



Corporate Report

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PDC SEPT 6 2011

DATE: August 16, 2011

TO: Chair and Members of Planning and Development Committee
Meeting Date: September 6, 2011

FROM: Edward R. Sajecki
Commissioner of Planning and Building

SUBJECT: **Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B (ROPA 21B) - Natural Heritage and Agriculture Policies**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the report titled "*Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B (ROPA 21B) - Natural Heritage and Agriculture Policies*" dated August 16, 2011 from the Commissioner of Planning and Building, be received.
2. That the report titled "*Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B - (ROPA 21B) Natural Heritage and Agriculture Policies*", dated August 16, 2011 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 Region Official Plan Review (PROPR) has been undertaken to bring the Regional Official Plan (ROP) into conformity with the *Provincial Policy Statement (2005)*, the *Greenbelt Plan (2005)*, *Places to Grow: the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2006)* (*Growth Plan*) and the *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Amendment Act (2006)*. It is also the mandatory review required every five years by the *Planning Act*. The PROPR work program consisted of 15 focus areas (Figure 1) and was approved by Regional Council in September 2007.

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



Mississauga staff participated in the PROPR process through the Region’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), project-specific working committees, workshops and through the review of draft discussion papers and policies.

Mississauga staff have provided comments on the amendments to City Council through a series of corporate reports (Appendix 1). City Council has supported all of the Regional Official Plan Amendments (ROPAs) that have been proposed. A report on ROPA 21 was brought forward to Planning and Development Committee in a report titled *“Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) Proposing Changes to Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management”* at its meeting on May 4, 2009.

The policies in ROPA 21B were originally included as part of ROPA 21. The Natural Heritage and Agriculture policies in this amendment were severed and brought forward as ROPA 21B and adopted by Regional Council on May 13, 2010.

A Draft Notice of Decision on ROPA 21B was received on November 15, 2010. A report informing Regional Council of the ROPA 21B Draft Notice of Decision, further modifications and seeking endorsement of the proposed responses to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is anticipated in September 2011.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to City Council on this process and provide comments on ROPA 21B. (Appendix 2)

COMMENTS:

ROPA 21B includes policies on natural heritage and agriculture. Previous comments on these policies as part of ROPA 21 were limited as the proposed policies have limited applicability to Mississauga. Modifications to the policies have resulted in two implications for the City.

ROPA 21B will now require area municipalities to include a definition of plantations (2.3.2.17) in their official plans.¹ Plantations are to be defined as part of the Core woodlands, if naturalized and if they meet selected criteria. This updated definition is supported and it will be included in a future amendment or modification to the proposed new Mississauga Official Plan.

ROPA 21B also includes policies on urban agriculture (3.2.2.10). Mississauga's previous comments for these policies requested that consideration be given to include policies on urban agriculture in future amendments. Revised policies for ROPA 21B support agricultural opportunities in urban areas that are appropriate and compatible with urban land uses. They also promote agricultural opportunities within near urban areas to supply local markets. These policies replace policies on community gardens as a broader application of the concept and are supported.

¹ *Plantations* are defined as treed communities in which the majority of trees have been planted, often in regularly spaced rows. With time they can convert to natural forest.

STRATEGIC PLAN: The Peel Region Official Plan, as amended through PROPR, supports many of the principles in Mississauga's Strategic Plan. It introduced sustainability as the underlying theme which is a fundamental element than runs through the five pillars in the Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Not applicable.

CONCLUSION: ROPA 21B includes policies on natural heritage and agriculture that were originally introduced as part of ROPA 21. For the most part the policies in ROPA 21B apply, outside of Mississauga, however, selected policies in this amendment apply to all three area municipalities in Peel.

ATTACHMENTS: APPENDIX 1: Region of Peel Official Plan Review, Status of Amendments
APPENDIX 2: Region of Peel, Regional Official Plan Amendment Number 21B (ROPA 21B) Natural Heritage and Agriculture Policies

Original Signed By:

Edward R. Sajecki
Commissioner of Planning and Building
Prepared By: Emily Irvine, Planner

Region of Peel Official Plan Review Status of Amendments							
	ROPA	Report to Mississauga Planning and Development Committee	Report to Regional Council (Public Meeting)	Report on Comments & Adoption of Final Recommendations	Provincial Approval	Appeal	Current Status
1.	ROPA 20 – Sustainability and Energy Policies	March 30, 2009	Jan. 22, 2009 (Feb. 26, 2009)	May 7, 2009 (GC*) May 14, 2009 (RC**)	Nov. 26, 2009	Appeal from Solmar Dec. 15, 2009 Appeal scoped	In effect April 19, 2011 except for 1 policy under appeal
2.	ROPA 21 – Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management Policies (adopted as ROPA 21A – Air Quality and Integrated Waste Management Policies)	May 4, 2009	Feb. 26, 2009 (Apr. 23, 2009)	Nov. 12, 2009 (GC) Nov 19, 2009 (RC)	May 25, 2010	No appeals	In effect
3.	ROPA 21B*** – Natural Heritage and Agriculture Policies		Part of ROPA 21 Feb. 26, 2009 (April 23, 2009)	May 6, 2010 (GC) May 13, 2010 (RC)	Required by Nov. 27, 2010 (Draft Decision Nov. 15, 2010)	No appeals to date	No decision to-date
4.	ROPA 22 – Transportation Policies	June 29, 2009	Mar. 26, 2009 (May 7, 2009)	Nov. 12, 2009 (GC) Nov 19, 2009 (RC)	Aug. 27, 2010	Appeal from Solmar Sep. 3, 2010 Appeal scoped	In effect April 19, 2011 except for 6 policies and one definition under appeal
5.	ROPA 23 – Housing Policies	Sep. 21, 2009	Jun. 18, 2009 (Sep. 17, 2009)	Nov. 12, 2009 (GC) Nov 19, 2009 (RC)	May 27, 2010	Appeal from Solmar July 5, 2010 Appeal withdrawn	In effect April 19, 2011

