should not occur. The plans provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions within the Greater Golden Horseshoe and beyond.

The Greenbelt Plan has two designations:

1. Urban River Valleys (URVs)- added to the Plan in 2013 and 2017
 - [URV \(Urban River Valley\)s](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) connect the Greenbelt to the Great Lakes, inland lakes and areas beyond through urban areas that are outside

the Greenbelt.

- In addition to protecting natural and water features, URV (Urban River Valley)s provide recreation, tourism and cultural opportunities in natural settings.
- The Greenbelt provides a firm boundary for the protection of lands, including any lands added as URV (Urban River Valley).
- While some privately owned lands may be included in URV (Urban River Valley)s, URV (Urban River Valley) policies apply only to publicly owned lands and rely on municipal official plan policies.
- URV (Urban River Valley) lands are mostly designated in municipal official plans as parks, open space, recreation, conservation and/or environmental protection.

2. Protected Countryside - comprises most of the area covered by the Greenbelt Plan. In addition to general polices that apply across the Greenbelt, there are three geographic specific policy areas:

- Agricultural System
- Natural System
- Settlement Area

In addition, there are general policies and parkland, open space and trails policies that apply to the Protected Countryside; however, the parkland, open space and trails policies apply across the Greenbelt.

Growing the Greenbelt

During phase 1 of the consultation, the Ministry sought feedback on ways to grow the size and enhance the quality of the Greenbelt, which included seeking ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting the Greenbelt.

At this time, the Ministry is proceeding with a proposal to consult on adding 13 Urban River Valley areas to the Greenbelt Plan as part of phase 2.

For more information on what we heard please visit [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\) 019-3136 - Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt \(https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3136\)](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3136)

Policy proposal

The *Greenbelt Act, 2005* requires consultation with affected municipalities, public bodies and the public on any proposed Greenbelt Plan amendments.

During phase 2 of the growing the Greenbelt consultation, the Ministry is seeking feedback on proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan, that could add 13 new URV (Urban River Valley) areas:

- Addition of Stoney Creek in Hamilton as a new URV (Urban River Valley)
- Adding Battlefield Creek in Hamilton as a new URV (Urban River Valley)
- Expansion of Wilmot Creek in Clarington
- Expansion of Soper Creek and Bowmanville Creek in Clarington
- Expansion of Harmony Creek URV (Urban River Valley) by adding Darlington Provincial Park, partially located in Oshawa and partially located in Clarington
- Expansion of Oshawa Creek URV (Urban River Valley)s in Oshawa
- Extension of Fourteen Mile Creek URV (Urban River Valley) in Oakville
- Provincially identified URV (Urban River Valley) expansions including:
 - Expansion of Don River URV (Urban River Valley) in Toronto by adding
 - Burke Brooke
 - Wilket Creek
 - Taylor-Massey Creek
 - Expansion of Humber River URV (Urban River Valley) in Toronto by adding:
 - Humber Creek
 - Black Creek

See Urban River Valleys maps and links in Supporting Materials below or visit [insert link MMAH website].

Approach to Identifying New or Expanded Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt

The proposed URV (Urban River Valley)s were identified based on Greenbelt Plan policies, feedback from municipalities and conservation authorities, technical input from partner ministries, phase 1 consultation results, and other site characteristics (e.g. (for example), ownership, use).

The Key Factors considered in identifying proposed URV (Urban River Valley)s include:

- Most additions are supported by a municipal council resolution and/or staff report from municipalities and/or conservation authorities. Additional URV (Urban River Valley)s have also been identified by the province.
- The proposed URV (Urban River Valley)

- are located in an urban settlement area, outside of the Greenbelt, to allow for the ecological connection and integration of the Greenbelt into urban settings through river valley connections,
- are connected physically and/or have a strong functional connection to the current Greenbelt, Greenbelt Plan, and Great Lakes, inland lakes or areas beyond,
- contain natural and hydrologic features, including coastal wetlands, in keeping with Greenbelt Plan's vision and goals and URV (Urban River Valley) policies to protect natural and open space lands to assist in ecological connections, natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions of river valleys,
- are generally designated in official plans for uses that meet Greenbelt Plan objectives, and
- include mostly or entirely publicly owned lands, as the URV policies apply only to publicly owned and not privately owned lands.
- Other provincial priorities such as the Province's current use and future plans for publicly owned lands (e.g. (for example), provincial parks) are considered.

The boundaries of the proposed URV (Urban River Valley)s are generally based on a 60 m setback from the water's edge and include both public and privately owned lands (but the URV (Urban River Valley) policies do not apply to privately owned lands). This is consistent with the approach used to identify the boundaries of the existing 21 URV (Urban River Valley)s in the Greenbelt Plan.

The Key Principles for Expanding the Greenbelt identified in phase 1 were also applied. In particular,

1. No removal or land exchanges proposed
 - This proposal is about growing the size and quality of the Greenbelt, and the government will not consider the removal of any lands from the Greenbelt.
2. No policy changes proposed that would reduce existing protections in the Greenbelt
 - The proposed expansions would be based on existing policies.
3. Supports Greenbelt Plan objectives, vision, and goals
 - The lands proposed for addition would support the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>)'s objectives, vision and goals of providing permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the natural heritage and hydrological

features, areas and functions occurring on this landscape and providing for the inclusion of publicly owned lands in URV (Urban River Valley)s.

4. Follows existing amendment process

- The *Greenbelt Act, 2005* sets out the legislated public process that applies to any proposed Greenbelt Plan amendments. This would include requiring consultation with affected public bodies such as the Greenbelt Council, municipalities and conservation authorities in the Greenbelt Area, an opportunity for consultation with general public, as well as ensuring any proposed amendment does not reduce the total land area within the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>). Engaging with Indigenous communities would also occur before any amendments are made.

5. Connects physically and/or functionally to the current Greenbelt

- The Greenbelt is meant to be a continuous broad band of permanently protected land. Any expansions shall build upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) and should be directly connected or have a strong functional connection through the Greenbelt's natural heritage, water resource or agricultural systems to not create unconnected islands of Greenbelt land.

6. Considers impacts on existing provincial priorities

- Expansions to the Greenbelt must consider their effects on other key provincial priorities outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020>) and A Place to Grow (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe>).

The Ministry welcomes feedback on the proposed new and expanded URV (Urban River Valley)s.

Other related information

For more information on the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation to add 13 new URV (Urban River Valley) areas, please see ERO number 019-4483 - Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation - Growing the size of the Greenbelt (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4483>).

Supporting materials

Related links

[The Greenbelt Area boundary regulation, O. Reg. 59/05, as amended in 2017, can ... \(https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059\)](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059)

Related ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) notices

[Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt \(/notice/019-3136\)](/notice/019-3136)

[Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation - Growing the size of the Greenbelt \(/notice/019-4483\)](/notice/019-4483)

[Ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys \(/notice/019-4803\)](/notice/019-4803)

View materials in person

Important notice: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, viewing supporting materials in person is not available at this time.

Please reach out to the Contact listed in this notice to see if alternate arrangements can be made.

Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies. \(/page/commenting-privacy/\)](/page/commenting-privacy/)

Submit by mail

greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

Connect with
us

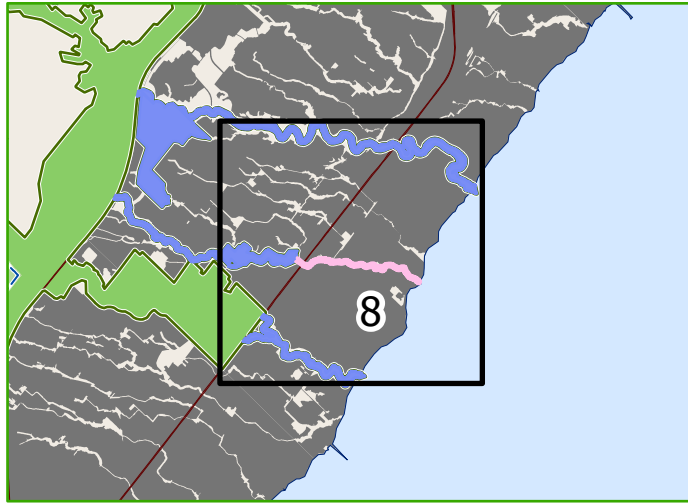
Contact

greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca



greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

greenbelt



Greenbelt Plan, map division and enlargement

Proposed Urban River Valley Map 8

LEGEND

- Greenbelt Area*
- Protected Countryside
- Natural Heritage System
- Towns/Villages
- Urban River Valleys
- Proposed Urban River Valleys
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Oak Ridges Moraine Area
- Settlement Areas Outside the Greenbelt
- Municipal Boundary
- Road or Highway

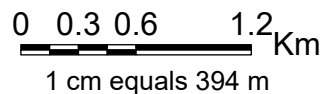
Maps are for Consultation Purposes Only

Note: While every effort has been made to accurately depict the information, this map should not be relied on as being a precise indicator of locations of features or roads. For precise boundaries and locations of Settlement Areas, including Towns/Villages and Hamlets, the appropriate municipalities should be consulted.

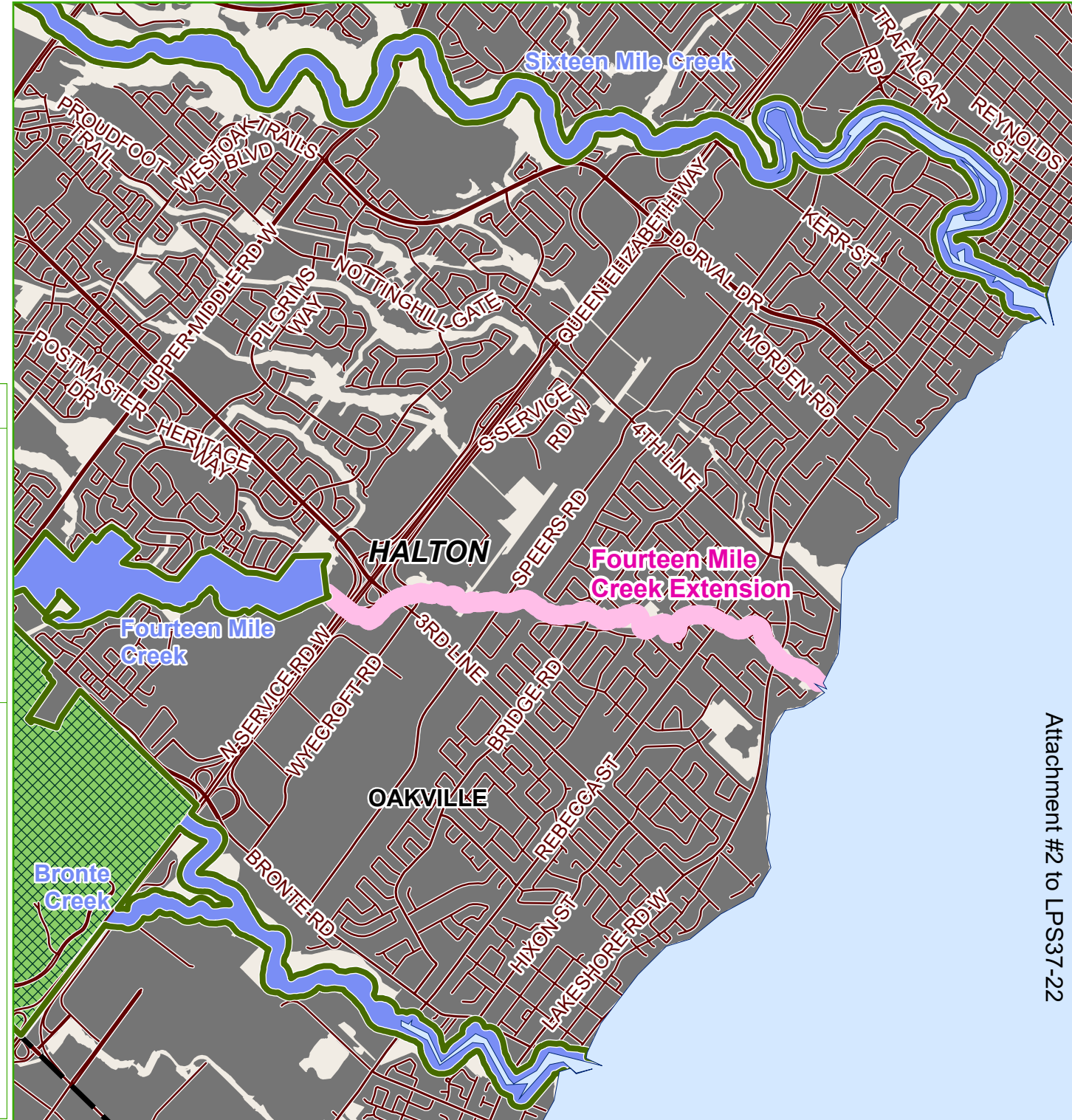
Produced by and using data sources from the: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry; Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; and, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

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*Ontario Regulation 59/05, as amended.



Map North: 0°





Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation - Growing the size of the Greenbelt

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-4483
Notice type	Regulation
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	March 24, 2022
Comment period	March 24, 2022 - April 23, 2022 (30 days) Open
Last updated	March 24, 2022

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m.

on:

April 23, 2022

Proposal summary

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on changes to the boundary of the Greenbelt Area through a proposed amendment to [O. Reg. \(Ontario Regulation\) 59/05](#)

(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>).

Proposal details

In Ontario's 2020 and 2021 budgets, the government committed to protecting the Greenbelt for future generations by expanding its quantity and quality.

To deliver on this commitment, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is launching a phase 2 consultation to grow the Greenbelt to seek feedback on proposed amendments to the [Greenbelt Plan](#)

(<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) and Greenbelt Area

boundary regulation ([O. Reg. \(Ontario Regulation\) 59/05](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>)) to add 13 new and expanded Urban River Valley areas.

The maps available for this consultation outline proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan Schedules 1, 2 and 4 and proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation. Proposed maps can be found on [Ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps](https://www.ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps) (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps>).

While this [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\)](#) posting relates specifically to the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation ([O. Reg. \(Ontario Regulation\) 59/05](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059)), there are two related [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\)](#) postings as part of the phase 2 consultation:

- [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\)](#) number 019-4485 seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan that could add new 13 new Urban River Valley areas to the Greenbelt.
- [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\)](#) number 019-4803 seeking ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt.

Description of regulation

[O. Reg. \(Ontario Regulation\) 59/05](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>) was made on February 25, 2005 and established the boundary of the Greenbelt Area pursuant to the [Greenbelt Act, 2005](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05g01) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05g01>).

The proposed regulation would add the following areas to the Greenbelt Area as described in [O. Reg. \(Ontario Regulation\) 59/05](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>):

- 13 Urban River Valley areas which provide additional connections through urban settings to expand and integrate the Greenbelt and its systems into the broader southern Ontario landscape, including:
 - Addition of Stoney Creek in Hamilton as a new [URV \(Urban River Valley\)](#)
 - Adding Battlefield Creek in Hamilton as a new [URV \(Urban River Valley\)](#)
 - Expansion of Wilmot Creek in Clarington
 - Expansion of Soper Creek and Bowmanville Creek in Clarington

- Expansion of Harmony Creek URV.(Urban River Valley) by adding Darlington Provincial Park, partially located in Oshawa and partially located in Clarington
- Expansion of Oshawa Creek URV.(Urban River Valley)s in Oshawa
- Extension of Fourteen Mile Creek URV.(Urban River Valley) in Oakville
- Provincially identified URV.(Urban River Valley) expansions including:
 - Expansion of Don River URV.(Urban River Valley) in Toronto by adding
 - Burke Brooke
 - Wilket Creek
 - Taylor-Massey Creek
 - Expansion of Humber River URV.(Urban River Valley) in Toronto by adding:
 - Humber Creek
 - Black Creek

The proposed regulation would be an amendment to O. Reg. (Ontario Regulation) 59/05 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>). The final decision on the proposal would be made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The proposed regulation is about growing the size and quality of the Greenbelt, and the government will not consider the removal of any lands from the Greenbelt Area as described in O. Reg. (Ontario Regulation) 59/05 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>).

Purpose of regulation

The purpose of the proposed regulation is to:

- • expand the Greenbelt Area to enable the policy coverage of the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) to be extended to these 13 new Urban River Valley areas to grow the size and quality of the Greenbelt.

Other related information

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is also consulting on a proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) under the Greenbelt Act, 2005 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05g01>) to add the

13 URV (Urban River Valley) areas to the Greenbelt Plan Schedules. For more information, see [EBR \(Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993\) Registry Number 019-4485](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>).

The Ministry is also seeking feedback on other potential expansions to the Greenbelt for the future. For more information see [EBR \(Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993\) Registry Number 019-4483](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4483) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4483>).

Supporting materials

Related links

[The Greenbelt Area boundary regulation, O. Reg. 59/05, as amended in 2017, can ...](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>)

Related ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) notices

[Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt \(/notice/019-3136\)](/notice/019-3136)

[Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan - Growing the size of the Greenbelt \(/notice/019-4485\)](/notice/019-4485)

[Ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys \(/notice/019-4803\)](/notice/019-4803)

View materials in person

Important notice: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, viewing supporting materials in person is not available at this time.

Please reach out to the Contact listed in this notice to see if alternate arrangements can be made.

Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the [ERO \(Environmental Registry of Ontario\)](#) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies. \(/page/commenting-privacy/\)](/page/commenting-privacy/)

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Ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-4803
Notice type	Policy
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	March 24, 2022
Comment period	March 24, 2022 - April 23, 2022 (30 days) Open
Last updated	March 24, 2022

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m.

on:

April 23, 2022

Proposal summary

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on ideas for future expansions to the Greenbelt through the addition and expansion of Urban River Valleys.

Proposal details

In Ontario's 2020 and 2021 budgets, the government committed to protecting the Greenbelt for future generations by expanding its quantity and quality.

To continue to deliver on this commitment, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is seeking ideas for adding Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt in the future through new URVs and/or expansions to existing URVs that could specifically include:

- Ideas for new URVs
- The addition of tributaries to any existing Urban River Valley
- The addition of publicly owned parcels to any existing Urban River Valley

As part of the Phase 2 consultation, there are two other related ERO postings:

- [ERO number 019-4485](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485) seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan that could add new 13 new Urban River Valley areas to the Greenbelt.
- [ERO number 019-4483](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4483) seeking feedback on the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation associated with the proposed new urban River Valley areas.

Context

The [Greenbelt Plan](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017) and [A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe) (A Place to Grow), have worked together for over 15 years to provide a framework for where and how growth should be accommodated in southern Ontario. The Greenbelt Area includes lands covered by the policies of the [Greenbelt Plan](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017), as well as the [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan](https://www.ontario.ca/page/oak-ridges-moraine-conservation-plan-2017) and the [Niagara Escarpment Plan](https://files.ontario.ca/appendix_-_niagara_escarpment_plan_2017_-_oc-10262017.pdf). Collectively, these plans identify where major urbanization should not occur. The plans provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions within the Greater Golden Horseshoe and beyond.

The Greenbelt Plan has two designations:

1. Protected Countryside - Comprises most of the area covered by the Greenbelt Plan. In addition to general policies that apply across the Greenbelt, there are three geographic specific policy areas:
 - a. Agricultural System
 - b. Natural System
 - c. Settlement Area
2. Urban River Valleys (see link to Map in Supporting Materials below)
 - Currently includes 21 Urban River Valleys and associated coastal wetlands added to the Plan in 2013 and 2017
 - The Urban River Valley designation in the Greenbelt Plan applies to lands in river valleys within an urban context, connecting the Greenbelt's Protected Countryside lands to the Great Lakes and inland lakes (e.g., Don River, Duffins Creek, Twelve Mile Creek). In

addition to protecting natural and water features, URVs provide recreation, tourism and cultural opportunities in natural settings.

- The Greenbelt provides a firm boundary for the protection of lands, including any lands added as URVs. The URV designation includes both publicly and privately owned lands but the policies only apply to publicly owned lands. URV lands are often lands designated in municipal official plans as parks, open space, conservation and/or environmental protection.
- There may be opportunities for additional urban river valleys to be added or existing ones to be expanded to include additional publicly owned land.

Growing the Greenbelt

During phase 1 of the consultation, from February 17 to April 19, 2021, MMAH sought feedback on ways to grow the size and further enhance the quality of the Greenbelt, with a priority on seeking ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting the Greenbelt.

Over the 61 days, MMAH received over 6,150 responses. Please visit [ERO 019-3136 Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt](https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3136) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3136>) for details on what we heard. For more information on the proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan and Greenbelt Area boundary regulation as part of phase 2 consultation, please see [ERO number 019-4485](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>) and [ERO number 019-4483](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4483) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4483>).

Key Principles for Expanding the Greenbelt

The principles that were applied to proposed URVs in phase 1 (see [ERO number 019-4485](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>)) are also relevant to guide feedback on ideas for adding/expanding Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt in the future. The principles include:

1. No removal or land exchanges proposed
 - This proposal is about growing the size and quality of the Greenbelt, and the government will not consider the removal of any lands from the Greenbelt.
2. No policy changes proposed that would reduce existing protections in the Greenbelt
 - The proposed expansions would be based on existing policies.

3. Supports Greenbelt Plan objectives, vision, and goals
 - The lands proposed for addition would support the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>)'s objectives, vision and goals of providing permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the natural heritage and hydrological features, areas and functions occurring on this landscape and providing for the inclusion of publicly owned lands in URVs.
4. Follows existing amendment process
 - The Greenbelt Act, 2005 (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05g01>) sets out the legislated public process that applies to any proposed Greenbelt Plan amendments. This would include requiring consultation with affected public bodies such as the Greenbelt Council, municipalities and conservation authorities in the Greenbelt Area, an opportunity for consultation with general public, as well as ensuring any proposed amendment does not reduce the total land area within the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>). Engagement with Indigenous communities would also occur before any amendments are made.
5. Connects physically and/or functionally to the current Greenbelt
 - The Greenbelt is meant to be a continuous broad band of permanently protected land. Any expansions shall build upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) and should be directly connected or have a strong functional connection through the Greenbelt's natural heritage, water resource or agricultural systems to not create unconnected islands of Greenbelt land.
6. Considers impacts on existing provincial priorities;
 - Expansions to the Greenbelt must consider their effects on other key provincial priorities outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020>) and A Place to Grow (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe>).

Approach to Identifying New or Expanded Urban River Valleys

The key factors that were considered in identifying proposed URVs in Phase 2 of Growing the Greenbelt (see ERO number 019-4485 (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>)) are relevant to guide

feedback on ideas for adding/expanding Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt in the future. The key factors include:

Support from a municipal council resolution and/or staff report from municipalities and/or conservation authorities. The province can also lead the identification of URV candidates.

The proposed URVs:

- are located in an urban settlement area, outside of the Greenbelt, to allow for the ecological connection and integration of the Greenbelt into urban settings through river valley connections,
 - connect physically and/or have a strong functional connection to the current Greenbelt, Greenbelt Plan, and Great Lakes, inland lakes or areas beyond,
 - contain natural and hydrologic features, including coastal wetlands, in keeping with Greenbelt Plan's vision and goals and URV policies to protect natural and open space lands to assist in ecological connections, natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions of river valleys,
 - are generally designated in official plans for uses that meet Greenbelt Plan objectives,
 - include mostly or entirely publicly owned lands, as the URV policies apply only to publicly owned and not privately owned lands.
- Other provincial priorities such as the Province's current use and future plans for publicly owned lands (e.g., provincial parks) are considered.

The boundaries of the proposed URVs are generally based on a 60 m setback from the water's edge and include both public and privately owned lands (but the URV policies do not apply to privately owned lands). This is consistent with the approach used to identify the boundaries of the existing 21 URVs in the Greenbelt Plan.

Proposal

The government is seeking ideas for future potential expansions to the Greenbelt, in addition to the Urban River Valleys proposed in [ERO number 019-4485](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>). This could specifically include:

- Potential additions of new Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt (e.g. East Holland River)

- Potential additions of new tributaries to any existing Urban River Valley (e.g., adding German Mills Creek to the existing Don River URV))
- Potential additions of publicly owned land parcels to any existing Urban River Valleys (e.g., Erindale Park and Riverwood Park along the existing Credit River URV, Claireville Conservation Area along the existing Humber River URV)

Any suggested Greenbelt expansions that may be contemplated as a result of these additional areas of interest would be part of a future amendment to the Greenbelt Plan and would be subject to further consultation and draft mapping of proposed boundary changes.

Supporting materials

Related links

[The Greenbelt Area boundary regulation, O. Reg. 59/05, as amended in 2017](https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059) (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>)

[Urban River Valleys Map of Existing URVs](https://www.ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps#urv2017) (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/greenbelt-maps#urv2017>).

