



Definitions

York Region Official Plan



The Regional Municipality of York
Official Plan


York Region



Office Consolidation - April 2016





Adjacent Lands

Those lands contiguous to a *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature* where it is likely that *development* or *site alteration* can reasonably be expected to have a negative impact on the feature. The extent of the *adjacent lands* may be recommended by the Province or based on municipal approaches which achieve the same objective. Generally, adjacent lands are considered to be within 120m from any part of the feature. For the purposes of Policy 3.4.14, *adjacent lands* are those lands contiguous to a *protected heritage property* or as defined in the local official plan.

Affordable

In the case of ownership housing, the least expensive of:

- a. housing for which the purchase price results in annual accommodation costs not exceeding 30 per cent of gross annual household income for low- and moderate-income households; or,
- b. housing for which the purchase price is at least 10 per cent below the average purchase price of a resale unit in the regional market area;

In the case of rental housing, the least expensive of:

- a. a unit for which the rent does not exceed 30 per cent of gross annual household income for low- and moderate-income households; or,
- b. a unit for which the rent is at or below the average market rent of a unit in the regional market area.

For the purposes of this definition, “low- and moderate-income households” means, in the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 per cent of the income distribution for the regional market area or, in the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 per cent of the income distribution for renter households for the regional market area.

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 where the size and nature of the operation requires additional employment.

Agriculture-Related Uses

Those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are small in scale, directly related to the farm operation and required to be in close proximity to the farm operation.

Alternative Energy Systems

Sources of energy or energy conversion processes such as co-generation and energy from waste that significantly reduce the amount of harmful emissions to the environment when compared with conventional energy systems.

Ancillary Uses

Small scale retail and commercial uses that primarily serve the business functions on employment lands.

Archaeological Assessment

A survey undertaken by a provincially licensed archaeologist to identify an *archaeological site* and, to the extent required, the cultural heritage value or interest of the site and applicable mitigation measures. There are four levels of archaeological assessment that are specific to the circumstances, a Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 or Stage 4 archaeological assessment, each of which as required is completed by a provincially licensed archaeologist in accordance with the current Provincial requirements, standards and guidelines applicable to provincially licensed archaeologists.

Archaeological Fieldwork

Any activity carried out on, above or under land or water for the purpose of obtaining and documenting data, recovering artifacts and remains or altering an archaeological site and includes monitoring, assessing, exploring, surveying, recovering and excavating.

Archaeological Resources

Includes artifacts, archaeological sites and marine archaeological sites. The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological fieldwork undertaken in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

Archaeological Sites

Any property that contains an artifact or any other physical evidence of past human use or activity that is of cultural heritage value or interest.

Artifact

Any object, material or substance that is made, modified, used, deposited or affected by human action and is of cultural heritage value or interest.

Brownfield Sites

Undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant.

Cemeteries

Religious or commercial enterprises that include the in-ground and above-ground interment of human remains.

Contaminant Management Plan

A report that demonstrates how development proposals involving the manufacturing, handling and/or storage of bulk fuels or chemicals (activities prescribed under the Clean Water Act) that demonstrates safety measures will be implemented in order to help prevent contamination of groundwater or surface water supplies. The Contaminant Management Plan must include a list of all chemicals used on the subject lands and within any structures and demonstrate how the risk of release to the environment would be mitigated and managed.



Cultural Heritage Resources

Resources that contribute to our understanding of our past, including:

- a. Archaeological resources such as artifacts, archaeological sites and marine archaeological sites.
- b. Built heritage resources, which means one or more significant buildings, structures, monuments, installations or remains associated with architectural, cultural, social, political, economic or military history and identified as being important to a community.
- c. Cultural heritage landscape, which means a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts.

