

Welcome!

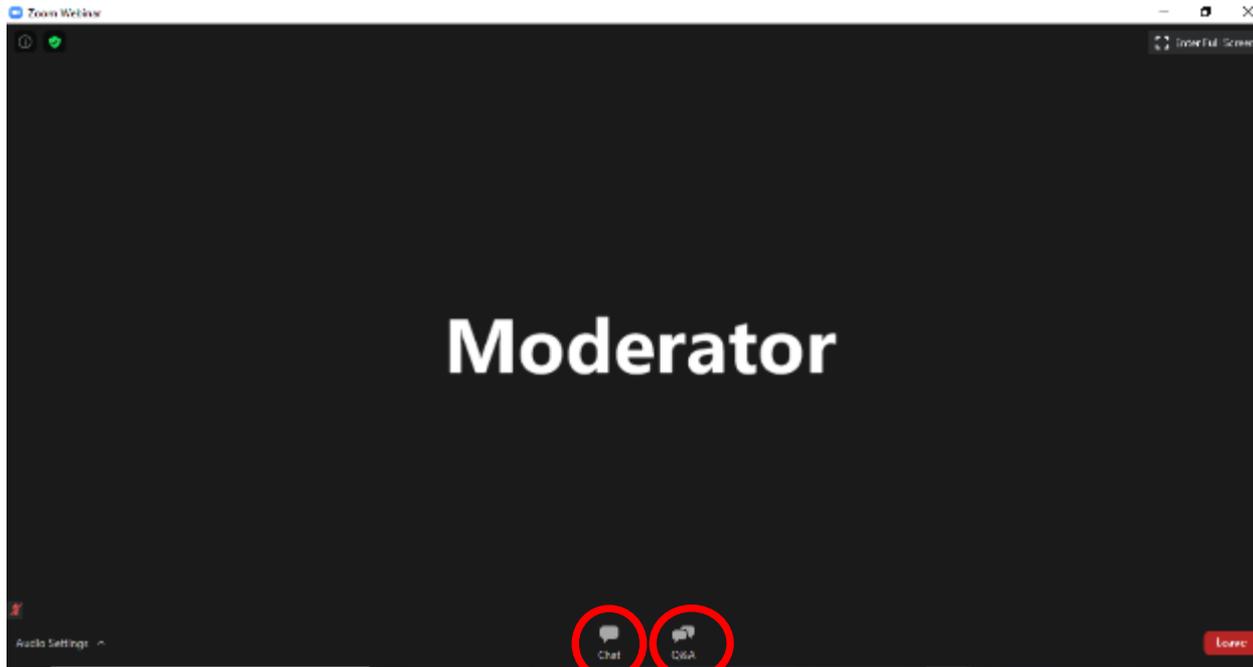
Regional Official Plan Review Rural and Agricultural System and Natural Heritage Public Information Session

We look forward to hearing from you!



Zoom Meeting Functions - Attendees

Personal Computer

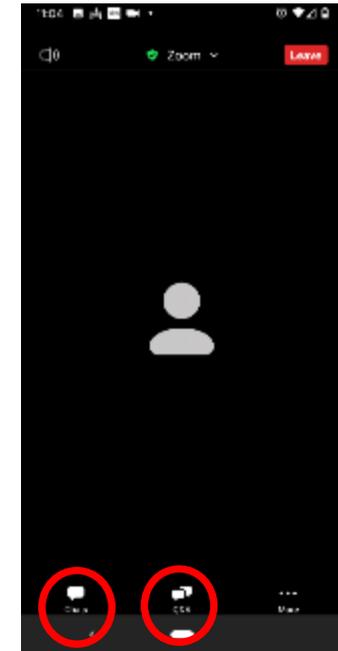


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Write a
Question

If you're having technical problems, please communicate with our hosts using the Q&A icon or email ropr@halton.ca.