Related ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) notices

[Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt](/notice/019-3136) (</notice/019-3136>)

[Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan - Growing the size of the Greenbelt](/notice/019-4485) (</notice/019-4485>)

[Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation - Growing the size of the Greenbelt](/notice/019-4483) (</notice/019-4483>)

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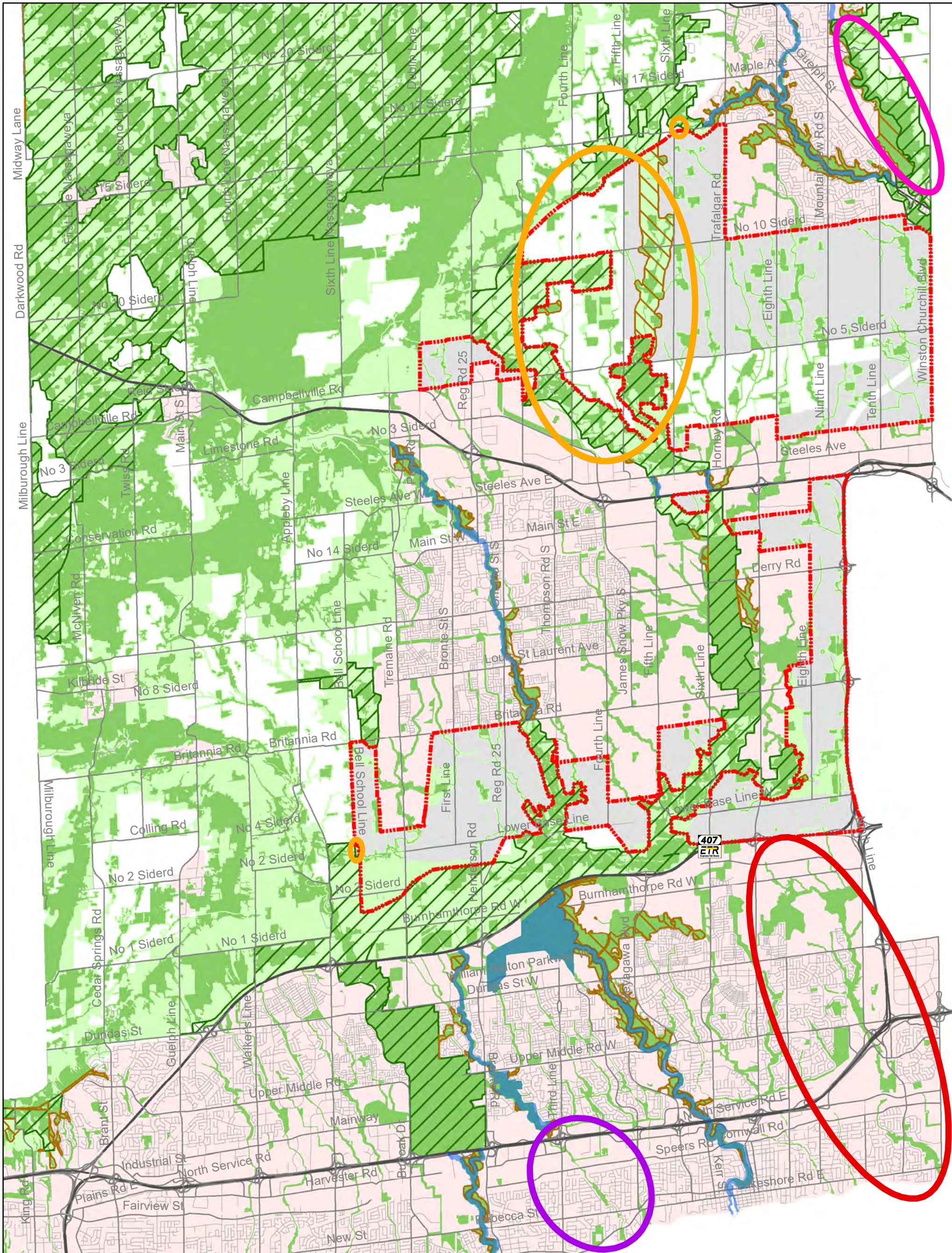


greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

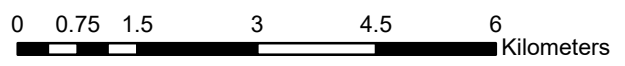
Growing the Greenbelt - Natural Heritage System

Halton Region

April 16, 2021



- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Draft Key NHS
- Draft System NHS
- Urban River Valley
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Minor Roads
- Highway
- Major Roads



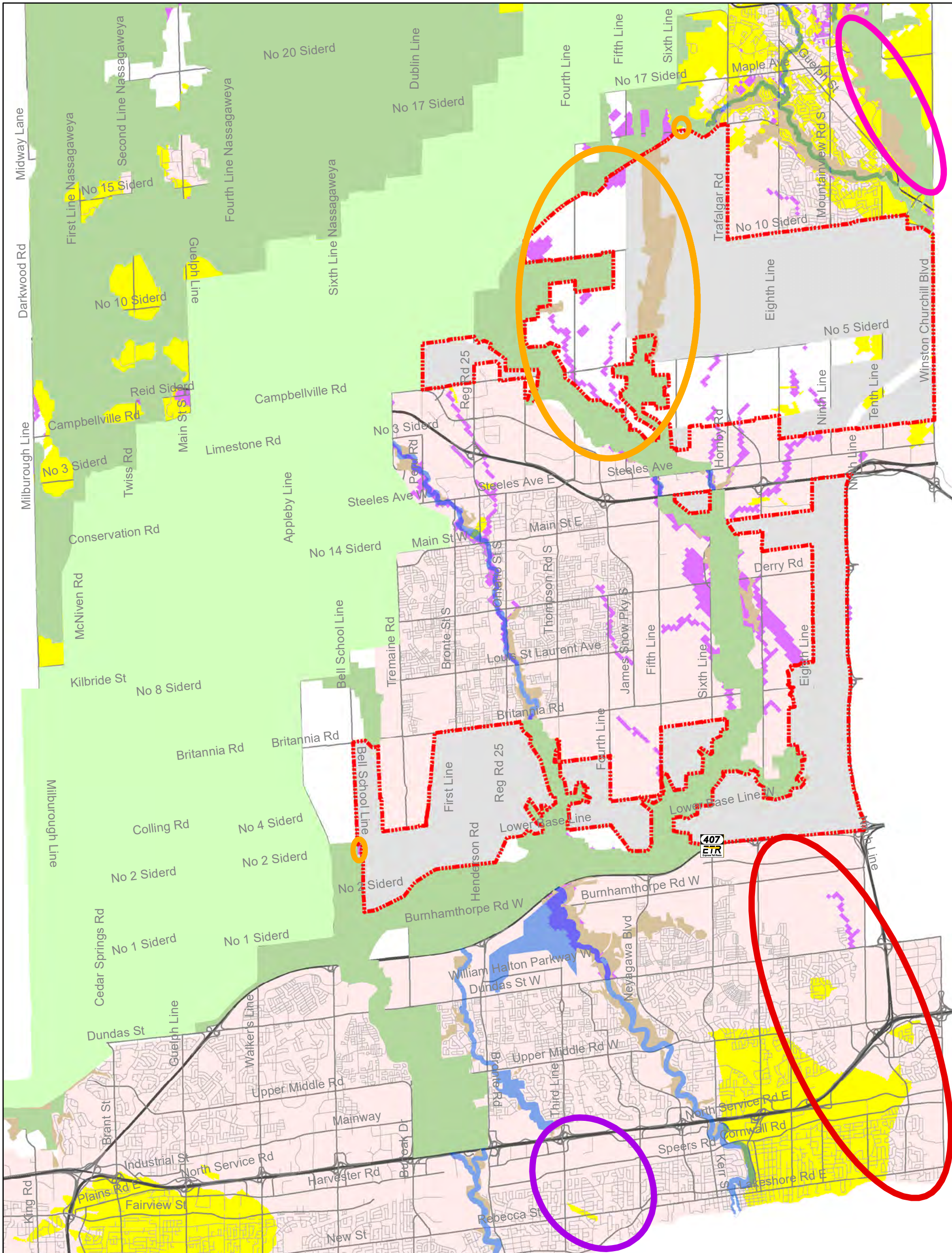
- Recommended Candidate Study Area
- Fourteen Mile Creek Study Area
- Credit River Candidate Study Area
- Joshua Creek Candidate Study Area



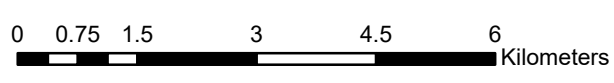
Growing the Greenbelt - Source Water Protection

Halton Region

April 16, 2021



- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Urban River Valley
- Significant Groundwater Recharge Area
- Highly Vulnerable Aquifer
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Minor Roads
- Highway
- Major Roads

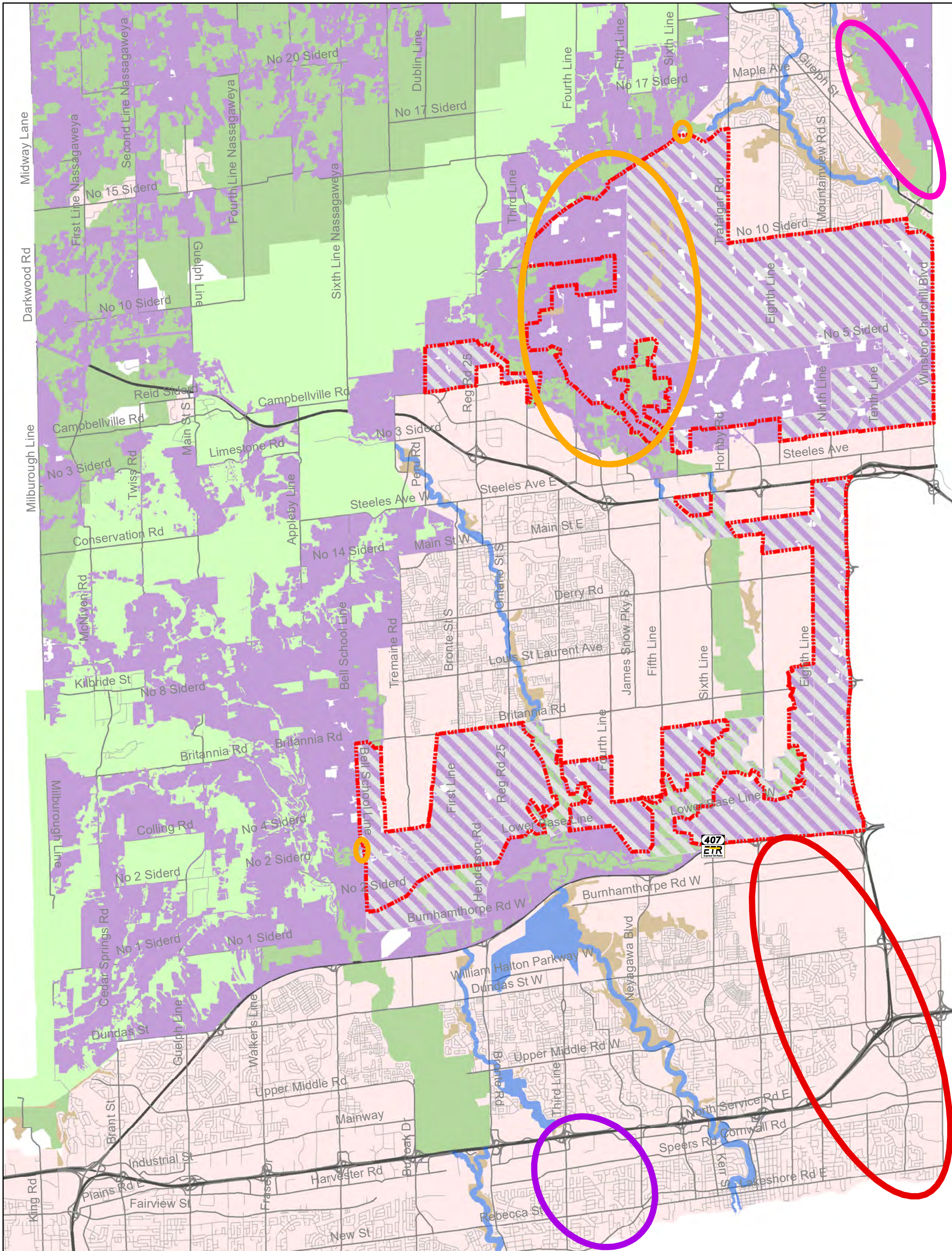


- Recommended Candidate Study Area
- Fourteen Mile Creek Study Area
- Credit River Candidate Study Area
- Joshua Creek Candidate Study Area

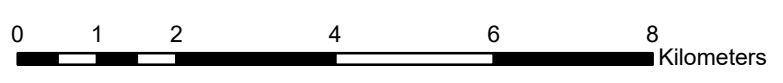






Growing the Greenbelt - Draft Prime Agricultural Area Halton Region

April 16, 2021



-  Whitebelt
-  IGMS Primary Study Area
-  Settlement Area
-  Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
-  Urban River Valley
-  Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
-  Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
-  Draft Prime Agricultural Area
-  Minor Roads
-  Highway
-  Major Roads



-  Recommended Candidate Study Area
-  Fourteen Mile Creek Study Area
-  Credit River Candidate Study Area
-  Joshua Creek Candidate Study Area





Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-3136
Notice type	Policy
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Decision
Decision posted	March 24, 2022
Comment period	February 17, 2021 - April 19, 2021 (61 days) Closed
Last updated	March 24, 2022

This consultation was open from:
February 17, 2021
to April 19, 2021

Decision summary

Feedback from phase 1 consultation on growing the Greenbelt including a Paris Galt Moraine study area and ideas for adding Urban River Valleys was considered. On March 24, 2022, Phase 2 consultation was launched on proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan and Greenbelt Area boundary regulation to add 13 new and expanded Urban River Valleys.

Decision details

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing sought feedback on ways to grow the size of the Greenbelt, with an initial focus on the Paris Galt Moraine and new and expanded Urban River Valleys (URVs), and will move forward with the next step in the growing the Greenbelt initiative by launching a phase 2 consultation.

Over 6,150 comments, including 950 unique submissions, and over 5,200 submissions from write-in campaigns, were received during the comment period for the phase 1 consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing reviewed and considered all feedback received. While a range of feedback was submitted (see details in the Summary of Comments below), the main feedback, includes:

1. Certain municipalities and conservation authorities, as well as environmental groups, the public and Indigenous communities supported adding new or expanded Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt, with requests for specific rivers or lands to be added as Urban River Valleys.
2. Impacted municipalities and landowners, as well as stakeholders raised concerns about the impact and timing regarding a significant Greenbelt expansion in the Paris Galt Moraine area while municipalities are finalizing decisions on growth management to implement provincial growth policy under A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (APTG).

More time is needed to understand how the proposed addition of the Paris Galt Moraine to the Greenbelt may impact the priority to create housing and jobs. The Ministry is still open to considering this area for future expansion and other potential opportunities to grow the Greenbelt, including adding more Urban River Valleys.

The analysis of this feedback informed the development of the proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017>) and Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/050059>) to add new and expanded Urban River Valleys. Phase 2 of the consultation on growing the Greenbelt to add the new 13 URV (Urban River Valley) areas will run from March 24, 2022 until April 23, 2022 (30 days) and the consultation on seeking ideas for adding more URV (Urban River Valley)s will run from March 24, 2022 until April 23, 2022 (30 days).

To visit the consultation page on the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Plan, visit ERO 019-4485 (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>).

To visit the consultation page on the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (O. Reg. (Ontario Regulation) 59/05), visit ERO 019-4483 (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4483>).

To visit the consultation page, or to provide feedback on ideas for adding more Urban River Valleys, visit ERO 019-4803 (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4403>).

Comments received

Through the registry
653

By email
5,677

By mail
0

[View comments submitted through the registry \(/index.php/notice/019-3136/comments\)](/index.php/notice/019-3136/comments)

Effects of consultation

Members of the public, municipalities, and a range of stakeholders, including from the environmental, development, agricultural and aggregates sectors submitted feedback. Indigenous communities and organizations also provided feedback.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing held consultation and technical meetings with municipalities, conservation authorities, and stakeholders. The Ministry engaged with Indigenous communities and organizations through a separate and parallel process.

In total, over 6,150 comments were received: 950 unique submissions, and over 5,200 submissions from write-in campaigns.

Summary of Comments

- Overall, there was strong support for adding and expanding Urban River Valleys into the Greenbelt, especially among certain municipalities and conservation authorities, as well as environmental groups, Indigenous communities, and the public.
- A number of municipalities and conservation authorities (CAs), such as the Municipality of Clarington, the Town of Oakville, and Central Lake Ontario CA (Conservation Authority) requested additions of publicly owned lands to existing Urban River Valleys, or new URV (Urban River Valley)s, such as Darlington Provincial Park by the City of Oshawa.
- The development sector was generally supportive of the proposed URV (Urban River Valley) designations as the URV (Urban River Valley) policies apply to publicly owned land only.

- Some municipalities, CA (Conservation Authority)s and the environmental sector requested policy changes to the Greenbelt Plan to allow municipalities to have stronger local protections (e.g. (for example), aggregate policies) that would support any Greenbelt expansion.
- The aggregate sector raised concerns that a Greenbelt expansion may result in additional restrictions on aggregate resource extraction in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- Impacted municipalities and landowners, as well as the development sector raised concerns about the impact that a Greenbelt expansion in the Paris Galt Moraine area would have on growth management, including the potential impact on municipalities' ability to accommodate population growth.
- Many municipalities, CA (Conservation Authority)s, the development sector and landowners requested deferring Greenbelt expansion until the Municipal Comprehensive Review process is completed.
- The agricultural sector raised concerns that a Greenbelt expansion may put additional development pressure on abutting prime agricultural land outside the Paris Galt Moraine study area.
- Some municipalities, CA (Conservation Authority)s, the environmental sector, the agricultural sector and the public supported growing the Greenbelt and requested expanding the Greenbelt beyond the proposed study area.
- Some municipalities and landowners recommended the Province directly consult with affected landowners.

Effect of the Consultation on this Decision

The Ministry appreciates the feedback received on the proposal to grow the Greenbelt with an initial focus on a study area of lands focused on the Paris Galt Moraine and ideas for adding, expanding, and further protecting Urban River Valleys.

Urban River Valleys

In moving forward with Phase 2 consultation to grow the Greenbelt, the Ministry considered the feedback carefully and at this time, is proposing to amend the Greenbelt Plan and the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation to add 13 URV (Urban River Valley) areas to the Greenbelt.

For details on the Ministry's approach, visit [ERO 019-4485](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4485>). Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan – Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt.

The Ministry is also proposing provincially-led additions to the existing Urban River Valleys in Toronto with the addition of tributaries to the Don River and Humber River.

In addition to consulting on adding the 13 URV (Urban River Valley) areas, the Ministry is also consulting during phase 2 on other ideas to add more Urban River Valleys to the Greenbelt in the future which could include:

- Potential additions of new tributaries to any existing Urban River Valleys (e.g. (for example), similar to the proposed addition of Taylor-Massey Creek to the existing Don River URV (Urban River Valley))
- Potential additions of publicly owned parcels of land to any existing Urban River Valleys (e.g. (for example), similar to the proposed addition of Darlington Provincial Park to the existing Harmony Creek URV (Urban River Valley))

To provide feedback or to learn more, visit [ERO 019-4803](https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4403) (<https://ero.ontario.ca/index.php/notice/019-4403>).

Paris Galt Moraine Area

- The Ministry is not proceeding with a Greenbelt expansion of the Paris Galt Moraine area at this time. While the Ministry is focusing on working with municipalities to finalize decisions on growth management to implement provincial growth policy under APTG (A Place to Grow), feedback suggested that more time is needed to understand how the proposed addition of the Paris Galt Moraine area to the Greenbelt may impact the priority to create housing and jobs.

Other areas, including URV (Urban River Valley)s

- The Ministry also considered requests to add other areas as URV (Urban River Valley)s. However, some were not in urban areas outside the Greenbelt, others did not have a physical connection or strong functional connection to the Greenbelt, Great Lakes or inland lakes and/or some were already located in the Greenbelt. The Ministry is therefore not proceeding with these ideas.

Supporting materials

Related files

[Paris Galt Moraine Study Area Map \(high resolution\)](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-10/Paris%20Galt%20Moraine%20Study%20Area%20Map%20-%20high%20resolution.pdf)
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Related links

[Greenbelt Plan \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017)

[A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe)

View materials in person

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Connect with us

Contact

greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca



greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

Original proposal

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-3136
Notice type	Policy
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Proposal posted	February 17, 2021
Comment period	February 17, 2021 - April 19, 2021 (61 days)

Proposal details

The government has been clear that we are protecting the Greenbelt from development for future generations. The Greenbelt is home to much of Ontario's vital environmental, groundwater and agricultural resources. That's why in the government's 2020 Budget, we pledged to expand the size of the Greenbelt.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on ways to grow the size and further enhance the quality of the Greenbelt, with a priority of:

- i. A study area of lands focussed on the Paris Galt Moraine, which is home to critical groundwater resources
- ii. Ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys

The maps available for this consultation are for discussion purposes only and do not represent a proposed boundary.

Context

The Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, have worked together for over 15 years to provide a framework for where and how growth should be accommodated in southern Ontario. The Greenbelt Area includes lands covered by the policies of the Greenbelt Plan, as well as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Collectively, these plans identify where urbanization should not occur. The plans provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions within the Greater Golden Horseshoe and beyond. They work together with A Place to Grow, which provides the overarching strategy for where and how growth can be accommodated in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Established under the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*, the Greenbelt is a broad band of protected land that:

- Protects against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports agriculture as the predominant land use
- Gives protection to the natural heritage and water resource systems that sustain ecological and human health and that form the environmental framework around which major urbanization in south-central Ontario will be organized
- Provides for a diverse range of economic and social activities associated with rural communities, agriculture, tourism, recreation and resource uses
- Builds resilience to and mitigates climate change
- Allows critical new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure needed to serve the substantial growth projected for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, to be permitted subject to strong environmental conditions

Principles for Growing the Greenbelt Expansions

1. No consideration of removal requests or land exchanges

- This proposal is about growing the size and quality of the Greenbelt, and the government will not consider the removal of any lands from the Greenbelt.
2. No consideration of policy changes
 - Any potential expansions will be based on existing policies. The province will not reduce existing protections in the Greenbelt.
 3. Supports Greenbelt Plan objectives, vision and goals
 - Lands to be considered for addition support the Greenbelt Plan's objectives, vision and goals of providing permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions occurring on this landscape and providing for the inclusion of publicly owned lands in urban river valleys.
 4. Follows Existing Amendment Process
 - The *Greenbelt Act, 2005* sets out the legislated public process that will apply to any proposed Greenbelt Plan amendments. This would include requiring consultation with affected public bodies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Greenbelt Council, municipalities in the Greenbelt Area, an opportunity for consultation with general public, as well as ensuring any proposed amendment does not reduce the total land area within the Greenbelt Plan. Engaging with Indigenous communities would also occur before any amendments are made.
 5. Connects physically and/or functionally to the current Greenbelt
 - The Greenbelt is meant to be a continuous broad band of permanently protected land. Any expansions shall build upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan and should be directly connected or have a strong functional connection through the Greenbelt's natural heritage, water resource or agricultural systems to not create unconnected islands of Greenbelt land.
 6. Considers impacts on existing provincial priorities
 - As discussed below, expansions to the Greenbelt must consider their effects on other key provincial priorities outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow.

Initial Focus Areas

Since its establishment in 2005, there has been much discussion by a broad range of Ontarians on ways to grow the Greenbelt. With this input in mind, the government has some early ideas on where and how to grow the Greenbelt. Feedback is sought on the following areas:

1. A Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine (see link to Map 1 in Supporting Materials below)

- The Paris Galt Moraine is an important feature that runs roughly from Caledon in the northeast to Brantford in the southwest. Similar to the Oak Ridges Moraine, it is an area of rolling, hilly terrain that is the headwaters for many rivers and streams flowing off of it. Comprised of sand and gravel deposits, it helps to protect and recharge the groundwater aquifers that provide the basis for a broad range of needs, including drinking water supply for many of the communities, sustaining local ecosystems, and growth and economic management. Moraines allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground more rapidly and in much greater amounts than the surrounding, less permeable areas. This process provides a reliable, slowly changing supply of water called baseflow to rivers and streams.
- The map of the Paris Galt Moraine is for discussion purposes only and does not represent a proposed boundary.

2. Urban River Valleys (see link to Map 2 in Supporting Materials below)

- The Urban River Valley designation in the Greenbelt Plan applies to lands in river valleys within an urban context, connecting the Greenbelt's protected countryside lands to the Great Lakes and inland lakes (e.g. (for example), Don River, Duffins Creek, Twelve Mile Creek). The policies apply only to publicly owned lands within this designation and are often lands designated in municipal official plans as parks, open space, recreation, conservation and/or environmental protection. The Greenbelt currently includes 21 Urban River Valleys and associated coastal wetlands. There may be opportunities for additional urban river valleys to be added or existing ones to be expanded to include additional publicly owned land. The government is seeking feedback for adding new or expanding existing Urban River Valleys, including:
 - Connections to the Paris Galt Moraine through the Speed and Eramosa Rivers in the urban areas of Guelph and Cambridge
 - Ideas for adding other municipally supported Urban River Valleys and/or additions of publicly owned land to existing Urban River Valleys (e.g. (for example), where appropriate increasing the 60-m offset from the water's edge to include more public valley lands)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 1:

- What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?

Question 2:

- What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?

Question 3:

- What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?

Question 4:

- Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?

Other Provincial Priorities

In deciding on where and how to possibly grow the Greenbelt, we must also consider other key provincial priorities that could be impacted. These key provincial priorities include:

Growth Management – Overall, the Greenbelt Plan broadly identifies where urbanization should not occur and A Place to Grow directs the majority of growth to fully serviced settlement areas. Currently, municipalities are working towards updating their official plans by 2022 to conform with the revised growth forecasts in Schedule 3 of A Place to Grow. Therefore, Greenbelt expansion needs to be considered in the context of these growth management exercises by municipalities.

Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems – The Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow are aligned with and build on the Provincial Policy Statement to provide policy protection for natural heritage and water resource systems, features and areas, including habitat for endangered and threatened species. Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow contain policies supporting and protecting a Natural Heritage System that is made up of these natural features and areas along with the linkages that connect them together. Similarly, policies in these plans protect water resource systems on a watershed basis, with the Greenbelt incorporating significant headwaters, river corridors, wetlands and other features.

Agriculture – The Greater Golden Horseshoe contains some of Canada’s best agricultural land. Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow have policies supporting and protecting an Agricultural System that is comprised of an agricultural land base (prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, and other productive lands that form a continuous land base for agriculture) and an agri-food network (infrastructure, services and assets that support the agri-food sector).

Infrastructure – Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow recognize that new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure will be needed to serve the substantial growth projected for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Infrastructure, including highways to sewage and water treatment plants to corridors for transit and utilities, is permitted in these plans subject to certain conditions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 5:

- How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above?

Question 6:

- Are there other priorities that should be considered?

Supporting materials

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View materials in person

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Please reach out to the Contact listed in this notice to see if alternate arrangements can be made.

Comment

Commenting is now closed.

This consultation was open from February 17, 2021 to April 19, 2021

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Contact

greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca



greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON
REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL NO. 09-22**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, April 20, 2022
9:30 a.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Council Chambers/Zoom Teleconference
Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario

**MEMBERS PRESENT
(via Zoom
Teleconference):** Regional Chair Gary Carr

Mayors: Rob Burton, Gord Krantz

Councillors: Tom Adams, Angelo Bentivegna, Colin Best,
Mike Cluett, Cathy Duddeck, Allan Elgar, Jane Fogal,
Kelvin Galbraith, Dave Gittings, Zeeshan Hamid, Lisa
Kearns, Jeff Knoll, Rick Malboeuf, Rory Nisan, Sean
O’Meara, Paul Sharman (left at 11:10 a.m.), Clark
Somerville

REGRETS: Rick Bonnette, Marianne Meed Ward, Pavan Parmar,
Shawna Stolte

**STAFF PRESENT (via
Zoom Teleconference):** Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner and Medical Officer
of Health
Alex Sarchuk, Commissioner of Social and Community
Services
Cyndy Winslow, Commissioner, Finance and Regional
Treasurer
Andrew Farr, Commissioner of Public Works
Tony Oliveri, Commissioner, Digital and Information
Services
Curt Benson, Director of Planning Services and Chief
Planning Official
Erin DiCarlo, Committee Assistant

**STAFF PRESENT (in
Council Chambers):** Jody Johnson, Director of Legal Services
Graham Milne, Regional Clerk

This meeting was held in compliance with the electronic participation provisions of Procedural By-law No. 90-19, as amended.

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Knoll declared a pecuniary interest on Report No. FN-14-22 re: "Optional Small Business Property Tax Subclass in Halton Region" as he is the CEO and majority shareholder of a corporation practicing business in the Town of Oakville that is also a member of the local Business Improvement Area.

Councillor Galbraith declared a pecuniary interest on Report No. FN-14-22 re: "Optional Small Business Property Tax Subclass in Halton Region" as he is the owner of a small business within a Business Improvement Area in the City of Burlington.

There being no further disclosures of pecuniary interest, Council proceeded with the regular order of business.

CONFIRMATION OF PROCEEDINGS OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Confirmation of Proceedings	Moved by: Dave Gittings Seconded by: Colin Best
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THAT the Minutes of the following meetings be confirmed:

- Regular Meeting of Regional Council No. 07-22 held Wednesday, March 23, 2022
- Statutory Public Meeting of Regional Council No. 08-22 held Wednesday, April 13, 2022

CARRIED

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no ceremonial presentations.

DELEGATIONS

Delegations	Moved by: Allan Elgar Seconded by: Kelvin Galbraith
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THAT the Rules of Procedure be waived to permit delegations by the following individuals:

- Dr. Jennifer Kagan and Philip Viater
- Kirk and Sonia Robinson, Burlington residents
- Laurie Hepburn, Halton Women's Place
- Bob Schickedanz, President, and Dr. Mike Moffatt, Ontario Home Builders' Association

The following persons attended via Zoom and made representation. Where provided, a copy of their presentation documents is available through the Clerk's Office.

- Dr. Jennifer Kagan and Philip Viater
- Kirk and Sonia Robinson, Burlington residents
- Laurie Hepburn, Halton Women's Place
- Bob Schickedanz, President, and Dr. Mike Moffatt, Ontario Home Builders' Association

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

There were no staff presentations at this point in the agenda.

MEMORANDA & CORRESPONDENCE

Council requested an update on whether acceptance of cash payments will be reinstated at the waste management site.

Memoranda & Correspondence

Moved by: Colin Best

Seconded by: Rob Burton

THAT all memoranda, correspondence and information included in the Agenda and Meeting Cycle Addenda for the Council Meeting held Wednesday, April 20, 2022 and distributed at the meeting be received for information, including:

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Public Works re: 2022 Waste Management Events

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Public Works re: Notice of Public Information Centre – Winston Churchill Boulevard (Regional Road 19) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study from Highway 401 to 5 Side Road, Ward 2, Town of Halton Hills, Our File: PR-2959A

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Social and Community Services re: Food Security in Halton Region

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel re: Deferred Report No. LPS24-22/FN-16-22 and New Report No. LPS38-22 - Halton Region's response to Provincial Affordable Housing Initiatives and Bill 109

Memorandum from the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health re: COVID-19 Update

Motion to Approve

Moved by: Lisa Kearns
Seconded by: Rick Malboeuf

THAT all reports in the Health and Social Services portion of the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Planning and Public Works

1. PW-08-22 - Basement Flooding Mitigation Program

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. PW-08-22 re: "Region Wide Basement Flooding Mitigation Program" be received for information.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. PW-08-22 to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

2. LPS31-22 - Allocation Programs Update

It was requested that staff provide a breakdown of all the Single Detached Equivalent (SDEs) in Halton's Allocation Programs and what specific reasons, if any, influences the timing of those SDEs advancing to approval, including their value based on the DC calculation and any front ending agreement(s) related to the specific Programs.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. LPS31-22 re: "Allocation Programs Update" be received for information.
2. THAT a copy of Report No. LPS31-22 be forwarded to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

3. LPS36-22 - Update on the Proposed Milton Quarry East Expansion (Dufferin Aggregates) in the Town of Halton Hills, Receipt of Complete Application, File No. RQ66A

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS36-22 re: "Update on the Proposed Milton Quarry East Expansion (Dufferin Aggregates) in the Town of Halton Hills, Receipt of Complete Application, File No. RQ66A" to the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, Conservation Halton, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

4. LPS37-22 – Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Regional Council endorse Report No. LPS37-22 re: "Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – Phase 2 Consultation" as the basis to prepare a submission by the Province's April 23, 2022 Environmental Registry deadline.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS37-22 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Halton's Members of Provincial Parliament for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

5. LPS38-22/FN-21-22 - Halton Region's Response to Provincial Affordable Housing Initiatives and Bill 109

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. LPS38-22/FN-21-22 and Attachment #1 be endorsed as a basis for Regional comments on the Affordable Housing Task Force Report.

2. THAT Report No. LPS38-22/FN-21-22 and Attachment #2 be endorsed as a basis for Regional comments on Bill 109.
3. THAT the Regional Chair submit a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing highlighting the Region's comments on the Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force and Bill 109, More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022.
4. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS38-22/FN-21-22 to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, the Association of Municipalities, and the Halton Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

6. LPS24-22/FN-16-22 - Halton's Comments on the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report (Deferred from Council Meeting No. 07-22 held Wednesday, March 23, 2022)

Motion to Amend

Moved by: Rob Burton

Seconded by: Allan Elgar

THAT Report No. LPS24-22/FN-16-22 be amended by deleting all recommendations therein and substituting the following:

"THAT Report No. LPS24-22/FN-16-22 be received for information."

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. LPS24-22/FN-16-22 be received for information.

There were no further amendments to the above-noted report.

Motion to Approve

Moved by: Allan Elgar

Seconded by: Colin Best

THAT all reports in the Planning and Public Works portion of the agenda be adopted as presented, except:

LPS24-22/FN-16-22 - Halton's Comments on the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report

AS AMENDED

CARRIED

Administration and Finance

**1. Staff Presentation
(Refer to Report Nos. FN-13-22, FN-14-22 and FN-15-22)**

Cyndy Winslow, Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer, gave an update on Halton Region's 2022 Tax Policy as presented in three staff reports appearing on the agenda. A copy of this presentation is appended to the meeting agenda.

**2. FN-13-22 - 2022 Tax Policy
(Refer to Document entitled "Halton Region 2022 Current Value Assessment (CVA) and Tax Policy Reference Manual" Under Separate Cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the following tax ratios be adopted for the 2022 taxation year:

Residential	1.0000
Multi-Residential	2.0000
New Multi-Residential	1.0000
Commercial	1.4565
Industrial	2.0907
Pipe Line	1.0617
Farm	0.2000
Managed Forests	0.2500
Landfill	1.4565
2. THAT the 2022 taxation rates for Regional services as set out in Attachment #1 to Report No. FN-13-22 re: 2022 Tax Policy be adopted.
3. THAT Halton Region permanently exits Part IX of the Municipal Act, 2001 that specifies the capping provisions as there are no longer any properties in the program as of the 2021 taxation year.
4. THAT the remaining deferred revenue related to the capping program of \$893,015 be distributed to the Region and the Local Municipalities based on the Regional/Local share of 2021 residential tax rates weighted by the 2021 Taxable Weighted Current Value Assessment for the capped property classes (multi-residential, commercial and industrial) with \$412,270 allocated to the Region and \$480,745 allocated to the Local Municipalities.

5. THAT interest calculated on the Local Municipalities' share of deferred revenue related to the capping program totalling \$241,263 be distributed to the Local Municipalities and funded from the Region's share of deferred revenue related to the capping program.
6. THAT Halton Region continues to provide the following rebates and deferrals to be funded through the Council-approved 2022 operating budget from Non-Program:
 - a. Provide a tax rebate for Registered Charitable Organizations under Section 361 of the Municipal Act, 2001 at a rate of 40% of the current year's taxes applicable to the space occupied as set out in By-Law No. 120-98, as amended;
 - b. Provide a property tax increase deferral on residential properties to low income older adults and low income persons with disabilities under Section 319 of the Municipal Act, 2001;
 - c. Provide a full property tax deferral to low income older adults under the Older Adults Property Tax Deferral Program as set out in By-law No. 20-16, as amended;
 - d. Cost-share with the local municipalities for the property tax rebate program for low income older adults in the same proportion as their share of the total current year taxes subject to the rebate being established by a by-law under Section 365 of the Municipal Act, 2001;
 - e. Provide a reduction or refund of the Regional portion of property taxes for eligible Heritage Property in the same proportion as that provided for by local municipalities' by-laws established under Section 365.2 of the Municipal Act, 2001.
7. THAT the Director of Legal Services be authorized to prepare all necessary by-laws to establish the aforesaid 2022 taxation rates, taxation policies, due date changes and property tax relief programs.
8. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. FN-13-22 and the related by-laws to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

3. FN-14-22 - Optional Small Business Property Tax Subclass in Halton Region

Councillors Knoll and Galbraith did not participate in the discussion or vote on this item owing to their declarations of pecuniary interest.

Motion to Defer

Moved by: Rob Burton
Seconded by: Rory Nisan

THAT Report No. FN-14-22 - Optional Small Business Property Tax Subclass in Halton Region be deferred to allow staff to provide a report back incorporating all comments raised in the discussion of this matter at the Council meeting of April 20, 2022.

CARRIED

There were no further amendments to the above-noted report.

**4. FN-15-22 - Optional Vacant Homes Tax in Halton Region
(Refer to Document entitled "Feasibility Assessment for Vacant Homes Tax Halton Region - Final Report" Under Separate Cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT staff be authorized to proceed with the design and implementation of a proposed Vacant Homes Tax in Halton Region which includes undertaking public engagement to obtain input and feedback from Halton Residents and stakeholders and report back to Regional Council for approval, as outlined in Report No. FN-15-22 re: Optional Vacant Homes Tax in Halton Region.
2. THAT staff be authorized to transfer \$300,000 from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (501020) in order to fund the design and implementation study on a proposed Vacant Homes Tax in Halton Region.
3. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. FN-15-22 to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville, for their information.

Councillor Adams requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Report as presented and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Somerville (19).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Report

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

5. FN-12-22 - Final 2022 Water, Wastewater, Roads and General Services Development Charges (DC) Proposals

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Halton 2022 Development Charge Background Study for Water, Wastewater, Roads and General Services Development Charges dated December 15, 2021 (the Background Study) as amended by Report No. FN-12-22 re: "Final 2022 Water, Wastewater, Roads and General Services Development Charge (DC) Proposals", be approved under section 10 of the Development Charges Act, 1997 (the DCA).
2. THAT Regional Council express its intention that the development-related cost of post 2031 capacity for Water, Wastewater, Roads and General Services identified in the Background Study as amended by Report No. FN-12-22 shall be paid for subsequently by development charges and other similar charges.
3. THAT Council determine that no further public meetings are required under section 12 of the DCA.
4. THAT Council enact the necessary development charges By-law to repeal By-law No. 36-17 (Halton Built Boundary and Greenfield Area Water, Wastewater, Roads and General Services Development Charges By-law, 2017) and replace it with the updated water, wastewater, roads and general services development charge included herein as Attachment #4.
5. THAT the Director of Legal Services be directed to prepare the necessary by-law.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

6. FN-17-22 - Agreement for Water and Wastewater Billing and Collection Services – Contract Renewal with the Local Distribution Companies

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer be authorized to finalize the agreement with the Local Distribution Companies which comprise Burlington Electricity Services Inc., Milton Energy and Generation Solutions Inc., Oakville Hydro Energy Services Inc. and Southwestern Energy Inc. for the provision of water and wastewater billing and collection services for a period of five years under the terms and conditions as outlined in Report No. FN-17-22 re: “Agreement for Water and Wastewater Billing and Collection Services – Contract Renewal with the Local Distribution Companies.”
2. THAT the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement and any ancillary documents to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

7. LPS30-22 - Declaration of Lands Surplus to Regional Requirements, Town of Oakville

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT in accordance with Halton’s real property procedural by-law governing the sale of real estate assets, By-law No. 27-96, Regional Council declare the lands legally described as Part of Lot 8, Concession 1 Trafalgar NDS, Parts 4, 5, and 6, on Plan of Expropriation HR892160, Town Of Oakville, being part of PIN 24930-0169 (LT), as surplus to Halton Region’s municipal needs and requirements.
2. THAT for the lands outlined in Recommendation #1, Notice shall be given to the public by means of listing the resolutions set out in Report No. LPS30-22 re: “Declaration of Lands Surplus to Regional requirements, Town of Oakville” on Regional Council’s agenda in accordance with By-law No. 27-96.
3. THAT for the lands outlined in Recommendation #1, Staff be directed to negotiate an agreement of purchase and sale with Argo (Joshua Creek) Developments Limited for a direct sale by

the Halton Region, in accordance with By-law No. 27-96.

4. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS30-22 to the Town of Oakville for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

8. LPS33-22 - 2022 Municipal Election – Update of the Use of Regional Resources Policy and Joint Compliance Audit Committee Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the updated “Use of Regional Resources Policy” appended to Report No. LPS33-22 as Attachment #1 be approved.
2. THAT the updated Terms of Reference for the Joint Compliance Audit Committee appended to Report No. LPS33-22 as Attachment #2 be approved.
3. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS33-22 to the City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton and Town of Oakville for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

**9. LPS20-22 - Property Matter, City of Burlington (R2550A)
(CONFIDENTIAL)
(Municipal Act Section 239(2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Region of Halton)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT approval be given to The Regional Municipality of Halton to proceed with the expropriation of lands and interests necessary to facilitate the reconstruction and widening of Dundas Street (Regional Road 5) from Appleby Line (Regional Road 20) to Northampton Blvd, in the City of Burlington, more particularly described in Attachment #1 to Report No. LPS20-22 re: “Property Matter, City of Burlington (R2550A)”.
2. THAT the appropriate Certificate of Approval and Expropriation by-laws relating to the expropriation described in Recommendation #1 above be passed by Regional Council.
3. THAT the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to

execute the appropriate Certificate of Approval and Expropriation by-laws together with any and all related documents and plans relating to the said expropriation.

4. THAT the Commissioner of Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel, or his delegate, be authorized to prepare and sign Notices of Expropriation and to make and accept offers, all in accordance with Expropriations Act, and to settle such matters, through the execution of agreements and or minutes of settlement including attending and representing the Region at any related mediations and/or hearings and related litigation.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

**10. LPS21-22 - Property Matter, Town of Halton Hills (R2961B)
(CONFIDENTIAL)
(Municipal Act Section 239(2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Region of Halton)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT in accordance with Halton's real property procedural by-law governing the sale of real property (By-Law No. 27-96) staff be authorized to conclude an agreement to sell the property legally described as Part Lot 9, Concession 8 (Esq.), Part 1 HR1810263, Except Part 5 on Reference Plan 20R-21805, Town of Halton Hills, being part of PIN 25028-0101 (LT), to the party noted in Report No. LPS21-22 re: "Property Matter, Town of Halton Hills (R2961B)".
2. THAT upon completion of land sale outlined Recommendation # 1, the sale proceeds be transferred to Capital Project R2961B (Trafalgar Road Widening from 2 to 4 lanes from Steeles Avenue to 10 Side Road).
3. THAT the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any and all agreements as required to fulfill the intent of Recommendation # 1, together with any ancillary documents.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

- 11. LPS28-22 - Property Matter, City of Burlington (R2550A)
(CONFIDENTIAL)
(Municipal Act Section 239(2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Region of Halton)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Staff be authorized to conclude the acquisition of the fee simple interest in Part 1 on Reference Plan 20R-21883, being part of PIN 07182-2512(LT), from the party noted in Report No. LPS28-22 re: "Property Matter, City of Burlington (R2550A)".
2. THAT the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any and all agreements and ancillary documents relating to Recommendation #1.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

- 12. LPS29-22 - Property Matter, City of Burlington and Town of Milton (R2889A) (CONFIDENTIAL)
(Municipal Act Section 239(2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Region of Halton)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT The Regional Municipality of Halton make Application for Approval to Expropriate the lands and interests necessary to facilitate the installation of a new signalized intersection at Derry Road (Regional Road 7) in the Town of Milton and Bell School Line in the City of Burlington, more particularly described in Attachment #1 to Report No. LPS29-22 re: "Property Matter, City of Burlington and the Town of Milton (R2889A)".
2. THAT for the purposes of this Application the Regional Clerk, the Commissioner of Public Works, the Manager of Realty Services, the Director of Legal Services, and the Commissioner of Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel, be authorized to take all necessary actions and proceedings, including the publication and service of Notices of Application for Approval to Expropriate, references to the Chief Inquiry Officer where Hearings of Necessity are requested, representation at such Hearings of Necessity, reference of any Inquiry Officers report back to this Council, and representation at any Tribunals or Boards as necessary.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

**13. LPS45-22 - Property Matter, Town of Milton (R2261C)
(CONFIDENTIAL)
(Municipal Act Section 239(2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or
disposition of land by the Region of Halton)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT in accordance with Halton's real property procedural by-law governing the sale of real property (By-Law No. 27-96) staff be authorized to conclude an agreement of purchase and sale to sell the property legally described as Part Lot 5, Concession 1 (Esquesing), described as Parts 9 and 11 on Plan 20R-21854, in the Town of Milton, being part of PIN 24974-0219 (LT), to the party noted in Report No. LPS45-22 re: "Property Matters, Town of Milton (R2261C)".
2. THAT in accordance with Halton's real property procedural by-law governing the sale of real property (By-Law No. 27-96) staff be authorized to conclude an agreement of purchase and sale to buy the property legally described as Block 4, Plan 20M-1118, in the Town of Milton, being all of PIN 24976-0116 (LT), from the party noted in Report No. LPS45-22.
3. THAT proceeds of the land sale noted in Recommendation #1 and costs for the land purchase outlined within Recommendation #2 be directed to Capital Project R2261C (Tremaine Road - New 4 lane road from Steeles Avenue to 16 Mile Creek) as outlined in Report No. LPS45-22.
4. THAT the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute any and all agreements as required to fulfill the intent of Recommendation #1 and #2, together with any ancillary documents.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

Motion to Approve

Moved by: Jane Fogal

Seconded by: Rick Malboeuf

THAT all reports in the Administration and Finance portion of the agenda be adopted as presented, except:

FN-14-22 - Optional Small Business Property Tax
Subclass in Halton Region

AS DEFERRED

Motions

**1. Motion from Councillor Zeeshan Hamid and Mayor Rob Burton re:
Agerton Lands**

Motion Moved by: Zeeshan Hamid
Seconded by: Rob Burton

WHEREAS the motion adopted by the Halton Council on February 16, 2022 directed Staff to prepare a Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA 49) that directs population and employment growth to the existing approved urban boundary;

AND WHEREAS throughout the Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) process the area already included in the urban boundary near Steeles Avenue and Trafalgar Road in the Town of Milton has been an important focus of planning to complete the community by adding a missing but strategic corner of 25 ha of non-farmland to the urban boundary;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Milton and Metrolinx have identified this area as the location for a future GO Rail Transit Station and a proposed Major Transit Station Area (MTSA);

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) operates a railyard on the approximately 25 hectares in the Agerton area that is not yet in the urban boundary;

AND WHEREAS the CP land in question is not used for farming; is strategically located and contained within the Agerton Area; and is required to support the logical completion of the Agerton community by supporting the essential land use components of a major transit station area;

AND WHEREAS given the potential of the Agerton Lands to accommodate high-density mixed use and transit-oriented development around a GO Transit Station, supportive of investments in transit and existing infrastructure, the inclusion of these lands within the Regional Urban Boundary is warranted;

AND WHEREAS including the CP land within the Regional Urban Boundary supports the planned higher order transit along the Trafalgar corridor to link north and south Halton as well as relieve the pressure on the Lakeshore GO transit line;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council directs Staff to include the addition of the approximately 25 hectares of land currently owned by Canadian Pacific Railway to the Regional Urban Boundary as Community Area to support the proposed GO Rail Transit station in the Agerton Area, enabling an opportunity for comprehensively planned, high-density population and employment growth supportive of transit and existing infrastructure.

CARRIED

2. Notice of Motion from Councillor Rory Nisan and Mayor Marianne Meed Ward re: Nomination to AMO Board of Directors for 2022-2024

Motion

Moved by: Rory Nisan

Seconded by: Clark Somerville

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) works to make municipal governments stronger and more effective while promoting the value of the municipal level of government as a vital and essential component of Ontario and Canada's political system;

WHEREAS the AMO Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from various member municipalities;

WHEREAS AMO has issued a call for nominations to their Board of Directors for the upcoming term of August 2022-August 2024;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Regional Council endorse the nomination of Councillor Colin Best to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors, as a Board Member and AMO President for a two-year term beginning August 2022 and ending August 2024;

AND THAT Regional Council assumes all costs associated with Councillor Best attending AMO's Board of Directors, Executive and related meetings;

AND THAT the Regional Clerk forward the resolution indicating Regional Council's support to AMO to qualify Councillor Best as a nominee for a position on the AMO Board of Directors, as a Board Member and AMO President for a two year term ending August, 2024.

Councillor Elgar requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Somerville (19).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Notice of Motion from Councillor Zeeshan Hamid and Councillor Jeff Knoll re: Sponsored Delegate to FCM and AMO Conferences

Motion

Moved by: Zeeshan Hamid

Seconded by: Jeff Knoll

THAT Councillor Lisa Kearns be authorized to attend the virtual Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show, June 2nd – 5th, 2022 and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario AGM and Annual Conference, August 14th – 17th, 2022 in Ottawa, Ontario as a sponsored delegate from the FCM/AMO Conference Budget.