Cultural and Regenerating Woodland

For the purpose of policy 2.2.48, woodlands where the ecological functions of the site are substantially compromised as a result of prior land use activity and would be difficult to restore and/or manage as a native woodland in an urban setting. An *environmental impact study* should assess these ecological functions with consideration of the following:

- the woodland is regenerating, typically with a dominant proportion of woody species being invasive and non-native (e.g., Norway Maple, Manitoba Maple, Siberian Elm, Scots Pine, European Buckthorn, White Mulberry, Tree-of-heaven, Apple, White Poplar, etc.)
- the area was not treed approximately 20 to 25 years ago as determined through air photo interpretation or other suitable technique
- soils may be degraded, for example, soil may be compacted, the top soil removed, or there may be substantial erosion from over-use and/or the woodland may be regenerating on fill
- there is limited ability to maintain or restore self-sustaining ecological functions typical of native woodlands

Woodlands (including plantations) established and/or managed for the purpose of restoring a native tree community are excluded from cultural and regenerating woodlands (e.g. naturalization or restoration projects).

Designated Area

Areas designated either “Urban Area” or “Towns and Villages” shown on Map 1 of this Plan.

Designated Greenfield Area

The *designated area* that was outside of the built-up area as of June 2006 as defined by the Province’s Built Boundary in Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Developable Area

The *developable area* includes all lands available for *development* for both private and public uses, including residential and employment uses, open space and infrastructure (e.g. local and Regional streets and stormwater management ponds).

The *developable area* excludes:

- a. environmental features and areas, where development is prohibited, identified in Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe;
- b. the Regional Greenlands System and approved local municipal natural heritage systems where development is prohibited;
- c. *key natural heritage features* and *key hydrologic features*;
- d. major infrastructure rights-of-way (i.e. existing 400-series highways and finalized route alignments for extensions or future 400-series highways, utility lines, and rail lines); and,
- e. existing uses (e.g. cemeteries, estate subdivisions).

Development

The creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures, requiring approval under the Planning Act, but does not include:

- a. activities that create or maintain infrastructure authorized under an environmental assessment, Planning Act, or Condominium Act process; or,
- b. works subject to the Drainage Act.

Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest

Areas of land containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified by the Province as having earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education. On the Oak Ridges Moraine, Provincially and Regionally significant Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are included. Elsewhere within this Plan, only provincially significant Earth Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are addressed.

Endangered and Threatened Species

A species that is listed or categorized as an “Endangered Species” or “Threatened Species” on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources’ official Species At Risk in Ontario List, as updated and amended from time to time.

Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act of Ontario, RSO 1990, as amended.

Environmental Impact Study

A study to confirm the presence and/or significance of natural features, the extent of the feature(s) and/or to determine the potential direct and indirect impacts, of a proposed development on the Regional Greenlands System and/or on a *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature* and their functions. Where an *environmental impact study* is required, the content and scope will be determined through a pre-consultation meeting and a Terms of Reference submitted early in the application process to the approval authority. The impact evaluation shall address environmental systems and features



and functions on and adjacent to the site, at site and landscape scales, and shall be consistent with any relevant guidelines prepared by the Province, the Region, the local municipality or the conservation authority. Terms of Reference for *environmental impact studies* shall be submitted to the approval authority early in the application process. Previous work that is still current, including larger scale environmental studies undertaken in support of secondary plans, master environmental servicing plans, block plans, etc., shall be considered when determining the scope of the *environmental impact study*. If it is determined that the requirements of the *environmental impact study* have already been met through these prior studies, no further *environmental impact study* is required. Key components of an *environmental impact study*, which may form part of a master environmental servicing plan, may include:

- a biophysical inventory (e.g. Ecological Land Classification) and analysis of ecological functions, including methodology used and relevant maps, figures and illustrations
- verification of the status or significance of a feature in accordance with Federal, Provincial and/or Regional legislation, criteria and guidelines such as the *significant woodland* criteria as set out in policy 2.2.45 of this Plan, the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, the Natural Heritage Information Centre or the Species at Risk in Ontario List
- figures illustrating ecological communities, the location and extent of significant features and their *vegetation protection zones* (including location of significant species and communities), and the proposed development in relation to identified constraints
- identification of development constraints, an assessment of impact from the proposed activities, analysis at a local and Regional scale and proposal of mitigation measures, natural system/feature enhancement opportunities, conclusion of net impacts, and demonstration of conformity with applicable policy
- the identification of monitoring requirements for developments within the Regional Greenlands System or *key natural heritage features* and/or *key hydrologic features*, *hazardous sites* and *hazardous areas*, and their associated *adjacent lands*

Environmentally Significant Areas

Land or water areas that contain distinctive or unusual features, perform a key ecological function and/or provide habitat for significant plant and/or animal species as determined by studies undertaken from time to time by conservation authorities and/or local municipalities.