Region of Peel Official Plan Review Status of Amendments							
	ROPA	Report to Mississauga Planning and Development Committee	Report to Regional Council (Public Meeting)	Report on Comments & Adoption of Final Recommendations	Provincial Approval	Appeal	Current Status
6.	ROPA 24 – Places to Prosper An Amendment to Update Growth Management, Employment Lands and Greenbelt Policies	Nov. 16, 2009	Jul. 9, 2009 (Oct. 8, 2009)	April 15, 2010 (GC) April 22, 2010 (RC)	Required by Nov 23, 2010 (Draft Decision Oct. 27, 2010) No decision to-date (OMB is approval authority) (Settlement package to be issued.)	Appeal from Solmar Nov. 25, 2010 based on non-decision	Under appeal
7.	ROPA 25 – An Amendment to Update Monitoring Policies and Planning and Conservation Land Amendment Act Conformity Policies	Nov. 30, 2009	Sep. 10, 2009 (Oct. 29, 2009)	Feb. 4, 2010 (GC) Feb. 11, 2010 (RC)	Aug. 6, 2010	Appeal from Solmar Aug. 23, 2010 Appeal withdrawn	In effect April 19, 2011
8.	ROPA 26 – Public Consultation (Human-Made Hazards, Petroleum Resources, Special Policy Areas, Active Recreation, Incentives for Intensification Policies and Transportation Schedules)	To be determined	July 7, 2011	To be determined	To be determined	n/a	n/a

* Regional Council - General Committee

** Regional Council

*** ROPA 21B policies were split from ROPA 21 at the Nov 19, 2009 Regional Council Meeting. Further stakeholder meetings were held in February 2010. An open house on mapping was held February 22, 2010. A second staff report and final recommendations were brought to Regional Council in May 2010. Mississauga staff comments were provided for these policies to City Council at the May 4, 2009 Planning and Development Committee in the report which commented on ROPA 21.

REGION OF PEEL

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT
NUMBER 21B (ROPA 21B)
NATURAL HERITAGE AND AGRICULTURE
POLICIES

PART A – THE PREAMBLE

1. Purpose of the Amendment

To revise and add policies related to natural heritage and agriculture 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 Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) is a component of PROPR that addresses four of the 15 focus areas that are identified in the PROPR work program: natural heritage, agriculture, air quality and integrated waste management.

On March 5, 2009, Regional Council gave direction to circulate Regional Official Plan Amendment 21 (ROPA 21) for public review. At that time, ROPA 21 included proposed policies related to natural heritage, agriculture, air quality and integrated waste management. On November 12, 2009, General Committee of Regional Council considered a staff report recommending adoption of ROPA 21 and by Resolutions GC-201-2009 and GC-202-2009, recommended adoption of the air quality and integrated waste policies and deferral of the natural heritage and agriculture policies until additional consultation was completed. The resolutions were approved by Regional Council on November 19, 2009. In accordance with the Council direction, adoption of ROPA 21 is being considered in two stages. On November 19, 2009, Regional Council enacted By-law 110-2009 adopting Regional Official Plan Amendment 21A which included the air quality and integrated waste management policies. ROPA 21B has been prepared to include the natural heritage and agriculture policy components of ROPA 21.

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. 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 and agriculture policies.

Through PROPR, revisions to the Plan's text, schedules and figures are being proposed to ensure that policy is up-to-date and conforms to provincial policy requirements.

Natural Heritage

The natural heritage component identifies 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 and amendments to address policy direction in the PPS for significant woodlands, significant wildlife habitat and significant valleylands.

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 21B 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. The

policies in ROPA 21 will provide a comprehensive strategy to address issues related to the viability and sustainability of farming as an economic activity 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; 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 provide a Regional role to support the agri-food sector and strengthen stewardship programs to achieve both agricultural and environmental objectives.

Note:

Modifications to PART B – THE AMENDMENT are shown as follows: Deletions as strike-out, and additions in red.