Smart Phone



Disabled

Write a
Question

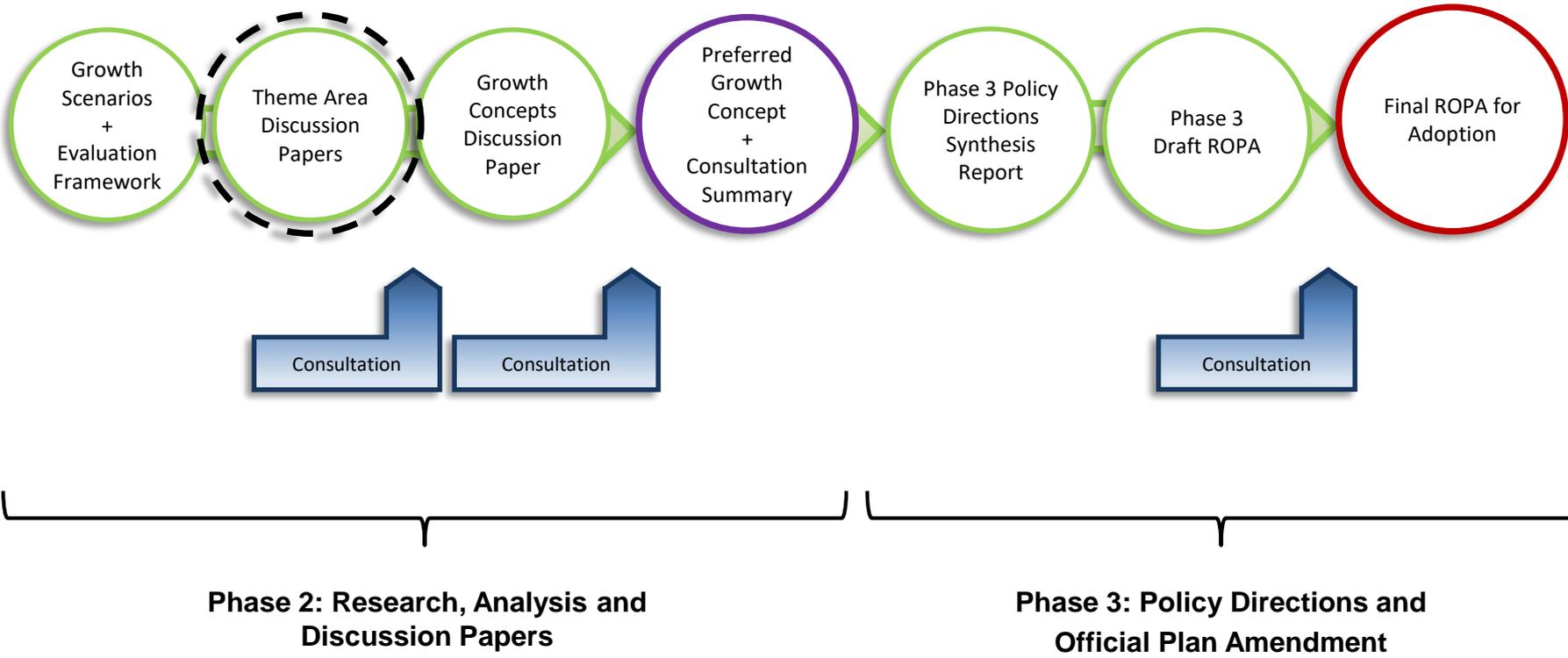


Regional Official Plan Review: Rural and Agricultural System & Natural Heritage



Virtual PIC
Sept. 17, 2020

Current Regional Official Plan Review Status



Community Engagement

Virtual Public Information Centres (Start at 7pm):

- Sept. 3 – Climate Change (*Complete*)
- Sept. 9 – North Aldershot Planning Area (*Complete*)
- Sept. 10 – Regional Urban Structure / Integrated Growth Management Strategy (*Complete*)
- Sept. 17 – Rural and Agricultural System & Natural Heritage System

Website: www.halton.ca/ropr

- Download the 5 Discussion Papers
- Complete Questionnaires
- View Draft Mapping

Email: ropr@halton.ca

Telephone: 311



Participant Poll #1

1. Where do you live in Halton Region?

- a) Burlington
- b) Oakville
- c) Halton Hills
- d) Milton
- e) I do not live in Halton Region

2. Do you live in the:

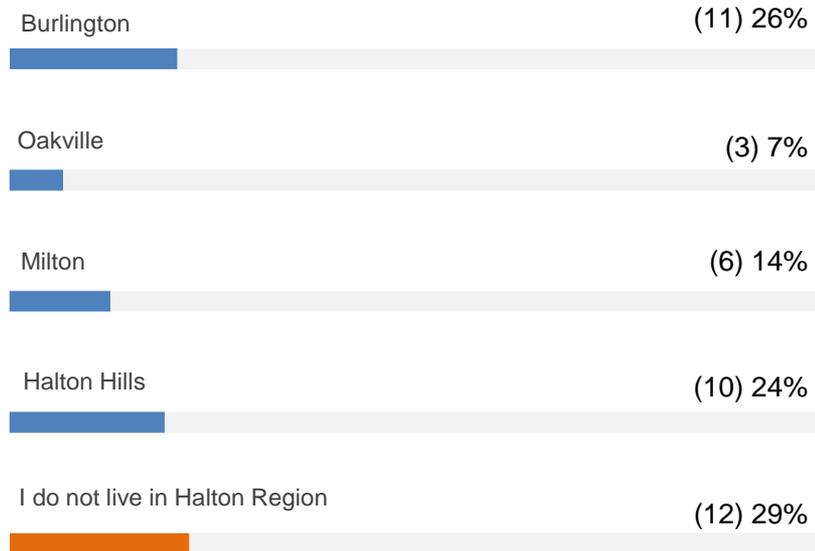
- a) Urban area
- b) Rural area

3. What is your primary relationship with Halton Region?

- a) Resident
- b) Farmer
- c) Business Owner
- d) Member of the Development/Building Industry
- e) Non-Governmental Organization
- f) Local Municipal Government Partner
- g) Other

