

Attention: Province of Ontario

Re: Support for additional Employment Area lands in the Township of Wilmot

March 4, 2024

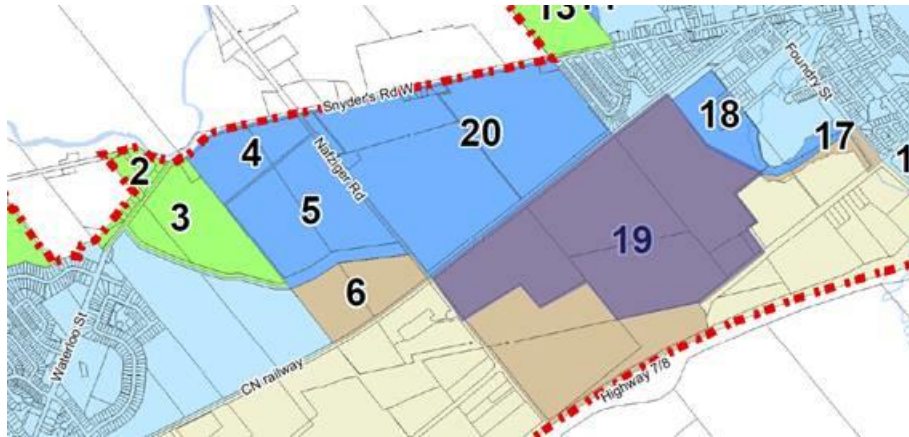
To Whom It May Concern,

The Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation (Waterloo EDC) is an independent, not-for-profit organization funded primarily by the Region of Waterloo and seven area municipalities: the Cities of Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge and the Townships of Wellesley, Woolwich, North Dumfries and Wilmot.

We are the first point of contact for companies looking to locate, relocate or expand in the Waterloo Region, and as such, I am indeed pleased to support the need for additional Employment Area lands in the Township of Wilmot to facilitate a balanced growth model.

As the Township of Wilmot works towards developing and planning growth of a complete community, the provision of adequately available and shovel-ready employment lands is of significant importance. The Township of Wilmot has continually pushed for opportunities to balance residential and employment growth in the township - highlighted by a concentrated growth model wherein residential/community area growth occur between Baden and New Hamburg on the north side of the CN railway with employment growth occurring south of the railway and north of Provincial Highway 7/8.

Bill 162 is supportive of the Community Area growth vision of Wilmot Township, but it does not sufficiently address the need for additional Employment Area to facilitate a balanced growth model. The designation of approximately 220 acres for employment is significant not only for the township, but for Waterloo Region as a whole. Shovel-ready employment lands, and in particular large parcels, are in short supply, but in high demand. The lands identified by the township (highlighted in purple on the image below) are within a prime location, are not constrained by environmental features, have potential for rail connectivity, and have access to a controlled four-lane provincial highway.



For all the above reasons, including strong alignment with Waterloo EDC's current Fed Dev Ontario project promoting rural and peri-urban investment readiness, we keenly support the inclusion of these lands as Employment Area to support balanced growth within the Township of Wilmot, and to help with their investment readiness journey within Waterloo Region.

Sincerely,

Tony LaMantia, BA, MA, ICD.D
President & CEO