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. 21B to the Region of Peel Official Plan, 1996. The renumbering in the amendments is based on the latest office consolidation which incorporates approved Regional Official Plan Amendment Numbers 15, 16 and 17 to the Regional Official Plan and Regional Council adopted Amendment Numbers 20, 21A, 22 and 23.

a. Amendments to Text

1. Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3, is amended by deleting 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. Except as expressly noted in Policies 7.2.2.3 and 7.2.2.7, any changes, additions, or deletions to these elements will require an amendment to this 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 2.2.2.1, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Study, recognize and protect the overall integrity of Peel’s ecosystems which are part of connected biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) systems providing local and larger scale natural functions”.
5. Chapter 2, Section 2.3, is amended by adding the following new paragraph after the eighth paragraph:
- “The Regional Official Plan implements the Provincial Policy Statement’s (PPS) natural features policies through the Greenlands System’s Core Areas, Natural Areas and Corridors (NAC) and Potential Natural Areas and Corridors (PNAC) policy framework. Core Areas represent provincially and regionally significant features and areas and are considered a sub-set of what would be *significant* under the PPS. NAC and PNAC natural features and areas may also be evaluated and identified to be *significant* in *area municipal official plans* and through the local study process required during planning approvals in accordance with Regional, area municipal and provincial policy. Where the province has provided criteria for the identification of natural features, the provincial criteria shall apply, unless municipal criteria achieve or exceed the same objective in which case the municipal criteria will apply.”
6. Chapter 2, Section 2.3, the 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 (ESAs) 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; the most significant stream valleys and *wetlands* associated with the Escarpment, provincially *significant* life science ANSIs; and forested lands 300 metres back from 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.

Escarpment Protection Areas

Escarpment Protection Areas are important because of their visual prominence and their environmental significance. Included in this designation are Escarpment features that have been significantly modified by land use activities such as agriculture or residential development, land needed to buffer prominent Escarpment Natural Areas, and natural areas of regional significance.

Fish Habitat and Wildlife Habitat

Fish habitat 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, **but are not limited to**, *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 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 extirpated, endangered, threatened and special concern species are maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Natural Corridors

Natural corridors are lands that are in a natural state or that have the potential to be restored to a natural state that connect, link or border natural features and areas 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 lands function as *natural corridors* in the Greenlands System. *Natural corridors* on lands that are not in a natural state, but have the potential to be restored to a natural state to improve the integrity and function of the Greenlands System, are identified through the preparation of natural heritage studies in accordance with *area municipal official plan* policy.

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 percent 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 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. The four major types of *wetlands* are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens.

Woodlands

Woodlands are complex ecosystems comprising communities of trees, shrubs, ground vegetation comprised of treed areas and the immediate biotic and abiotic 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 “provincially” and “(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 and 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 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:~~ Section 2.3.2, is amended by adding the following new Section 2.3.2.3 after Section 2.3.2.2 and by renumbering all subsequent sections accordingly:

2.3.2.3 For the purposes of defining the Core Areas of the Greenlands System for mineral aggregate resource extraction uses within the Rural System, define *Core woodlands* as all *woodlands* that are a minimum of 30 hectares in size and exclude as *Core valley and stream corridors* all *valley and stream corridors* that have a drainage area of 125 hectares or less.

14a. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2 renumbered Section 2.3.2.4, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

2.3.2.4 “Direct the area municipalities, in consultation with the conservation authorities, the Province 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, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan, where applicable.”

15. Chapter 2, ~~renumbered~~ Section 2.3.2.56, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Prohibit *development* and *site alteration* 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, pre-approved or authorized under an environmental assessment process;
- d) *passive recreation*;
- e) *minor development* and *minor site alteration*;
- f) *existing uses, buildings or structures*;

- g) expansions to *existing buildings or structures*;
- ~~h) uses, buildings and structures accessory to *existing* and permitted uses including *existing* agricultural uses;~~
- h) **accessory uses, buildings or structures**;
- i) a new single residential dwelling on an *existing lot of record*, provided that the dwelling would have been permitted by the applicable planning legislation or zoning by-law on the date of adoption of ~~Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B~~. **the Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B came into effect**. A new dwelling built after the ~~date of adoption~~ the **Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B came into effect** in accordance with this policy shall be deemed to be an *existing building or structure* for the purposes of the exceptions permitted in clauses g) and h) above.

The above exceptions may be permitted in accordance with the policies in an approved *area municipal official plan* or the Niagara Escarpment Plan where applicable, in consultation with *the Region*, the 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 directed to adopt appropriate policies to allow the exceptions subject to it being demonstrated that there is no reasonable alternative location 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 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.

When developing policies to allow the exceptions, the area municipalities shall give consideration to appropriate implementation tools and mechanisms including the existing tools and mechanisms of other agencies.”

In addition to the above policies, permitted exceptions within *significant wetlands, significant coastal wetlands* and *significant habitat of threatened and endangered species* within the Core Areas of the Greenlands System, may only be considered in accordance with provincial and federal legislation and policies (e.g. Endangered Species Act)

- 15a. **Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.7 is amended by adding the words “and 2.3.2.3” in the first sentence after the words “as described in Policy 2.3.2.2”.**
- 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 8 to 2.3.2.46.17.**

17. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.7~~8~~, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Allow the continuation of *existing agricultural uses* in accordance with *normal farm practices* within the Greenlands System.”
18. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 ~~9~~ is amended by adding the sub-heading “Natural Areas and Corridors” to the beginning of the section after renumbered Section 2.3.2.7 ~~8~~.
19. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 ~~9~~, Clause a) is amended by deleting the words “Class 4 to 7 wetlands” and replacing them with “evaluated non-provincially *significant wetlands*”.
20. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 ~~9~~, Clause b) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with following:

“NAC *woodlands* meeting one or more of the criteria in Table 1”
21. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 ~~9~~, is amended by adding the following new clauses after Clause b) and by renumbering clauses c) to g) as g) to k):
 - “c) *significant wildlife habitat* meeting one or more of the criteria in Figure 5”
 - “d) *fish habitat*;
 - “e) *regionally significant life science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*”
 - “f) *provincially significant earth science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*”
22. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.8 ~~9~~, Clause i) is amended by deleting it and replacing it 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 ~~10~~, 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 ~~9~~.
24. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 ~~10~~, is amended by renumbering the reference to Section 2.3.2.11 (g) as 2.3.2.8 ~~9~~(k).
25. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 ~~10~~, 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 meeting one or more of the criteria in Table 1. The evaluation of cultural woodlands and cultural savannahs is also subject to policy 2.3.2.18.”

26. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 ~~10~~, Clause c) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “any other *woodlands* greater than 0.5 hectares (1.24 acres)”
27. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 ~~10~~, Clause d) is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “regionally *significant* earth science *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*”
28. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.9 ~~10~~, 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 2.3.2.40~~11~~, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Direct the area municipalities, in consultation with the conservation authorities 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 2.3.2.42~~13~~, is amended by adding the sub-heading “Wetlands” to the beginning of the section after renumbered Section 2.3.2.44~~12~~.
31. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.44~~15~~, 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 2.3.2.45~~16~~, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Direct the area municipalities, 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 through *subwatershed* or broad scale environmental studies. Alterations to *valley and stream corridors* identified as Natural Areas and Corridors may be considered subject to recommendations in a *subwatershed* or broad scale environmental study and on the basis of detailed site specific environmental, engineering or planning studies and field work where such alterations contribute to the overall enhancement of the Greenlands System.”
33. Chapter 2, renumbered Section 2.3.2.46~~17~~, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “In addition to *development* and *site alteration* permitted in accordance with Section 2.3.2.5, permit the following within Core *valley and stream corridors*

unless an *area municipal official plan* is more restrictive than the Regional Official Plan:

- b) *development* permitted within approved Two Zone and *Special Policy Area flood plains*; and
- c) compatible small scale urban *agricultural, agricultural-related* and *secondary uses*, buildings and structures within the Urban System as shown on Schedule D.

These exceptions shall not be permitted within *significant wetlands* and *significant* habitat of *endangered and threatened species*, and shall not be permitted within other *significant* natural features unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions and that *restoration* and *enhancement* of the Greenlands System and *natural hazards* are addressed in accordance with sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this Plan.”

34. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2, is amended by adding the following new sections and sub-heading after renumbered Section 2.3.2.46~~17~~:

“Woodlands

~~2.3.2.47~~¹⁸ ~~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.~~

Direct the area municipalities to define *woodlands* to include *plantations* in accordance with the definition in this Plan and to evaluate them in accordance with the criteria in Table 1 and policies in section 2.3.2 of this Plan. *Plantations* shall be identified as *Core woodland* if they are a *naturalized plantation* and they meet one or more criteria for *Core woodland* in Table 1. For the purpose of measuring *woodland* patch size when *woodlands* contain *Core woodland* and non-*Core plantation* communities, patch size shall be measured to include all contiguous *woodland* communities.

~~2.3.2.48~~¹⁹ 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 policy 2.3.2.10 and 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 *significant* ecological values that contribute to the *integrity* and function of the Greenlands System are recommended to be identified and protected in accordance with the policies of this Plan.

- 2.3.2.19 ~~20~~ 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 Section 2.3.2.10 and the criteria in Table 1 and to consider criteria and thresholds based on environmental, physiographic, social and economic factors.
- 2.3.2.21 Consider allowing new or expanded mineral aggregate extraction sites in *Core woodlands* if the *woodland* is *early successional habitat* or *young plantation* and provided that progressive and final *rehabilitation* will result in no loss of *woodland* area and function. If mitigation of the loss of woodland area and function is not possible on-site due to excavation below water table, off-site mitigation that contributes to the function and ecological integrity of the Greenlands System is to be considered as early in the operation as practical. The new or expanded mineral aggregate extraction site that is allowed within *early successional habitat* or *young plantation* shall not affect the status of the retained portion of the *woodland* to remain as *Core Woodland* or *significant woodland*. New or expanded mineral aggregate extraction sites within the Greenbelt Plan or Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan areas are subject to additional policy requirements in sections 2.2.9 and 2.2.10 of this Plan.
35. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2.20~~22~~, is amended by adding the sub-heading “Landforms” to the beginning of the section after new Section 2.3.2.19~~21~~.
36. Chapter 2, Section 2.3.2, is amended by adding the following new section after Section 2.3.2.21~~23~~:

“Environmental Impact Studies

- 2.3.2.22~~24~~ Direct the area municipalities to require environmental impact studies for *development and site alteration* within and on *adjacent lands* to the Greenlands System and to include policies in their official plans that *development* and *site alteration* shall not be permitted unless the ecological functions of the *adjacent lands* have been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that there will be no *negative impacts* on the natural feature or its functions, or the requirements of Section 2.3.2.5 have been satisfied.