Participant Poll #1

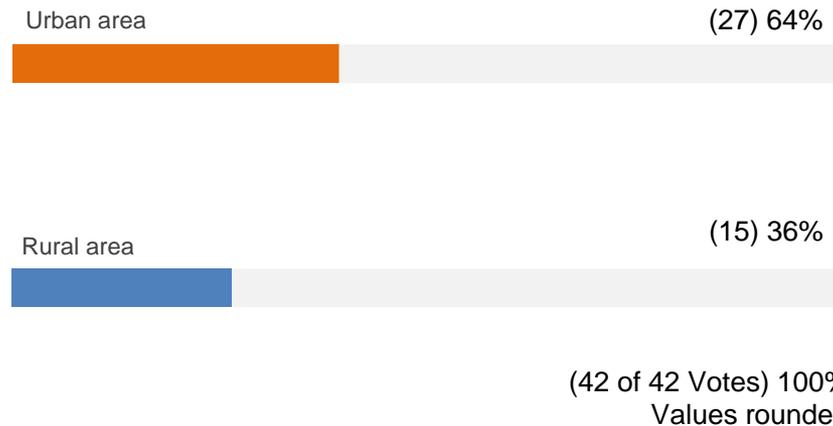
Where do you live in Halton Region?



(42 of 42 Votes) 100%
Values rounded

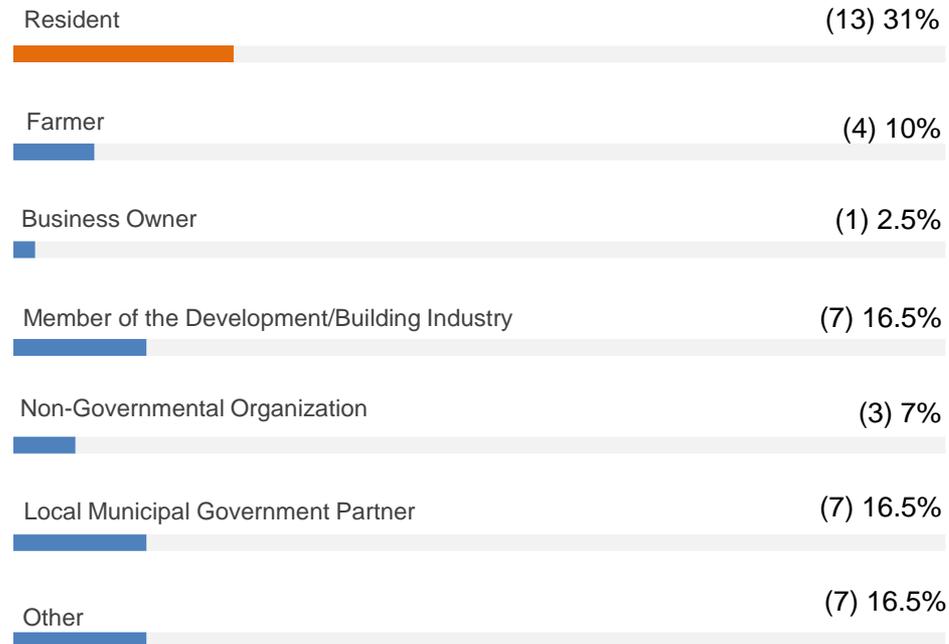
Participant Poll #1

Do you live in in the urban area or rural area?