Fish Habitat

Means fish habitat as defined in the Federal Fisheries Act as spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life process.

Floor Space Index

The ratio of gross floor area of a building to its respective lot area. For example, a building with a gross floor area of 25,000 square metres situated on a lot with an area of 10,000 square metres has a floor space index of 2.5.

Globally or Provincially Rare Plants, Animals or Communities

Plant or animal species or communities that have been assigned S1 (critically imperilled provincially), S2 (imperilled provincially), S3 (vulnerable provincially), G1 (extremely rare globally), G2 (very rare globally), or G3 (rare to uncommon globally) by the Provincial Natural Heritage Information Centre.

Guideline(s)

A document that is non-statutory and non-mandatory that is intended to provide guidance in the implementation of the policies of this Plan.

Hazardous Lands

Means property or lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. Along the shorelines of large inland lakes, this means the land, including that covered by water, between a defined offshore distance or depth and the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard, erosion hazard or dynamic beach hazard limits. Along river, stream and small inland lake systems, this means that land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the flooding hazard or erosion hazard limits.

Hazardous Sites

Means property or lands that could be unsafe for development and site alteration due to naturally occurring hazards. These may include unstable soils (sensitive marine clays [leda], organic soils) or unstable bedrock (karst topography).

Headwater Area

The uppermost portion of the drainage basin of a stream.

High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Reserved rights-of-way for public transit vehicles and other vehicles such as emergency vehicles, taxis or multiple-person vehicles.

Highly Vulnerable Aquifer (HVA)

As defined under the Clean Water Act, is an aquifer that can be easily changed or affected by contamination from both human activities and natural processes as a result of (a) its intrinsic susceptibility, as a function of the thickness and permeability of overlaying layers, or (b) by preferential pathways to the aquifer.

Heritage Attributes

The principal features, characteristics, context and appearance that contribute to the cultural heritage significance of a protected heritage property.



In Situ

In situ means remaining in place in the original location where something was found.

Infiltration Management Plan

A report that demonstrates how the development proposal maintains pre-development recharge rates and does not impact groundwater recharge.

Intake Protection Zone

The area within Lake Simcoe and surrounding lands that may contribute water to the municipal drinking water systems and through which contaminants are reasonably likely to reach the pumping station.

Intensification

The *development* of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists through:

- a. redevelopment, including the use of *brownfield sites*;
 - b. the *development* of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
 - c. *infill development*; or,
 - d. the expansion or conversion of existing buildings.
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Intensification Area

Intensification areas are to be identified and planned for by the Local Municipalities as part of their Intensification Strategy. The Intensification Strategy will identify a role for each of the following:

- a. Regional Centres
 - b. Regional Corridors
 - c. GO Stations
 - d. Local Centres and Corridors
 - e. Other Major Streets
 - f. Local Infill
 - g. Secondary Suites
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Intermittent Stream

Stream-related watercourses that contain water or are dry at times of the year that are more or less predictable, generally flowing during wet seasons of the year but not the entire year, and where the water table is above the stream bottom during parts of the year.



Kettle Lakes

Means a depression formed by glacial action and permanently filled with water.

Key Development Areas

Intensification areas along the Regional Corridors that are identified and planned for by local municipalities as part of their Intensification Strategy.

Key Hydrologic Feature

Key hydrologic features are described in Section 2.2 of this Plan and include *wetlands, lakes and their littoral zones, permanent and intermittent streams, kettle lakes, seepage areas and springs*, and the Lake Simcoe Shoreline.

Key Natural Heritage Feature

Key natural heritage features are described in Section 2.2 of this Plan and include the *habitat of endangered species, threatened species and special concern species, fish habitat, wetlands, Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Environmentally Significant Areas, significant valleylands, significant woodlands, significant wildlife habitat, sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies*.

Lakes and their Littoral Zones

Means any inland body of standing water larger than a pool or pond or a body of water filling a depression in the earth's surface. The littoral zone refers to the area of shallow water in a lake that extends from the shoreline lakeward to the limit occupancy of rooted aquatic plants.