This requirement for environmental impact studies may be reduced if detailed development criteria have been applied to a site through a *subwatershed* study, a comprehensive environmental impact study, or if an appropriate scoping exercise has been completed by the area municipality in consultation with the relevant agencies.”

37. Chapter 2, Section 2.5.2.5, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Encourage the area municipalities to restore and enhance the natural heritage features and functions within the Parkway Belt West Plan Area.”

38. Chapter 2, Section 2.5.2, is amended by adding the following new section 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.”

39. 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.

2.5.3.1 Objective

To minimize the impacts of invasive species through the proper management and control of non-native invasive species to promote 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 in carrying out invasive species management.

2.5.3.2.2 Support and encourage the area municipalities in consultation with the 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 wherever feasible and appropriate include native species plantings along Regional roads and on properties owned by the *Region*.”

40. 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 in carrying out *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 various 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.
- 2.6.2.7 Support the area municipalities and conservation authorities to 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."
41. 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 **agricultural**, social, cultural heritage, *community* and economic aspects."
42. Chapter 3, Section 3.2, is amended by deleting the words "outside the urban area" in the third sentence of the first paragraph and by adding the following new paragraph after the first paragraph:
- "The agricultural industry is diversifying to include, in addition to primary production, a *value added chain*, as well as health and nutrition, *sustainability*, environmental management and conservation themes. Support for farming operations in *Peel* will contribute to building a stronger agricultural industry, bringing benefits to those communities that depend on the industry, as well as the larger society. In this regard, the policies aim to promote within the Region's new sustainability framework, an increased and diversified production of healthier local produce to improve health, mitigate climate change and strengthen the Regional economy. The *Region* supports the continuation of a thriving and viable agricultural industry in *Peel* including diversification, agricultural innovation and new practices in all aspects of the industry."
43. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1.1, is amended by adding the words "for long-term use for agriculture" after the words "Prime Agricultural Area".
44. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1.2, is amended by adding the words "the loss and" after the words "or result in".
45. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1.3, is amended by adding the word "diversified" before the word "healthy".
46. 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 Town of Caledon to increase and support diversification in local farming as a source of local food supply.”
47. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2.3, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Require compliance with the *minimum distance separation formulae* in the *Prime Agricultural Area*.”
48. Chapter 3, Section 3.2.2.4, is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “Encourage, where appropriate, the phasing of *development* in accordance with the area municipal plans so that agricultural activities and related uses continue for as long as practical in the area that lies within the 2031 Regional Urban Boundary but outside the Greenbelt in the City of Brampton, and within the approved boundaries of the Rural Service Centres in the Town of Caledon.”
49. 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.”
50. 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 are~~ compatible with, ~~and shall not hinder~~ surrounding agricultural activity, ~~and~~ meet the requirements of the *minimum distance separation formulae*, and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.” ~~Further, direct the Town of Caledon in its official plan to include criteria for secondary uses and agriculture-related uses as recommended by the province, or based on a municipal approach which achieves the same objective.~~
51. 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, ~~new crops and products such as niche markets and community gardens of suitable scale that are compatible with the adjacent urban land uses~~ within near-urban and urban areas to supply local markets, support health and protect the environment.”

52. 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; and
- 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 to adjusting the 2031 Regional Urban Boundary, or the 2031 boundary for the Caledon East Rural Service Centre, or the 2021 boundaries for the Mayfield West and Bolton Rural Service Centres. Such applications must continue to be addressed in the context of Section 7.9 of this Plan.”

53. 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.”

54. Chapter 3, renumbered Section 3.2.2.14 is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

~~“3.2.2.14 Encourage greater diversity of permitted uses, such as secondary uses and agriculture-related uses within prime agricultural areas, and value added industries such as wineries, cideries, agricultural research institutes, feed mills and fertilizer depots to aid the farm industry, and to maintain the cultural heritage and way of life of the farming community.”~~

Encourage greater diversity of permitted uses, including value-added industries (e.g. wineries, cideries, agricultural research institutes, feed mills and fertilizer depots) to aid the farm industry, and to maintain the cultural heritage and way of life of the farming community. Within *prime agricultural areas* all permitted uses must either be *agriculture-related uses* or *secondary uses* that are in accordance with Policy 3.2.2.8 of this Official Plan.

55. 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, stakeholders and in consultation with the Province, 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 and the Province, 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 and the Province, various supplementary and financial options and 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 Investigate with the area municipalities, the challenges and emerging needs of near urban agriculture including: complaints from non-farm residents about farm practices; problems regarding movement of farm equipment on congested roads; the adequacy of infrastructure; farm parcel sizes; the shortage of rental land or lack of affordable land to purchase; and trespassing.
 - 3.2.2.19 Encourage area municipalities to consider the development of viable advanced technologies as necessary where appropriate, to promote year-round agricultural production of ethnic and market garden fresh fruits and vegetables for the local fresh market trades.
 - 3.2.2.20 Prohibit the Town of Caledon, in its official plan, from permitting lot creation and lot adjustments in the *Prime Agricultural Area*, unless it is consistent with the Provincial policies.”
 - 3.2.2.21 Support urban agricultural uses and practices that are appropriate and compatible with adjacent urban land uses
- 55a Chapter 3, Section 3.3.2, is amended by adding the following new clause e) to renumbered Section 3.3.2.3, and by renumbering clause e) as f)
- e) significant woodlands within the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System unless the woodland is occupied by *early successional habitat* or *young plantation*. The prohibition within significant woodlands within the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System applies only to new mineral aggregate extraction sites and *wayside pits and quarries* and their ancillary or accessory uses.
56. Chapter 4, Section 4.2.2.1, 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”.