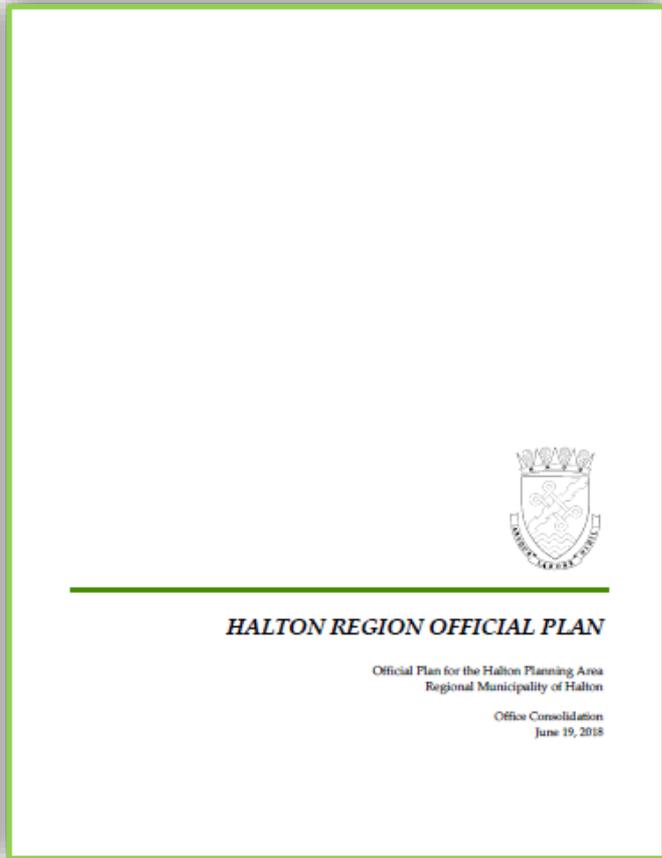
Participant Poll #1

What is your primary relationship with Halton Region?



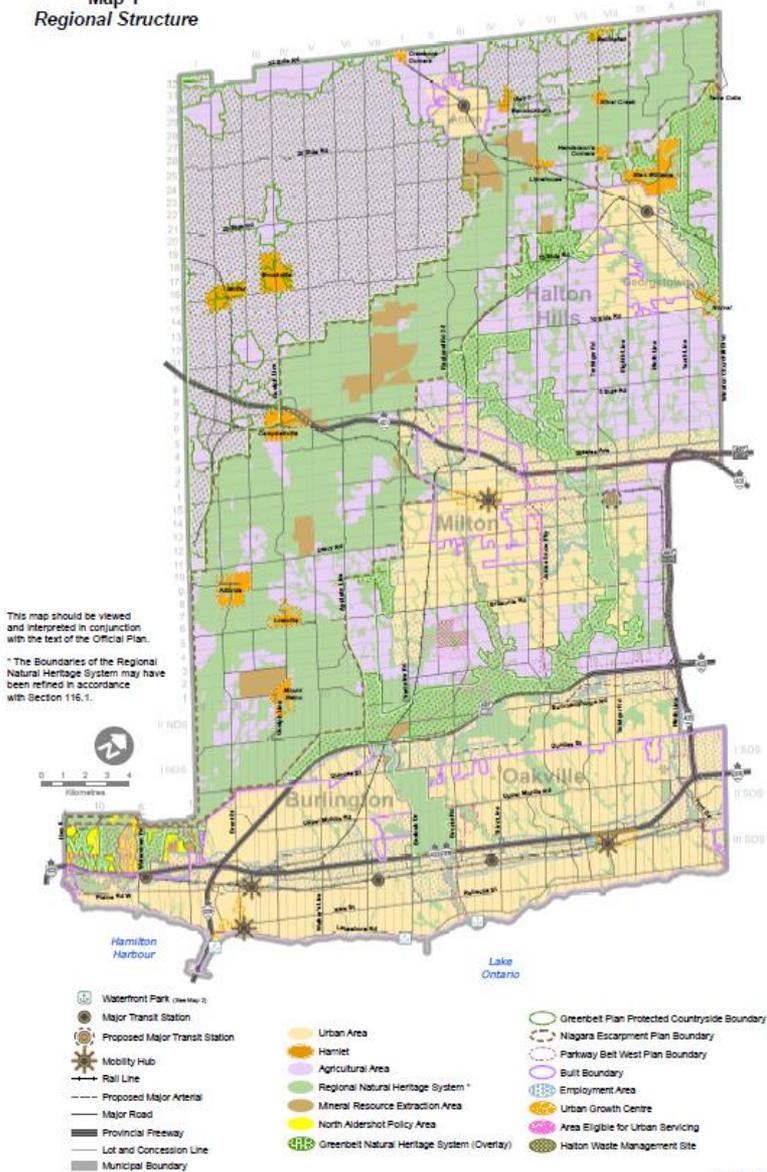
(42 of 42 Votes) 100%
Values rounded

What is the Regional Official Plan?