CARRIED

4. Notice of Motion from Councillor Angelo Bentivegna and Councillor Rory Nisan re: Keira's Law

Motion

Moved by: Angelo Bentivegna

Seconded by: Rory Nisan

WHEREAS violence against women is a Canadian public health crisis that demands urgent action; and

WHEREAS one in four women experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and one woman or girl is killed every other day, on average, somewhere in our country; and

WHEREAS the most dangerous time for a victim of abuse is when she separates from her partner, as according to research from the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, when there is a history of coercive control, violence and a recent separation, a woman's risk of domestic homicide goes up 900 times; and

WHEREAS the current Canadian court system is not equipped to protect women, as according to the National Judicial Institute, there is no mandatory education for Judges on domestic violence or coercive control and a formal education program would ensure another line of defense for victims, as well as preventing violence and abuse before it happens; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the domestic violence crisis, as women's shelters and crisis centres have reported a marked increase in requests for services this year and according to recent research from The

Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, doctors have seen more than double the number of babies with serious injuries as this time last year, including head injuries, broken bones or in some cases death, and institutions across the country are reporting a similar trend; and

WHEREAS Halton Regional Police Service (HPRS) is raising the alarm bells about domestic assaults after a jump in intimate partner violence-related charges by more than 140 percent last month compared to a year ago, and by HRPS estimates officers responded to more than 4,000 intimate partner violence calls in 2021, and average 10 calls per day; and

WHEREAS Halton Women's Place shelters are frequently at or above capacity;

WHEREAS according to Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, children must be protected from "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has care of the child," and our current family justice system often fails our children in this regard; and

WHEREAS in worst case scenarios, children are killed by a violent parent and as reported by the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative, recent separation and domestic violence are the two biggest risk factors for domestic violence related child homicides; and

WHEREAS custody disputes are an additional risk factor, as each year in Canada, about 30 children are killed by a parent, with mothers responsible about 40 per cent of the time, often due to postpartum depression or mental illness, and in the 60 per cent of cases where fathers are the murderers, anger, jealousy or post-separation retaliatory revenge are the usual motivations; and

WHEREAS Keira's Law is named after four-year-old Keira Kagan, who was killed while in the custody of her father, in 2020; and

WHEREAS many cases of domestic violence are inappropriately labelled as "high conflict" in the family court system, and according to research by Rachel Birnbaum, a Social Work Professor at the University of Western Ontario who specializes in child custody, approximately one third of cases called "high conflict" by the court had substantiated evidence of valid concerns about domestic violence, and these cases must be recognized and treated differently by judges; and

WHEREAS voting in favour of "Keira's Law", contained in Private Member's Bill C-233, will not only protect victims of violence and children but save lives by amending the Judges Act to establish seminars for judges on intimate partner violence and coercive control, and

WHEREAS citizens from across Canada have signed a petition calling upon the House of Commons to support Bill C-233; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council calls upon the House of Commons to support Member of Parliament Anju Dhillon's Private Member's Bill C-233, that will raise the level of education on domestic violence and coercive control for federally appointed Judges; and;

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, the Leaders of the Federal Opposition Parties and all Halton MP's for their information.

Mayor Burton requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Somerville (19).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BY-LAWS

By-laws

Moved by: Jane Fogal

Seconded by: Kelvin Galbraith

THAT the following By-laws be now READ, PASSED, SIGNED by the Regional Chair and Clerk, the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and numbered as follows:

By-law No. 16-22 – A by-law to set Tax Ratios and to set Tax Rate Reductions for prescribed property subclasses for Regional purposes and Local Municipal purposes for the Year 2022. *Reference: Report FN13-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

By-law No. 17-22 – A by-law to Adopt the Estimates for the sums required during the Year 2022 for the General and Special Purposes of the Regional Corporation and to Establish Rates to be levied for same against the local municipalities. *Reference: Report FN13-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

By-law No. 18-22 – A by-law to provide Property Tax Increase Deferrals for Low-income Seniors and Low-income Persons with Disabilities who are owners of real property in the Region of Halton and to repeal and replace By-law No. 11-21. *Reference: Report FN13-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

By-law No. 19-22 – A by-law to authorize the Cost Sharing of Tax Rebates to eligible owners of real property in the City of Burlington and to repeal and replace By-law No. 9-21. *Reference: Report FN13-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

By-law No. 20-22 – A by-law to authorize the Cost Sharing of Tax Rebates to eligible owners of real property in the Town of Halton Hills and to repeal and replace By-law No. 10-21. *Reference: Report FN13-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022*

By-law No. 21-22 – A by-law to Exit the Tax Capping Program for the commercial, industrial and multi-residential property classes for the Year 2022 and subsequent taxation years. *Reference: Report FN13-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

By-law No. 22-22 – A by-law to Approve the Expropriation of all right, title and interest (fee simple) and temporary limited interests (temporary easements) in lands in the City of Burlington, in the Regional Municipality of Halton, as more particularly described in Schedule “A” to this by-law. *Reference: Report LPS20-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

By-law No. 23-22 – A by-law to provide for the making of an Application for Approval to Expropriate all right, title and interest (fee simple) in the Town of Milton and City of Burlington in the Regional Municipality of Halton, as more particularly described in Schedule “A” to this by-law. *Reference: Report LPS29-22, Regional Council April 20, 2022.*

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS OF MEMBERS

There was no other business or member comments.

CONFIRMATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Confirmation of Proceedings

Moved by: Lisa Kearns

Seconded by: Sean O’Meara

THAT By-law No. 24-22 be now READ, PASSED, SIGNED by the Regional Chair and Clerk, the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and numbered as follows:

By-Law No. 24-22 - A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council Meeting held Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn

Moved by: Kelvin Galbraith
Seconded by: Clark Somerville

THAT Council does now adjourn to meet again on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. or at the call of the Regional Chair.

CARRIED

Time: 1:20 p.m.

REGIONAL CHAIR

REGIONAL CLERK



VIA EMAIL

April 19, 2021

Sean Fraser, Director
Provincial Planning Policy Branch
College Park 13th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Legislative & Planning Services
Office of the Commissioner
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville ON L6M 3L1

Dear Mr. Fraser,

Re: Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input with respect to the Province’s initiative to consult on growing the size of the Greenbelt. Halton Region welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing’s request for comments on this matter. This letter and the attached enclosures address the discussion questions posed in the Ministry’s posting to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO 019-3136).

At its March 24, 2021 meeting, Regional Council discussed this initiative and approved Report No. LPS29-21 (Provincial consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt), directing Regional staff to use the report as the basis to prepare a submission to the Province. The Region’s submission enclosed as Attachment #1 includes the Region’s responses to the ERO posting’s discussion questions as well as supporting mapping of candidate areas proposed by the Region and local municipalities. Attachment #4 includes the Regional Planning Department’s Advisory Committee responses to the ERO posting’s discussion questions.

At the March 24, 2021 meeting, Regional Council also passed a motion amending LPS29-21 to recommend that the Province be requested in the strongest of terms to ensure that direct notification and engagement be undertaken with all owners of land being studied for inclusion in the Greenbelt as well as other interested community stakeholders. Regional Council requests that the Province recognize limitations for rural landowners and stakeholders in engaging through electronic means due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to reach rural communities.

Please find enclosed herewith:

- Attachment #1 - Halton Region submission on “Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt”
- Attachment #2 - Halton Staff Report LPS29-21 - Provincial Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt
- Attachment #3 - Council minutes dated March 24, 2021
- Attachment #4 - Halton Advisory Committee submissions on “Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt”

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our submission, the Region would be pleased to meet to review and discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Curt" being more prominent than the last name "Benson".

Curt Benson
Director of Planning Services and Chief Planning Official
905-825-6000 x7181
curt.benson@halton.ca

Halton Region Submission
Re: Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt

Halton Region welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing’s request for comments regarding the proposal to grow the size of the Greenbelt. Halton Regional Council received Staff Report LPS29-21 titled “Provincial Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt” at its meeting of March 24, 2021, and directed staff to prepare a submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing based on the information identified in the report as well as recommendations identified in local municipal reports on this matter. This submission is provided to the Ministry in response to the posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO 019-3136).

The Region’s submission includes the Region’s responses to the ERO posting’s discussion questions as well as supporting mapping of candidate areas proposed by the Region and local municipalities.

Land Owner and Community Stakeholder Consultation

At the March 24, 2021 meeting, Regional Council passed a motion amending LPS29-21 to recommend that the Province be requested in the strongest of terms to ensure that direct notification and engagement be undertaken with all owners of land being studied for inclusion in the Greenbelt as well as other interested community stakeholders. Regional Council requests that the Province recognize limitations for those in the rural area in engaging through electronic means due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to reach rural communities.

Question 1: What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?

On March 27, 2019 Halton Regional Council unanimously passed a notice of motion to support and endorse the passage of Bill 71, the *Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act, 2019*. The Paris Galt Moraine traverses the northern and north-west portion of Halton Region within the Town of Halton Hills and the Town of Milton. The Council Resolution noted that:

- municipalities within the Grand River watershed are dependent on groundwater as the source of municipal drinking water,
- critical primary recharge areas in the moraines require protection in order to protect the future drinking water supplies in this area,
- a conservation plan for the Paris and Galt moraines would provide an important policy framework to protect the critical ecological and hydrological integrity of the area, and
- the inter-jurisdictional complexity of the Paris and Galt moraines warrants the assistance of provincial leadership in the development of policy for its protection.

Given the critical hydrological and ecological functions of the Paris Galt Moraine, Halton Region strongly supports the study of this important ground water feature for permanent protection under the Greenbelt Plan.

The “Growing the Greenbelt Study Area – Paris Galt Moraine” map included in the proposal does not delineate the full extent of the Paris Galt Moraine within Halton Region. On the study

area map, the Greenbelt Plan Area is overlain on the Paris Galt Moraine and it is difficult to determine if the study area within Halton Region is fully capturing the moraine feature and adjacent areas that may contribute to or benefit from the ecological and hydrological functions of the Paris Galt Moraine. It would appear that the Study Area includes the watershed jurisdictions of the Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation. Halton Region requests that the Province provide a GIS data layer of the Paris Galt Moraine to help determine whether the Study Area is appropriate within Halton Region.

For any study areas being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt, it is important that the Province provide opportunities for robust consultation with the public. For study areas in the rural area, it is imperative that the Province recognize limitations due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to reach rural communities.

Question 2: What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?

According to the Region’s Natural Heritage System GIS mapping data, it appears that the Study Area contains:

- Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (e.g. Galt Moraine at Corwhin, Moffat Moraine, Halton Forest North, Halton Forest South, Silver Creek Valley, Terra Cotta Forest and Ballinafad Swamp and Bog);
- Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (e.g. Blue Springs Creek Wetlands, Knatchbull Swamp, Brookville Swamp, Speyside Forest, and Quarry Northeast of Limehouse);
- Provincially Significant Wetland Complexes (e.g. Eramosa River – Blue Springs Creek Wetland Complex, Arkell – Corwhin Wetland Complex, Knatchbull Wetland, Halton Escarpment Wetland Complex, Acton – Silver Creek Wetland Complex, and Caledon Mountain Wetland Complex);
- Other wetlands identified by the Province (e.g. Ballinafad Woods Wetland);
- Unevaluated wetlands;
- Wetlands and watercourses regulated by the Conservation Authorities;
- Candidate significant woodlands;
- Potential significant wildlife habitat;
- Potential habitat of endangered and threatened species;
- Potential fish habitat;
- Enhancement areas, linkages and buffers or Vegetation Protection Zones.

The Study Area also contains drinking water Well Head Protection Areas for Quality and Well Head Protection Areas with Moderate to Significant Risk to Quantity, as identified in the Grand River Source Protection Plan and CTC Source Protection Plan. The Source Protection Plans also identify Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers, Hydrogeologically Sensitive Areas, and a Quantity Intake Protection Zone.

The important connections and interactions between natural heritage and hydrological features and areas must be considered in defining the boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine to be included in the Greenbelt Plan. For example, groundwater and surface water systems that feed Provincially Significant Wetlands should be protected to support the long-term ecological

functions of wetlands and the habitats they provide. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the protection of groundwater and surface water systems and hydrological features and areas that provide sources of drinking water.

While part of the Paris Galt Moraine is currently located within the Greenbelt Plan Area within Halton Region, it is unclear if the entire Moraine is identified as part of the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System. Halton Region recommends that the full extent of the Paris Galt Moraine is identified as a component of the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System within Halton.

In addition, as Halton Region relies on technical advice from our partner Conservation Authorities that have jurisdiction within the Paris Galt Moraine Study Area. Halton Region will seek technical advice from our partner Conservation Authorities regarding technical considerations that should be included in moving toward a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine. The Province is encouraged to consult with the Conservation Authorities to identify a defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine within the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside.

For any study areas being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt, it is important that the Province provide opportunities for robust consultation with the public. For study areas in the rural area, it is imperative that the Province recognize limitations due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to reach rural communities.

Question 3: What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?

Fourteen Mile Creek is only designated Urban River Valley north of the QEW/North Service Road. Halton Region and the Town of Oakville recommend that the Province consider the remaining Fourteen Mile Creek valley lands south to Lake Ontario for inclusion in the Greenbelt under the Urban River Valley Designation (Maps #1-3).

Halton Region and the Town of Oakville also recommend that the province consider the Joshua Creek Valley for inclusion in the Urban River Valley designation to connect the east side of Oakville down to Lake Ontario (Maps #1-3).

The Credit River is only designated Urban River Valley in certain segments such as in a section which passes through the hamlet of Glen Williams, north of Georgetown. The Urban River Valley designation does not currently extend through the portion of the Credit River on the east side of Georgetown. Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills recommend that the Province consider this segment of the Credit River for inclusion in the Greenbelt under the Urban River Valley designation in order for Greenbelt policies to apply to public lands adjacent to the western bank (Maps #1-3).

Halton Region supports the Province’s proposal to study increased Urban River Valley designations for public lands beyond 60-metres, where appropriate, consistent with natural heritage designations in local official plans.

For any study areas being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt, it is important that the Province provide opportunities for robust consultation with the public.

Question 4: Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?

In applying the key Greenbelt expansion principles and Provincial priorities in the proposal, Regional staff have identified a potential study area for expanding the Greenbelt area in Halton Region. The lands west of the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System corridor (located between 5th Line and 6th Line) and adjacent to the Greenbelt Protected Countryside in the Town of Halton Hills form a strong physical and functional connection to adjacent Growth Plan and Greenbelt Natural Heritage Systems (Maps #1-3).

This area is particularly appropriate for study for consideration to grow the Greenbelt area because of its strong physical and functional connection to the existing Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Greenbelt Natural Heritage System in Halton Region. Key natural heritage and hydrological features and areas in this area form north-south corridors that extend from the Provincial Natural Heritage Systems and provide wildlife movement and seed dispersal across the Middle Sixteen Mile Creek sub-watershed up to the Niagara Escarpment. Additionally, these lands are already bounded by the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System and would therefore require enhanced infrastructure crossings to support potential future urban expansion were it not permanently protected.

Key Features and Components of the Regional Natural Heritage System within these areas include:

- Candidate significant woodlands;
- Potential significant wetlands;
- Other wetlands;
- Watercourses and floodplain regulated by Conservation Halton;
- Potential significant wildlife habitat;
- Potential habitat of endangered and threatened species;
- Potential fish habitat;
- Enhancement areas, linkages and buffers.

In addition, this area contains Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and Hydrologically Sensitive Areas, which extend into the Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.

The proposed study area to expand the Greenbelt in Halton builds upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan and would enhance and strengthen the protection of key natural heritage and hydrological features and areas within the Region that support the functions of the Provincial natural heritage and water resource systems.

The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area is also comprised of prime agricultural lands which connects to the prime agricultural area within and beyond Halton’s borders and supports the agricultural system in bringing local food and other goods to local markets (Map #3). These lands are predominantly made up of Class 1-3 soils according to the Canadian Land Inventory. Given that prime agricultural soils are a finite, valuable resources, once these lands are converted, they are permanently lost. The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area would be an important mechanism to support Regional Council’s direction to introduce a permanent agricultural preserve in Halton Region to support the Agricultural System over the long-term.

There may also be opportunities to study minor technical refinements to the Greenbelt area to include adjacent agricultural lands and natural heritage features and areas that functionally connect to the Greenbelt (Maps #1-3).

Halton Region is also generally supportive of the consideration of potential study areas proposed by Halton’s Conservation Authorities (Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority).

For any study areas being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt, it is important that the Province provide opportunities for robust consultation with the public. For study areas in the rural area, it is imperative that the Province recognize limitations due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to reach rural communities.

Question 5: How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above?

Halton Region has contemplated expansion study areas in accordance with the key Greenbelt expansion principles and Provincial priorities identified in the proposal.

Growth Management

The consultation requires that Greenbelt expansions not impede growth management exercises being conducted through municipal comprehensive reviews. Halton’s proposed Greenbelt expansion study areas exclude Future Strategic Employment Areas (including Provincially Significant Employment Zones) and areas contemplated for urban expansion through the four Growth Concepts. According to Halton’s initial Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) Land Needs Assessment, there are 10,108 ha of white belt lands within the Region, however no more than 3,300 ha of additional urban land would be needed to accommodate population and job growth to 2051 at the lowest rates of intensification. At the greatest rate of intensification, no more than 980 ha of new urban land would be required to accommodate job growth to 2051.

The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area in the Town of Halton Hills would not impede Halton’s ability to accommodate Provincial growth projections to 2051 and would support Regional Council’s direction to establish firm urban boundaries which protect Halton’s rural, agricultural, and natural areas while also promoting intensification and the continued development of complete communities in Halton’s existing urban areas.

Natural Heritage and Water Resources

The Province’s proposal requires that potential Greenbelt expansion study areas build on natural heritage and water resource systems, features, and areas, including habitat for endangered and threatened species. Among other assets, the proposed Greenbelt expansion study area include candidate significant wetlands, watercourses and floodplain regulated by Conservation Authorities, and potential significant wildlife habitat. Features in the proposed study area form north-south corridors that generally extend from the Provincial Natural Heritage Systems. The Western Study Area in particular provides wildlife movement and seed dispersal across the Middle Sixteen Mile Creek sub-watershed up to the Niagara Escarpment.

In addition, these areas contain Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and Hydrologically Sensitive Areas, which extend into the Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.

Including these areas builds upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan and would enhance and strengthen the protection of key natural heritage and hydrological features and areas within Halton Region that support the functions of the Provincial natural heritage and water resource systems.

Agriculture

The Province’s proposal requires that potential Greenbelt expansion study areas consider protection of the Agricultural System including maintenance or enhancement of the continuity of the agricultural land base and agri-food network. The proposed study areas are comprised of prime agricultural lands which support continuity of the prime agricultural area within and beyond Halton’s borders and supports the agricultural system in bringing local food and other goods to local markets.

The development of the Rural Agricultural Strategy identified the need for long-term certainty for farming businesses in making business decisions and investments as well as the desire to have permanent protections for these lands. Halton’s white belt lands outside of the Greenbelt Area are predominantly prime agricultural lands with productive and fertile Class 1-3 soils according to the Canadian Land Inventory. Given that these productive prime agricultural lands are a finite, valuable resource, once these lands are converted for urban development, they are permanently lost.

The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area would support Regional Council’s direction to consider the establishment of an agricultural preserve to support the Agricultural System within Halton for the long-term.

Infrastructure

The Province’s proposal requires that potential Greenbelt expansion study areas consider how the Greenbelt Plan area will continue to accommodate new and upgraded infrastructure to serve growth such as highways, sewage and water treatment, corridors for utilities and transit. Halton Region’s recommended study area would preserve lands for future infrastructure supporting growth and would not create impediments.

If the proposed Greenbelt expansion study area was contemplated for new urban lands instead, linear infrastructure serving growth in this area could face impediments in crossing through the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System located between 5th Line and 6th Line.

Question 6: Are there other priorities that should be considered?

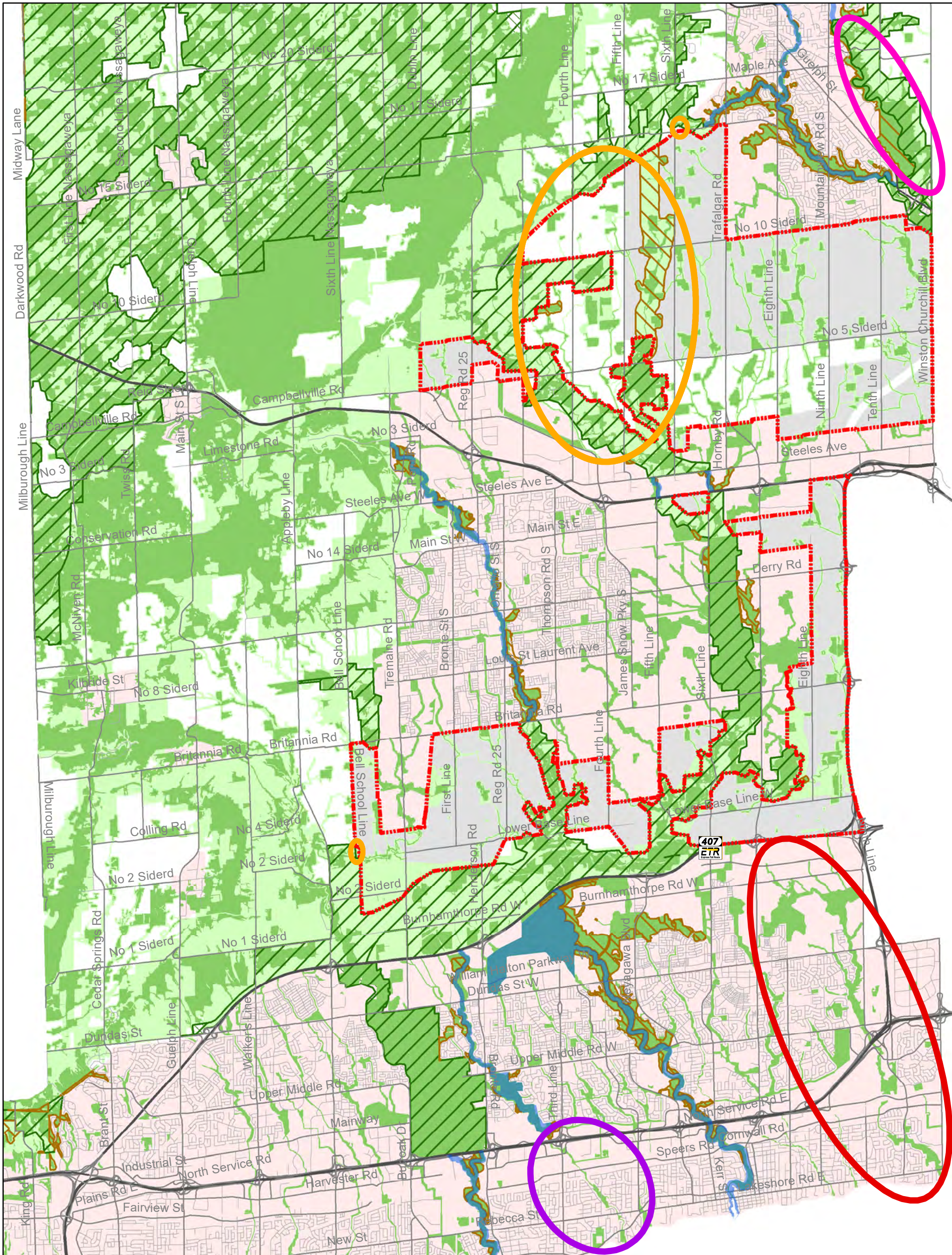
Growing the Greenbelt to include additional natural heritage and hydrologic features and areas will support the protection and enhancement of resilient natural heritage and water resources systems that aim to mitigate and adapt to effects of climate change. Carbon from the atmosphere is absorbed and stored in the biomass of the natural heritage system (e.g. trees, soils and vegetation). Healthy watersheds are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, droughts and extreme weather events like ice storms. A more robust

Greenbelt area would contribute to the Province’s climate change response and help built healthy and resilient communities.

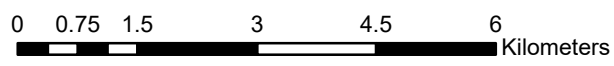
For any study areas being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt, it is important that the Province provide opportunities for robust consultation with the public. For study areas in the rural area, it is imperative that the Province recognize limitations due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for engagement are tailored to reach rural communities.