57. Chapter 7, Section 7.2.2.1, is amended by deleting the reference to “Table 1” and replacing it with the word “tables”.
58. Chapter 7, Section 7.2.2.2, is amended by deleting the reference to “Table 1” and replacing it with “tables”.
59. 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 provided in the *area municipal official plans* and will be further determined on a site specific basis through studies, as may be required by the area municipalities through the local planning approval process, in consultation with the *Region* and 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 or field investigations.”
60. 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:
- a) development of a workplan describing the project organization and management, 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 which considers the Region’s future ecological requirements and targets;
 - c) the consideration of natural heritage systems studies, *watershed plans* 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, **Lake Simcoe Protection Plan** and *area municipal official plans*.”
61. Chapter 7, Section 7.6.2.12, and Section 7.6.2.14, are amended by deleting them in their entirety and by renumbering all subsequent sections accordingly:

- ~~7.6.2. 12 — Work *jointly*, with the area municipalities, conservation authorities, neighbouring municipalities and other government agencies, to create a priority list of components of the Greenlands System that may be considered for conveyance or acquisition for conservation purposes.~~
- ~~7.6.2.14 — Encourage environmental education and stewardship programs, *jointly* with the area municipalities and the conservation authorities.~~
62. Chapter 7, Section 7.6.2, is amended by adding the following new section after Section 7.6.2.16 and by renumbering all subsequent sections accordingly:
- “7.6.2.17 Undertake *jointly* with the Town of Caledon, a Land Evaluation Area Review (LEAR) to **review the identification of prime agricultural areas and to help** ensure the protection of the *Prime Agricultural Area* for long-term use for agriculture and to undertake research with the Town to review and assess the application of the *minimum distance separation (MDS) formulae* in *Peel*.”
63. Chapter 7, renumbered Section 7.9.2.12, is amended by adding the following new clause:
- “h) Impacts of a proposed settlement area boundary expansion 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
64. The Glossary definition of “adjacent lands” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:
- “**Adjacent lands:** those lands contiguous to a specific natural heritage feature or area where it is likely that development or site alteration would have a *negative impact* on the feature or area. The extent of the adjacent lands may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives.”
65. The Glossary definition of “agriculture-related uses” has been deleted and replaced with the following:
- “**Agriculture-related uses:** those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are small scale and directly related to the farm operation and are required in close proximity to the farm operation.”
66. The Glossary definition of “areas of natural and scientific interest” is amended by adding the words “and regional” after the word “provincial”.

67. 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”.

68. The Glossary definition of “environmental farm plans” is amended by deleting it in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

“Environmental Farm Plan: a plan approved in accordance with the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan Program.”

69. The Glossary definition of “fish and wildlife habitat” is amended by deleting it in its entirety.

70. The Glossary definition of “prime agricultural uses” has been amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Primary agricultural uses: the growing of crops, including nursery and horticultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, fur or fibre, including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agro-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures, including accommodation for full-time farm labour when the size and nature of the operation requires additional employment.”

71. The Glossary definition of “protect” is amended by adding the words “areas including their ecological” after the words “natural features and”.

72. The Glossary definition of “provincially significant wetland” is amended by deleting it in its entirety.

72a. The Glossary definition of “Recreation” is amended by deleting the second sentence and replacing it with the following

Passive recreation is characterized by low intensity outdoor pastimes, such as hiking, picnicking and bird watching, requiring minimal modification of the land surface and relatively few if any buildings or structures such as a gazebo.

72b. The Glossary definition of “Secondary Uses” is amended by relocating the definition to follow “Secondary Suites” in the Glossary.

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;

- 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, 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 “site alteration” is amended by deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“Site alteration: activities, such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.”
- 75. 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.”
- 76. The Glossary definition of “vulnerable, threatened and endangered Species” is amended by deleting it in its entirety.

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 deleting it and replacing it with the following:

“**Woodlands:** ~~complex ecosystems comprising communities of trees, shrubs, ground-vegetation~~ **comprised of treed areas** and the immediate biotic and abiotic environmental conditions on which they depend. *Woodlands* provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the general public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, the provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, the provision of *wildlife habitat*, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the *sustainable* harvest of a wide range of woodland products. *Woodlands* include ~~treed areas~~, woodlots, **cultural woodlands, cultural savannahs, plantations** and forested areas and may also contain remnants of old growth forests.

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:
 - i) 1,000 trees of any size per hectare, or
 - ii) 750 trees measuring over five centimetres in diameter at breast height (1.37m), per hectare, or
 - iii) **500 trees measuring over 12 centimetres in diameter at breast height (1.37m), per hectare or**
 - iv) 250 trees measuring over 20 centimetres in diameter at breast height (1.37m), per hectare (densities based on the Forestry Act of Ontario 1998)

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

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.