Lake Simcoe Watershed

- a. Lake Simcoe and the part of Ontario, the water of which drains into Lake Simcoe; or,
 - b. If the boundaries of the area described by clause (a) are described more specifically in regulations, the area within those boundaries (Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008).
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Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest

Areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified by the Province using approved evaluation procedures, as having life science values related to protection, scientific study or education. Provincially and Regionally significant Life Science Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest are included in this Plan.

Major Development

Consists of:

- a. the creation of four or more lots;
- b. the construction of a building or buildings with a ground floor area of 500 square metres or more; or,
- c. the establishment of a *major recreational use*.



Major Office

Major Office is generally defined as freestanding office buildings of 10,000 m² or greater, or with 500 jobs or more.

Major Retail

Major retail includes retail big box stores, retail warehouses and shopping centres. For the purposes of this definition a shopping centre is not a collection of *ancillary uses* that primarily serve the business functions on employment lands.

Major Recreational Use

Recreational uses that require large-scale modification of terrain, vegetation or both and usually also require large-scale buildings or structures, including but not limited to the following:

- a. golf courses;
 - b. serviced playing fields;
 - c. serviced campgrounds; and,
 - d. ski hills.
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Marine Archaeological Site

An archaeological site that is fully or partially submerged or that lies below or partially below the high-water mark of any body of water.

Minimum Distance Separation Formulae

Formulae developed by the Province to separate uses to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities.

Ministerial Zoning Order

An order of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issued pursuant to section 47 of the Planning Act.

Municipal Comprehensive Review

An official plan review, or an official plan amendment, that:

- a. is completed by the Region or by a local municipality in consultation with the Region;
- b. is approved by the Region or, where applicable, by the Province;
- c. comprehensively applies the policies of this Plan and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe; and,
- d. as determined by the Region, includes a land budget and analysis for the Region and, where applicable, the local municipality.

New Community Areas

Lands added to the Urban Area through a Regional *municipal comprehensive review*, for community purposes including residential and population-related employment, beyond those designated as Urban Area at the date of approval of this Plan.

Noise Exposure Forecast

A prediction of noise annoyance levels caused by aircraft near airports.

Normal Farm Practices

Any 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 that 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.

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Definitions

Definitions for terminology specific to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan that are included in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Ontario Regulation 140/02

Pathogen Threats

Threats to drinking water quality that are related to conditions or activities having the potential to introduce living microorganisms that cause disease into the groundwater. Sources of pathogens include, but are not limited to, septic systems, animal manure, sewage systems and stormwater management ponds.

Permanent Streams

A stream which continually flows in an average year.

Planned Corridors - Transportation

Corridors identified through Provincial Plans or preferred alignment(s) determined through the Environmental Assessment Act process which are required to meet projected needs. For the purpose of Provincial transportation corridors as of 2012, they are identified on Maps 1, 11 and 12 as ‘Planned Corridors – Transportation’.

Protected Heritage Property

Means real property designated under parts IV, V or VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, heritage conservation easement property under Parts II or IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and property subject to a covenant or agreement between the owner and a conservation body or level of government, registered in title and executed with the primary purpose of preserving, conserving and maintaining a cultural heritage feature or preventing its destruction, demolition or loss.

Provincially Rare Species

A species that is assigned S1, S2, S3 by the Provincial Natural Heritage Information Centre, including those additional species (S3? And S3/S4) as defined in the Oak Ridges Moraine Technical Papers.



Renewable Energy Systems

The production of electrical power from an energy source that is renewed by natural processes including, but not limited to, wind, water, a biomass resource or product, or solar and geothermal energy.