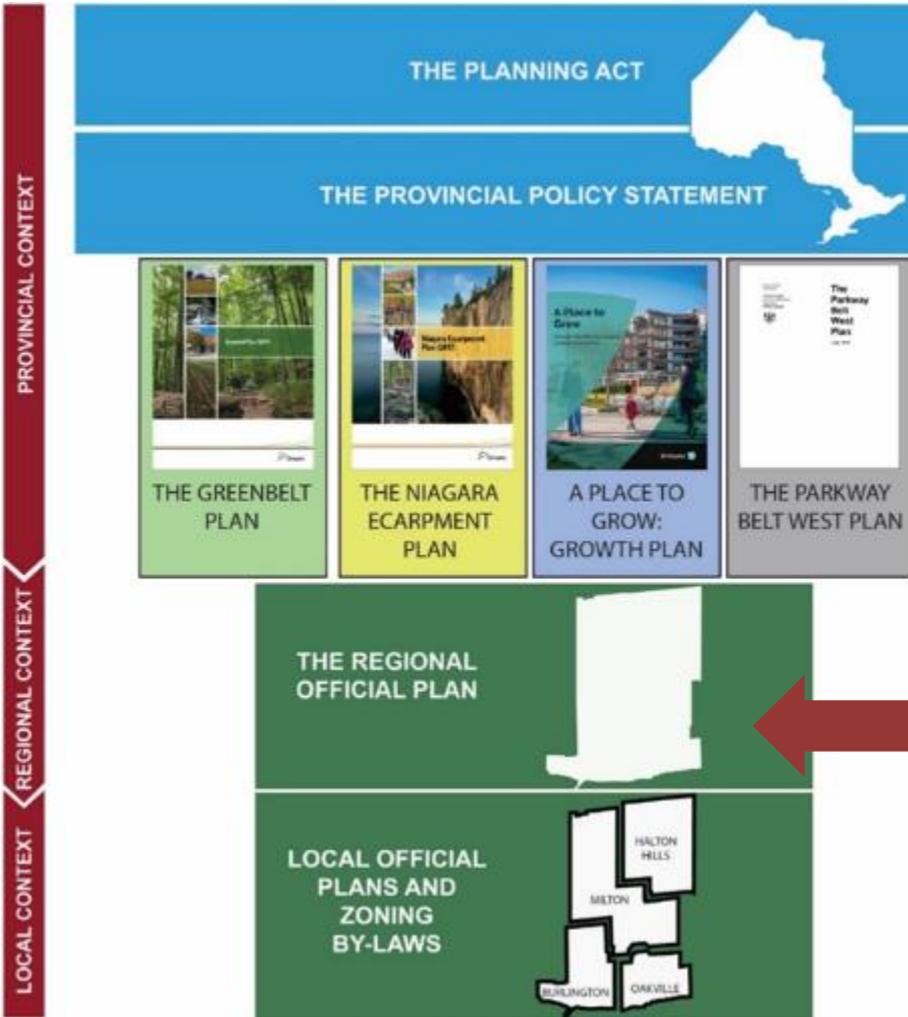
- Adopted by Council
- Long term Vision for Halton's physical form and community character
- Delivery of Regional services and responsibilities as set out in Planning Act, Municipal Act and other Provincial legislation

Map 1
Regional Structure



- Regional Structure implements Halton’s land use planning vision
- Settlement Areas, Agricultural System, Natural Heritage System
- Provincial Plan Areas
- Province requires Halton to designate lands for future growth

Why Review the Regional Official Plan?