Woodlands include ~~cultural woodlands and cultural savannahs~~ and exclude *plantations* that are:

- a)i) managed for production of fruits, nuts, Christmas trees or nursery stock;
- b)ii) managed for tree products with an average rotation of less than 20 years (e.g. hybrid willow or poplar); or
- e)iii) 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.

Additional exclusions may be considered for treed communities which are dominated by invasive non-native tree or shrub species such as buckthorn (*Rhamnus* species) and Norway maple (*Acer plantanoides*) that threaten the ecological diversity of native communities, good forestry practices and environmental management. Such exceptions may be considered where native tree species comprise less than 10 percent of the tree crown cover and are represented by less than 100 stems of any size per hectare.”

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.

Agri-food sector: sector of the economy involved in the production, processing, assembly and sale of agriculture goods and services.

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 25 to 35 percent 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 percent 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.

Early successional habitat:

- (a) within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area, an area defined in accordance with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Technical Paper 7 – Identification and Protection of Significant Woodlands;
- (b) within the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside, an area defined in accordance with the Greenbelt Plan Technical Paper 2 – Technical Definitions and Criteria for Significant Woodlands in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside Area of the Greenbelt Plan; or
- (c) outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area and Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside, an area defined in accordance with the Green Belt Plan Technical Paper 2 – Technical Definitions and Criteria for Significant Woodlands in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside Area of the Greenbelt Plan.

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, fresh water, biodiversity, nutrient cycling and climate regulation which contribute to meeting 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.

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 Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B **came into effect.**

Existing use, building or structure: a use, building or structure that lawfully existed on the date of approval of Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B **came into effect.** For further clarity, an existing use, building or structure is interpreted to include only the currently occupied limits of the use, building or structure as it existed on the date of approval of Regional Official Plan Amendment 21B **came into effect.**

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.

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.

Land acquisition: the transfer of interest in title of land through a variety of means such as fee simple purchase, conservation easements and land donations.

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*.

Minimum distance separation formulae: formulae developed by the Province, **as amended from time to time**, to separate uses so as to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities.

Negative impacts:

a) in regard to water resources, degradation to the quality and quantity of water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive ground water features, and their related hydrologic functions, due to single, multiple or successive *development* or *site alteration* activities;

b) in regard to *fish habitat*, the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of *fish habitat*, except where, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, it has been authorized under the Fisheries Act, using the guiding principle of no net loss of productive capacity; and

c) in regard to other natural heritage features and areas, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive *development* or *site alteration* activities.

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.

Plantation: a treed community in which the majority of trees have been planted or the majority of the basal area is in trees that have been planted, often characterized by regularly spaced rows. With time and forest management, natural regeneration can become established and eventually convert the community to natural forest.

Plantation, naturalized: a *plantation* or portion of a *plantation* that is undergoing natural regeneration in the understory either through natural succession or woodland restoration. A *plantation* shall be considered naturalized if it contains more than 100 native trees per hectare in the understory that have attained a minimum height of 1.37 metres.

Plantation, young: a *plantation* in which

- (a) within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area, an area defined in accordance with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Technical Paper 7 – Identification and Protection of Significant Woodlands;
- (b) within the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside, an area defined in accordance with the Greenbelt Plan Technical Paper 2 – Technical Definitions and Criteria for Significant Woodlands in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside Area of the Greenbelt Plan; or
- (c) outside of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area and Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside, an area defined in accordance with the Greenbelt Plan Technical Paper 2 – Technical Definitions and Criteria for Significant Woodlands in the Natural Heritage System of the Protected Countryside Area of the Greenbelt Plan.

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”).

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, stormwater management ponds and ditches that have limited ecological function.

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

Tributary: a river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream.

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 defined channel with bed and banks on a permanent or intermittent basis, and for clarity, excludes drainage features that flow on an ephemeral (storm) basis of frequency only.

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 **and modified** 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.

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

(Insert Map here)

Table 1

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

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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 and Communities^{(1) (2)(3)}
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 containing at least 0.5 ha of <i>woodland</i> in native trees older than 100 years and having late successional characteristics (excludes plantations)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 4 ha that supports any of the following: i. any G1, G2, G3, 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, Endangered</i> or of Special Concern; or iii. The following forest communities: FOC 1-2, FOM 2-1, FOM 2-2, FOM 6-1, FOD 1-1, FOD 1-2, 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> in native trees older than 100 years and having late successional characteristics (excludes plantations)	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha supporting a <i>significant linkage</i> 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> supporting a <i>significant ecological relationship</i> between the features	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha within 30 m of a <i>watercourse, surface water features</i> or any <i>wetland that is or can be identified as a wetland in accordance with the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES)</i> .	Any <i>woodland</i> \geq 0.5 ha up to 4 ha that supports any of the following: i. any G1, G2, G3, 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, Endangered</i> or of Special Concern; or iii. The following forest communities: FOC 1-2, FOM 2-1, FOM 2-2, FOM 6-1, FOD 1-1, FOD 1-2, FOD 1-4, FOD 2-2, FOD 2-3 or FOD 6-2

