



Corporate Report

Clerk's Files CD.01.REG

Originator's
Files

DATE: April 14, 2009

TO: Chair and Members of Planning and Development Committee
Meeting Date: May 4, 2009

FROM: Edward R. Sajecki
Commissioner of Planning and Building

SUBJECT: **Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) Proposing Changes to Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management**

- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. That the proposed *Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) Proposing Changes to Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management*, attached as Appendix 1, be supported subject to the modifications identified and detailed in Appendix 2 of the report titled "*Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) Proposing Changes to Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management*" dated April 14, 2009 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building.
 2. That the report titled "*Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) Proposing Changes to Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management*", dated April 14, 2009 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building, be forwarded by the City Clerk to the Region of Peel, the City of Brampton and the Town of Caledon.

BACKGROUND: The Peel Regional Official Plan Review (PROPR) is underway to bring the Regional Official Plan into conformity with recent provincial initiatives and legislation. It is also the mandatory five-year review required by the *Planning Act*.

A report titled “Peel Region Official Plan Review – Update” from the Commissioner of Planning and Building which summarized the PROPR process was brought forward to Planning and Development Committee on January 12, 2009.

The PROPR work program was approved by Regional Council in September 2007. It consists of 15 focus areas as illustrated in Figure 1 below. Mississauga staff have participated on working committees, reviewed draft discussion papers and attended Regional workshops as part of the PROPR process.

FIGURE 1:
 Region of Peel Official Plan Review, 15 Focus Areas



The results of the PROPR are intended to be implemented through several Regional Plan Amendments (ROPAs). ROPA 21 Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) Proposing Changes to Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management is the second of these amendments. ROPA 20 – Sustainability and Energy Policies was brought forward to Planning and Development Committee at its meeting on March 30, 2009 and endorsed by City Council at its meeting on April 8, 2009.

The amendments, focus areas, and anticipated dates for the remaining ROPAs to be brought forward to Regional Council are:

- ROPA 22 – Transportation Policies (was scheduled on Regional Council - General Committee agenda on March 26, 2009 and rescheduled for Regional Council on April 2, 2009);
- ROPA 23 – Regional Housing Strategy (May 2009);
- ROPA 18 – Managing Growth, Employment Lands, Greenbelt Conformity, Monitoring (June 2009); and,
- Implementation ROPA – Transportation Schedules and Housekeeping (Fall 2009).

The proposed ROPA bundles and dates are guidelines. The timing and grouping of focus areas may change as staff work through the PROPR process.

PRESENT STATUS: The Region of Peel has requested comments on ROPA 21, attached as Appendix 1.

COMMENTS: Detailed comments provided in Appendix 2 are summarized below.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A deputation regarding ROPA 21 was brought forward to the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) at its meeting on April 7, 2009. EAC endorses ROPA 21, although the following issues were identified in regard to this amendment:

- support for the removal of active recreational uses from Core Areas was expressed;
- agreement that urban agriculture should be considered in future Regional Agricultural Policy proposals and include sustainable and organic farming practices for this type of agriculture;
- emissions modelling in relation to Air Quality policies should consider the role of vegetation in air quality;
- increasing resources for land securement; and,
- identify target Natural Heritage System for the Region.

PART 1: NATURAL HERITAGE

The Natural Heritage component of the PROPR is to address the natural heritage policies in the Regional Official Plan to identify where mapping and policy updates are required to bring the plan into conformity. Both the Provincial Policy Statement (2005) and Greenbelt Plan (2005) require updated mapping of Regional Official Plan policy for natural heritage. Identified policy and mapping gaps for the natural heritage features policies of the Greenlands System are addressed as well as Provincial Policy Statement directions for significant woodlands, wildlife habitat and valleylands.

ROPA 21 Natural Heritage component clarifies policies for significant woodlands, wildlife and valleylands in line with the direction in the Provincial Policy Statement. They also strengthen the role of greenlands securement, stewardship and incentives as policy initiatives that are needed to achieve the Region's natural heritage objectives.

Natural Heritage is referenced through the draft Strategic Plan's Living Green Pillar in the principle "Mississauga is a city that values its shared responsibility to leave a legacy of a clean and healthy natural environment."

The Natural Heritage and Greenbelt Policies in *Mississauga Plan* address the protection of the natural heritage features and area by restricting development and providing for the conservation of natural heritage features and areas.

Staff support the revisions to the natural heritage policies in ROPA 21 which are proposed to address provincial conformity requirements. An additional revision which should be considered, however, is the deletion of policy 2.3.2.5e in its entirety, to remove the exception allowing compatible recreational uses in the Core Areas of the Greenlands System.

Compatible recreational uses, as defined in the glossary of the Regional Official Plan, could include active uses such as golf courses, tennis courts and recreation theme parks, which may involve large scale modifications of the land surface, as well as buildings and structures. The provision to allow active recreational uses in Core

Areas, such as the Credit River and Etobicoke Creek valleys, is not consistent with the direction given to municipalities in the Greenbelt Plan, which encourages municipalities to maintain and to the extent possible, enhance the ecological features and functions found within these valley systems.

PART II: AGRICULTURE

Agriculture policies in the Regional Official Plan are being revised or added to address socio-economic and demographic changes. The purpose of the policies is to address emerging issues and to guide development in the agricultural industry so that objectives can be reached. Draft polices in ROPA 21 will attempt to minimize land use conflicts by protecting agricultural land and enhancing agriculture, agro-related activities and the business of agriculture.

Mississauga has no designated agricultural land and there are no agricultural policies in the City's Official Plan. The agricultural policies proposed in ROPA 21 for the most part do not apply to Mississauga.

Mississauga staff support the agricultural policies, however, consideration should be given to include policies regarding urban agriculture in future agricultural policies. The Environmental Advisory Committee also supported the comment regarding urban agriculture including sustainable and organic farming. The City of Mississauga permits community gardens as part of the uses permitted in more that one zone in its Zoning By-law. As well, staff are requesting clarification regarding the source of financial incentives identified in these policies.

PART III: AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality component of the PROPR brings the Official Plan into conformity with new provincial legislation including the:

- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe;
- Energy Conservation Leadership Act (Bill 21); and,
- Provincial Policy Statement (2005).

It is anticipated that the amendment will strengthen the current Airshed section of the existing Regional Official Plan and will bring existing policies into conformity with new Provincial legislation.

Air Quality is part of the *Lead and Encourage Environmentally Responsible Approaches* that is part of *Living Green* Strategic Direction in the City's draft Strategic Plan.

In *Mississauga Plan*, air quality issues include supporting other levels of government and encouraging initiatives to prevent and reduce pollution are incorporated as part of *Environmental Issues* and enhanced air quality policies are anticipated in the City's draft Official Plan. ROPA 21 Air Quality policies provide a higher level context for air quality initiatives and will align with the existing and proposed Mississauga Plan policies.

Mississauga staff are supportive of the air quality policies in ROPA 21. Air quality policies provide a higher level context for air quality initiatives and will work well with the existing and proposed Mississauga Plan policies. Staff are seeking clarification on air quality tools, targets and monitoring identified in the policies.

PART IV: INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT (IWM)

The Integrated Waste Management policies are intended to bring the Regional Official Plan into conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement (2005). The Growth Plan's emphasis on creating a culture of conservation includes policies on integrated waste management.

ROPA 21 Integrated Waste Management Policies update the existing policies in the following areas: innovative source reduction and reuse measures, industrial and commercial waste, construction and demolition waste management, impacts of intensification on IWM planning, energy from waste and residual waste and municipal collaboration.

In *Mississauga Plan*, Waste Management is identified in the Environmental Issues section. These policies are inline with the Integrated Waste Management policies proposed in ROPA 21 including policies on principles of reduction, reuse and recycling, and to permit waste processing facilities in appropriate locations.

Mississauga staff support the Integrated Waste Management Policies in ROPA 21, however, selected policies which relate to site design should be modified to encouragement policies. Site development standards and design are local area municipality responsibilities. Mississauga Plan policies in relation to site design state that flexibility should be established in waste handling for development proposals and standards should address a range of waste management options.

As well, staff are requesting clarification of Energy from Waste policies. Clarification is sought in relation to such issues as air emissions and odour in relation to potential energy from waste sites. These issues need to be resolved in conjunction with the adoption of these policies.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Not applicable

CONCLUSION: City of Mississauga staff support the Regional Official Plan Policies proposed in ROPA 21. Generally, these policies align with the policies in the new Strategic Plan and the anticipated directions in the draft Official Plan. Staff have requested some clarification and modifications of selected policies as detailed in Appendix 2. As well, in relation to the Natural Heritage Policies, staff have recommended that *compatible recreation* be removed as a permitted use within Core Areas. The Region of Peel should be advised that the City of Mississauga supports ROPA 21 provided the policies are amended as stated in this report.

ATTACHMENTS: APPENDIX 1: Regional of Peel, Regional Official Plan, Regional Official Plan Amendment Number 21 (ROPA 21) – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management Policies
APPENDIX 2: Summary of Comments

Original Signed By:

Edward R. Sajecki
Commissioner of Planning and Building

Prepared By: Emily Irvine, Planner, Policy Planning Division

REGION OF PEEL
REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN
REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT
NUMBER 21 (ROPA 21)
NATURAL HERITAGE, AGRICULTURE, AIR QUALITY
AND INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Draft January 27, 2009

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

PART A – THE PREAMBLE1. Purpose of the Amendment

To revise and add policies related to natural heritage, agriculture, air quality and integrated waste management to the Region of Peel Official Plan.

2. Location

This Amendment applies throughout the Regional Municipality of Peel.

3. Basis

In September 2007, Regional Council endorsed a work program to proceed with a five-year review of the Regional Official Plan (ROP) through the Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) process. The review is considering amendments that are necessary to bring the ROP into conformity with relevant legislation, plans and policies including the Provincial Policy Statement (2005 PPS), the Greenbelt Plan (2005) and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006).