Sand Barrens

Means lands (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits sand barrens characteristics) that:

- a. has sparse or patchy vegetation that is dominated by plants that are:
 - i. adapted to severe drought and low nutrient levels; and,
 - ii. maintained by severe environmental limitations such as drought, low nutrient levels and periodic disturbances such as fire;
 - b. has less than 25 per cent tree cover;
 - c. has sandy soils (other than shorelines) exposed by natural erosion, depositional process or both; and,
 - d. has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources, as amended from time to time.
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Savannah

Means land (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits savannah characteristics) that:

- a. has vegetation with a significant component of non-woody plants, including tallgrass prairie species that are maintained by seasonal drought, periodic disturbances such as fire, or both;
 - b. has from 25 per cent to 60 per cent tree cover;
 - c. has mineral soils; and,
 - d. has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources, as amended from time to time.
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Secondary Agricultural Uses

Uses secondary to the principal use of the property, including but not limited to, home occupations, home industries, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products from the farm operations on the property.

Secondary Suite

A single accessory dwelling unit in a house, or building ancillary to a house, that consists of one or more rooms that are designed, occupied or intended for use, including occupancy, by one or more persons as an independent and separate residence in which a facility for cooking, sleeping facilities and sanitary facilities are provided for the exclusive use of such person or persons.

Seepage Areas and Springs

Seepage areas and springs are sites of emergence of groundwater where the water table is present at the ground surface. Seepage areas are areas where groundwater emerges from the ground over a diffuse area. Springs are points of natural, concentrated discharge of groundwater. For the purpose of this definition, seepage areas and springs include altered features but not features created and maintained by artificial means.

Sensitive Surface Water Features

Water-related features on the earth’s surface, including headwaters, rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs, wetlands, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation or topographic characteristics, that are particularly susceptible to impacts from activities or events including, but not limited to, water withdrawals, and additions of pollutants.

Sensitive Use/Sensitive Land Uses

Buildings, amenity areas, or outdoor spaces where routine or normal activities occurring at reasonably expected times would experience one or more adverse effects from contaminant discharges generated by a nearby major facility. *Sensitive land uses* may be a part of the natural or built environment. Examples may include, but are not limited to: residences, day care centres, and educational and health facilities.

Significant Archaeological Resources

Resources that, in the opinion of a licensed archaeologist (and confirmed by the Province through acceptance of the archaeological assessment report in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports) meet the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest set out in the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, as amended, and are to be protected from impacts of any sort.

Significant Groundwater Recharge Area

The area where an aquifer is replenished from (a) natural processes, such as the infiltration of rainfall and snowmelt and the seepage of surface water from lakes, streams and wetlands, (b) from human interventions, such as the use of storm water management systems, and (c) whose recharge rate exceeds a threshold specified in the Clean Water Act.

Significant Habitat (As It Relates to Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern or Provincially Rare Species)

The habitat, as determined 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 the species, and where those areas of occurrence are occupied by the species during all or any part(s) of its life cycle.

Significant Threat

A condition or activity that has a high potential to have a negative impact on the quantity and/or quality of groundwater that supplies a municipal well.



Significant Valleylands

A valleyland is a natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year. Significant valleylands include those areas which are ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contribute to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat consists of 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 concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species. Significant wildlife habitat includes those areas which are ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contribute to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system.

Significant Woodlands

Woodlands which meet any one of the criteria in policy 2.2.45 of this Plan, except those excluded by policy 2.2.48 of this Plan.

Site Alteration

Activities such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

Solar Design Strategy

A report that considers possible solar design measures and identifies those measures that will be employed to minimize overall energy consumption.

Source Water Impact Assessment and Mitigation Plan

A Source Water Impact Assessment and Mitigation Plan is a report completed by a qualified person that examines the relevant hydrologic pathways and qualitatively evaluates the level of risk associated with the land uses or land use activities that may pose a threat to the quantity or quality of a municipal drinking water supply. It proposes a plan for the mitigation and management of the identified risks, and outlines an emergency response to be executed in the event that a risk is realized.

Specialty Crop Areas

Areas designated using evaluation procedures established by the Province, where specialty crops such as tender fruits (peaches, cherries, plums), grapes, other fruit crops, vegetable crops, greenhouse crops, and crops from agriculturally developed organic soil lands are predominantly grown, usually resulting from:

- a. soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops, or lands that are subject to special climatic conditions, or a combination of both; and/or,
- b. a combination of farmers skilled in the production of specialty crops, and of capital investment in related facilities and services to produce, store, or process specialty crops.



Special Concern Species

A species that is listed or categorized as a “Special Concern Species” on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources’ official Species at Risk in Ontario List, as updated and amended from time to time.