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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 and Communities ^{(1) (2)(3)}
PNAC May Support Integrity of the System	<i>Cultural woodlands and cultural savannahs</i> => 4 ha in the Rural System and => 2 ha in the Urban System and Rural Service Centres	Core and NAC criteria apply	Core and NAC criteria apply	Core and NAC criteria apply	Core and NAC criteria apply	Core and NAC criteria apply
	all other woodlands > 0.5 ha	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: (1) The rankings G1, G2, G3, S1, S2 and S3 refer to the conservation status of species assigned by the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). G or Global ranks (GRANKS) are assigned by a consensus of the network of Conservation Data Centres, including the NHIC, scientific experts and The Nature Conservancy to designate a rarity rank based on the range-wide status of a species. S or Sub-national ranks (SRANKS) are assigned by the NHIC for species and vegetation communities in Ontario. The rankings specific to Table 1 are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| G1 – extremely rare | S1 – critically imperiled |
| G2 – very rare | S2 – imperiled |
| G3 – rare to uncommon | S3 – vulnerable |

(2) The following acronyms are described by the Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario: First Approximation and its Application (MNR, 1998)

- FOD 1-1 – Dry-Fresh Red Oak Deciduous Forest
- FOD 1-2 – Dry-Fresh White Oak Deciduous Forest
- FOD 1-4 – Dry Fresh Mixed Oak Deciduous Forest
- FOD 2-2 – Dry Fresh Oak-Hickory Deciduous Forest
- FOD 2-3 – ~~Fresh Hickory~~ **Dry –Fresh Hickory** Deciduous Forest
- FOD 6-2 – ~~Fresh Moist Sugar Maple – White Elm~~ **Fresh Sugar Maple-Black Maple** Deciduous Forest
- FOM 2-1 – Dry-Fresh White Pine-Oak Mixed Forest
- FOM 2-2 – Dry-Fresh White Pine-Sugar maple Mixed Forest
- FOM 6-1 – Moist-Fresh ~~White Pine~~ **Hemlock** -Sugar Maple Mixed Forest
- FOC 1-2 – Dry-Fresh White Pine-Red Pine Coniferous Forest

(3) COSEWIC – Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
 COSSARO – Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario

Table 2
**Criteria and Thresholds for the Identification of Core Valley and
Stream Corridors**

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, <i>major tributaries</i>, other tributaries and identified watercourses draining directly to Lake Ontario ▪ <i>Valley and stream corridors</i> 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, <i>major tributaries</i> 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 <i>endangered or threatened species</i>; or • watercourse crosses municipal boundaries and provides linkage to other Core Areas of the Greenlands System. ▪ Excludes ill-defined <i>headwater</i> drainage features including created <i>headwater valley/stream corridors</i>, 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 the text of this Plan ▪ Shown schematically and subject to site specific evaluation to confirm width of <i>Core valley and stream corridor</i>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Associated Ravines	<p>Associated ravines within the 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 <i>endangered/threatened species</i>;▪ linkage to other natural features of the Greenlands System;▪ <i>flood</i> and erosion hazards; or▪ <i>restoration</i> 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 Official Plan policies.
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Figure 5

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

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<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>
A1. Deer wintering area	√	
A2. Colonial bird nesting sites (e.g., heronry, gull colony)	√	
A3. Waterfowl nesting habitat	√	
A4i. Migratory landbird stopover areas – Criteria applies within Cities of Brampton and Mississauga	√	
A4ii. Migratory bat stopover areas		√
A4iii. Migratory butterfly stopover areas – Criteria applies within Cities of Brampton and Mississauga		√
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.e., used for feeding and/or roosting)		√
A6. Snake hibernacula	√	
A7. Bat maternal roosts and hibernacula		√
A8. Bullfrog concentration areas (see details under B8ii)	√	
A10. Turkey Vulture summer roosting areas		√
B1. Rare vegetation communities	√	
B2. Forests providing a high diversity of habitats (captured by <i>significant woodlands</i>)	√	
B3. Old-growth or mature forest stands (captured by <i>significant woodlands</i>)	√	
B4. Foraging areas with abundant mast (i.e., nut bearing trees)	√	
B5. Highly diverse areas	√	
B6. Cliffs and caves	√	

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<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>
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	√	
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.	√	
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.		√

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<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>C6. Species that are rare within the Regional Municipality of Peel/Town of Caledon, even though they may not be provincially rare</p>		<p align="center">√</p>
<p>C7. Species that are subjects of recovery programs.</p>		<p align="center">√</p>
<p>C8. Species accepted by the Regional Municipality of Peel / Town of Caledon, based on recommendations from a local Conservation Advisory Committee.</p>		<p align="center">√</p>
<p>D. Animal movement corridors</p>		<p align="center">√</p>

* The Peel-Caledon Significant Woodlands and Significant Wildlife Habitat Study (June 2009) provided a methodology for identifying and evaluating criteria and thresholds for the identification of *significant wildlife habitat*. 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 not included in Figure 5. It is recognized that thresholds identified in the Study may need to be developed, refined or revised through further study, including through the planning approval process as further detailed comprehensive or site specific studies are completed. As a result of the further potential for refinements or revisions, the thresholds have not been adopted as policy in the Region of Peel Official Plan.