The Region of Peel Official Plan was initially adopted by Council on July 11, 1996 and approved with modifications by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on October 22, 1996. The Regional Plan was subsequently updated through the ROP Strategic Update (ROPSU) process that was initiated in 2002, as a scoped review of the Official Plan. This scoped review included two amendments to the ROP related to natural heritage – ROP Amendment 7 (Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Conformity) and ROP Amendment 13 (update of Schedule A, Core Areas of the Greenlands System), which is currently subject to appeal. Air quality policies were also included in an amendment related to transportation policy in ROP Amendment 16 (Transportation Network and Policies). Since it was initially adopted in 1996 and updated through ROPSU, there have been no further updates or amendments to the ROP's natural heritage, agriculture, air quality and waste management policies.

In accordance with the endorsed work program, PROPR is being completed through several concurrent policy review projects that include reviews of the Plan's natural heritage, agriculture, air quality and integrated waste management policies. Through the policy review projects, revisions to the Plan's text, schedules and figures are being proposed to ensure that policy is up-to-date and conforms with provincial policy requirements.

Natural Heritage

The Natural Heritage Policy Review component of PROPR addresses the natural heritage policies of the ROP to identify where mapping and policy updates are required to bring the Plan into conformity with the 2005 Provincial Policy Statement and to update existing policies where new information, mapping data and terminology has identified policy gaps since the Plan was approved and last updated. The key policy gaps include policy and mapping updates for the natural heritage features policies of the Greenlands System including amendments to address policy direction in the PPS for significant woodlands, significant wildlife habitat and significant valleylands.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Supporting research for the policy review began in early 2008, with the Peel-Caledon Significant Woodlands and Significant Wildlife Habitat Study. Initial draft recommendations for the identification and evaluation of significant woodlands and significant wildlife habitat for Peel Region were presented to Councilors, stakeholders and the general public through a public consultation process. In addition to the technical study, Regional staff collected updated mapping data for other Core Areas of the Greenlands System and prepared a recommended approach for the identification of Core valley and stream corridors as further input to the policy review. A Natural Heritage Discussion Paper was prepared for further consultation on draft policy options for the ROP.

The recommended policies contained in ROPA 21 consider input received through the Peel-Caledon Significant Woodlands and Significant Wildlife Habitat Study and Natural Heritage Policy Review Discussion Paper consultations. The proposed amendments to achieve provincial conformity and which respond to public comments received during the consultation process address the following policy areas:

- Mapping updates for Core wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs), Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas (ESAs) and Escarpment Natural Areas;
- Significant valleylands;
- Significant woodlands;
- Significant wildlife habitat;
- Greenbelt conformity for natural heritage; and
- Greenlands management and stewardship.

Agriculture

The Region of Peel is committed to protecting the agricultural industry as a major contributor to the economy and health of communities, which is consistent with the Province of Ontario's policy direction. Through PROPR, amendments to the ROP are being proposed to address policy requirements in the 2005 PPS and that respond to the current needs of the agricultural community in Peel. This amendment builds on the existing Official Plan policies to minimize rural-urban land use conflicts, and to increase certainty for the agricultural sector to foster long-term investment in, improvement to, and management of the agricultural sector. The main purpose is the continued protection of prime agricultural areas by preventing further fragmentation and loss of the agricultural land base caused by lot creation and conversion of prime agricultural areas to other uses; as well as to provide appropriate flexibility to allow for agriculture, agriculture-related and secondary uses, normal farm practices and an evolving agricultural/ rural economy. Policy will also strengthen stewardship programs within the agricultural sector to achieve both agricultural and environmental objectives.

Air Quality

The Air Quality Policy Review component of PROPR addresses the air quality policies in the Official Plan and brings it into conformity with new provincial legislation. The existing Airshed section of the ROP is being amended for the following reasons:

- to conform with Provincial legislation;
- to consider air quality in the context of the rapid growth in population and employment in Peel;

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

- to address growing concerns related to air quality impacts on human health, the environment and economy;
- to address climate change and the use of fossil fuels; and
- to support sustainability objectives of the ROP.

As part of the air quality policy review process, a discussion paper was completed which included the following information:

- an overview of air pollutants, sources and impacts;
- an assessment of the current air quality situation in Peel Region;
- a summary of best practices and key policy directions; and
- recommendations for Official Plan policy.

Regional staff consulted with the PROPR Air Quality Advisory Committee, which included representatives from all three area municipalities. In addition, a half day consultation workshop was held with key stakeholders to obtain comments on the discussion paper and recommended draft Official Plan policies.

Based on the policy directions outlined in the Discussion Paper and comments received during the consultations, air quality policies for the Regional Official Plan were developed. The policies contained in ROPA 21 strengthen the current Airshed section of the existing Official Plan and bring the plan into conformity with new provincial legislation. Due to the complex, integrated nature of air quality, there are direct inter-relationships with other PROPR focus areas which are proposing additional air quality related policy amendments. The additional policies are being considered in the sustainability, energy and transportation focus areas.

Integrated Waste Management

The Integrated Waste Management component of the PROPR reviews the existing waste management policies in the ROP and brings the Plan into conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement (2005) and Growth Plan (2006). The Growth Plan emphasizes planning for a culture of conservation with references for municipalities to develop the following integrated waste management (IWM) policies: enhanced waste reduction, composting, and recycling; a comprehensive plan with integrated approaches to waste management; promotion of reuse and recycling of construction materials; consideration of waste management initiatives within the context of long term regional planning and collaboration with the neighbouring municipalities.

A consultation meeting was held with the area municipalities, Waste Management staff, Real Property Assessment staff, Purchasing staff, and external stakeholders for input on the draft discussion paper and draft Official Plan policies. ROPA 21 modifies out of date policies in the existing Official Plan and brings the plan into conformity with new provincial legislation in the following areas: innovative source reduction and reuse measures, industrial and commercial waste, construction and demolition waste management, impacts of intensification on IWM planning, energy from waste and residual waste, and municipal collaboration.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

PART B – THE AMENDMENT

All of the Amendment entitled PART B – THE AMENDMENT, consisting of the attached text, schedules, tables and figures constitute Amendment No.21 to the Region of Peel Official Plan, 1996. The policy additions, deletions and renumbering in the amendment are based on the November 2008 Regional Official Plan Office Consolidation which incorporates the latest approved amendments to the Regional Official Plan.

a. Amendments to Text

1. Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3, is amended by deleting the first sentence in the second paragraph and replacing it with the following:

“Chapters 1 to 7, Tables 1 to 3, Schedules A to H, and the Glossary, constitute the *Region of Peel Official Plan*.”
2. Chapter 2, Section 2.1.1, is amended by adding the following after the first sentence in the fourth paragraph:

“These efforts contribute to ecological sustainability and a healthy environment for the residents of the Region. This is accomplished by promoting sustainable development in accordance with the policies of this Plan and through decisions that integrate social, economic, environmental and cultural considerations which affect the environment.”
3. Chapter 2, Section 2.1.1, is amended by adding the words “Provincial Policy Statement” and “Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Places to Grow)” before the words “Niagara Escarpment Plan” in the last sentence of the fourth paragraph.
4. Chapter 2, Section 2.2.1.2 is amended by deleting the words “conserve and maintain” and replacing them with the words “conserve, maintain and enhance”.
5. Chapter 2, Section 2.2.3 amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“2.2.3 Air Quality

Air quality is a significant issue which can negatively affect human health, the environment and economy. Peel is part of a Great Lakes Basin climatic system or airshed. Peel’s air quality is affected not only by local sources of air pollution, but also regional, national and international sources. Larger weather systems may flush out, bring in, or trap polluted air. On average, approximately fifty per cent of the air pollution experienced in Peel comes from sources in the United States. In addition, Peel’s emissions also affect our neighbours downwind.

Air pollution comes from a number of natural and man made sources which include industry, transportation, heating and cooling, dust and forest fires. Poor air quality affects everyone, including healthy individuals. Certain groups of people however, face a greater health risk from poor air quality and are referred to as vulnerable populations. These vulnerable populations include: children, seniors, people with allergies, asthma, heart and/or lung conditions and people who work or exercise outside.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Air has no boundaries and is constantly moving. The Region does not have the authority to regulate air emissions. However, the Region in conjunction with the area municipalities plays a significant role in creating healthier and sustainable communities. Air quality can be improved by the Region through the land use and infrastructure planning processes and through leadership in reducing emissions associated with corporate operations. Policies to improve air quality are also valuable in mitigating the effects of climate change, as both issues require changes to land use, minimizing use of fossil fuels, decreasing auto modal share and shifting towards alternative energy sources. Policies related to air quality are captured below. However, due to the interrelationships with other sections including transportation, energy and sustainability; policies to address air quality can also be found in other sections of the Official Plan.

2.2.3.1 Goal

To create healthier and sustainable communities by improving local air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2.2.3.2 Objectives

- 2.2.3.2.1 To improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.2.3.2.2 To promote sustainable development and land use patterns which address public health, energy conservation and environmental concerns.