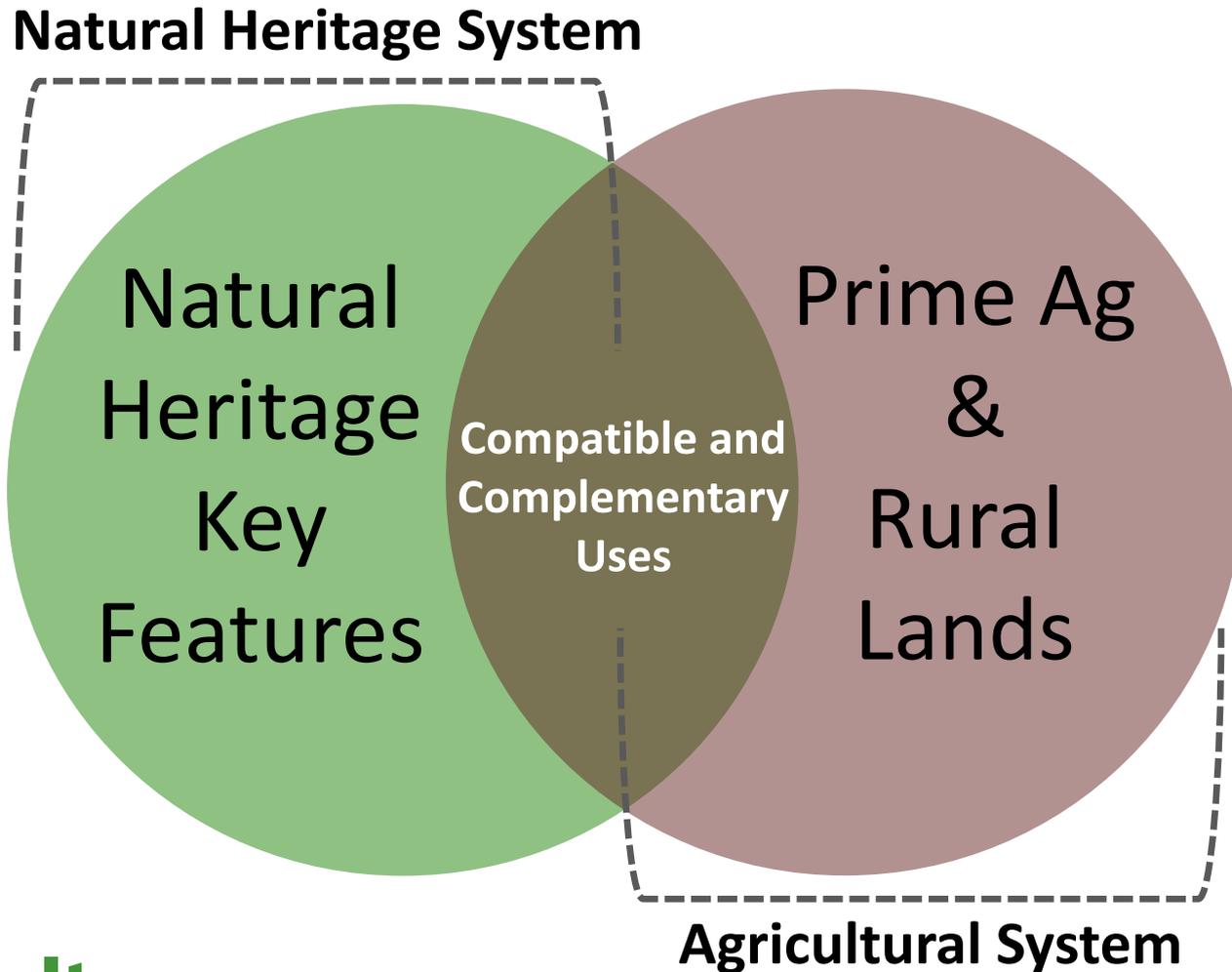
- The public plays an important role in the land use planning process
- Your input helps Council make better decisions that affect your future



Proposed Mapping Updates Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System