Growing the Greenbelt - Natural Heritage System Halton Region

April 16, 2021



- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Draft Key NHS
- Draft System NHS
- Urban River Valley
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Minor Roads
- Highway
- Major Roads

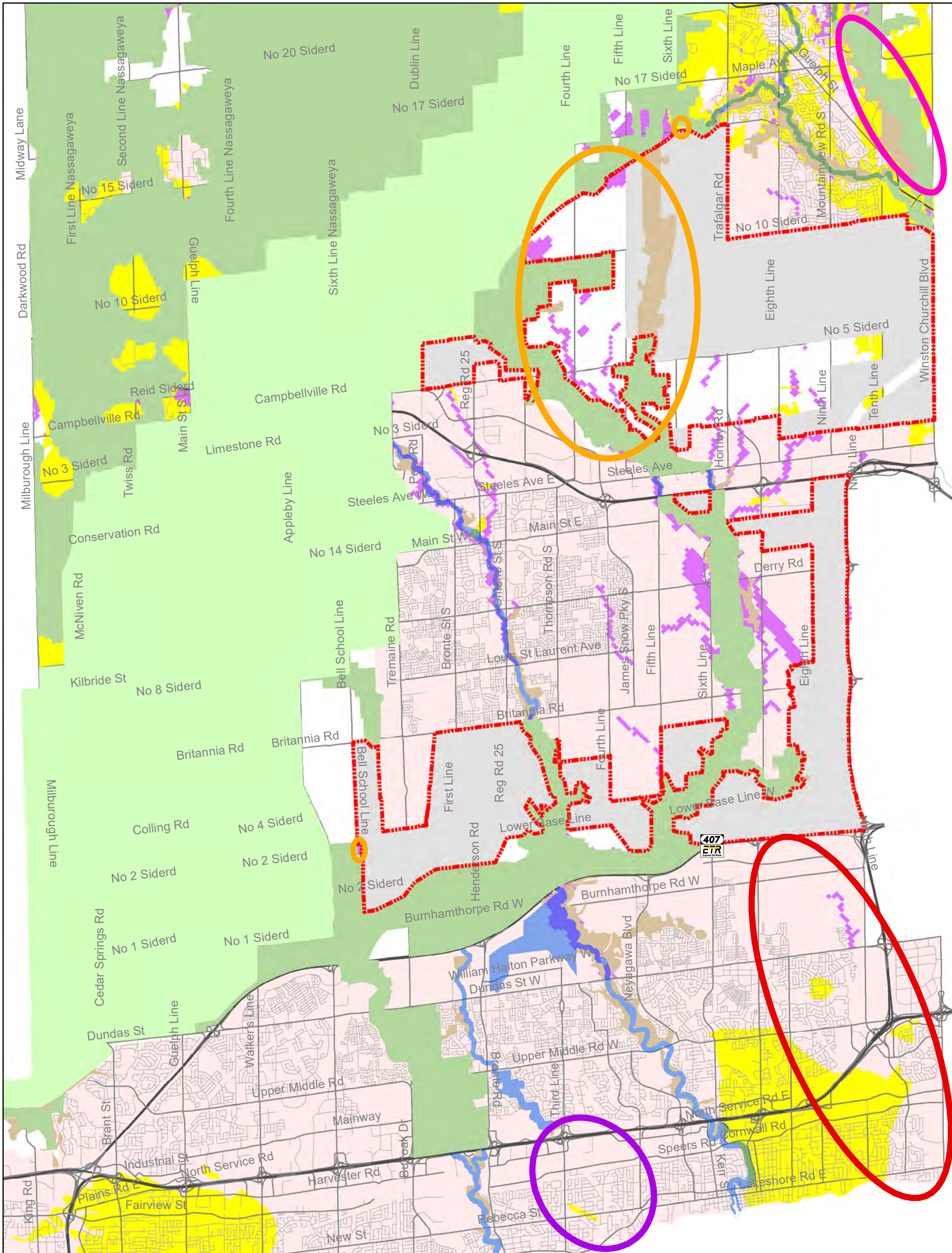


- Recommended Candidate Study Area
- Fourteen Mile Creek Study Area
- Credit River Candidate Study Area
- Joshua Creek Candidate Study Area



Growing the Greenbelt - Source Water Protection Halton Region

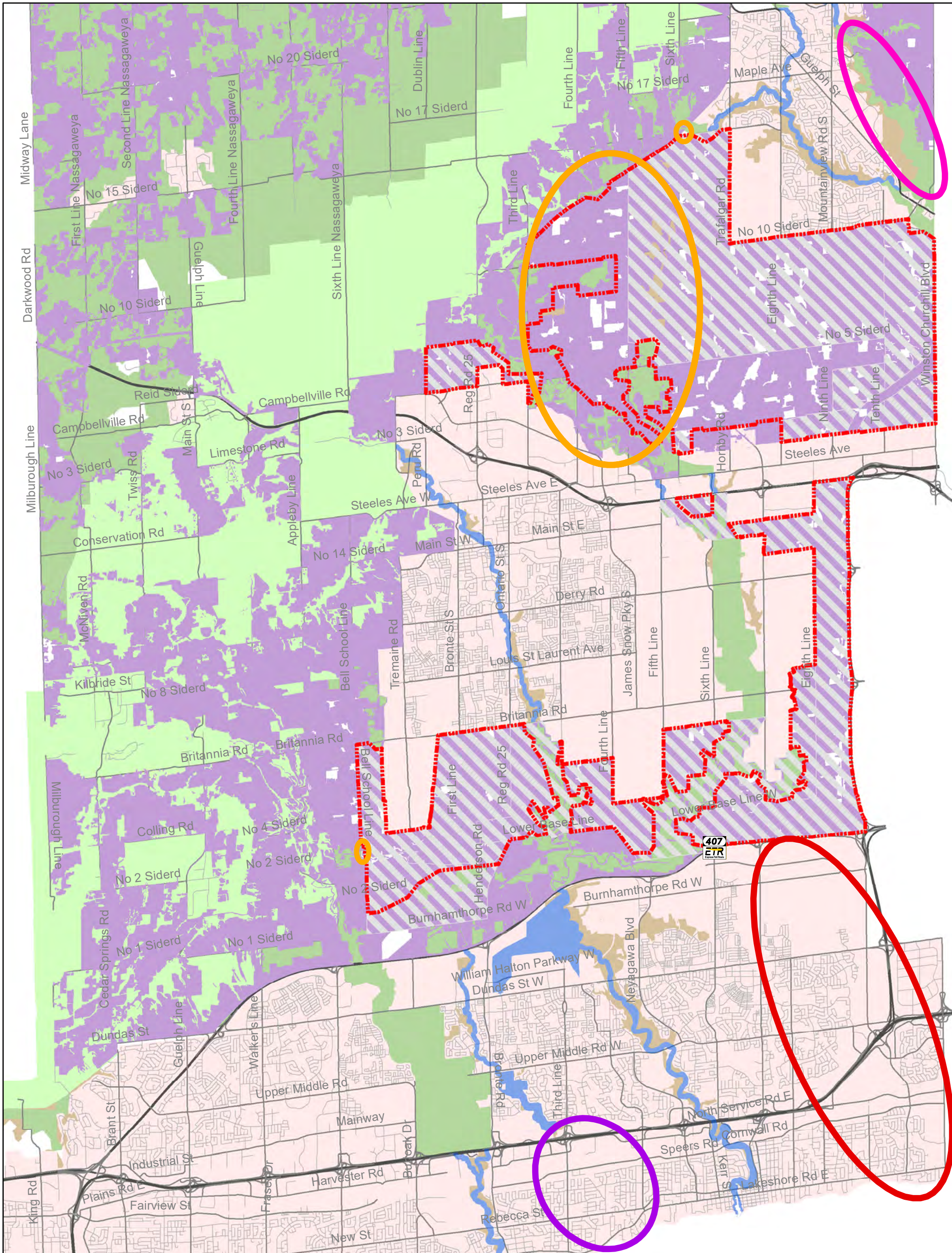
April 16, 2021



Whitebelt	Highly Vulnerable Aquifer		Fourteen Mile Creek Study Area
IGMS Primary Study Area	Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System		Credit River Candidate Study Area
Settlement Area	Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System		Joshua Creek Candidate Study Area
Niagara Escarpment Plan Area	Minor Roads		
Urban River Valley	Highway		
Significant Groundwater Recharge Area	Major Roads		





Growing the Greenbelt - Draft Prime Agricultural Area Halton Region

April 16, 2021



-  Whitebelt
-  Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
-  IGMS Primary Study Area
-  Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
-  Settlement Area
-  Draft Prime Agricultural Area
-  Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
-  Minor Roads
-  Highway
-  Urban River Valley
-  Major Roads



-  Recommended Candidate Study Area
-  Fourteen Mile Creek Study Area
-  Credit River Candidate Study Area
-  Joshua Creek Candidate Study Area



The Regional Municipality of Halton

Report To:	Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council
From:	Bob Gray, Commissioner, Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel
Date:	March 24, 2021
Report No:	LPS29-21
Re:	Provincial Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Regional Council endorse Report No. LPS29-21 re: "Provincial Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt" as the basis to prepare a submission by the Province's April 19, 2021 Environmental Registry deadline.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS29-21 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Halton's Members of Provincial Parliament for their information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- On February 17, 2021, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO Number 019-3136) entitled "Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt" (Attachment #1).
- The proposal identifies principles, priorities and questions for public consultation about growing the size and further enhancing the quality of the Greenbelt area, with a priority of:
 - A study area of lands focused on the Paris Galt Moraine, which is home to critical groundwater resources; and
 - Ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys
- The proposal also seeks feedback on other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt where expansion would support a strong physical or functional connection to the

Greenbelt natural heritage, water resource or agricultural systems, consistent with Greenbelt Plan objectives and other Provincial priorities.

- The proposal is open for a 61-day public consultation period ending on April 19th, 2021, which is prior to Regional Council's next meeting on April 21, 2021.
- In order to meet the Province's commenting deadline, staff recommend that Regional Council endorse this report as a basis for staff to prepare a more detailed submission to the Province in response to the proposal.

Background

The Greenbelt area, which includes the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Protected Countryside, protects agricultural and natural heritage areas from urbanization pressures over the long-term. Regional Council has supported enhancing the size of the Greenbelt area over the last several years.

In its Strategic Action Plan, 2015-2018, Regional Council outlined several actions to protect and enhance the Region's natural environment including an action to, *"Advocate to the province for a policy framework that attains the long-term preservation of the Region's natural environment and agricultural areas by growing the Greenbelt in Halton particularly in the urban context."*

In December 2017, the Province released a public consultation document "Protecting Water for Future Generations: Growing the Greenbelt in the Outer Ring". As described in LPS20-18, this consultation document identified locations with high concentrations of important water resources in the outer ring municipalities of the Greater Golden Horseshoe that are under pressure from current or forecasted development.

As Halton Region is located outside the outer ring, no Halton lands were included in the 2017 study area. However, at Regional Council's February 14, 2018 meeting, Council endorsed a motion associated with Report No. LPS20-18 that recommended in part:

"THAT the province be strongly urged to extend the study area for Greenbelt expansion to include the white belt lands within the inner ring, lands that are the most immediately vulnerable to development in the province; and

THAT that the province expeditiously grow the Greenbelt by incorporating appropriate white belt lands within the inner ring to protect our limited freshwater and natural heritage features."

At the March 27, 2019 Regional Council Meeting, Regional Council unanimously passed a notice of motion to support and endorse the passage of Bill 71, the *Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act, 2019*. The Council resolution focused on the protection of hydrological resources noting that the moraine is a critical primary groundwater recharge area and

that municipalities within the Grand River watershed are dependent on groundwater as the source of municipal drinking water.

In July 2019, Regional Council continued to express support for protecting white belt lands from urbanization through its Strategic Business Plan (2019-2022) which included an objective to protect agricultural areas as well as an action to, “*Support value-added uses on farms and the introduction of a permanent agricultural preserve*”.

Discussion

The current “Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt” proposal outlines Greenbelt expansion principles and provincial priorities to assist the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to determine how and where expansion of the Greenbelt area may be considered. The proposal identifies two initial focus areas to grow the size and enhance the quality of the Greenbelt: a study area for the Paris Galt Moraine groundwater resources feature and ideas for adding and expanding Urban River Valleys (Attachment #1). The proposal also includes a number of discussion questions to guide public feedback on ways to grow the Greenbelt. Subject to Council endorsement, staff have provided initial recommendations which will form the basis of a Regional submission on the proposal to be provided to the Province by the April 19, 2021 commenting deadline. (Attachments #2-3).

In accordance with Council’s Strategic Business Plan (2019-2022), potential expansions to the Greenbelt area could provide a foundation for enhanced protection of Halton’s agricultural land base and a mechanism to introduce a permanent agricultural preserve.

The 61-day commenting period has precluded a joint Halton Area Planning Partnership submission, however Regional staff have consulted with our Local Municipal and Conservation Authority partners to consider alignment of responses to the proposal. The Region’s final submission to the Province will also incorporate forthcoming feedback from Halton’s Agricultural Advisory Committee and Natural Heritage Advisory Committee who have been consulted on the proposal.

Study Area for the Paris Galt Moraine

The Paris Galt Moraine is an important groundwater feature that extends roughly from Brantford in the southwest, through north Milton and Halton Hills, to Caledon in the northeast (Attachment #1). The proposal’s broad study area for the Paris Galt Moraine consists of rolling, hilly terrain and forms the headwaters for many rivers and streams flowing off of it and through Halton Region, like the Credit River.

The Paris Galt Moraine also helps to protect and recharge the groundwater aquifers that provide for a broad range of needs, including drinking water supply for many rural residents as well as urban residents of Milton and Halton Hills, and sustains local ecosystems, economic growth and management.

Given the critical hydrological and ecological functions of the Paris Galt Moraine, Halton Region strongly supports the study of this important ground water feature for permanent protection under the Greenbelt Plan.

Urban River Valleys

The Urban River Valley designation in the Greenbelt Plan applies to lands in river valleys within an urban context, connecting the Greenbelt area to the Great Lakes and inland lakes. Five of the Greenbelt's existing 21 Urban River Valleys run through Halton Region to Lake Ontario (Attachment #1). The policies apply only to publicly owned lands within this designation and are generally lands designated in municipal official plans as parks, open space, recreation, conservation and/or environmental protection. In Halton Region, these policies apply to publicly owned lands in urban areas along Grindstone Creek, Bronte Creek, Fourteen Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek, and the Credit River.

Fourteen Mile Creek is designated as an Urban River Valley in North Oakville however the designation currently terminates at the North Service Road and does not connect to Lake Ontario (Attachment #1). Regional staff recommend that the Province consider studying the remaining portion of the Fourteen Mile Creek Valley extending south to Lake Ontario for inclusion in the Greenbelt Urban River Valley designation.

Regional staff also support the Province's proposal to study increased Urban River Valley designations for public lands beyond 60-metres, where appropriate, consistent with natural heritage designations in local official plans.

Potential Study Areas in Halton Region

In applying the Greenbelt expansion principles and Provincial priorities in the proposal (Attachment #1), Regional staff have identified an additional area of focused study within the Town of Halton Hills as an appropriate candidate area for expanding the Greenbelt in Halton Region.

The lands west of the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System corridor (located between 5th Line and 6th Line) and adjacent to the Greenbelt Protected Countryside, as depicted on the maps in Attachment #2, form a strong physical and functional connection to adjacent Growth Plan and Greenbelt Natural Heritage Systems. This area is particularly appropriate to study for expansion to the Greenbelt because of these strong physical and functional connections to the existing Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Greenbelt Natural Heritage System. Key natural heritage and hydrological features and areas in this area form north-south corridors that extend from the Provincial Natural Heritage Systems and provide wildlife movement and seed dispersal across the Middle Sixteen Mile Creek sub-watershed up to the Niagara Escarpment. Additionally, this area is bounded by the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System and would therefore require enhanced infrastructure crossings to support potential future urban expansion were it not permanently protected.

This candidate study area is also comprised of prime agricultural lands which connects to the prime agricultural area within and beyond Halton's borders and supports the agricultural system in bringing local food and other goods to local markets. These lands are prime agricultural lands that are predominantly comprised of fertile Class 1-3 soils according to the Canadian Land Inventory. Given that prime agricultural lands are a finite, valuable resource, once these lands are converted to urban development, they are permanently lost. The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area could be an important mechanism to support Regional Council's direction to introduce a permanent agricultural preserve in Halton Region to support the Agricultural System over the long-term.

There may also be opportunities to study minor technical refinements to the Greenbelt area to include adjacent agricultural lands and natural heritage features and areas that functionally connect to the Greenbelt, such as along the northern edge of No. 15 Sideroad east of Sixth Line in the Town of Halton Hills.

For any study areas being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt area it is important that the Province provide opportunities for extensive consultation with the public.

Conclusion

The mapping and comments contained in this report, and Attachments #2-3, represent initial recommendations on the Province's proposal to grow the size of the Greenbelt and enhance its quality. Should Regional Council endorse this report, staff will generate a submission on the basis of this report as the basis of a Regional submission on the proposal to be provided to the Province by the April 19, 2021 commenting deadline.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations contained in this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Curt Benson
Director, Planning Services and Chief
Planning Official



Bob Gray
Commissioner, Legislative and Planning
Services and Corporate Counsel

Approved by



Jane MacCaskill
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,
please contact:

Curt Benson

Tel. # 7181

Attachments: Attachment #1 - ERO Post #019-3136 - Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt
Attachment #2 - Mapping of Recommended Candidate Study Areas
Attachment #3 - Discussion Question Responses for Submission to Province



Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt

ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-3136
Notice type	Policy
Act	Greenbelt Act, 2005
Posted by	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	February 17, 2021
Comment period	February 17, 2021 - April 19, 2021 (61 days) Open
Last updated	February 17, 2021

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m.

on:

April 19, 2021

Proposal summary

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on ways to grow the size of the Greenbelt.

Proposal details

The government has been clear that we are protecting the Greenbelt from development for future generations. The Greenbelt is home to much of Ontario's vital environmental, groundwater and agricultural resources. That's why in the government's 2020 Budget, we pledged to expand the size of the Greenbelt.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on ways to grow the size and further enhance the quality of the Greenbelt, with a priority of:

- i. A study area of lands focussed on the Paris Galt Moraine, which is home to critical groundwater resources
- ii. Ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys

The maps available for this consultation are for discussion purposes only and do not represent a proposed boundary.

Context

The Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, have worked together for over 15 years to provide a framework for where and how growth should be accommodated in southern Ontario. The Greenbelt Area includes lands covered by the policies of the Greenbelt Plan, as well as the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Collectively, these plans identify where urbanization should not occur. The plans provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions within the Greater Golden Horseshoe and beyond. They work together with A Place to Grow, which provides the overarching strategy for where and how growth can be accommodated in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Established under the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*, the Greenbelt is a broad band of protected land that:

- Protects against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports agriculture as the predominant land use
- Gives protection to the natural heritage and water resource systems that sustain ecological and human health and that form the environmental framework around which major urbanization in south-central Ontario will be organized
- Provides for a diverse range of economic and social activities associated with rural communities, agriculture, tourism, recreation and resource uses
- Builds resilience to and mitigates climate change
- Allows critical new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure needed to serve the substantial growth projected for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, to be permitted subject to strong environmental conditions

Principles for Growing the Greenbelt Expansions

1. No consideration of removal requests or land exchanges
 - This proposal is about growing the size and quality of the Greenbelt, and the government will not consider the removal of any lands from the Greenbelt.
2. No consideration of policy changes

- Any potential expansions will be based on existing policies. The province will not reduce existing protections in the Greenbelt.
3. Supports Greenbelt Plan objectives, vision and goals
 - Lands to be considered for addition support the Greenbelt Plan's objectives, vision and goals of providing permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions occurring on this landscape and providing for the inclusion of publicly owned lands in urban river valleys.
 4. Follows Existing Amendment Process
 - The *Greenbelt Act, 2005* sets out the legislated public process that will apply to any proposed Greenbelt Plan amendments. This would include requiring consultation with affected public bodies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Greenbelt Council, municipalities in the Greenbelt Area, an opportunity for consultation with general public, as well as ensuring any proposed amendment does not reduce the total land area within the Greenbelt Plan. Engaging with Indigenous communities would also occur before any amendments are made.
 5. Connects physically and/or functionally to the current Greenbelt
 - The Greenbelt is meant to be a continuous broad band of permanently protected land. Any expansions shall build upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan and should be directly connected or have a strong functional connection through the Greenbelt's natural heritage, water resource or agricultural systems to not create unconnected islands of Greenbelt land.
 6. Considers impacts on existing provincial priorities
 - As discussed below, expansions to the Greenbelt must consider their effects on other key provincial priorities outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow.

Initial Focus Areas

Since its establishment in 2005, there has been much discussion by a broad range of Ontarians on ways to grow the Greenbelt. With this input in mind, the government has some early ideas on where and how to grow the Greenbelt. Feedback is sought on the following areas:

1. **A Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine (see link to Map 1 in Supporting Materials below)**

- The Paris Galt Moraine is an important feature that runs roughly from Caledon in the northeast to Brantford in the southwest. Similar to the

Oak Ridges Moraine, it is an area of rolling, hilly terrain that is the headwaters for many rivers and streams flowing off of it. Comprised of sand and gravel deposits, it helps to protect and recharge the groundwater aquifers that provide the basis for a broad range of needs, including drinking water supply for many of the communities, sustaining local ecosystems, and growth and economic management. Moraines allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground more rapidly and in much greater amounts than the surrounding, less permeable areas. This process provides a reliable, slowly changing supply of water called baseflow to rivers and streams.

- The map of the Paris Galt Moraine is for discussion purposes only and does not represent a proposed boundary.

2. **Urban River Valleys (see link to Map 2 in Supporting Materials below)**

- The Urban River Valley designation in the Greenbelt Plan applies to lands in river valleys within an urban context, connecting the Greenbelt's protected countryside lands to the Great Lakes and inland lakes (e.g. (for example), Don River, Duffins Creek, Twelve Mile Creek). The policies apply only to publicly owned lands within this designation and are often lands designated in municipal official plans as parks, open space, recreation, conservation and/or environmental protection. The Greenbelt currently includes 21 Urban River Valleys and associated coastal wetlands. There may be opportunities for additional urban river valleys to be added or existing ones to be expanded to include additional publicly owned land. The government is seeking feedback for adding new or expanding existing Urban River Valleys, including:
 - Connections to the Paris Galt Moraine through the Speed and Eramosa Rivers in the urban areas of Guelph and Cambridge
 - Ideas for adding other municipally supported Urban River Valleys and/or additions of publicly owned land to existing Urban River Valleys (e.g. (for example), where appropriate increasing the 60-m offset from the water's edge to include more public valley lands)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 1:

- **What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?**

Question 2:

- **What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?**

Question 3:

- **What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?**

Question 4:

- **Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?**

Other Provincial Priorities

In deciding on where and how to possibly grow the Greenbelt, we must also consider other key provincial priorities that could be impacted. These key provincial priorities include:

Growth Management – Overall, the Greenbelt Plan broadly identifies where urbanization should not occur and A Place to Grow directs the majority of growth to fully serviced settlement areas. Currently, municipalities are working towards updating their official plans by 2022 to conform with the revised growth forecasts in Schedule 3 of A Place to Grow. Therefore, Greenbelt expansion needs to be considered in the context of these growth management exercises by municipalities.

Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems – The Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow are aligned with and build on the Provincial Policy Statement to provide policy protection for natural heritage and water resource systems, features and areas, including habitat for endangered and threatened species. Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow contain policies supporting and protecting a Natural Heritage System that is made up of these natural features and areas along with the linkages that connect them together. Similarly, policies in these plans protect water resource systems on a watershed basis, with the Greenbelt incorporating significant headwaters, river corridors, wetlands and other features.

Agriculture – The Greater Golden Horseshoe contains some of Canada's best agricultural land. Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow have policies supporting and protecting an Agricultural System that is comprised of an

agricultural land base (prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, and other productive lands that form a continuous land base for agriculture) and an agri-food network (infrastructure, services and assets that support the agri-food sector).

Infrastructure – Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow recognize that new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure will be needed to serve the substantial growth projected for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Infrastructure, including highways to sewage and water treatment plants to corridors for transit and utilities, is permitted in these plans subject to certain conditions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Question 5:

- How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above?

Question 6:

- Are there other priorities that should be considered?

Supporting materials

Related files

[Paris Galt Moraine Study Area Map \(high resolution\)](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20Paris%20Galt%20Moraine%20Study%20Area%20Map%20FINAL.pdf)
(<https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20Paris%20Galt%20Moraine%20Study%20Area%20Map%20FINAL.pdf>)
pdf.(Portable Document Format file) 2.91 MB

[Urban River Valleys Map \(high resolution\)](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20URV%20Map%20FINAL.pdf)
(<https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20URV%20Map%20FINAL.pdf>)
pdf.(Portable Document Format file) 3.37 MB

[Paris Galt Moraine Study Area Map \(low resolution\)](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20Paris%20Galt%20Moraine%20Study%20Area%20Map%20FINAL.pdf)
(<https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20Paris%20Galt%20Moraine%20Study%20Area%20Map%20FINAL.pdf>)

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pdf.(Portable.Document.Format.file) 547.33 KB

[Urban River Valleys Map \(low resolution\) \(https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20URV%20Map%20FINAL%20300dpi%20%281%29.pdf\)](https://prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-02/Feb%2017%202021%20%E2%80%93%20URV%20Map%20FINAL%20300dpi%20%281%29.pdf)
pdf.(Portable.Document.Format.file) 618.19 KB

Related links

[Greenbelt Plan \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/greenbelt-plan-2017)

[A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe \(https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe\)](https://www.ontario.ca/document/place-grow-growth-plan-greater-golden-horseshoe)

View materials in person

Important notice: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, viewing supporting materials in person is not available at this time.

Please reach out to the Contact listed in this notice to see if alternate arrangements can be made.

Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies. \(/page/commenting-privacy\)](/page/commenting-privacy)

Submit by mail

greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

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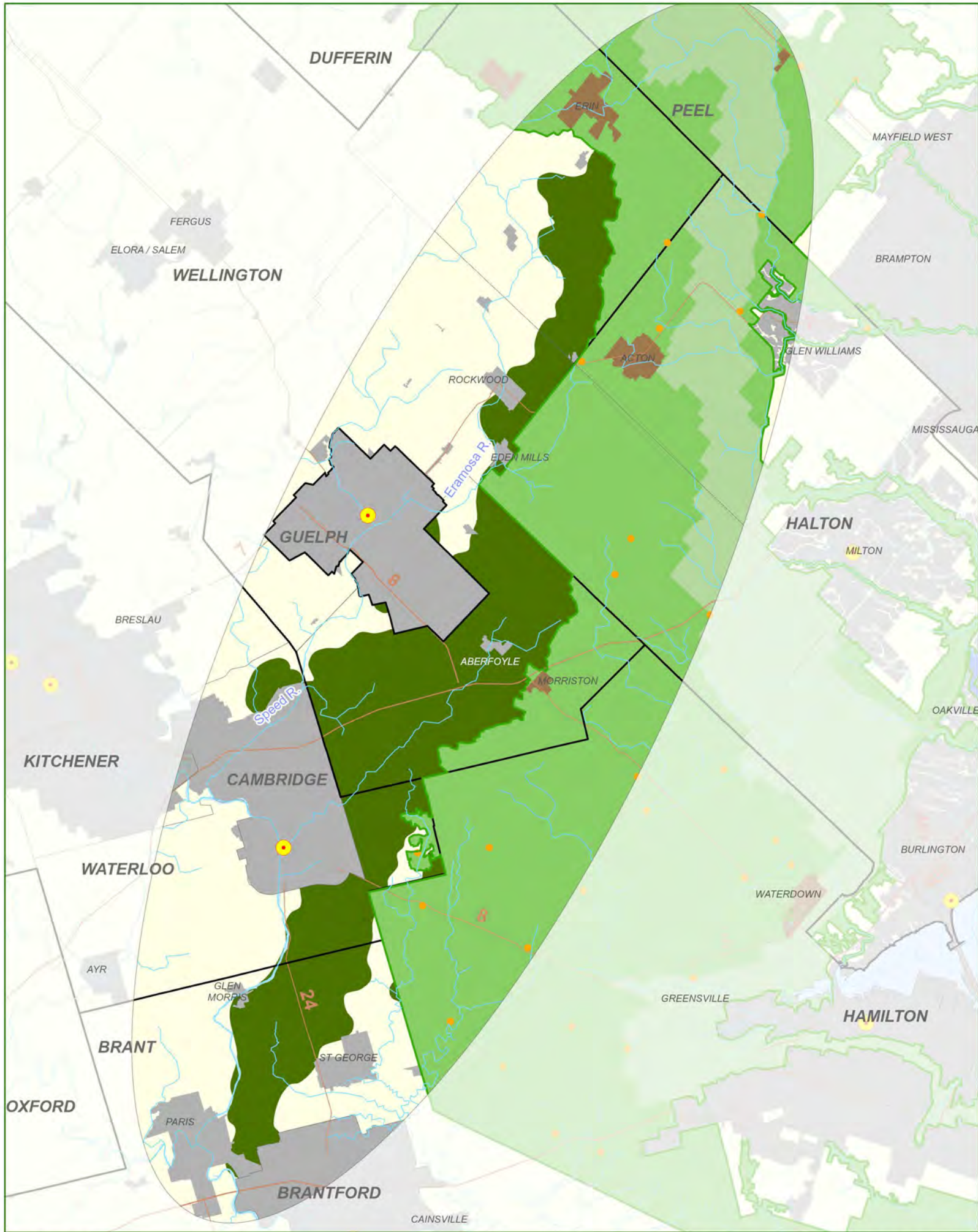
Contact

greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca



greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca

Growing the Greenbelt Study Area – Paris Galt Moraine



LEGEND

- Greenbelt Area (O.Reg. 59/05, as amended)
- Protected Countryside
- Towns / Villages
- Hamlets
- Urban River Valleys
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Paris Galt Moraine Study Area
- GGH Settlement Areas Outside the Greenbelt (incl. Brantford/Brant Annexation)
- Urban Growth Centres
- Major Road or Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Water

This map is for illustrative purposes only to seek feedback on a Study Area of lands focused on the Paris Galt Moraine, growing the Greenbelt. The Paris Galt Moraine Study Area does not constitute a Greenbelt boundary.

Settlement boundaries generally reflect information provided by the relevant municipality. For precise boundaries and locations of Settlement Areas (e.g. Settlements Areas Outside the Greenbelt and Greenbelt Towns/Villages and Hamlets), the appropriate municipalities should be consulted.

Source of Information:
Produced by and using data sources from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines.

Projection: UTM Zone17 NAD83

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Greenbelt Area – Urban River Valleys



LEGEND

- Greenbelt Area (O.Reg 59/05, as amended)
- Protected Countryside
- Towns / Villages
- Hamlets
- Urban River Valleys
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Oak Ridges Moraine Area
- GGH Settlement Areas Outside the Greenbelt (incl. Brantford/Brant Annexation)
- External Connections
- Municipal Boundary
- Major Road or Highway
- Water
- F.N. First Nations

This map is for illustrative purposes only to seek ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys.

Settlement boundaries generally reflect information provided by the relevant municipality. For precise boundaries and locations of Settlement Areas (e.g. Settlements Areas Outside the Greenbelt and Greenbelt Towns/Villages and Hamlets), the appropriate municipalities should be consulted.

Source of Information:

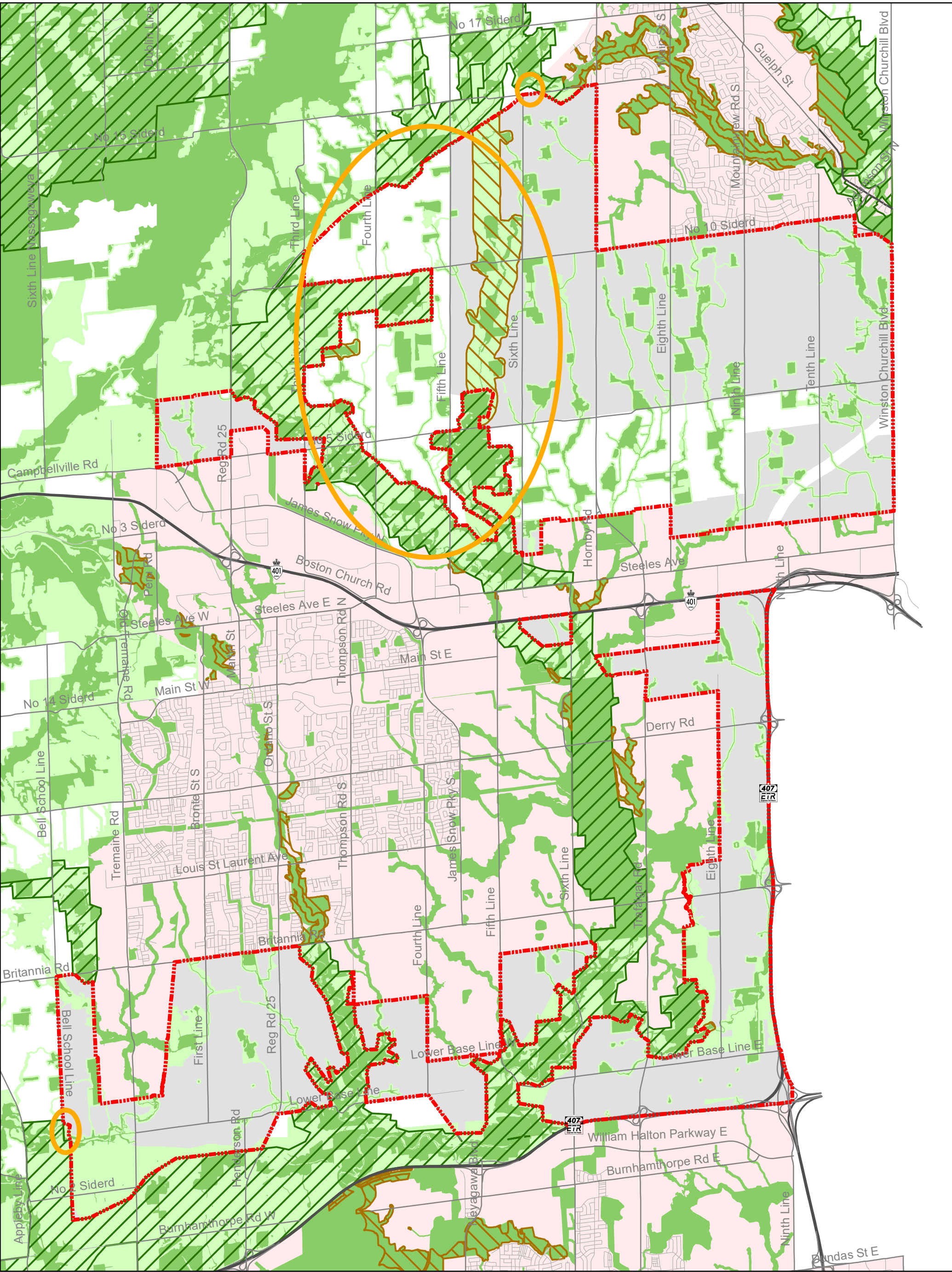
Produced by and using data sources from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Projection: UTM Zone17 NAD83
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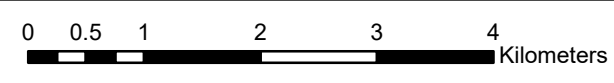


Growing the Greenbelt - Natural Heritage System

Milton / Halton Hills



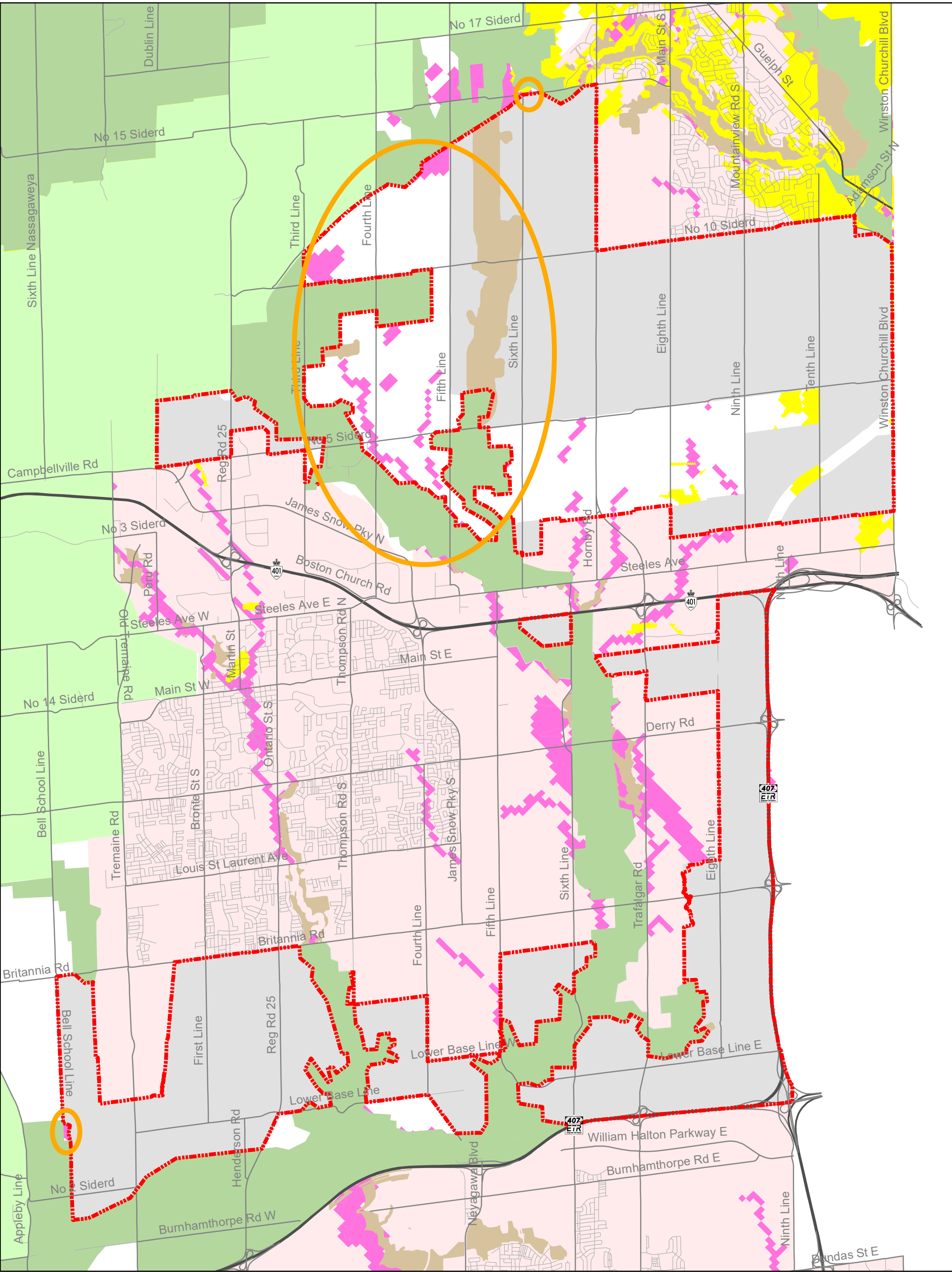
- Minor Roads
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Draft Key NHS
- Draft System NHS
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Recommended Candidate Study Area



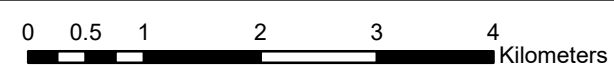
Growing the Greenbelt - Source Water Protection

Milton / Halton Hills

March 1, 2021



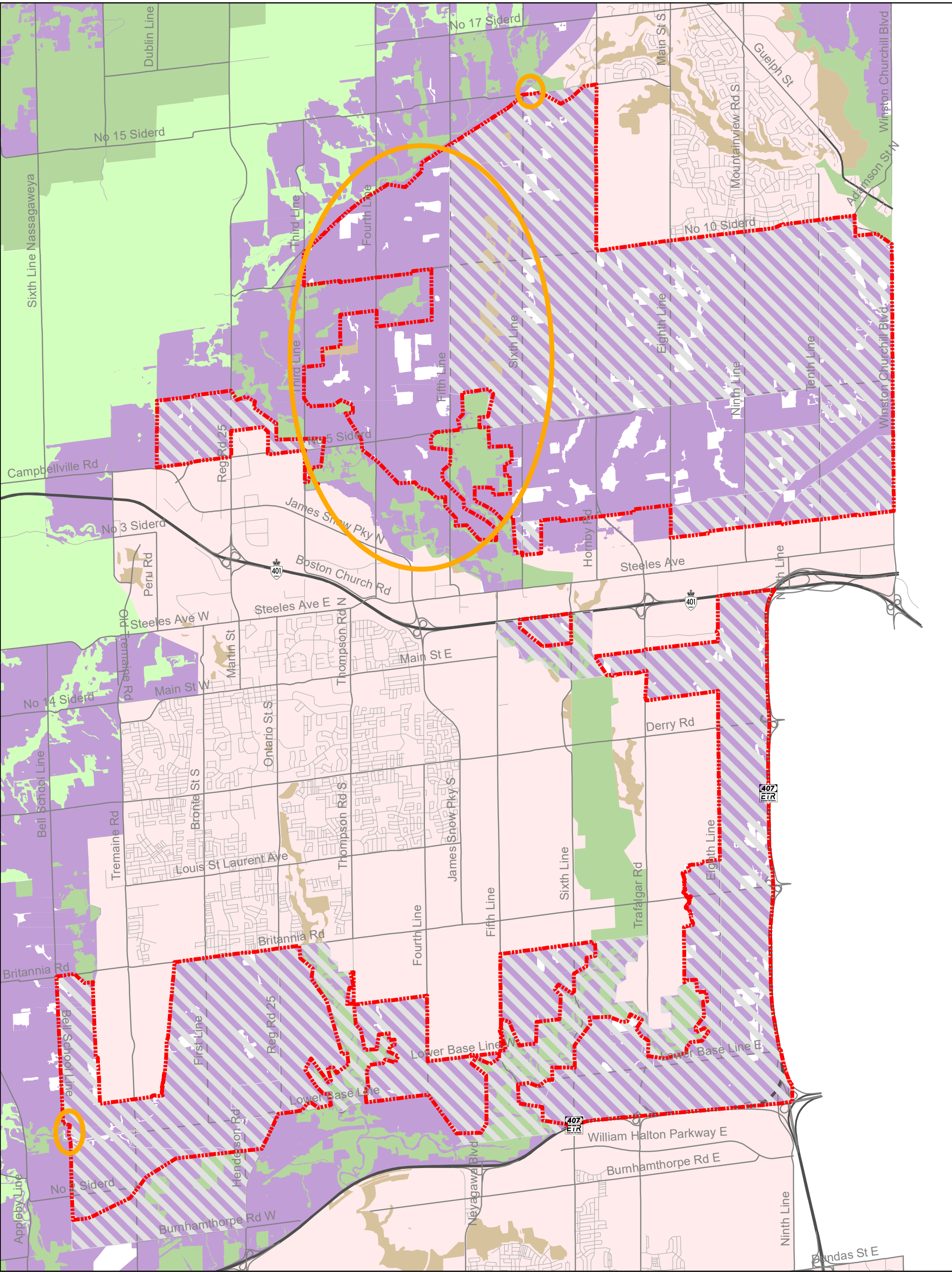
- Minor Roads
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- Major Roads
- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Recommended Candidate Study Area
- Significant Ground Water Recharge Area
- Highly Vulnerable Aquifer



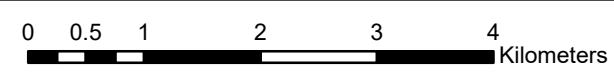
Growing the Greenbelt - Draft Prime Agricultural Area

Milton / Halton Hills

March 1, 2021



- Minor Roads
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Draft Prime Agricultural Area



Recommended Candidate Study Area



ERO 019-3136: Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt Halton Region Submission

Question 1:

- **What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?**

On March 27, 2019 Halton Regional Council unanimously passed a notice of motion to support and endorse the passage of Bill 71, the *Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act, 2019*. The Paris Galt Moraine traverses the northern and north-west portion of Halton Region within the Town of Halton Hills and the Town of Milton. The Council Resolution noted that:

- municipalities within the Grand River watershed are dependent on groundwater as the source of municipal drinking water,
- critical primary recharge areas in the moraines require protection in order to protect the future drinking water supplies in this area,
- a conservation plan for the Paris and Galt moraines would provide an important policy framework to protect the critical ecological and hydrological integrity of the area, and
- the inter-jurisdictional complexity of the Paris and Galt moraines warrants the assistance of provincial leadership in the development of policy for its protection.

Given the critical hydrological and ecological functions of the Paris Galt Moraine, Halton Region strongly supports the study of this important ground water feature for permanent protection under the Greenbelt Plan.

The “Growing the Greenbelt Study Area – Paris Galt Moraine” map included in the proposal does not delineate the full extent of the Paris Galt Moraine within Halton Region. On the study area map, the Greenbelt Plan Area is overlain on the Paris Galt Moraine and it is difficult to determine if the study area within Halton Region is fully capturing the moraine feature and adjacent areas that may contribute to or benefit from the ecological and hydrological functions of the Paris Galt Moraine. It would appear that the Study Area includes the watershed jurisdictions of the Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton and Credit Valley Conservation. Halton Region requests that the Province provide a GIS data layer of the Paris Galt Moraine to help determine whether the Study Area is appropriate within Halton Region.

Question 2:

- **What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?**

According to the Region's Natural Heritage System GIS mapping data, it appears that the Study Area contains:

- Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (e.g. Galt Moraine at Corwhin, Moffat Moraine, Halton Forest North, Halton Forest South, Silver Creek Valley, Terra Cotta Forest and Ballinafad Swamp and Bog);
- Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (e.g. Blue Springs Creek Wetlands, Knatchbull Swamp, Brookville Swamp, Speyside Forest, and Quarry Northeast of Limehouse);
- Provincially Significant Wetland Complexes (e.g. Eramosa River – Blue Springs Creek Wetland Complex, Arkell – Corwhin Wetland Complex, Knatchbull Wetland, Halton Escarpment Wetland Complex, Acton – Silver Creek Wetland Complex, and Caledon Mountain Wetland Complex);
- Other wetlands identified by the Province (e.g. Ballinafad Woods Wetland);
- Unevaluated wetlands;
- Wetlands and watercourses regulated by the Conservation Authorities;
- Candidate significant woodlands;
- Potential significant wildlife habitat;
- Potential habitat of endangered and threatened species;
- Potential fish habitat;
- Enhancement areas, linkages and buffers or Vegetation Protection Zones.

The Study Area also contains drinking water Well Head Protection Areas for Quality and Well Head Protection Areas with Moderate to Significant Risk to Quantity, as identified in the Grand River Source Protection Plan and CTC Source Protection Plan. The Source Protection Plans also identify Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers, Hydrogeologically Sensitive Areas, and a Quantity Intake Protection Zone.

The important connections and interactions between natural heritage and hydrological features and areas must be considered in defining the boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine to be included in the Greenbelt Plan. For example, groundwater and surface water systems that feed Provincially Significant Wetlands should be protected to support the long-term ecological functions of wetlands and the habitats they provide. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the protection of groundwater and surface water systems and hydrological features and areas that provide sources of drinking water.

While part of the Paris Galt Moraine is currently located within the Greenbelt Plan Area within Halton Region, it is unclear if the entire Moraine is identified as part of the

Greenbelt Natural Heritage System. Halton Region recommends that the full extent of the Paris Galt Moraine is identified as a component of the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System within Halton.

In addition, as Halton Region relies on technical advice from our partner Conservation Authorities that have jurisdiction within the Paris Galt Moraine Study Area. Halton Region will seek technical advice from our partner Conservation Authorities regarding technical considerations that should be included in moving toward a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine. The Province is encouraged to consult with the Conservation Authorities to identify a defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine within the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside.

Question 3:

- **What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?**

Fourteen Mile Creek is designated as an Urban River Valley in North Oakville however the designation currently terminates at the North Service Road and does not connect to Lake Ontario (Attachment #1). Regional staff recommend studying the remaining portion of the Fourteen Mile Creek Valley extending south to Lake Ontario for inclusion in the Urban River Valley designation.

Halton Region supports the Province's proposal to study increased Urban River Valley designations for public lands beyond 60-metres, where appropriate, consistent with natural heritage designations in local official plans.

Question 4:

- **Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?**

In applying the key Greenbelt expansion principles and Provincial priorities in the proposal, Regional staff have identified a potential study area for expanding the Greenbelt area in Halton Region. The lands west of the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System corridor (located between 5th Line and 6th Line) and adjacent to the Greenbelt Protected Countryside in the Town of Halton Hills form a strong physical and functional connection to adjacent Growth Plan and Greenbelt Natural Heritage Systems (Maps #1-2).

This area is particularly appropriate for study for consideration to grow the Greenbelt area because of its strong physical and functional connection to the existing Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Greenbelt Natural Heritage System in Halton Region. Key natural heritage and hydrological features and areas in this area form north-south corridors that extend from the Provincial Natural Heritage Systems and provide wildlife movement and seed dispersal across the Middle Sixteen Mile Creek sub-watershed up to the Niagara Escarpment. Additionally, these lands are already bounded by the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System and would therefore require enhanced

infrastructure crossings to support potential future urban expansion were it not permanently protected.

Key Features and Components of the Regional Natural Heritage System within these areas include:

- Candidate significant woodlands;
- Potential significant wetlands;
- Other wetlands;
- Watercourses and floodplain regulated by Conservation Halton;
- Potential significant wildlife habitat;
- Potential habitat of endangered and threatened species;
- Potential fish habitat;
- Enhancement areas, linkages and buffers.

In addition, this area contains Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and Hydrologically Sensitive Areas, which extend into the Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.

The proposed study area to expand the Greenbelt in Halton builds upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan and would enhance and strengthen the protection of key natural heritage and hydrological features and areas within the Region that support the functions of the Provincial natural heritage and water resource systems.

The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area is also comprised of prime agricultural lands which connects to the prime agricultural area within and beyond Halton's borders and supports the agricultural system in bringing local food and other goods to local markets (Map #3). These lands are predominantly made up of Class 1-3 soils according to the Canadian Land Inventory. Given that prime agricultural soils are a finite, valuable resources, once these lands are converted, they are permanently lost. The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area would be an important mechanism to support Regional Council's direction to introduce a permanent agricultural preserve in Halton Region to support the Agricultural System over the long-term.

There may also be opportunities to study minor technical refinements to the Greenbelt area to include adjacent agricultural lands and natural heritage features and areas that functionally connect to the Greenbelt, such as along the northern edge of No. 15 Sideroad east of Sixth Line in the Town of Halton Hills (Maps #1-3).

Any study areas that are being considered for inclusion in the Greenbelt area should involve extensive in-person consultation with the public.

Question 5:

- **How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above?**

Halton Region has contemplated expansion study areas in accordance with the key Greenbelt expansion principles and Provincial priorities identified in the proposal.

Growth Management

The consultation requires that Greenbelt expansions not impede growth management exercises being conducted through municipal comprehensive reviews. Halton's proposed Greenbelt expansion study areas exclude Future Strategic Employment Areas (including Provincially Significant Employment Zones) and areas contemplated for urban expansion through the four Growth Concepts. According to Halton's initial Integrated Growth Management Strategy (IGMS) Land Needs Assessment, there are 10,108 ha of white belt lands within the Region, however no more than 3,300 ha of additional urban land would be needed to accommodate population and job growth to 2051 at the lowest rates of intensification. At the greatest rate of intensification, no more than 980 ha of new urban land would be required to accommodate job growth to 2051.

The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area in the Town of Halton Hills would not impede Halton's ability to accommodate Provincial growth projects to 2051 and would support Regional Council's direction to establish firm urban boundaries which protect Halton's rural, agricultural, and natural areas while also promoting intensification and the continued development of complete communities in Halton's existing urban areas.

Natural Heritage and Water Resources

The Province's proposal requires that potential Greenbelt expansion study areas build on natural heritage and water resource systems, features, and areas, including habitat for endangered and threatened species. Among other assets, the proposed Greenbelt expansion study area include candidate significant wetlands, watercourses and floodplain regulated by Conservation Authorities, and potential significant wildlife habitat. Features in the proposed study area form north-south corridors that generally extend from the Provincial Natural Heritage Systems. The Western Study Area in particular provides wildlife movement and seed dispersal across the Middle Sixteen Mile Creek sub-watershed up to the Niagara Escarpment.

In addition, these areas contain Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas, Highly Vulnerable Aquifers and Hydrologically Sensitive Areas, which extend into the Greenbelt Protected Countryside and Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.

Including these areas builds upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan and would enhance and strengthen the protection of key natural heritage and hydrological

features and areas within Halton Region that support the functions of the Provincial natural heritage and water resource systems.