2.2.3.3 Policies

It is the policy of Regional Council to:

- 2.2.3.3.1 In consultation with the area municipalities, develop tools to assess the air quality implications of development that minimize adverse human health effects. These tools would be applied to but not limited to development applications and projects that may be insignificant by themselves, but cumulatively are significant.
- 2.2.3.3.2 Develop a multi-stakeholder air quality management plan to provide more detail on policies and strategies for reducing air pollution.
- 2.2.3.3.3 Raise awareness of local air quality issues and climate change through partnerships with all levels of government and the private sector.
- 2.2.3.3.4 In consultation with area municipalities and other levels of government, develop outreach programs to promote air quality and to encourage behaviour change in order to reduce air pollution.
- 2.2.3.3.5 Proactively engage all levels of government and the private sector to promote more health protective emissions standards for vehicles, industries and energy producing facilities.
- 2.2.3.3.6 Establish corporate targets for greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution reductions to improve local air quality and address climate change.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

- 2.2.3.3.7 Support and work with the area municipalities to develop policies including, but not limited to, requiring setbacks for residential developments and sensitive land uses to be located an adequate distance from both planned and existing sources of harmful emissions.
- 2.2.3.3.8 Monitor and model air quality to accurately establish local air emissions in Peel and report on the findings from the monitoring and modelling.”
6. Chapter 2, Section 2.3, tenth paragraph describing the elements of the Greenlands System in Peel, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“The elements of the Greenlands System in *Peel* include *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs)*, *Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas (ESAs)*, Escarpment Natural Areas, Escarpment Protection Areas, *fish and wildlife habitat*, *habitats of threatened and endangered species*, *wetlands*, *woodlands*, *valley and stream corridors*, *shorelines*, *natural lakes*, *natural corridors*, *groundwater recharge and discharge areas*, open space portions of the Parkway Belt West Plan, and other natural features and functional areas. These elements are to be interpreted, identified and protected in accordance with the policies of this Plan. Brief descriptions of the elements outlining their importance to the Greenlands System are provided below. Formal definitions are provided in the Glossary.

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) are areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education. ANSIs are evaluated and identified as either provincially or regionally significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Two types of ANSIs are identified: life science and earth science. Life science ANSIs are significant representative areas of Ontario’s biodiversity and natural landscapes. Earth science ANSIs contain significant representative examples of bedrock, fossil and landform features which are important to the scientific understanding of ongoing geologic processes.

Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas

Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas are places where *ecosystem* functions or features warrant special protection. These may include, but are not limited to, rare or unique plant or animal populations or habitats, plant or animal communities, or concentrations of ecological functions. *Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas* are identified by the conservation authorities according to their established criteria.

Escarpment Natural Areas

Escarpment Natural Areas include escarpment slopes and related landforms in a relatively natural state; stream valleys, wetlands, and life science ANSIs considered to be significant in accordance with the Niagara Escarpment Plan; and forested lands within 300 metres of the Escarpment brow. These areas are designated in the Niagara Escarpment Plan as Escarpment Natural Areas because they contain the most significant natural and scenic areas of the Escarpment.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Fish and wildlife habitat are areas of the natural environment where plants, animals, fish and other organisms derive life support functions such as cover, protection, reproductive support, food and water. These habitats may be important on a year-round or seasonal basis. In addition to providing ecological functions that support species survival and biodiversity, *fish and wildlife habitat* contributes to the Region's economy and quality of life through wildlife-based tourism, wildlife viewing, nature appreciation, fishing and hunting. *Fish and wildlife habitat* that are afforded protection include *wetlands, woodlands, Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*, portions of the *Niagara Escarpment* and the *Oak Ridges Moraine*, and *valley and stream corridors*.

Habitats of Threatened and Endangered Species

Habitats of *threatened and endangered species*, and other species of special conservation concern are habitats of those species which have been listed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as occurring in sufficiently low population numbers, restricted geographic areas, or are sufficiently threatened by human activities, that their continued occurrence in Ontario is a matter of general conservation concern. The actual species falling into this category of conservation concern vary from region to region in the province, as well as over time, depending on ongoing research, recovery or mitigation efforts. Endangered and threatened species are listed in the Regulations under the provincial Endangered Species Act. Current lists of endangered and threatened and vulnerable species and species of conservation concern are maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Natural Corridors

Natural corridors are lands that are naturally vegetated or that have the potential to be revegetated that connect, link or border critical ecological attributes and functions and also provide ecological functions such as habitat, migration routes, hydrological flow, connections or buffering from adjacent impacts. Certain *woodlands, waterbodies, watercourses, valleylands, riparian zones, shorelines*, and portions of the *Niagara Escarpment* natural heritage system, and intervening *adjacent lands* function as *natural corridors* in the Greenlands System.

Shorelines

The *shorelines* include bluffs and lands in immediate contact with, or in seasonally inundated areas adjacent to, lakes, rivers and streams. The *littoral zone* is the area along the shore of a lake from the water's edge into the water to a depth where there is a 2% loss of light at the bottom. Both the *shoreline* and *littoral zone* are important habitats at the boundary between terrestrial and aquatic *ecosystems*. Due to height and location, *shorelines* may in some instances also be associated with slope and/or erosion hazards. (Also see the definition of *Regulatory Shoreline* in the Glossary).

Valley and Stream Corridors

Valley and stream corridors are the natural resources associated with river systems and are characterized by their landform, features and functions, and include associated ravines. Valley corridors and their associated ravines are distinguished from stream

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

corridors by the presence of a distinct landform. Due to the inherent hazards of valley lands they have remained mainly undeveloped and vegetated. *Valley and stream corridors* are natural linkages in the *landscape* having important ecological functions, providing habitat for fish and wildlife and acting as corridors for movement.

Wetlands

Wetlands perform many functions, including the provision of groundwater recharge and discharge, attenuating *flood* flows, trapping sediment, preventing coastal, shoreline and bank erosion and providing wildlife habitat for a diversity of species.

Woodlands

Woodlands are complex *ecosystems* comprised of communities of trees, shrubs, ground vegetation and immediate environmental conditions on which they depend. *Woodlands* that provide a range of *ecosystem* functions including: attenuating *flood* flows; trapping air and water borne sediment; preventing erosion and stabilizing steep slopes; providing shade for cold water fisheries; enhancing *groundwater recharge areas*; providing habitat; and supporting species diversity. *Woodlands* are important because of their scarcity in *Peel* and the rest of the *Greater Toronto Area*. In addition to their ecological functions, woodlands are valued for their economic, social, and aesthetic benefits.”

7. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Core Areas” to the beginning of the section after Section 2.3.2.1.
8. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2, Clause a) is amended by deleting “(Class 1-3)”.
9. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2 is amended by adding the following new clause after Clause a) and by renumbering Clauses b) to g) as c) to h):
 - “b) significant coastal wetlands”
10. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2, renumbered Clause c) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
 - “c) Core woodlands meeting one or more of the criteria in Table 1”
11. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2, renumbered Clause f) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
 - “f) *significant habitats of threatened and endangered species*”
12. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2, renumbered Clause h) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
 - “h) Core *valley and stream corridors* meeting one or more of the criteria in Table 2. The limit of Core *valley and stream corridors* shall be determined jointly with the area municipalities in consultation with relevant agencies in accordance with the definition in the Glossary of this Plan and the criteria in Table 2 to recognize the unique urban and rural character of the Region. Core *valley and stream corridors* include the main branches, *major tributaries* and other *tributaries* associated with

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

the Credit River, the Etobicoke Creek, the Mimico Creek, the West Humber River and the Humber River and with the other identified watercourses draining directly to Lake Ontario; except for those portions in the Rural Service Centres and the rural settlements in the Rural System as designated in an *area municipal official plan*. These *valley and stream corridors* are continuous linkages connecting to other elements of the Greenlands System Core Areas.”

13. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.2 is amended by adding the attached Tables 1 and 2 at the end of the section.

14. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.3 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Direct the area municipalities, in consultation with the conservation authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, to include objectives and policies in their official plans for the interpretation, protection, *enhancement*, proper management and stewardship of the Core Areas of the Greenlands System in *Peel* which conform to the intent of this Plan, consistent with provincial policy, the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Greenbelt Plan, where applicable.”

15. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.5 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Prohibit *development* and *site alterations* within the Core Areas of the Greenlands System in *Peel*, except for:

- a) forest, fish and wildlife management;
- b) conservation and flood or erosion control projects, but only if they have been demonstrated to be necessary in the public interest and after all reasonable alternatives have been considered;
- c) *essential infrastructure* exempted or authorized under an environmental assessment process;
- d) passive recreation;
- e) compatible *recreation* within the Urban System, as shown on Schedule D;
- f) *development* permitted within approved Two Zone and/or *Special Policy Areas for Flood Plains*;
- g) *minor development* and *minor site alteration*; and
- h) *existing uses, buildings or structures*; expansions to existing agricultural buildings and structures, residential dwellings, and accessory uses to both; and new single residential dwellings on *existing lots of record*, provided that the dwelling would have been permitted by the applicable planning legislation or zoning by-law on the date of approval of this Plan.

These exceptions may be permitted through an approved *area municipal official plan* or the Niagara Escarpment Plan where applicable, in consultation with *the Region*, the

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

conservation authorities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and other relevant agencies, provided that the policies which permit such uses and activities are in conformity with the objectives and policies of this Plan.