Special Needs Housing

The integration of housing and support services for individuals who require specific services to maintain their housing and well-being. *Special needs housing* includes both transitional and permanent housing, most commonly in not-for-profit residential housing.

Special Policy Area

An area within a community that has historically existed in the flood plain and where site-specific policies, approved by the Province, are intended to provide for the continued viability of existing uses (which are generally on a small scale) and to address the significant social and economic hardships to the community that would result from strict adherence to provincial policies concerning development, the criteria and procedures for approval are established by the Province. A Special Policy Area is not intended to allow for new or intensified *development* and site alteration if a community has feasible opportunities for *development* outside the flood plain.

Species At Risk

Threatened and Endangered Species, Special Concern Species and Provincially Rare Species collectively.

Time Of Travel

Refers to the estimated time required for groundwater to move from a given location in an aquifer to the intake of a water well. A *wellhead protection area* is typically divided into several *time of travel zones*.

Tallgrass Prairies

Means land (not including land that is being used for agricultural purposes or no longer exhibits tallgrass prairie characteristics) that:

- a. has vegetation dominated by non-woody plants, including tallgrass prairie species that are maintained by seasonal drought, periodic disturbances such as fire, or both;
 - b. has less than 25 per cent tree cover;
 - c. has mineral soils; and,
 - d. has been further identified, by the Ministry of Natural Resources or by any other person, according to evaluation procedures established by the Ministry of Natural Resources, as amended from time to time.
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Traditional Territories

The geographic area traditionally occupied or used regularly by a First Nation and/or their ancestors.



Transit Operation and Maintenance Facility

Land and/or structures used for the purpose of repairing, maintaining, storing and/or testing conventional and rapid transit vehicles, up to and including subway cars. These facilities may also include offices and other accommodations for on-site workers and transit vehicle operators.

Tree

Any species of woody perennial plant, including its root system, that has reached or can reach a height of at least 4.5 metres at physiological maturity, provided that where multiple stems grow from the same root system, the number of trees shall be the number of stems that can be counted at a point of measurement 1.37 metres from the ground.

Vegetation Protection Zone

Buffers surrounding a *key natural heritage feature* or a *key hydrologic feature*. These areas protect the feature and its functions from the impacts of land use changes and associated activities that will occur before, during and after construction, and where possible, restore or enhance the features and its functions.

Vulnerable

For the purpose of policy 2.2.1.m, means surface and groundwater that can be easily changed or impacted by activities or events, either by virtue of their vicinity to such activities or events or by permissive pathways between such activities and the surface and/or groundwater.

Waterbody

Lakes, woodland ponds, etc. which provide ecological functions. For the purposes of determining *significant woodlands*, waterbody generally does not include small surface water features such as farm ponds or stormwater management ponds, which would have limited ecological function.

Wellhead Protection Area

The surface and sub-surface area surrounding a water well or well field that supplies a municipal water system and through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move so as eventually to reach the water well or well field.

Wetland

Lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. 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.



Woodland

An area of land at least 0.2 hectare in area with at least:

- a. 1000 *trees* of any size, per hectare;
- b. 750 *trees* measuring over 5 centimetres diameter at breast height, per hectare;
- c. 500 *trees* measuring over 12 centimetres diameter at breast height, per hectare; or,
- d. 250 *trees* measuring over 20 centimetres diameter at breast height, per hectare,

but does not include a cultivated fruit or nut orchard, a plantation established and used for the purpose of producing Christmas trees or nursery stock. For the purposes of defining a woodland, treed areas separated by more than 20 metres will be considered a separate woodland. When determining the limit of a woodland, continuous agricultural hedgerows and woodland fingers or narrow woodland patches will be considered part of a woodland if they have a minimum average width of at least 40 metres and narrower sections have a length to width ratio of 3 to 1 or less. Undeveloped clearings within woodland patches are generally included within a woodland if the total area of each clearing is no greater than 0.2 hectares. In areas covered by Provincial Plan policies, woodland includes treed areas as further described by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

For the purposes of determining the densities above for woodlands outside of Provincial Plan Areas, the following species are excluded: staghorn sumac, European buckthorn and common lilac.