Agriculture

The Province's proposal requires that potential Greenbelt expansion study areas consider protection of the Agricultural System including maintenance or enhancement of the continuity of the agricultural land base and agri-food network. The proposed study areas are comprised of prime agricultural lands which support continuity of the prime agricultural area within and beyond Halton's borders and supports the agricultural system in bringing local food and other goods to local markets.

The development of the Rural Agricultural Strategy identified the need for long-term certainty for farming businesses in making business decisions and investments as well as the desire to have permanent protections for these lands. Halton's white belt lands outside of the Greenbelt Area are predominantly prime agricultural lands with productive and fertile Class 1-3 soils according to the Canadian Land Inventory. Given that these productive prime agricultural lands are a finite, valuable resource, once these lands are converted for urban development, they are permanently lost.

The proposed Greenbelt expansion study area would support Regional Council's direction to consider the establishment of an agricultural preserve to support the Agricultural System within Halton for the long-term.

Infrastructure

The Province's proposal requires that potential Greenbelt expansion study areas consider how the Greenbelt Plan area will continue to accommodate new and upgraded infrastructure to serve growth such as highways, sewage and water treatment, corridors for utilities and transit. Halton Region's recommended study area would preserve lands for future infrastructure supporting growth and would not create impediments.

If the proposed Greenbelt expansion study area was contemplated for new urban lands instead, linear infrastructure serving growth in this area could face impediments in crossing through the Growth Plan Natural Heritage System located between 5th Line and 6th Line.

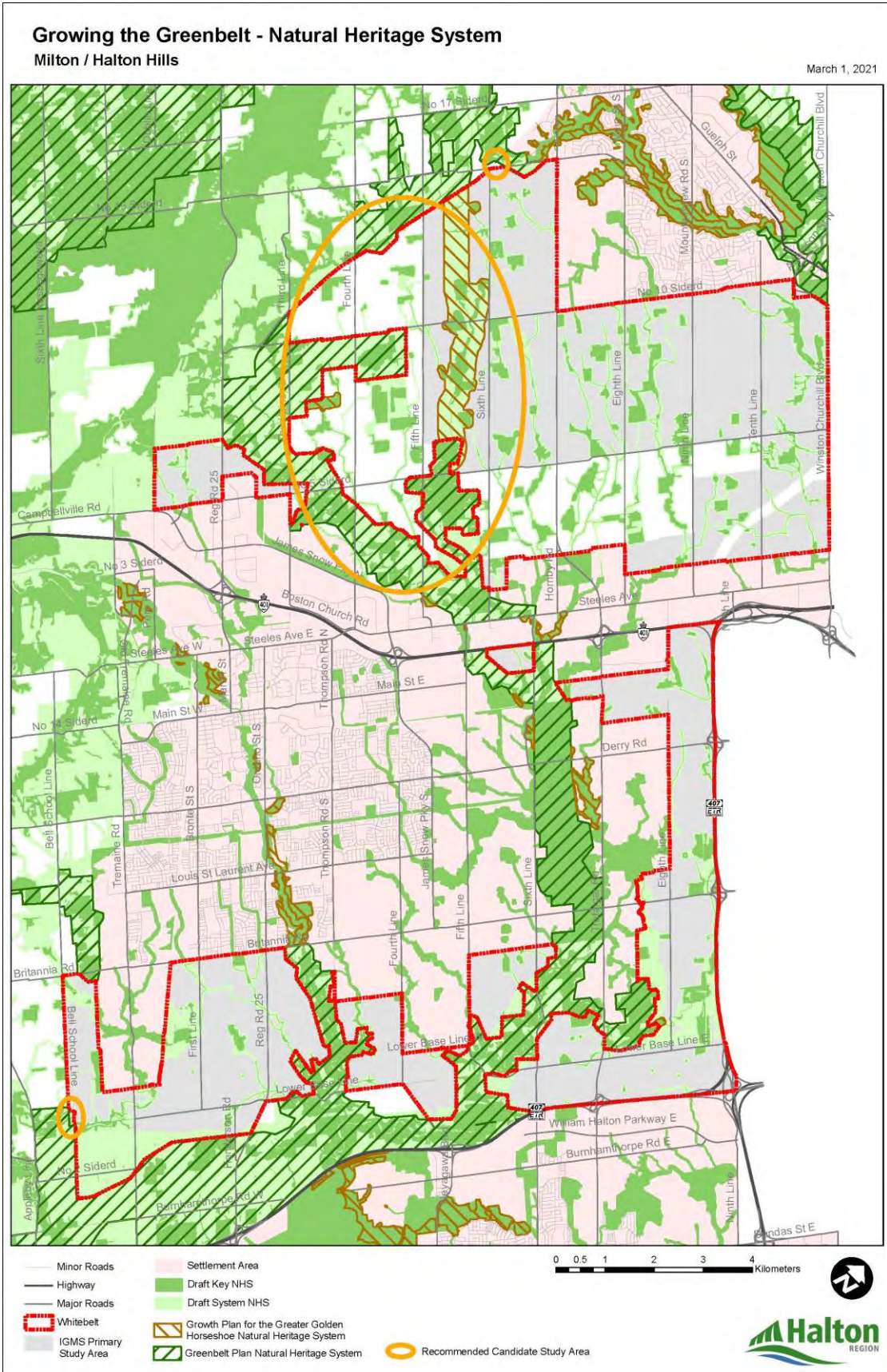
Question 6:

- **Are there other priorities that should be considered?**

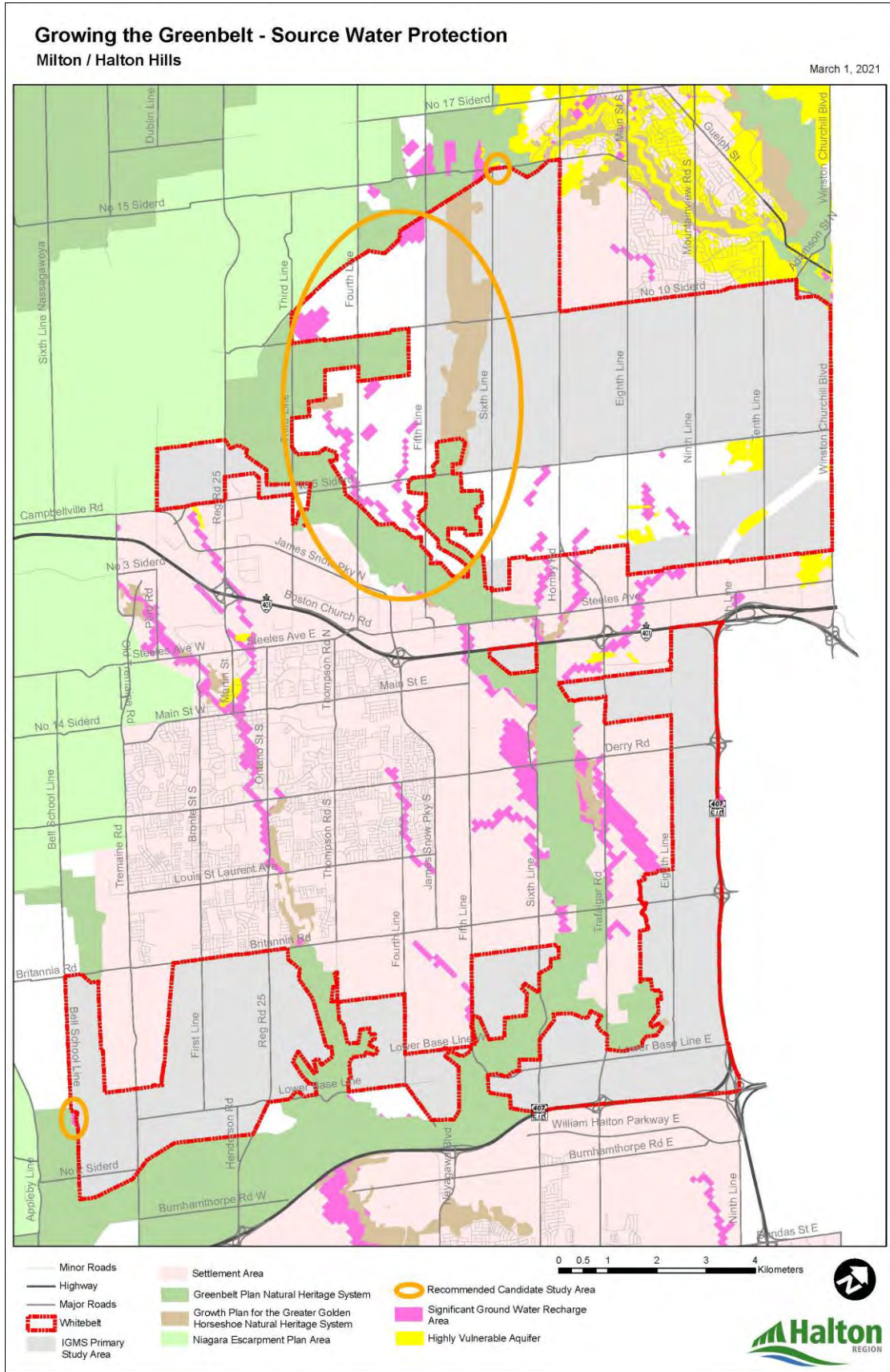
Growing the Greenbelt to include additional natural heritage and hydrologic features and areas will support the protection and enhancement of resilient natural heritage and water resources systems that aim to mitigate and adapt to effects of climate change. Carbon from the atmosphere is absorbed and stored in the biomass of the natural

heritage system (e.g. trees, soils and vegetation). Healthy watersheds are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, droughts and extreme weather events like ice storms. A more robust Greenbelt area would contribute to the Province's climate change response and help build healthy and resilient communities.

Map #1



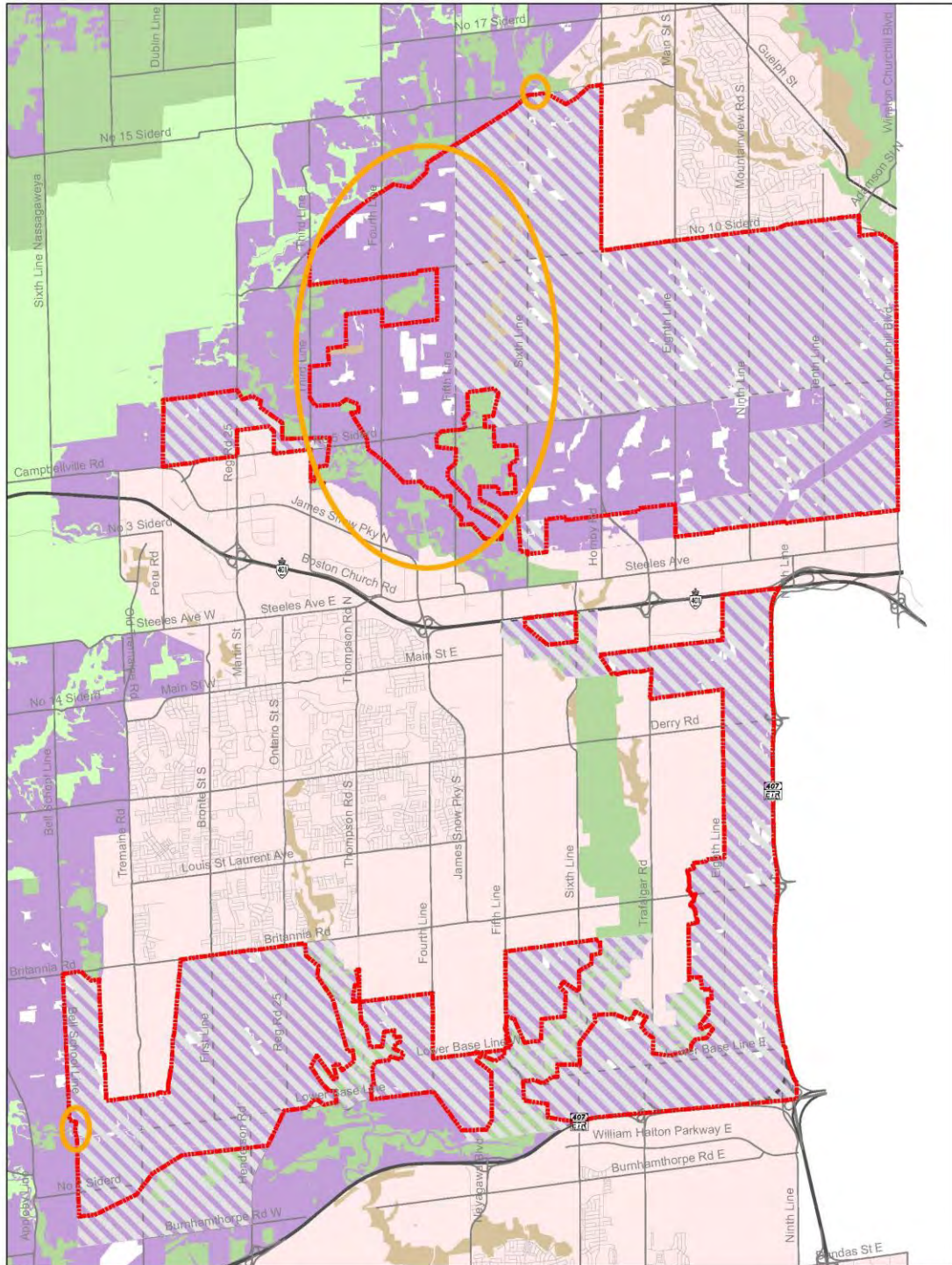
Map #2



Map #3

Growing the Greenbelt - Draft Prime Agricultural Area Milton / Halton Hills

March 1, 2021



- Minor Roads
- Highway
- Major Roads
- Whitebelt
- IGMS Primary Study Area
- Settlement Area
- Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Natural Heritage System
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Draft Prime Agricultural Area

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometers



 Recommended Candidate Study Area

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON
REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21**

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday, March 24, 2021
9:30 a.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Council Chambers/Zoom Teleconference
Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario

**MEMBERS PRESENT
(via Zoom
Teleconference):** Regional Chair Gary Carr

Mayors: Rick Bonnette, Rob Burton, Gord Krantz, Marianne Meed Ward

Councillors: Tom Adams, Angelo Bentivegna, Colin Best, Mike Cluett, Cathy Duddeck, Allan Elgar, Jane Fogal, Kelvin Galbraith (left at 1:00 p.m.), Dave Gittings, Zeeshan Hamid (left at 1:30 p.m.), Lisa Kearns (left at 1:30 p.m.), Jeff Knoll, Rick Malboeuf, Rory Nisan, Sean O'Meara, Pavan Parmar, Paul Sharman, Clark Somerville

REGRETS: Shawna Stolte

**STAFF PRESENT (via
Zoom Teleconference):** Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health
Alex Sarchuk, Commissioner of Social and Community Services
Bob Gray, Commissioner, Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel
Keshwer Patel, Commissioner, Finance and Regional Treasurer
Andrew Farr, Commissioner of Public Works
Tony Oliveri, Acting Commissioner, Strategic Transformation
Curt Benson, Director of Planning Services and Chief Planning Official
Erin DiCarlo, Committee Assistant

**STAFF PRESENT (in
Council Chambers):** Graham Milne, Regional Clerk

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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This meeting was held in compliance with the electronic participation provisions of Procedural By-law 90-19, as amended.

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Knoll declared a pecuniary interest in Item No. b) appearing in the Meeting Cycle Addenda under Motions - Notice of Motion from Councillor Sean O'Meara and Mayor Rob Burton re: Provincial Government Renewal of Funding and Expansion of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant Program, as he is the owner of a business that would receive a grant if the direction requested by the motion is approved.

There being no further disclosures of pecuniary interest, Council proceeded with the regular order of business.

CONFIRMATION OF PROCEEDINGS OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Confirmation of Proceedings	Moved by: Angelo Bentivegna Seconded by: Allan Elgar
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THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Regional Council No. 03-21 held Wednesday, February 17, 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no ceremonial presentations.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

There were no staff presentations.

MEMORANDA & CORRESPONDENCE

Memoranda & Correspondence	Moved by: Jeff Knoll Seconded by: Dave Gittings
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THAT all memoranda, correspondence and information included in the Agenda and Meeting Cycle Addenda for the Council Meeting held Wednesday, March 24, 2021 and distributed at the meeting be received for information, including:

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

- 3 -

Memorandum from Councillor Colin Best re: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Update

Memorandum from Councillor Rory Nisan and Councillor Clark Somerville re: The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Update

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Social and Community Services re: Regulatory Amendments to the Child Care and Early Years Act

CARRIED

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND MOTIONS

Waive the Rules of Procedure

Moved by: Colin Best
Seconded by: Marianne Meed Ward

THAT the Rules of Procedure be waived to bring forward the Notice of Motion from Councillor Colin Best and Mayor Rob Burton re: Nomination to FCM Board of Directors 2021-2022, as included in the Council Addendum, for consideration at this time.

CARRIED

Notice of Motion from Councillor Colin Best and Mayor Rob Burton re: Nomination to FCM Board of Directors 2021-2022

Motion

Moved by: Colin Best
Seconded by: Rob Burton

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) represents the interests of municipalities on policy and program matters that fall within federal jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS FCM's Board of Directors is comprised of elected municipal officials from all regions and sizes of communities to form a broad base of support and provide FCM with the ability required to carry the municipal message to the federal government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Regional Council endorse Councillor Rory Nisan to stand for election on FCM's Board of Directors for the period June 2021 to June 2022.

AND THAT Regional Council assumes all costs associated with Councillor Nisan

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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Initiative (CHPI) for the period of April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022 as set out in Report No. SS-07-21 re: “Allocation of Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)”.

2. THAT the Commissioner of Social and Community Services be authorized to submit the CHPI Investment Plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) by the required March 26, 2021 deadline and execute all agreements and ancillary documents with MMAH and agencies approved for CHPI funding for the period of April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022, in a form satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services.
3. THAT the Commissioner of Social and Community Services be authorized to reallocate funding from one CHPI service category to another within the approved funding envelope if required to ensure full utilization of the Provincial allocation during the funding period, as per Report No. SS-07-21.
4. THAT the Regional Chair be authorized to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting Halton Region’s annual CHPI base allocation be increased to recognize the modifications that Halton Region has had to make to its emergency shelter program to respond to pandemic pressures and to address go forward growth related demand from vulnerable populations requesting housing assistance.
5. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of the Regional Chair’s letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and a copy of SS-07-21 to local MPPs as well as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

3. SS-12-21 - Recovery & Renewal: Ontario’s Vision for Social Assistance Transformation

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. SS-12-21 re: “Recovery & Renewal: Ontario’s Vision for Social Assistance Transformation” be received for information

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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Motion to Approve

Moved by: Colin Best

Seconded by: Rick Malboeuf

THAT all reports in the Health and Social Services portion of the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Planning and Public Works

- 1. PW-11-21 - Britannia East and Derry Green Regional Servicing, Wards 2 and 3, in the Town of Milton, Our File: PR-2686B (Attachment #2 CONFIDENTIAL - *Municipal Act* Section 239(2)(e) - litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Region of Halton)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the project budget for S2686B (ID7244), 375 mm wastewater main on Fifth Line from Main Street to Trudeau Drive, 450 mm wastewater main on Fifth Line from Trudeau Drive to Derry Road West and 600 mm wastewater main on Fifth Line from Derry Road, in the Town of Milton, be increased by \$1,800,000 from \$14,588,000 to \$16,388,000 and that the required funding be financed as set out in Attachment #1 to Report No. PW-11-21 re: "Britannia East and Derry Green Regional Servicing, Wards 2 and 3, in the Town of Milton, Our File: PR-2686B".

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

- 2. PW-13-21 - Tender Award – Upgrades Related to Technical Standards & Safety Authority (TSSA) Compliance at Various Pumping Stations and Bayshore Wastewater Pumping Station Upgrades, Our File: PR-3250C**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the project budget for S3250C (ID7861, ID7878), TSSA Upgrades – Wastewater Pumping Stations, be increased by \$2,528,000 from \$2,435,000 to \$4,963,000 and that the required funding be financed as set out in Attachment #1 to Report No. PW-13-21.
2. THAT the project budget for W3205C (ID7877), TSSA Upgrades – Water Booster Stations, be increased by \$178,000 from \$435,000

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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to \$613,000 and that the required funding be financed as set out in Attachment #2 to Report No. PW-13-21.

3. THAT the project budget for R3345B (ID7949), TSSA Upgrade for Storm Pump Stations, be increased by \$306,000 from \$256,000 to \$562,000 and that the required funding be financed as set out in Attachment #3 to Report No. PW-13-21.
4. THAT Regional Council authorize the award of Contract No. WS-3250C-21 re: Upgrades Related to TSSA Compliance at Various Pumping Stations and Bayshore Wastewater Pumping Station Upgrades, to W.S. Nicholls Construction Inc., in the amount of \$4,292,600.57 (excluding H.S.T.) as set out in Report No. PW-13-21, subject to the fulfillment of the Request for Tender requirements and a decision from the Federal Government on Halton Region's application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Stream, as applicable.
5. THAT the Manager of Strategic Sourcing be authorized to issue a Purchase Order in the amount of \$4,292,600.57 (excluding H.S.T.), to W.S. Nicholls Construction Inc., for Contract WS-3250C-21 subject to fulfillment of the condition precedents set out in Recommendation No. 4 above.
6. THAT the Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to execute the contract documents and any and all ancillary documents upon receipt of all necessary approvals.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

3. **PW-14-21 - 2018 Road Resurfacing Program, (R3286A), Our File: PR-2733J**
(Attachment #2 CONFIDENTIAL - *Municipal Act Section 239(2)(e)* - litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Region of Halton)

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the budget for R3286A "2019 Road Resurfacing Program", be increased by \$1,040,000 from \$9,713,000 to \$10,753,000 and that the required funding be financed as set out in Attachment #1 to Report No. PW-14-21.
2. THAT the Director of Legal Services and the Director of Engineering & Construction be authorized to settle this matter on

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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the agreed settlement terms as set out in Confidential Attachment #2 to Report No. PW-14-21.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

4. PW-12-21 - Drinking Water Systems Flow Summary Report 2020 (Refer to Attachment #1, Document entitled "Drinking Water Systems Flow Summary Report 2020" Under Separate Cover)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. PW-12-21 re: "Drinking Water Systems Flow Summary Report 2020" be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

5. LPS35-21 - Proposal to Designate the Reid Road Quarry as an Undertaking under the Environmental Assessment Act

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the joint submission provided as Attachment #1 to Report No. LPS35-21 re: "Proposal to Designate the Reid Road Quarry as an Undertaking under the Environmental Assessment Act", filed in response to the Environmental Registry of Ontario proposal #019-2876, be endorsed.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS35-21 re: "Proposal to Designate the Reid Road Quarry as an Undertaking under the Environmental Assessment Act" to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Town of Milton, Conservation Halton, and Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

6. LPS23-21 - Annual Update on Halton Developers' Liaison Committee

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. LPS23-21 re: "Annual Update on Halton Developers' Liaison Committee", be received for information.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS23-21

REGULAR MEETING OF REGIONAL COUNCIL 04-21

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

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“Annual Update on Halton Developers’ Liaison Committee” to the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Grand River Conservation Authority, Building Industry and Land Development Association’s Halton Region chapter (BILD-Halton), and West End Home Builders Association (WE HBA) for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

Motion to Approve

Moved by: Sean O’Meara

Seconded by: Lisa Kearns

THAT all reports in the Planning and Public Works portion of the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Administration and Finance

1. CA-02-21 - 2020 Annual Advocacy Update Report

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. CA-02-21 re: “2020 Annual Advocacy Update Report” be received for information.
2. THAT a copy of Report No. CA-02-21 be sent to Halton’s Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), for their information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

2. CA-04-21 - Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund Application Update

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. CA-04-21 - Provincial Audit and Accountability Fund Application Update be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

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3. FN-07-21 - Operating and Capital Budget Variance and Project Closure Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT capital projects be closed as set out in Attachment #3 to Report No. FN-07-21.
2. THAT capital project budgets and financing be revised as per Attachment #4 to Report No. FN-07-21.
3. THAT staff be authorized to transfer \$70,941.45 from the Tax Stabilization reserve (501020) in order to close Development Subdivision/Servicing Agreement Accounts as described in Report No. FN-07-21.
4. THAT staff be authorized to transfer surplus funds exceeding the 10% target balance in the Rate holding account to the Water Capital Reserve (505220) and Wastewater Capital Reserve (505320), and the surplus funds exceeding the 10% target in the Road holding account to the Tax Capital Reserve (505010) as described in Report No. FN-07-21.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

4. FN-13-21 - 2020 Annual Report on Investments and Cash Management

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. FN-13-21 re: "2020 Annual Report on Investments and Cash Management" be received for information.
2. THAT the Cash Management and Investment Policy be approved as set out in Attachment 2 to Report No. FN-13-21.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

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5. FN-14-21 - COVID-19 – Temporary amendment to the Water and Wastewater Billing and Collection Services Contract with the four Local Distribution Companies

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer be authorized to amend the Agreement for Water and Wastewater Billing and Collection Services with the four Local Distribution Companies (Burlington Hydro, Milton Hydro, Oakville Hydro, and Halton Hills Hydro) for the provision of water and wastewater billing and collection services as outlined in Report No. FN-14-21.
2. THAT the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the amendment to the Agreement for Water and Wastewater Billing Services to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services as outlined in Report No. FN-14-21.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

6. FN-06-21 - Remuneration and Expenses Paid to Members of Regional Council and Board Appointees During 2020

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. FN-06-21 re: “Remuneration and Expenses Paid to Members of Regional Council and Board Appointees During 2020” be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

7. FN-08-21 - Purchasing Activity Report for January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. FN-08-21 re: “Purchasing Activity Report for January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020” be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

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8. FN-09-21 - Annual Indexing of Halton's Development Charge (DC) By-laws

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. FN-09-21 "Annual Indexing of Halton's Development Charge (DC) By-laws" be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

9. LPS13-21 - Economic Development - Economic Review 2020

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. LPS13-21 re: "Economic Development – Economic Review 2020" be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

10. LPS15-21 - Update on Economic Development Strategic Implementation Plan 2012-2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. LPS15-21 re: "Update on Economic Development Strategic Implementation Plan 2012-2021" be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

11. LPS25-21 - Real Estate Activity Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Report No. LPS25-21 re: "Real Estate Activity Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2020" be received for information.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

Motion to Approve

Moved by: Rick Malboeuf

Seconded by: Colin Best

THAT all reports in the Administration and Finance portion of the agenda be adopted as presented.