The area municipalities are strongly encouraged to consider adopting policies that would allow the exceptions subject to it being demonstrated that:

- a) there is no reasonable alternative outside of the Core Area and the use, *development* or *site alteration* is directed away from the Core Area feature to the greatest extent possible; and
 - b) the impact to the Core Area feature is minimized and any impact to the feature or its functions that cannot be avoided is mitigated through restoration or enhancement to the greatest extent possible.”
16. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2 is amended by deleting Sections 2.3.2.7, 2.3.2.8 and 2.3.2.9 in their entirety and by renumbering Sections 2.3.2.10 to 2.3.2.19 as 2.3.2.7 to 2.3.2.16.
 17. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.7 is amended by deleting it and replaced it with the following:

“Allow existing agricultural uses in accordance with *normal farm practices* within the Greenlands System.”
 18. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Natural Areas and Corridors” to the beginning of the section after renumbered Section 2.3.2.7.
 19. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8, Clause a) is amended by deleting “Class 4 to 7”.
 20. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8, clause b) is deleted and replaced with the following:

“NAC *woodlands* meeting one or more of the criteria in Table 1”
 21. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 is amended by adding the following new clauses after Clause b) and by renumbering clauses c) to g) as e) to i):
 - “c) *significant wildlife habitat* meeting one or more of the criteria in Figure 5”
 - “d) regionally significant life science *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*”
 22. Chapter 2, renumbered Clause 2.3.2.8 g) is deleted and replaced with the following:

“any other *valley and stream corridors* that have not been defined as part of the Core Areas”
 23. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Potential Natural Areas and Corridors” to the beginning of the section after renumbered Section 2.3.2.8.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

24. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 is amended by renumbering the reference to Section 2.3.2.8 (g) as 2.3.2.8 (i).
25. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9, is amended by adding the following new clause after Clause a) and by renumbering clauses b) to i) as c) to j):
 - “b) *cultural woodlands and cultural savannahs within the Urban System and Rural Service Centres greater than 0.5 ha (1.24 acres)*”
26. Chapter 2, renumbered Clause 2.3.2.9 c) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“any other woodlands greater than 0.5 ha. (1.24 acres)”
27. Chapter 2, renumbered Clause 2.3.2.9 d) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“provincially and regionally significant earth science *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*”
28. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9, clause f) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and by renumbering clauses g) to j) as f) to i).
29. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.10 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Direct the area municipalities, in consultation with the conservation authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, to include objectives and policies in their official plans for the interpretation, protection, *restoration, enhancement*, proper management and stewardship of the Natural Areas and Corridors and Potential Natural Areas and Corridors which conform to the intent of this Plan, consistent with provincial policy, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, and local considerations, where applicable.”
30. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.12 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Wetlands” to the beginning of the section after renumbered Section 2.3.2.11.
31. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.14 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Valley and Stream Corridors” to the beginning of the section after renumbered Section 2.3.2.13.
32. Chapter 3, renumbered Section 2.3.2.15 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Direct the area municipalities, jointly with the Region and in consultation with the conservation authorities, to continue to: refine the boundaries of *valley and stream corridors*; establish setbacks and buffers for watercourses, and valley and stream corridors; and define headwater areas including appropriate alterations identified through *subwatershed* studies or appropriate environmental, engineering and/or planning studies or field work.”

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

33. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.16 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Direct the area municipalities, in their official plans, to generally prohibit new *development and site alterations* in *valley and stream corridors* and are identified as Natural Areas and Corridors in this Plan, except for uses permitted in accordance with policy 2.3.2.5.”

34. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2 is amended by adding the following new sections and sub-heading after renumbered Section 2.3.2.16:

“Woodlands

- 2.3.2.17 Direct the area municipalities to interpret *woodlands* to include plantations except where a more detailed environmental study has demonstrated that the plantation does not exhibit the characteristics necessary to satisfy the definition of *woodlands* in this Plan, in which case, the plantation shall not be considered to be a *woodland* for the purposes of this Plan.
- 2.3.2.18 Direct the area municipalities to interpret woodlands to include *cultural woodlands* and *cultural savannahs*. The interpretation, significance and level of protection of *cultural woodlands* and *cultural savannahs* shall be determined in accordance with the criteria in Table 1. Within the Urban System and Rural Service Centres, as shown on Schedule D, the significance and protection of these woodlands will require an additional evaluation through natural heritage studies required by the area municipalities in consultation with relevant agencies to evaluate and confirm the quality and function of the woodlands. *Cultural woodlands* and *cultural savannahs* within the Urban System and Rural Service Centres that are confirmed to have ecological values that contribute to the *integrity* and function of the Greenlands System are to be identified and protected in accordance with the policies of this Plan.
- 2.3.2.19 Direct the area municipalities to include or develop criteria and thresholds for woodlands identified as Natural Areas and Corridors and Potential Natural Areas and Corridors in accordance with the criteria in Table 1 and to consider criteria and thresholds based on physiographic, social and economic factors.”
35. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.20 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Landforms” to the beginning of the section after new Section 2.3.2.19.
36. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2 is amended by adding the following new section after Section 2.3.2.21:

“Adjacent Lands

- 2.3.2.22 Direct the area municipalities to require environmental impact studies for *development and site alteration* proposed on *lands adjacent* to the Greenlands System and to include policies in their official plans that development and site alteration shall not be permitted on *lands adjacent* to the Greenlands System unless the ecological functions of the adjacent lands

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

have been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural feature or its functions.

This requirement may be reduced if detailed *development* criteria have been applied to a site through a comprehensive *joint* planning process, a comprehensive environmental impact study, on the basis of a *subwatershed* plan, or if an appropriate scoping exercise has been *jointly* undertaken or *supported* by the relevant agencies.”

37. Chapter 2, Section 2.5.2 is amended by adding the following after Section 2.5.2.8:

“2.5.2.9 Work *jointly* with the agencies and area municipalities to develop urban forest strategies and to encourage and support programs and initiatives that maintain and enhance the urban forest canopy.”

38. Chapter 2, Section 2.5 is amended by adding the following after Section 2.5.2:

“2.5.3 Invasive Species Management

A major issue facing natural heritage management within the Region is the threat of non-native species invading woodlands, wetlands and other natural areas. If left unmanaged, invasive species pose a risk to the ecological integrity of the Region’s natural areas through the displacement of native species and the subsequent alteration to the genetic diversity and structure of local native species populations. Invasive species are highly adaptable to habitat conditions that make it difficult for native species to compete and survive in these same habitats.

2.5.3.1 Objective

To minimize the impacts of invasive species through the proper management and control of non-native invasive species and the promotion of native species plantings in the Region.

2.5.3.2 Policies

It is the policy of *Regional Council* to:

- 2.5.3.2.1 Acknowledge and support the role of the area municipalities, conservation authorities, provincial agencies and conservation organizations as the primary agencies responsible for coordinating the delivery of invasive species management.
- 2.5.3.2.2 Support and encourage the area municipalities and conservation authorities to develop policies and programs that require or promote measures to eliminate and/or manage non-native invasive species and discourage the use of non-native invasive species plantings in new developments adjacent to the Greenlands System.
- 2.5.3.2.3 Encourage the use of native species plantings at Regional and municipal facilities and along transportation and utility corridors and,

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

wherever feasible and appropriate, include native species plantings along Regional roads and on properties owned by the Region.”

39. Chapter 2 is amended by adding the following after Section 2.5:

“2.6 GREENLANDS MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

Active management, *securement* and *stewardship* of the Regional Greenlands System are necessary to ensure the sustainability and ecological integrity of its natural heritage features and areas. Greenlands *securement* involves the protection of natural heritage features and functions through a range of tools, including planning policy, *stewardship*, monitoring and land acquisition. *Stewardship* is a key component of the Region’s natural heritage policy framework which promotes voluntary action and cooperative planning by organizations, communities and residents to protect, restore and enhance the Region’s environment and resources.

2.6.1 Objective

To protect, restore and enhance the natural environment in Peel through Greenlands management, *securement* and *stewardship* opportunities in cooperation and partnership with area municipalities, conservation authorities, provincial agencies and conservation organizations.

2.6.2 Policies

It is the policy of *Regional Council* to:

2.6.2.1 Support Greenlands *securement* initiatives in Peel through planning policy, *stewardship*, monitoring and land acquisition;

2.6.2.2 Acknowledge and support the role of the area municipalities, conservation authorities, provincial agencies and conservation organizations as the primary agencies responsible for coordinating the delivery of *stewardship* programs for natural heritage.

2.6.2.3 Implement Greenlands *securement* strategies, programs and actions including *stewardship* that directly support Regional policy goals and objectives.

2.6.2.4 Work with the area municipalities, conservation authorities and other agencies to leverage funding from other sources for Greenlands *securement*.

2.6.2.5 Support the *securement* of natural areas through planning policy, *stewardship* and monitoring before land acquisition is considered.

2.6.2.6 Encourage environmental education to support land stewardship and to promote the value of natural heritage conservation to residents.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

2.6.2.7 Encourage landowners and applicants for development and site alteration to support the Region's Greenlands *securement* efforts by enhancing lands adjacent to the Greenlands System in Peel.

2.6.2.8 Research and consider other incentives for the *securement* of natural heritage features and areas including tax rebates, incentive payments and cost-shared *stewardship* programs."

40. Chapter 3, Section 3.1.2 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

"To protect, manage and utilize the renewable and non-renewable resources of *Peel* in an efficient manner that conserves and *protects* environmental features and functions, and the character of rural *Peel* including its social, heritage, cultural, *community* and economic aspects."

41. Chapter 3, Section 3.2 is amended by adding the following new paragraph after the first paragraph:

"The agricultural industry is diversifying away from primary production and now includes a *value added chain*, as well as health and nutrition, sustainability, environmental management and conservation themes. Support for farming operations in Peel helps ensure a stronger agricultural industry and benefits for communities who depend on the industry."

42. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1.1 is amended by adding the words "over the long term" after the words "Prime Agricultural Area".

43. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1.2 is amended by adding the words "the loss and" after the words "or result in".

44. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1.3 is amended by adding the word "diversified" before the word "healthy".

45. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1 is amended by adding the following new section after Section 3.2.1.3:

"3.2.1.4 To work in cooperation with the area municipalities and the farming community to maintain reliable food sources, and to ensure overall sustainability and liveability in Peel."

46. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2.4 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

"Encourage the phasing of development so that agricultural production on agricultural lands that lie within the 2031 Regional Urban Boundary, continues for as long as practical in the City of Brampton and within the approved boundaries of the Rural Service Centres in the Town of Caledon."

47. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2.7 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

"Direct the Town of Caledon, in its official plan, to designate and protect the *Prime Agricultural Area* as shown on Schedule B."

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

48. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2.8 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

Direct the Town of Caledon in its official plan to allow in the *Prime Agricultural Area*, *primary agricultural uses*, and where deemed appropriate by the municipality, *secondary uses* and *agriculture-related uses*; provided all new uses are limited in scale and compatible with surrounding agricultural activity, meet the requirements of the minimum distance separation formulae, and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.”

49. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2 is amended by adding the following new sections after Section 3.2.2.8 and by renumbering Sections 3.2.2.9 to 3.2.2.12 as 3.2.2.11 to 3.2.2.14:

“3.2.2.9 Support the Region’s long-term economic prosperity by promoting the sustainability of the agri-food sector and by protecting agricultural resources and minimizing land use conflicts.”

3.2.2.10 Promote agricultural opportunities including niche markets and community gardens within suitable near-urban and urban areas to supply local markets, support health and protect the environment.”

50. Chapter 3, renumbered Section 3.2.2.11 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Direct the Town of Caledon, in the Prime Agricultural Area, only to permit a non-residential use, subject to an *area municipal official plan* amendment and provided that:

- a) there are no reasonable alternative locations which avoid the *Prime Agricultural Area*;
- b) there are no reasonable alternative locations in the *Prime Agricultural Area* with lower priority agricultural lands;
- c) there is a demonstrated need for the use, which has been justified in the context of applicable growth management policies;
- d) impacts from any new non-residential use on surrounding agricultural operations and lands are minimal or will be satisfactorily mitigated.

This policy may not be used to address a proposal that has the effect of adjusting the 2021 Rural Service Centre boundary. Such applications must continue to be addressed in the context of Section 7.9 of this Plan.”

51. Chapter 3, renumbered Section 3.2.2.12 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Direct the Town of Caledon, in its official plan, to recognize in the *Prime Agricultural Area* existing non-residential uses, the residential use of existing and approved vacant severed lots, and the residential use of lots that may be approved in accordance with this Plan and applicable Provincial policies.”

52. Chapter 3, renumbered Section 3.2.2.14 is deleted and replaced with the following:

“3.2.2.14 Encourage on-farm diversity for economic purposes and to maintain an integral component of the cultural heritage and way of life of the farming community.”

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

53. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2 is amended by adding the following new sections after renumbered Section 3.2.2.14:
- “3.2.2.15 Investigate with the area municipalities where appropriate, and in consultation with the Province and stakeholders, the objective of providing financial incentives to farmers for the provision, protection and enhancement of *ecological goods and services*.
 - 3.2.2.16 Investigate with the area municipalities where appropriate, and in consultation with the Province and stakeholders, the need, feasibility and implications of a land taxation system that provides financial incentives to farmers to continue farming.
 - 3.2.2.17 Investigate with the area municipalities where appropriate, and in consultation with the Province and stakeholders, various incentives to make it attractive to farmers to keep their lands in agricultural production and allow greater flexibility to have a variety of on-farm secondary or agriculture-related uses.
 - 3.2.2.18 Encourage the development of viable advanced technologies as necessary, to promote year-round agricultural production of ethnic and market garden fresh fruits and vegetables for the local fresh market trades.
 - 3.2.2.19 Direct the Town of Caledon, in its’ official plan, to permit lot creation and lot adjustments in the Prime Agricultural Area in accordance with the Provincial policies.”
54. Chapter 4, Section 4.2.2.2, Table 1, Population and Employment Forecasts for Peel is amended by renumbering it as Table 3, and by replacing all references to “Table 1” throughout the text with “Table 3”.
55. Chapter 6, Section 6.4 is amended by deleting the first paragraph and replacing it with the following:
- “The municipal *waste* produced in *Peel* is managed by means of recycling, composting, incineration and landfill. In keeping with the sustainability theme of this Plan (environmental, social, economic, and cultural imperatives) *the Region* promotes reductions in material consumption and *waste* production, and the recognition of *waste* as a valuable resource that, if fully utilized, can have minimal negative impacts on the environment. *The Region* will continue to focus on reduction, reuse, and recycling programs (3Rs), examine *waste* management alternatives, explore the resource potential of *waste*, and strive for a cost-effective *waste* management system. *Waste* will be managed so as to minimize environmental impacts and emphasize the responsibility of the *waste* generator to reduce the amount and type of *waste* produced and bear the costs of collection and disposal.”
56. Chapter 6, Section 6.4 is amended by deleting the second paragraph and replacing it with the following:

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

“*Peel* is also committed to maintaining the Long Term Waste Management Strategy to meet the needs of citizens and businesses. The Strategy is environmentally sound, socially acceptable, technically efficient and economically viable.”

57. Chapter 6, Section 6.4 is amended by deleting the second sentence in the last paragraph and replacing it with the following:

“The Caledon landfill site is the only active public landfill site in *Peel*.”

58. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.1.2 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“To promote the integration of the principle and hierarchy of reduction, reuse, and recycling into the decision making of residents, including consumers, businesses, and governments, and to maximize diversion of residential and non-residential *waste* from landfill.”

59. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.1.3 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“To establish and maintain an environmentally responsible and cost-effective system for managing municipal solid *waste*, including *municipal hazardous or special waste*, generated within *Peel Region*.”

60. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2 is amended by adding the sub-heading “Reduction and Reuse” to the beginning of the section after the words “It is the policy of Regional Council to”.

61. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.2 is amended by deleting the acronym “(3Rs)” and by adding the words “including extended producer responsibility” after the word “options”.

62. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.3 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Require new development to comply with the Peel Waste Collection Design Standards Manual to ensure safe and efficient *waste* collection and diversion.”

63. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.4 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Require the area municipalities to develop, review, and amend official plan policies to permit *waste* facilities, including processing, storage, and energy from *waste* facilities, in appropriate locations so that the policies do not present unreasonable barriers to development of *waste* facilities.”

64. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2.5 is amended by deleting the word “disposal” and replacing it with the word “management”.

65. Chapter 6, Section 6.4.2 is amended by deleting Sections 6.4.2.6 to 6.4.2.15 and replacing them with the following new sections and sub-headings after Section 6.4.2.5:

“6.4.2.6 In partnership with the area municipalities, use *procurement* as a method to promote *source reduction* through the significant purchasing power of the Region and the area municipalities.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

- 6.4.2.7 Develop specifications where practical for all Regionally funded projects to incorporate materials from *waste* diversion programs where viable to help create stable, sustainable markets for materials from Regional diversion programs.
- 6.4.2.8 Direct the area municipalities to require developers and contractors to incorporate materials from *waste* diversion programs into construction projects where practical.

Energy from Waste

- 6.4.2.9 Recognize energy from *waste* facilities and other technologies as an option for the disposal of residual *waste* generated within *Peel Region*.
- 6.4.2.10 Ensure all potential resources are recovered from the *waste* stream such as energy from the residual *waste* stream after recycling and composting, and prior to final disposal.
- 6.4.2.11 Monitor and evaluate technology developments and consider options for recovering energy from *waste* on an on-going basis.
- 6.4.2.12 Request the provincial government to link *waste* management and energy policies more closely to ensure that the maximum resources are extracted from all municipal *waste* prior to final disposal.

Industrial, Commercial & Institutional Waste and Construction & Demolition Waste

- 6.4.2.13 Direct the area municipalities to use their authority to issue planning approvals as a means to require materials generated at construction and demolition sites to be diverted and reused.
- 6.4.2.14 Develop *procurement* specifications where practical for all new construction and demolition projects which the Region funds to maximize diversion and reuse requirements and encourage the reuse of construction materials through economic and other incentives.
- 6.4.2.15 Encourage the area municipalities to adopt *procurement* specifications for maximizing diversion and reuse of construction and demolition *waste* for all new construction and demolition projects which the area municipalities fund. Economic and other incentives should be considered to encourage high reuse of construction and demolition *waste*.

Intensification

- 6.4.2.16 Consider economic and other incentives for all multi-residential buildings to encourage *waste* diversion.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- 6.4.2.17 When exploring the development of new *waste* management infrastructure, ensure all efforts are made to consider potential partnerships with neighbouring

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

municipalities and private industry. The partnership can involve a contribution of land, capital, or a commitment to tonnage which will improve the economics of a new facility.

Maintaining Existing and Closed Landfill Sites

- 6.4.2.18 Recognize the Caledon landfill site, as shown on Figure 10 of the Appendix, as the only active landfill site in *Peel Region*. The establishment and operation of a new landfill site at another location is discouraged and will require a Regional Official Plan Amendment.
- 6.4.2.19 Review any proposal to establish and operate a new landfill site in *Peel* for consistency with the objectives and policies in this Plan and the *area municipal official plans*.
- 6.4.2.20 Maintain the operating landfill site in a manner which protects the environment, public health and adjacent land uses.
- 6.4.2.21 View the use of land for landfill during the operational life of the site as an interim land use, until such time as the land is deemed by *Regional Council* to be suitable for other uses.
- 6.4.2.22 Review proposed *development* in proximity to the Caledon landfill site for consistency with the objectives and policies in this Plan, the Town of Caledon Official Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Ministry of the Environment guidelines.
- 6.4.2.23 Carefully manage those closed landfill sites which *the Region* owns and rehabilitate them to appropriate uses, determined *jointly* with the area municipalities.”
66. Chapter 7, Section 7.2.2.3 is amended by adding the following after the first sentence:
- “The boundaries of the Core Areas of the Greenlands System shown on Schedule A are intended to be general in nature. More detailed mapping of the Core Areas of the Greenlands System will be determined on a site specific basis through studies, as may be required through the planning approval process, in consultation with relevant agencies. Due to the general nature of the Core Areas boundaries on Schedule A, an amendment to the Plan is not required for minor boundary adjustments to the Core Areas of the Greenlands System as determined through required studies.”
67. Chapter 7, Section 7.6.2.10 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Work collaboratively with the area municipalities, conservation authorities, neighbouring municipalities, other government agencies, stakeholders and the public to review the Region’s natural heritage systems policy framework; identify policy gaps; and develop a Regional Greenlands Strategy outlining tools, actions and resources to address future natural heritage systems planning needs in the Region, including:

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

- a) development of a workplan describing the project organization, process, consultation methods and intended outcomes to be endorsed by Regional Council;
 - b) the need to identify a Regional natural heritage system based on modelling through a model or modelling exercise which considers the Region's future ecological requirements and targets;
 - c) the consideration of natural heritage systems studies and tools being completed by the conservation authorities and Province; and
 - d) the consideration of approaches contained in existing natural heritage systems within the Region including the Greenlands System, Niagara Escarpment Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan.”
68. Chapter 7, Section 7.6.2.12 and Section 7.6.2.15 are amended by deleting them in their entirety and by renumbering all subsequent sections accordingly.
69. Chapter 7, Section 7.9.2.8 is amended by adding the following new clause after Clause b) and by renumbering all subsequent clauses accordingly:
- “c) Impacts from new or expanding settlement areas on agricultural operations which are adjacent or close to the settlement area, and if impacts are identified, the analysis is to identify mitigation of the impacts to the greatest extent feasible.”
- b. Amendments to Glossary
70. The Glossary definition of “adjacent lands” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “those lands contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area where there is a probability that *development* or *site alteration* may have a negative impact on the feature or area. The extent of adjacent lands may be determined in accordance with guidelines issued by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives.”
71. The Glossary definition of “development” is amended by deleting “the subdivision of land” and replacing it with “means the creation of a new lot, a change in land use”.
72. The Glossary definition of “fish and wildlife habitat” is amended by deleting it in its entirety.
73. The Glossary definition of “significant” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “**Significant:** means:
- a) in regard to wetlands, coastal wetlands and areas of natural and scientific interest, an area identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time;

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

- b) in regard to the habitat of endangered species and threatened species, means the habitat, as approved by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, that is necessary for the maintenance, survival, and/or the recovery of naturally occurring or reintroduced populations of endangered species or threatened species, and where those areas of occurrence are occupied or habitually occupied by the species during all or any part(s) of its life cycle;
- c) in regard to woodlands, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history;
- d) in regard to other features and areas in policy 2.1, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system;
- e) in regard to mineral potential, means an area identified as provincially significant through comprehensive studies prepared using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time, such as the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential Index;
- f) in regard to potential for petroleum resources, means an area identified as provincially significant through comprehensive studies prepared using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time; and
- g) in regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that are valued for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people.

Criteria for determining significance for the resources identified in clauses (c) to (g) are recommended by the Province, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.”

- 74. The Glossary definition of “valley and stream corridor” is amended by deleting “The limit of *valley and stream corridors* shall be determined, jointly with the area municipalities, on a site specific basis by the conservation authorities.”
- 75. The Glossary definition of “vulnerable, threatened and endangered Species” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Threatened and Endangered Species: those species which have been listed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as occurring in sufficiently low population numbers, restricted geographic areas, or are sufficiently threatened by human activities, that their continued occurrence in Ontario is a matter of general conservation concern. The actual species falling into this category of conservation concern vary from region to region in the province, as well as over time depending on ongoing research, recovery or mitigation efforts. Endangered and threatened species are listed in the Regulations under the provincial Endangered Species Act. Current lists of endangered and threatened species

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

and species of conservation concern are maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources.”

76. The Glossary definition of “waste” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“**Waste:** includes anything discarded for collection from any source and litter.”

77. The Glossary definition of “wetlands” is amended by adding the following after the last sentence:

“Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit wetland characteristics are not considered to be wetlands for the purposes of this definition.”

78. The Glossary definition of “woodlands” is amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end of the definition:

“*Woodlands* are further defined as any area greater than 0.5 ha that has:

- a) a tree crown cover of over 60% of the ground, determinable from aerial photography, or
- b) a tree crown cover of over 25% of the ground, determinable from aerial photography, together with on-ground stem estimates of at least:
 - 1,000 trees of any size per hectare, or
 - 750 trees measuring over five centimetres in diameter, per hectare, or
 - 250 trees measuring over 20 centimetres in diameter, per hectare (densities based on the Forestry Act of Ontario 1998)

Treed portions with less than the required stocking level will be considered part of the woodland as long as the combination of all treed units in the overall connected treed area meets the required stocking level. Woodlands experiencing changes such as harvesting, blowdown or other tree mortality are still considered woodlands. Such changes are considered temporary whereby the forest still retains its long-term ecological value.

And, which have a minimum average width of 40 metres or more measured to crown edges.

Woodlands include *cultural woodlands*, *cultural savannahs* and plantations except if the plantation is:

- a) managed for production of fruits, nuts, Christmas trees or nursery stock;
- b) managed for tree products with an average rotation of less than 20 years (e.g. hybrid willow or poplar); or
- c) established and continuously managed for the sole purpose of complete removal at rotation, as demonstrated with documentation acceptable to the Region or area municipality, without a woodland restoration objective.”

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

79. The Glossary is amended by adding the following new definitions:

Active farming: farmers engaged in on-going farming that can be clearly substantiated and demonstrated.

Confluence: the point where two or more water bodies meet.

Cultural savannahs: a treed vegetation community originating from, or maintained by, anthropogenic influences and culturally based disturbances; often containing a large proportion of non-native species and having 11 to 35% cover of coniferous or deciduous trees. Cultural savannahs may be second or third growth woodlands that occur on land where the forest was completely or partially removed at various points in time. These woodlands vary in composition and quality depending on the length of time that the forest has been re-establishing, the nature and duration of the land use while it was cleared, and the underlying environmental characteristics such as soil type, moisture, exposure and seed bank all of which influence natural succession processes and species composition.”

Cultural woodlands: a treed vegetation community originating from, or maintained by, anthropogenic influences and culturally based disturbances; often containing a large proportion of non-native species and having 35 to 60% cover of coniferous or deciduous trees. Cultural woodlands may be second or third growth woodlands that occur on land where the forest was completely or partially removed at various points in time. These woodlands vary in composition and quality depending on the length of time that the forest has been re-establishing, the nature and duration of the land use while it was cleared, and the underlying environmental characteristics such as soil type, moisture, exposure and seed bank all of which influence natural succession processes and species composition.

Ecological goods and services (EG&S): are the benefits which accrue to all living organisms resulting from the ecological functions of healthy ecosystems. Ecological goods and services include clean air, and abundant fresh water, maintenance of biodiversity, and provide for health, social, cultural, and economic needs. The products and processes of ecological goods and services are complex and occur over long periods of time.

Endangered species: a species that is listed or categorized as an “Endangered Species” on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources’ official species at risk list, as updated and amended from time to time.

Essential: necessary to the public interest after all reasonable alternatives have been considered.

Existing Lot of Record: a lot held under distinct and separate ownership from all abutting lots as shown by a registered conveyance in the records of the Land Registry office at the date of approval of this Plan.

Existing Use, Building or Structure: a use, building or structure that was lawfully existing on the date of approval of this Plan.

Fish habitat: spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Greenlands Securement: the protection of natural heritage features and areas through a range of tools including, but not limited to planning policy, stewardship, monitoring and land acquisition.

Invasive species: are plants, animals and micro-organisms that spread when introduced outside of their natural distribution and cause serious and often irreversible damage to ecosystems, the economy and society.

Major tributaries: are tributaries having direct confluence with the Credit River, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, West Humber River and the Humber River.

Minor site alteration: site alteration, which due to its scale or intensity, can demonstrate no significant incremental or cumulative impacts on the landform, features or ecological functions of the Greenlands System in Peel, as set out in further detail in the *area municipal official plans*.

Municipal hazardous waste: has the same meaning as in the Waste Diversion Act, 2002, Ontario Regulation 542/06 Municipal Hazardous Waste or Special Waste.

Municipal Special waste: has the same meaning as in the Waste Diversion Act, 2002, Ontario Regulation 542/06 Municipal Hazardous Waste or Special Waste.

Normal farm practice: a practice, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances; or makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices. Normal farm practices shall be consistent with the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 and regulations made under that Act.

Procurement: preferable goods and services that have a lesser or reduced impact on the environment over the life cycle of the good or service, when compared with competing goods and services serving the same purpose.

Significant feature: for the purpose of applying criteria for the identification of Core and Natural Area and Corridor (NAC) *woodlands*, all *wetlands*; all life science *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest* (regionally and provincially significant); all Core *valley and stream corridors*, *Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas* (ESAs), and Core and NAC *woodlands* that satisfy the size criterion (*i.e.*, *woodlands* that are identified as Core and NAC *woodlands* based solely on criteria other than size are not considered to be *significant features* with respect to the application of the “proximity criterion”).

Significant wildlife habitat: wildlife habitat identified in accordance with the recommendations of the *Peel-Caledon Significant Woodlands and Significant Wildlife Habitat Study*.

Source reduction: changes in the design, use of materials and energy used during the manufacturing or distribution of products and packages to reduce their amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste.

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Stewardship: the voluntary actions and cooperative planning by organizations, governments, landowners and residents to protect, restore and enhance land, air and water for long-term ecological sustainability.

Surface Water Features: for the purpose of applying criteria for the identification of Core and Natural Area and Corridor (NAC) *woodlands*, includes lakes, woodland ponds, *watercourses*, springs, seeps, and reservoirs that provide ecological functions. *Surface water features* do not include small surface water features such as farm ponds or stormwater management ponds that have limited ecological function.

Tributary: a river or stream that flows into a larger river, stream or other body of water.

Value added chain: is a chain of activities. Products pass all activities in the chain in sequential order and at each activity the product gains some value. The chain of activities gives the product more added value than the sum of added values of all activities.

Watercourse: for the purpose of applying criteria for the identification of Core, Natural Area and Corridor and Potential Natural Area and Corridor *woodlands*, a body of water flowing in a reasonably definite channel with bed and banks.

Wildlife habitat: are areas where plants, animals and other organisms live and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitats of concern may include areas where species congregate at a vulnerable time in their annual life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species.