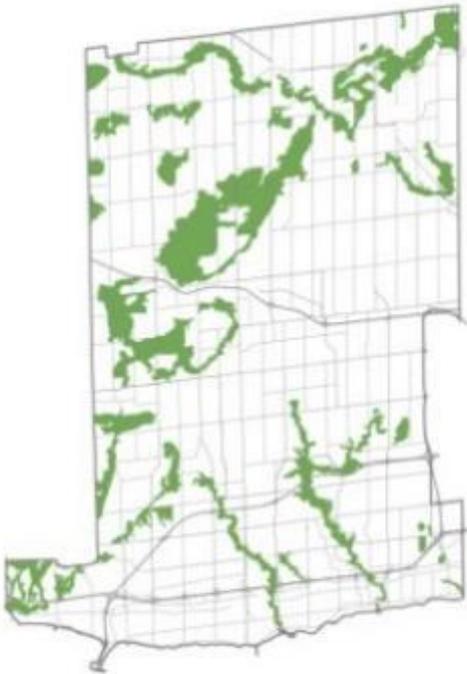
Phase 2 Discussion Papers

Relationship between Agriculture and Natural Heritage



Evolution of the System

Natural Heritage



ESAs - 1980



Greenlands System - 2006

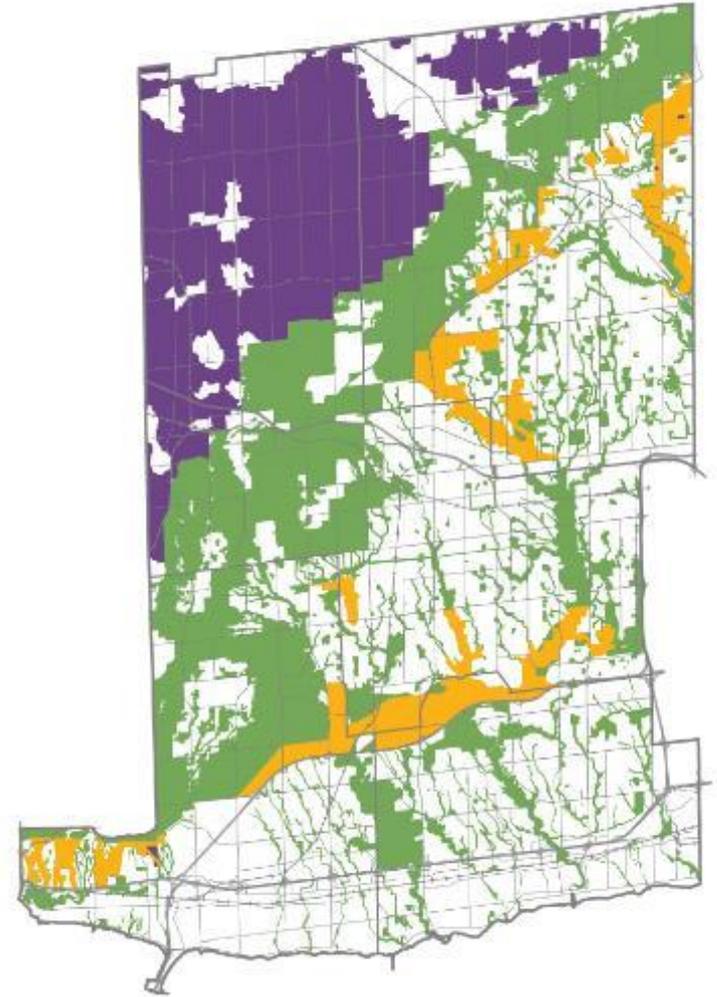


Halton's NHS - 2009

Current Natural Heritage System Framework

Which Policies Apply Where?

-  • **Greenbelt NHS** policies apply north of the NEPA
-  • **Regional NHS** policies apply within and south of the NEPA
-  • In **overlapping area**, RNHS policies apply except where GBNHS is more restrictive.
-  • Key Features policy (s. 139.12) applies throughout the Region

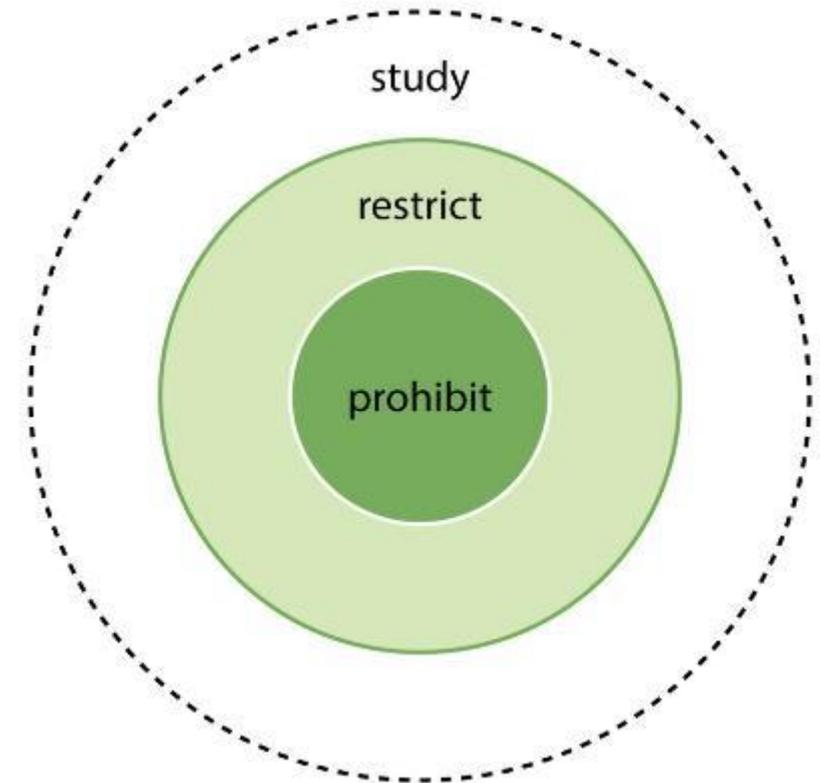


Current Natural Heritage System

General Implementation

The NHS is implemented through:

- prohibiting or restricting *development* and *site alteration* within and adjacent to the NHS; and
- triggering an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Sub-Watershed Study (SWS) or similar studies for *development* and *site alteration* within or adjacent to the NHS
- The applicable policy framework depends on location within the NHS



Regional Natural Heritage System Key Features (s. 115.3(1) & Map 1G)

Key Features (Mapped)

Significant Woodlands



Image Source:
<https://oakvillegreen.org/natural-heritage-system-planning-in-halton-region-research-study/>

Significant Coastal Wetlands



Image Source:
<https://ontariohiking.com/sixteen-mile-creek-trail-oakville/>

Significant ANSIs



Image Source:
<https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/en/index.php/properties/yaremko-ridley-property>

Significant Wetlands



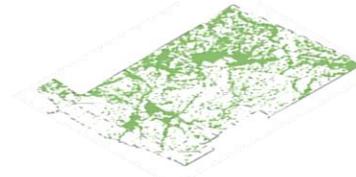
Image Source:
Conservation Halton Loyalist Woods Forest & Wetland Restoration Project Fact Sheet