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CARRIED

Motions

1. Notice of Motion from Councillor Colin Best and Councillor Clark Somerville re: Support for Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) Advocacy Initiative

Motion

Moved by: Colin Best

Seconded by: Clark Somerville

WHEREAS the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) represents local Municipalities across Ontario, including Halton Region, that have significant reserves and annual production of aggregate, stone and sand materials; and

WHEREAS TAPMO's membership share the perspective that local municipalities have a vital role to play in ensuring a sustainable aggregate industry for Ontario and as an Association representing aggregate rich communities; and

WHEREAS TAPMO will develop practical, long-term initiatives, solutions and actions to promote and protect the sustainability of aggregate production in Ontario while being mindful of the well-being of member municipalities and their residents; and

WHEREAS a recent review identified that in some Ontario municipalities the current methodology of establishing an assessment valuation for aggregate properties is much lower than what should be assessed at and that the implications are far reaching and shifts an inequitable share of of property taxes to the residential taxpayer; and

WHEREAS TAPMO representatives have continuously brought this inequity in property taxation by aggregate properties to the Provincial Government and specifically to the Minister of Finance over the past 3 years, however, there have not been any resulting changes; and

WHEREAS TAPMO is proposing to hire Upstream Strategy Group, a government relations firm to develop and deliver an advocacy approach to identify the inequity in the assessment model as well as potential methods for MPACs review, with the intention of having an improved assessment approach adopted by MPAC before the next Assessment valuation cycle to the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS TAPMO is also consulting with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) in

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order to clarify the issue regarding the assessment inequities and to assist in their advocacy messaging; and

WHEREAS TAPMO is requesting financial support for \$2,100 from member municipalities in 2021 for the retention of Upstream Strategy Group to conduct this advocacy strategy and initiative with the Provincial Government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT Regional Council supports this priority and directs staff to contribute to this advocacy effort through the approval of the contribution of \$2,100 from the Council-approved operating budget to TAPMO as outlined above;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the other municipal members of TAPMO for their information.

CARRIED

2. Notice of Motion from Mayor Rick Bonnette and Councillor Colin Best re: Requested Designation of Hidden Road Quarry under the Environmental Assessment Act

Motion

Moved by: Rick Bonnette

Seconded by: Colin Best

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is proposing to designate the Reid Road Reservoir Quarry under the Environmental Assessment Act, which will assess the potential adverse effects from this project on the natural environment and neighbouring community; and

WHEREAS Halton Region supports the proposed designation of the Reid Road Reservoir Quarry under the Environmental Assessment Act; and

WHEREAS the proposed Hidden Quarry has the potential to impact the natural environment and community in Guelph/Eramosa, Milton and Halton Hills in the same manner as the Reid Road Reservoir Quarry with blasting below the water table in a sensitive headwaters area, impacts to groundwater resources, fly rock threatening neighbours and motorists on Highway 7, and ill-defined haul routes adversely affecting residents and businesses for many years; and

WHEREAS despite efforts by Halton Region, the Town of Halton Hills, Township of Guelph/Eramosa and the Concerned Residents Coalition, the Hidden Quarry will be approved subject to fulfilment of conditions outlined in the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal decision; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario removed the ability of municipalities to negotiate haul routes with prospective aggregates producers, which has severely

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limited the ability of municipalities to mitigate the adverse effects from aggregate truck traffic on residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS proposed quarry projects are not required to evaluate the need for the aggregate they intend to produce, which can result in unnecessarily approved aggregate sites that wane open and closed for years, extending their lives and disrupting the lives of residents and communities, when aggregate production and supply can be better managed in this day and age;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to delay the final approval of the Hidden Quarry and that quarry project be subject to a designation under the Environmental Assessment Act in order to address the potential serious adverse environmental effects associated with it; and

AND THAT beyond the evaluation of potential adverse effects, the Province also be requested to include an assessment of the need for the undertaking as part of the quarry approval process;

AND THAT the Province revisit the removal of the ability for municipalities to negotiate haul routes with prospective producers;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Halton MPP's, Halton's Conservation Authorities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Township of Guelph/Eramosa, the Concerned Residents Coalition and Halton's Local Municipalities.

Mayor Bonnette requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Bonnette, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Meed Ward, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Parmar, Sharman, Somerville (23).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Notice of Motion from Mayor Rick Bonnette and Mayor Rob Burton re: Designation Request for the Proposed GTA West Project Under the Impact Assessment Act

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Motion
Moved by: Rick Bonnette
Seconded by: Rob Burton

WHEREAS all four Municipalities in Halton have declared a Climate Change Emergency;

AND WHEREAS on September 11, 2019 the Region of Halton declared a Climate Change Emergency;

AND WHEREAS the GTA West project will lead to more urban sprawl resulting in more GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS responding to the climate emergency requires immediate re-evaluation of all transportation plans to ensure that those investments help to reduce GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally altered the way we work, and the full impact on the long-term travel and mobility choices of people and goods is not yet fully understood and is likely to reduce the need for this highway;

AND WHEREAS we encourage that we work and live in our own communities where possible to help reduce GHG emissions;

AND WHEREAS 2,000 acres of farmland and 400 acres of environmentally sensitive land will be destroyed if this highway is constructed;

AND WHEREAS a significant portion of land required for the GTA West project in Halton is prime agricultural land with outstanding soils that will be lost forever;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic and other impacts related to climate change represent a threat to food security, where the protection of agricultural land must be a priority to enable food production for the long-term health, sustenance and resiliency of the population;

AND WHEREAS the GTA's Agricultural System is critically important to ensure an economically viable agricultural industry and rural landscape over the long-term;

AND WHEREAS the focus of provincial spending should shift away from individual travel and should be invested in more sustainable modes such as mass transit;

AND WHEREAS the 407 is underutilized and the Province could prioritize improving the use of existing infrastructure rather than investing in the GTA West

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project;

AND WHEREAS Ecojustice on behalf of Environmental Defence made a request to Impact Assessment Agency of Canada for designation of the GTA West project for a federal Impact Assessment pursuant to s.9(1) of the Impact Assessment Act;

AND WHEREAS in support of the request from Ecojustice, Halton Region submitted a letter supporting to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada on March 3, 2021 identified that Ontario Ministry of Transportation is not addressing the interests and issues of importance to our municipality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT further to the letter, The Regional Municipality of Halton reaffirms its opposition to the GTA West project and its commitment to protecting and preserving the natural environment and its work to mitigate the impacts of climate change,

AND FURTHER THAT The Regional Municipality of Halton hereby reiterates its request as set out in the March 3, 2021 letter and forwards a copy of that letter and this resolution to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada Wilkinson urging designation of the GTA West project for an Impact Assessment under the Impact Assessment Act.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Halton's MPs, Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Transportation, Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Halton's MPPs, City of Burlington, Towns of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville.

Councillor Elgar requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Bonnette, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Meed Ward, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Parmar, Sharman, Somerville (23).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Business from Council Addendum

Reports

- a. **SS-14-21 - Additional Provincial Capital Funding for the Catherton Charitable Foundation Assisted Housing Project in Milton**

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Report No. SS-14-21 re: "Additional Provincial Capital Funding for the Catherton Charitable Foundation Assisted Housing Project in Milton" be received for information.
2. THAT capital project T7103O (Housing New Units – Catherton) be increased by \$998,482 from \$3,984,371 to \$4,982,853 for new assisted housing units as set out in Attachment #1 to Report No. SS-14-21.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

- b. **LPS29-21 - Provincial Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt**

Moved by: Tom Adams

Motion to Amend

Seconded by: Clark Somerville

THAT Report No. LPS29-21 be amended by inserting the following as Recommendations #3 and #4:

3. THAT in response to the Provincial Consultation for Growing the Greenbelt as described in Report No. LPS29-21, the following additional points be included as part of the submission to be sent to the Province:
 - a. The Province be requested in the strongest of terms to ensure that direct notification and engagement be undertaken with all owners of land being studied for inclusion in the Greenbelt as well as other interested community stakeholders;
 - b. To enable effective engagement the Province recognize limitations for those in the rural area in engaging through electronic means due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for notification and engagement are tailored to reach the rural community; and
 - c. Any additional lands identified in consultation with the Halton municipalities be recommended for study as part of the submission.
4. THAT the Regional Chair request a meeting with the Minister of Natural

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Resources, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs together with representatives of the Halton agricultural community to discuss specific issues related to a potential expansion of the Greenbelt in Halton.

Councillor Somerville requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion to Amend and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Bonnette, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Meed Ward, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Parmar, Sharman, Somerville (23).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion to Amend **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

1. THAT Regional Council endorse Report No. LPS29-21 re: "Provincial Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt" as the basis to prepare a submission by the Province's April 19, 2021 Environmental Registry deadline.
2. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS29-21 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Halton's Members of Provincial Parliament for their information.
3. THAT in response to the Provincial Consultation for Growing the Greenbelt as described in Report No. LPS29-21, the following additional points be included as part of the submission to be sent to the Province:
 - a. The Province be requested in the strongest of terms to ensure that direct notification and engagement be undertaken with all owners of land being studied for inclusion in the Greenbelt as well as other interested community stakeholders;
 - b. To enable effective engagement the Province recognize limitations for those in the rural area in engaging through electronic means due to inadequate broadband internet access and ensure opportunities for notification and engagement are tailored to reach the rural community; and
 - c. Any additional lands identified in consultation with the Halton municipalities be recommended for study as part of the submission.
4. THAT the Regional Chair request a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of

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Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs together with representatives of the Halton agricultural community to discuss specific issues related to a potential expansion of the Greenbelt in Halton.

Mayor Burton requested that a recorded vote be taken on the recommendation to approve the Report as Amended and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Bonnette, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Meed Ward, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Parmar, Sharman, Somerville (23).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the recommendation to approve the Report as Amended **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- c. ST-04-21/LPS38-21 - Property Matter - Town of Oakville and City of Burlington (CONFIDENTIAL)**
(Municipal Act Section 239(2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Region of Halton)

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the necessary agreements and ancillary documents to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Legislative & Planning Services and Corporate Counsel, the Commissioner of the Strategic Transformation Group, and the Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer, to secure the two additional facilities outlined in Report No. ST-04-21/LPS38-21 re: "Property Matter – Town of Oakville and City of Burlington".
2. THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated authority to execute such additional agreements and ancillary documents, prepared to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Legislative & Planning Services and Corporate Counsel, the Commissioner of the Strategic Transformation Group, and the Commissioner of Finance and Regional Treasurer, as may be required to deploy such future clinic facilities as noted in Report No. ST-04-21/LPS38-21.

There were no amendments to the above-noted report.

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Motion to Approve

Moved by: Colin Best

Seconded by: Zeeshan Hamid

THAT Report Nos. SS-14-21 and ST-04-21/LPS38-21 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Motions

b. Notice of Motion from Councillor Sean O'Meara and Mayor Rob Burton re: Provincial Government Renewal of Funding and Expansion of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant Program

Councillor Jeff Knoll did not participate in the discussion of this item owing to his declaration of pecuniary interest.

It was requested that the phrase "and also include those businesses in red zones" be inserted after the date "March 31, 2021" in the antepenultimate clause in the motion; this was accepted by the mover and seconder.

Motion, as amended

Moved by: Sean O'Meara

Seconded by: Rob Burton

WHEREAS on December 26, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. Ontario entered into a Province-wide Shutdown which limited many main street businesses to curbside pick-up and delivery options only;

WHEREAS on January 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., O.Reg. 11/21: STAY-AT-HOME ORDER became effective which requires that individuals stay home and only go out for essential trips, regulates the daily operating hours of general main street retail businesses and limits curbside pick-up to pre-ordered items only;

WHEREAS on January 15, 2021, applications opened for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant program in which eligible businesses can receive between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenues as a result of the Province-wide Shutdown;

WHEREAS to be eligible for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant program, a small business must: 1) be required to close or significantly restrict services due to the Province-wide Shutdown effective 12:01 a.m. on December 26, 2020; 2) have fewer than 100 employees at the enterprise level; and 3) have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline comparing April 2020 to April 2019 revenues, and new businesses established since April 2019 are eligible provided they meet the other eligibility criteria;

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WHEREAS new business start-ups which began operations between February 2020 and October 2020 applying for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant Program are restricted to comparing their highest revenue month with December 2020 revenue, thereby making new businesses whose revenues increased in December 2020 ineligible for the Program; and

WHEREAS as of March 31, 2021 applications are no longer being accepted for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the provincial government be requested to extend the Ontario Small Business Support Grant Program beyond March 31, 2021 and also include those businesses in red zones to help Halton small businesses survive the COVID-19 pandemic and to figure in the recovery of the Ontario economy in the future;

AND THAT the provincial government be requested to expand the eligibility requirements of the Ontario Small Business Support Grant Program to allow new businesses operating from February 2020 to October 2020 more flexibility in the months selected to demonstrate revenue decline, and not be limited to a comparison with December 2020 revenue;

AND THAT a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Halton's MPs, Halton's MPPs, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario Big City Mayor's Caucus (OBCM), Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO), GTHA Mayors and Chairs, Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA), Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO), Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA), Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, Milton Chamber of Commerce, Oakville Chamber of Commerce, the City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville.

Mayor Burton requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion, as amended and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Bentivegna, Best, Bonnette, Burton, Cluett, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Gittings, Hamid, Kearns, Krantz, Meed Ward, Malboeuf, Nisan, O'Meara, Parmar, Sharman, Somerville (22).

Nays: None (0).

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Abstaining: Knoll (declaration of pecuniary interest).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion, as amended **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Waive the Rules of Procedure
Moved by: Rob Burton
Seconded by: Jane Fogal

THAT the Rules of Procedure be waived to introduce and consider a Notice of Motion from Mayor Rob Burton and Councillor Jane Fogal re: A Fifth Growth Scenario

CARRIED

**Notice of Motion from Mayor Rob Burton and Councillor Jane Fogal re:
A Fifth Growth Scenario**

Motion to Defer
Moved by: Marianne Meed Ward
Seconded by: Colin Best

THAT the Motion from Mayor Rob Burton and Councillor Jane Fogal re: A Fifth Growth Scenario be deferred to the Regional Council Meeting of April 21, 2021.

Chair Carr requested that a recorded vote be taken on the Motion to Defer and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Bentivegna, Best, Bonnette, Cluett, Galbraith, Kearns, Krantz, Malboeuf, Meed Ward, Nisan, O'Meara, Sharman, Somerville (14).

Nays: Adams, Burton, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Gittings, Hamid, Knoll, Parmar (9).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion to Defer **CARRIED**

Council recessed at 11:40 a.m. and resumed at 12:01 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS OF MEMBERS

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health, provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic in Halton, including present reported infection rates in Halton and the rollout of vaccine clinics. A copy of this presentation is appended to the meeting agenda.

There was no other business or member comments.

Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee Submission
Re: Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt

The Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee advises and assists the Region’s work to maintain a permanently secure, economically viable agriculture industry and preserve the character and landscape of Halton’s rural areas. The Committee’s work includes reviews and recommendations on many aspects of agriculture and agricultural policy in Halton.

General Comments:

All Halton Agricultural Advisory Committee (HAAC) members expressed concern over the limited time for consultation, lack of detailed mapping and the limited information available. These concerns will be repeated through out the report emphasizing the need for a wholesome consultation process.

The agricultural community is concerned that the proposal does not address next steps and in particular, what consultation process is envisioned for landowners. Affected landowners in the rural areas are having issues with internet access and signal strength which limits access to information and consultation opportunities. The consultation timeline was very short and does not show respect for landowners, particularly given rural internet limitations and the ongoing pandemic. The agricultural community is dissatisfied with the consultation to date and despite the very limited opportunity for community discussions, provides these comments now to avoid risking being excluded from the consultation process altogether.

Question 1: What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?

Question 1 Key Points Summary:

1. Strongly recommend the use of science and ground truthing in designation.
2. Province must show respect for the landowners in the consultation process with regards to time frame, rural internet challenges, and COVID-19.
3. Province should place agricultural lens at the forefront of this proposal. In amending any Greenbelt policies or mapping, consider farmers/farm family’s ability to build for the future, access agricultural services, potential loss in land value, and ability to plan for future generations.
4. The Paris Galt moraine, in North Halton is an important recharge area for rural areas and headwaters for part of the Grand River and as such is extremely important.
5. Strongly suggest all Southern Ontario should be placed within the Greenbelt and Municipalities would need to apply for development. This would alleviate the leapfrog effect which took place when the Greenbelt was originally put in place.

The Committee also noted the following with respect to this question:

- Province has shown a lack of respect for residents and farmers given COVID and rural internet limitations.
- Province must consider importance of ground truthing and also soil class analysis in any amendment to Greenbelt mapping.

- Province may consider opportunities to enhance the Greenbelt based on British Columbia and Quebec's experiences with Agricultural Land Reserve Plans.
- Concerns regarding permissiveness in Greenbelt Plan policies with regard to aggregate operations.
- Province must consider that farmers are leaving because government direction is constantly changing and creating uncertainty.
- Concerns regarding the impact of Greenbelt designation on ability to borrow for farm improvements.

Question 2: What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?

Question 2 Key Points Summary:

1. Province must utilize science and ground truthing in any decisions to expand or enhance the Greenbelt.
2. Province must make landowner consultation a key priority and must tailor engagement to ensure affected community and landowners are heard.
3. Province must focus on the agricultural system when evaluating potential candidate study areas.

The Committee also noted the following with respect to this question:

- Province should consider how designations can create a leapfrog effect which limits the agricultural system and ability for farmers to leverage assets in their area.
- Province should consider the importance of looking beyond municipal boundaries to maintain and enhance the agricultural system
- Province's proposal lacks clarity about intentions, next steps, how public consultation will take place and how feedback will be used.

Question 3: What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?

Question 3 Key Points Summary:

1. Full support on Urban River Valleys (URV). Currently, in the rural areas, they are designated as natural heritage features.

The Committee also noted the following with respect to this question:

- Province should provide information on the quantum of public land within the Provincial URV system.

Question 4: Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?

Question 4 Key Points Summary:

1. Province must respect landowners and engage in consultation within conducive timelines.
2. Province must ensure notification is broad and reaches those in the rural area with poor internet and media access.
3. Province must utilize all tools available to enhance agricultural systems planning in a positive manner and not in a restrictive way. We realize the agricultural systems

guidelines are currently being developed but realize it is easier to work within a system than within a designation which complicates various issues.

4. Province must prioritize growth through intensification of urban densities.
5. Committee appreciates Halton's willingness to discuss this matter and remains hopeful that Province will show same respect and willingness to work with agricultural committees.

The Committee also noted the following with respect to this question:

- Province should not have limited consideration of candidate study areas to those lands which are not under study for potential urban expansion because these are the lands with highest quality soils, most in need of protection.
- Province must clarify when and how land owners would be engaged.
- Province should consider policy revisions limiting aggregate operations in the Greenbelt.

Question 5: How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above?

Question 5 Key Points Summary:

1. Province must utilize an agricultural systems approach to protecting and enhancing agriculture in Halton.
2. Province must invest in and support agriculture to keep it in Southern Ontario.
3. Farmers are challenged by complex bureaucracy and need streamlined permissions to maintain and enhance their businesses.
4. Province should consider policy revisions which address edge planning to support both urban growth and the agricultural industry.

The Committee also noted the following with respect to this question:

- Province must utilize science and ground truthing in any decisions to expand or enhance the Greenbelt.
- Province must prioritize growth through intensification of urban densities.
- Province should consider Greenbelt policy revisions which prioritize enhancement of the agricultural system.

Question 6: Are there other priorities that should be considered?

Question 6 Key Points Summary:

1. Province should consider an Agricultural Preserve/Agricultural system approach rather than a Greenbelt designation.
2. Province should support agriculture and provide financial support in a direct and simple manner.

Discussions also took place regarding:

- Province should consider providing municipalities with additional tools to secure hard urban boundaries.
- Province should consider the importance of branding for public buy-in and use of terms like "Food Belt" vs. "Green Belt".

Halton Region Natural Heritage Advisory Committee Submission
Re: Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt

The Natural Heritage Advisory Committee advises and assists the Region with policy and implementation matters related to environmental management, conservation, climate change and community sustainability in Halton.

Question 1: What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?

The Natural Heritage Advisory Committee agrees with and endorses the passage of Bill 71, "Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act, 2019, introduced by MP Mike Schreiner.

Question 2: What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?

1. We strongly recommend that the assessment of the boundaries of the Paris Galt Moraine are developed using a system thinking (holistic) approach where ecological, hydrological, climate change effects, permissible agricultural and non-agricultural activities, as well as sustainability issues are considered in an integrated fashion.
2. The assessment should also consider identifying potential infrastructure sites and proposing, ahead of time, the regulatory structure to ensure ecological sound designs and approaches to the implementation of infrastructure activities affecting the Greenbelt.
3. We also require more information from the province on hydrological matters to make further comments:
 - a. What are the geographical boundaries and hydrological boundaries of the Paris Galt Moraine, including details of the surface and subsurface hydrological features for the proposed Greenbelt expansion area?
 - b. As well as,
 - i. how much water is currently being extracted from local aquifers for commercial use?
 - ii. what are the present and projected needs for the towns and agricultural fields associated with the moraine (considering climate changes)?
 - iii. How will the projected future commercial extraction conflict with local water needs?

Question 3: What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?

1. A System Thinking approach is needed in the study of rural and urban river valleys. It must take into consideration the complete watershed, its current and past state, as well as its future sustainability.
2. The province needs to clearly define what the goals of such protection are.
Will the goals include:
 - a. Enhancing the ecological function and water quality of the stream, leading, among other things, to
 - i. Increasing fish spawning habitat?

- ii. Increasing bank and riparian plant diversity?
 - b. Controlling bank erosion, siltation, and polluted road runoff (engineered and Nature-based strategies)?
 - c. Developing (engineered and Nature-based) approaches to control or diminish the effects of flush flooding events downstream (this will impact private urban lands adjacent to the streams),
 - d. Reforestation of the headwaters ecosystem and protection/enhancement of stream associated wetlands?
 - e. Set, short and long term, conditions and bank enhancement goals along private and agricultural lands supported with appropriate funding mechanisms. In some watersheds, a mechanism for funding is already present for agricultural lands and agricultural fencing programs.
 - f. We need to look for opportunities to create solutions for rural riparian buffers issues. For example: bridge over river/streams for agricultural livestock—with a well-designed bridge and not using gravel crossings for livestock as these causes more downstream damage.
3. Other points:
- a. Expand public lands to expand and study of stream to make it viable and sustainable.
 - b. Expand to private lands in the urban area.
 - c. Environmental goods and service needs to be created
4. The NHS and Greenbelt policies should not create duplication but rather work within the greater systems approach for river valleys.

Question 4: Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?

We agree with the comments provided by the Region however we want to highlight:

1. Municipalities have limited tools for protecting agricultural lands and amendments to the Greenbelt should not be the only opportunity to protect them.
2. The agricultural lands are important. We are looking for another mechanism to support prime agriculture and its function and enhancement on the NHS.
3. The Province and the Greenbelt should recognize that a significant value of the agricultural land is the ecological benefits and services it provides to the greenbelt. We are interested in long-term viability – agriculture is part of the natural heritage system.
4. Local agricultural support and creates a local market and access to food – this supports neighbouring populations in times of challenges and uncertainty.
5. We want long term sustainability of agricultural land. We want agricultural lands that thrive and are resilient. We want intensification, not greenfield “urban” development.

Question 6: Are there other priorities that should be considered?

1. Climate Change: sequestration, adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency should be prioritized in any considerations of Greenbelt expansion.
2. MZO should not be permitted within the Greenbelt nor any non-urban area. We have concerns about MZO generally and in particular their ability to permit inappropriate land uses without any community engagement.

3. Infrastructure and development need to avoid fragmenting greenbelt form and function – animal crossing, water absorption, etc.
4. Hydrological features and resources should be a priority.
5. Province should review Agricultural Impact Assessment policies to enhance the protection of farming.
6. Province should revise policies to enhance protection of the natural heritage system.
7. Support for agri-tourism and other on-farm diversified businesses should be a Provincial priority. Agricultural thrives and becomes more resilient throughout the long term when agricultural operations are permitted to diversify their businesses.