80. Where sections have been renumbered by this amendment, the Regional Official Plan is amended by replacing all references to the renumbered sections throughout the Plan accordingly.

c. Amendments to Schedules

81. Schedule A, Core Areas of the Greenlands System is amended as shown in the attached Schedule A.

d. Amendments to Tables

82. The List of Tables is amended by adding the attached Table 1, Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Core, Natural Areas and Corridors (NAC) and Potential Natural Areas and Corridors (PNAC) *Woodlands* and Table 2, Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Core Valley and Stream Corridors to the Regional Official Plan and by renumbering all subsequent tables accordingly.

e. Amendments to Figures

83. The List of Figures is amended by adding the attached Figure 5, Recommended Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Significant Wildlife Habitat to the Regional Official Plan.

84. Figure 10 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the attached new Figure 10.

Appendix I
Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural
Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Schedule A to ROPA 21 - Core Areas of the Greenlands System

Appendix I

Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Table 1

Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Core, Natural Areas and Corridors (NAC) and Potential Natural Areas and Corridors (PNAC) Woodlands

Table 1 - Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Core, Natural Areas and Corridors (NAC) and Potential Natural Areas and Corridors (PNAC) Woodlands

ROP Category	Size	Age	Linkage	Proximity	Surface Water Quality	Significant Species
Core Maintains Integrity of the System	Rural System: Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 16 ha Urban System: Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 4 ha	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 4 ha and containing at least 0.5 ha of <i>woodland</i> that is older than 90 years	N/A	N/A	N/A	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 4 ha that supports any of the following: i. any G1, G2, 3, S1, S2 or S3 plant or animal species, or community as designated by NHIC; or ii any species designated by COSEWIC or COSSARO as <i>Threatened</i> , <i>Endangered</i> or of Special Concern; or iii. The following forest communities: FOD 1-2, FOM 2-1, FOM 2-2, FOC 1-2, FOD 1-3, FOD 1-4, FOD 2-2, FOD 2-3 or FOD 6-2
NAC Supports Integrity of the System	Rural System: Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 4 ha up to 16 ha Urban System: Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 2 ha up to 4 ha	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha and less than 4 ha and containing at least 0.5 ha of <i>woodland</i> that is older than 90 years	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha supporting a linkage function, as determined through a natural heritage study approved by the Region or area municipality	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha within 100 m of another <i>significant feature</i>	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha within 30 m of a <i>watercourse</i> , <i>surface water features</i> or evaluated <i>wetland</i>	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha up to 4 ha that supports any of the following: i. any G1, G2, 3, S1, S2 or S3 plant or animal species, or community as designated by NHIC; or ii any species designated by COSEWIC or COSSARO as <i>Threatened</i> , <i>Endangered</i> or of Special Concern; or iii. The following forest communities: FOD 1-2, FOM 2-1, FOM 2-2, FOC 1-2, FOD 1-3, FOD 1-4, FOD 2-2, FOD 2-3 or FOD 6-2
PNAC May Support Integrity of the System	<i>Cultural woodlands</i> and <i>cultural savannahs</i> \geq 4 ha in the Rural System and \geq 2 ha in the Urban System and Rural Service Centres all other <i>woodlands</i> $>$ 0.5 ha	Core and NAC criteria apply N/A	Core and NAC criteria apply N/A	Core and NAC criteria apply N/A	Core and NAC criteria apply N/A	Core and NAC criteria apply N/A

Appendix I
Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 –
Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Table 2

**Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Core Valley and
Stream Corridors**

Appendix I
 Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 –
 Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
 January 27, 2009

Table 2 Criteria and thresholds for the identification of Core valley and stream corridors	
<i>Core Valley and Stream Corridor Component</i>	<i>Mapping Criteria</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main branches, major tributaries, other tributaries and identified watercourses draining directly to Lake Ontario ▪ Valley and stream corridors are the natural resources associated with the river systems characterized by their landform, features and functions, and include associated ravines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main branches, major tributaries and watercourses having direct drainage to Lake Ontario are to be mapped from their outlet to the furthest upstream extent of their defined valley landform (i.e., mapped to limit of crest of slope) ▪ Other tributaries are to be included and mapped to the limit of their defined valley portion if they meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contains habitat of aquatic endangered or threatened species; or • watercourse crosses municipal boundaries and provides linkage to other Core Areas of the Greenlands System. ▪ Excludes ill-defined headwater drainage features including created headwater valley/stream corridors, discontinuous defined valley features and other non-valley landforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ill-defined sections of major valleys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ill-defined sections are to be illustrated using regulatory floodplain and meander belt hazards whichever is greater unless site specific assessment has determined valley width in accordance with text of Plan ▪ Shown schematically and subject to site specific evaluation to confirm width of Core valley and stream corridor

Appendix I
 Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 –
 Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
 January 27, 2009

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Associated Ravines 	<p>Associated ravines within Urban System are to be included if meeting one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ important ecological functions related to the valley landform; ▪ habitat for endangered/threatened species; ▪ linkage to other natural features of the Greenlands System; ▪ flood and erosion hazards; or ▪ restoration potential. <p>Associated ravines within the Rural System are not considered Regional Core valley and stream corridors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ significance is determined in accordance with the Town of Caledon policies.
--	--

Appendix I
Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 –
Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management
January 27, 2009

Figure 5

**Recommended Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of
Significant Wildlife Habitat**

<p style="text-align: center;">Figure 5 Criteria and thresholds for the identification of significant wildlife habitat*</p>	recommended with a threshold	recommended without a threshold	not recommended
A1. Deer wintering area	√		
A2. Colonial bird nesting sites (<i>e.g.</i> , heronry, gull colony)	√		
A3. Waterfowl nesting habitat	√		
A4i. Migratory Landbird Stopover Areas – Criteria applies within Cities of Brampton and Mississauga	√		
A4i. Migratory Landbird Stopover Areas – Town of Caledon			√
A4ii. Migratory Bat Stopover Areas		√	
A4iii. Migratory Butterfly Stopover Areas – Criteria applies within Cities of Brampton and Mississauga		√	
A4iii. Migratory Butterfly Stopover Areas – Town of Caledon			√
A4iv. Migratory Waterfowl Stopover and/or Staging (Terrestrial)	√		
A4v. Migratory Waterfowl Stopover and/or Staging (Aquatic)	√		
A4vi. Migratory Shorebird Stopover Areas	√		
A5. Raptor wintering areas (<i>i.e.</i> , used for feeding and/or roosting)		√	
A6. Snake hibernacula	√		
A7. Bat maternal roosts and hibernacula		√	
A8. Bullfrog concentration areas (see details under B8ii)	√		
A9. Wild Turkey winter range			√
A10. Turkey Vulture summer roosting areas		√	
B1. Rare vegetation communities	√		
B2. Forests providing a high diversity of habitats (captured by significant woodlands)	√		
B3. Old-growth or mature forest stands (captured by significant woodlands)	√		

Appendix I
 Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and
 Energy
 December 17, 2008

<p align="center">Figure 5 Criteria and thresholds for the identification of significant wildlife habitat*</p>	<p align="center">recommended with a threshold</p>	<p align="center">recommended without a threshold</p>	<p align="center">not recommended</p>
B4. Foraging areas with abundant mast (i.e., nut bearing trees)	√		
B5. Highly diverse areas	√		
B6. Cliffs and caves	√		
B7. Seeps and springs	√		
B8i. Amphibian breeding habitat - Forested sites (e.g., vernal pools)	√		
B8ii. Amphibian breeding habitat - Non-forested sites (e.g., marshes)	√		
B9. Turtle nesting habitat and turtle overwintering areas	√		
B10. Habitat for area-sensitive forest interior breeding bird species	√		
B11. Habitat for open country and early successional breeding bird species	√		
B12. Habitat for wetland breeding bird species	√		
B13i. Raptor nesting habitat - wetlands, ponds, and rivers	√		
B13ii. Raptor nesting habitat - woodland habitats	√		
B14. Mink, River Otter, Marten, and Fisher denning sites	√		
B15. Mineral licks			√
C1. Species identified as nationally Endangered or Threatened by COSEWIC which are not protected in regulation under Ontario's Endangered Species Act.	√		
C2. Species identified as Special Concern based on Species at Risk in Ontario List that is periodically updated by OMNR.	√		
C3. Species that are listed as rare (S1–S3) or historical in Ontario based on records kept by the Natural Heritage Information Centre in Peterborough.	√		

Appendix I
 Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and
 Energy
 December 17, 2008

<p align="center">Figure 5 Criteria and thresholds for the identification of significant wildlife habitat*</p>	<p align="center">recommended with a threshold</p>	<p align="center">recommended without a threshold</p>	<p align="center">not recommended</p>
C4. Species whose populations appear to be experiencing substantial declines in Ontario.		√	
C5. Species that have a high percentage of their global population in Ontario and are rare or uncommon in the Regional Municipality of Peel / Town of Caledon.		√	
C6. Species that are rare within the Regional Municipality of Peel/Town of Caledon, even though they may not be provincially rare (<i>? Plant list is available; may be able to develop a preliminary list for wildlife from conservation authority data as part of this study</i>)		√	
C7. Species that are subjects of recovery programs.		√	
C8. Species considered important to the Regional Municipality of Peel / Town of Caledon, based on recommendations from a local Conservation Advisory Committee.		√	
D. Animal movement corridors		√	

* The Peel-Caledon Significant Woodlands and Significant Wildlife Habitat Study (February 2009) provided a methodology for identifying and evaluating criteria and thresholds for the identification of significant wildlife habitat. Draft thresholds have been recommended for criteria where they could be based on sufficient data, available research and/or expert opinion to be considered defensible. Where this information did not exist, criteria were recommended without a threshold. Criteria that were not relevant or applicable to the Region of Peel or Town of Caledon are identified as “not recommended”.

Appendix I
Peel Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) – Regional Official Plan Amendment – Sustainability and
Energy
December 17, 2008

Figure 10
Waste Management Sites

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

ROPA 21 Policy	Comments	Recommendation
Natural Heritage		
<p>2.3.2.5 <i>Prohibit development and site alterations within the Core Areas of the Greenlands System in Peel, except for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>forest, fish and wildlife management;</i> b) <i>conservation and flood or erosion control projects, but only if they have been demonstrated to be necessary in the public interest and after all reasonable alternatives have been considered;</i> c) <i>essential infrastructure exempted or authorized under an environmental assessment process;</i> d) <i>passive recreation;</i> e) <i>compatible recreation within the Urban System, as shown on Schedule D;</i> 	<p>Recreation as defined in the Region of Peel Official Plan includes facilities such "golf courses, tennis courts and recreation theme parks, which usually require large scale modifications of the land surface, often accompanied by the introduction of buildings and structures". These types of active recreational uses are not appropriate in Core Areas. Section 3.2.5 of the Greenbelt Plan acknowledges that the river valleys that run through urban areas are "a key component of the long-term health of the Natural System" and that municipalities should "maintain and, to the extent possible, enhance the ecological features and functions found within these valley systems". The Environmental Advisory Committee expressed their support for this comment.</p>	<p>Section 2.3.2.5 (e) should be removed.</p>
<p>Additional considerations for the Natural Heritage Policies.</p>	<p>The Environmental Advisory Committee of the City of Mississauga has commented that the Region of Peel should consider increasing the resources for land securement for lands subject to the Natural Heritage Policies.</p>	
<p>Future work for the Natural Heritage Policies – Target for the Natural System to be identified.</p>	<p>The Environmental Advisory Committee suggests the Region identify a target Natural Heritage System.</p>	
Agriculture		
<p>3.2.2.10 <i>Promote agricultural opportunities including niche markets and community gardens within suitable near-urban and urban areas to supply local markets, support health and protect the environment.</i></p>	<p>The City of Mississauga Zoning By-law permits community gardens.</p> <p>Considerations and issues regarding urban agriculture are absent from this ROPA and might be considered as part of future agricultural Regional Official Plan policies. The Environmental Advisory Committee also supported the concept of urban agriculture and suggested policies could also promote</p>	<p>This policy is supported.</p>

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

ROPA 21 Policy	Comments	Recommendation
	sustainable and organic farming methods for this type of agriculture.	
3.2.2.15 <i>Investigate with the area municipalities where appropriate, and in consultation with the Province and stakeholders, the objective of providing financial incentives to farmers for the provision, protection and enhancement of ecological goods and services.</i>	What is the funding source for the financial incentives addressed in this policy.	This needs to be clarified.
3.2.2.16 <i>Investigate with the area municipalities where appropriate, and in consultation with the Province and stakeholders, the need, feasibility and implications of a land taxation system that provides financial incentives to farmers to continue farming.</i>	What is intended by a land taxation system that provides financial incentives to farmers?	This needs to be clarified.
3.2.2.17 <i>Investigate with the area municipalities where appropriate, and in consultation with the Province and stakeholders, various incentives to make it attractive to farmers to keep their lands in agricultural production and allow greater flexibility to have a variety of on-farm secondary or agriculture-related uses.</i>	What is the funding source for the financial incentives addressed in this policy.	This needs to be clarified.
3.2.2.18 <i>Encourage the development of viable advanced technologies as necessary, to promote year-round agricultural production of ethnic and market garden fresh fruits and vegetables for the local fresh market trades.</i>	Technological advancements are not land use planning matters.	This policy might be more appropriate as part of the Region's corporate or strategic plan.
Air Quality		
2.2.3 Air Quality...However, due to the interrelationships with other sections including transportation, energy and sustainability; policies to address air quality can also be found in other sections of the Official Plan.	It would be helpful to identify the air quality policies in other sections of the Regional Official Plan as part of Section 2.2.3 Air Quality Polices.	
2.2.3.3.1 <i>In consultation with the area municipalities, develop tools to assess the air quality implications of development that minimize adverse human health effects. These tools would be applied to but not limited to development applications and projects that may be</i>	How would these tools be developed and implemented? Who would administer the air quality assessment and what expertise would be required to review it?	This policy needs to be clarified.
	Does this policy extend into an area that is under the Provincial jurisdiction?	This policy needs to be clarified.

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

ROPA 21 Policy	Comments	Recommendation
<i>insignificant by themselves, but cumulatively are significant.</i>		
2.2.3.3.6 <i>Establish corporate targets for greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution reductions to improve local air quality and address climate change.</i>	Do the Corporate targets in this policy relate to targets in Region of Peel buildings, vehicles or operations?	This needs to be clarified.
	Greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution for Region of Peel operations might be more appropriate in operational documents rather than a regulatory land use planning document.	This policy might more appropriate as part of the Region's corporate plan or as a strategic initiative.
2.2.3.3.7 <i>Support and work with the area municipalities to develop policies including, but not limited to, requiring setbacks for residential developments and sensitive land uses to be located an adequate distance from both planned and existing sources of harmful emissions.</i>	Setbacks are local area municipal planning matters. Supporting municipalities in this regard would be appropriate. This policy should be modified to support area municipalities.	This policy is supported with the recommended modifications.
2.2.3.3.8 <i>Monitor and model air quality to accurately establish local air emissions in Peel and report on the findings from the monitoring and modeling.</i>	Does this policy extend into an area that is under the Provincial jurisdiction?	This policy needs to be clarified.
Additional considerations for Air Quality Policies.	The Environmental Advisory Committee suggested emissions modelling should consider the role of vegetation in air quality.	
Integrated Waste Management		
6.4.2.3 <i>Require new development to comply with the Peel Waste Collection Design Standards Manual to ensure safe and efficient waste collection and diversion.</i>	Mississauga's Official Plan contains design criteria as well as land use and city development objectives to ensure adequate flexibility for waste handling for development proposals. This policy should be changed to state that new development should be encouraged to comply with Peel Waste Collection Design Standards.	This policy is supported with the recommended modification.
6.4.2.4 <i>Require the area municipalities to develop, review, and amend official plan policies to permit waste facilities, including processing, storage, and energy from waste facilities, in appropriate locations so that the policies do not present unreasonable barriers to development</i>	Mississauga's industrial designation permits waste processing facilities, transfer stations and composting facilities under selected general land use designation. Would this satisfy this requirement?	This should be clarified.

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

ROPA 21 Policy	Comments	Recommendation
<i>of waste facilities.</i>		
6.4.2.6 <i>In partnership with the area municipalities, use procurement as a method to promote source reduction through the significant purchasing power of the Region and the area municipalities.</i>	Procurement is not a matter of official plan policy. How will this policy be applied to the area municipalities? Is it the intent of this policy that the area municipalities develop their own policies on procurement to the end specified in this policy?	This policy might more appropriate as part of the Region's corporate plan or as a strategic initiative. This should be clarified.
6.4.2.8 <i>Direct the area municipalities to require developers and contractors to incorporate materials from waste diversion programs into construction projects where practical.</i>	This is not a matter of official plan policy. Under what authority under the <i>Planning Act</i> could this be required? This would be onerous to establish and monitor. This should be an encouragement policy. Could this be pursued with educational programs through Home Building Associations?	This should be clarified. This policy is supported with the recommended recommendation.
Energy from Waste policies 6.4.2.9 <i>Recognize energy from waste facilities and other technologies as an option for the disposal of residual waste generated within Peel Region.</i> 6.4.2.10 <i>Ensure all potential resources are recovered from the waste stream such as energy from the residual waste stream after recycling and composting, and prior to final disposal.</i> 6.4.2.11 <i>Monitor and evaluate technology developments and consider options for recovering energy from waste on an on-going basis.</i> 6.4.2.12 <i>Request the provincial government to link waste management and energy policies more closely to ensure that the maximum resources are extracted from all municipal waste prior to final disposal.</i>	Clarification is sought on Energy from Waste policies in relation to such issues as air emissions odour etc. in relation to potential energy from waste sites	This should be clarified.

APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

ROPA 21 Policy	Comments	Recommendation
<p>6.4.2.13 <i>Direct the area municipalities to use their authority to issue planning approvals as a means to require materials generated at construction and demolition sites to be diverted and reused.</i></p>	<p>This is not a matter of official plan policy. Under what authority under the <i>Planning Act</i> could this be required?</p>	<p>This should be clarified.</p>
	<p>This would be onerous to establish and monitor. This should be an encouragement policy?</p>	<p>This policy is supported with the recommended recommendation.</p>
	<p>Could this be pursued with educational programs through Home Building Associations?</p>	
<p>6.4.2.14 <i>Develop procurement specifications where practical for all new construction and demolition projects which the Region funds to maximize diversion and reuse requirements and encourage the reuse of construction materials through economic and other incentives.</i></p>	<p>Procurement is not a matter of official plan policy.</p>	<p>This policy might more appropriate as part of the Region's corporate plan or as a strategic initiative.</p>
<p>6.4.2.15 <i>Encourage the area municipalities to adopt procurement specifications for maximizing diversion and reuse of construction and demolition waste for all new construction and demolition projects which the area municipalities fund. Economic and other incentives should be considered to encourage high reuse of construction and demolition waste.</i></p>	<p>Procurement is not a matter of official plan policy.</p>	<p>This policy might more appropriate as part of the Region's corporate plan or as a strategic initiative.</p>
	<p>Does this policy require area municipalities to provide economic incentives</p>	<p>This should be clarified.</p>
<p>6.4.2.16 <i>Consider economic and other incentives for all multi-residential buildings to encourage waste diversion.</i></p>	<p>What is the funding source for the incentives referenced in this policy? This should be clarified.</p>	<p>This should be clarified.</p>
	<p>This is not a matter of official plan policy.</p>	<p>This policy might more appropriate as part of the Region's corporate plan or as a strategic initiative.</p>