Fish Habitat



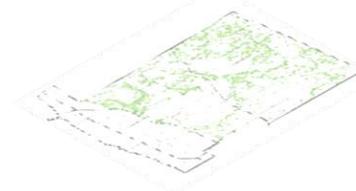
Image Source:
Conservation Halton Kelso Quarry Lake Fish Habitat Creation Restoration Project Fact Sheet

Key Features



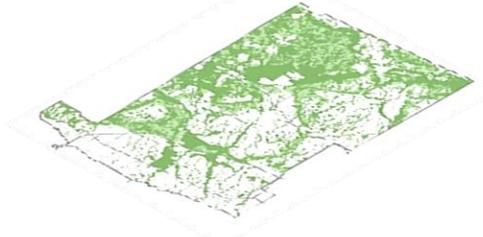
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Areas Outside the Key Features



=

Map 1G



Key Features (Not Mapped)

Significant Habitat of Endangered and Threatened Species



Image Source:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/jefferson-salamander-recovery-strategy>

Significant Valleylands



Image Source:
<https://www.letstalkhaltonhills.ca/11160/widgets/61513/documents/37259/download>

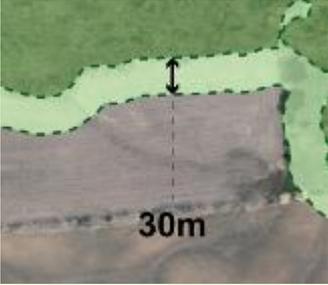
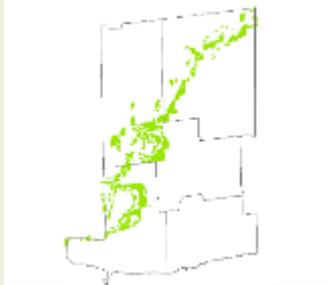
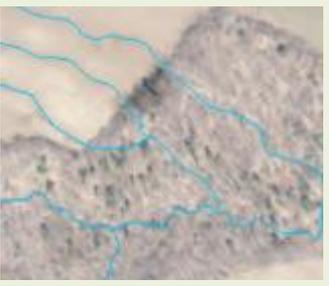
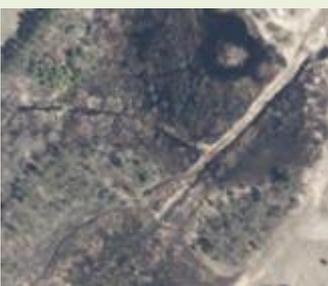
Significant Wildlife Habitat

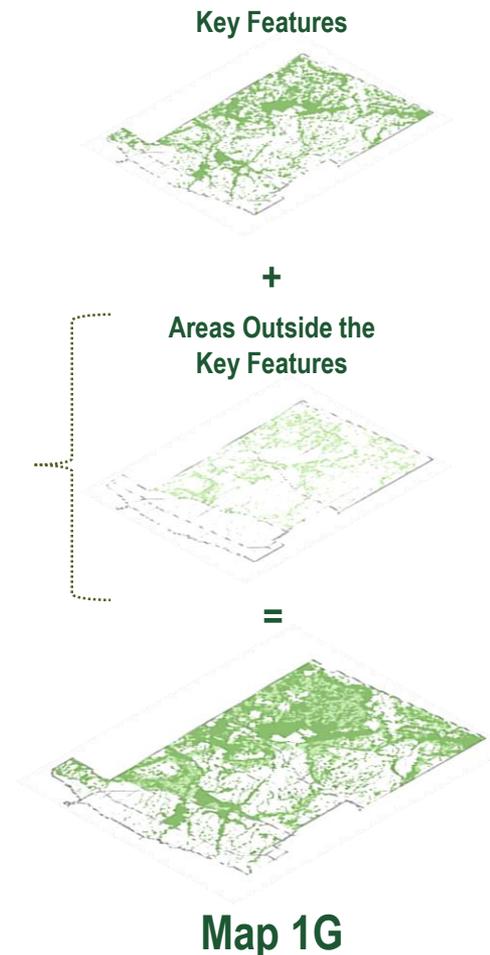


Image Source:
https://hnpnc.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/esquesing2019_54_1.pdf

Regional Natural Heritage System

Areas Outside the Key Features (s.115.3, 115.4 & Map 1G)

<i>linkages</i>	<i>buffers</i>	Escarpment Natural Area (NEP)	Escarpment Protection Area (NEP)
			
<i>watercourses within a CA regulation limit</i>	<i>regulated flood plains determined by a CA</i>	<i>wetlands other than those considered significant</i>	<i>enhancements to the key features</i>
			



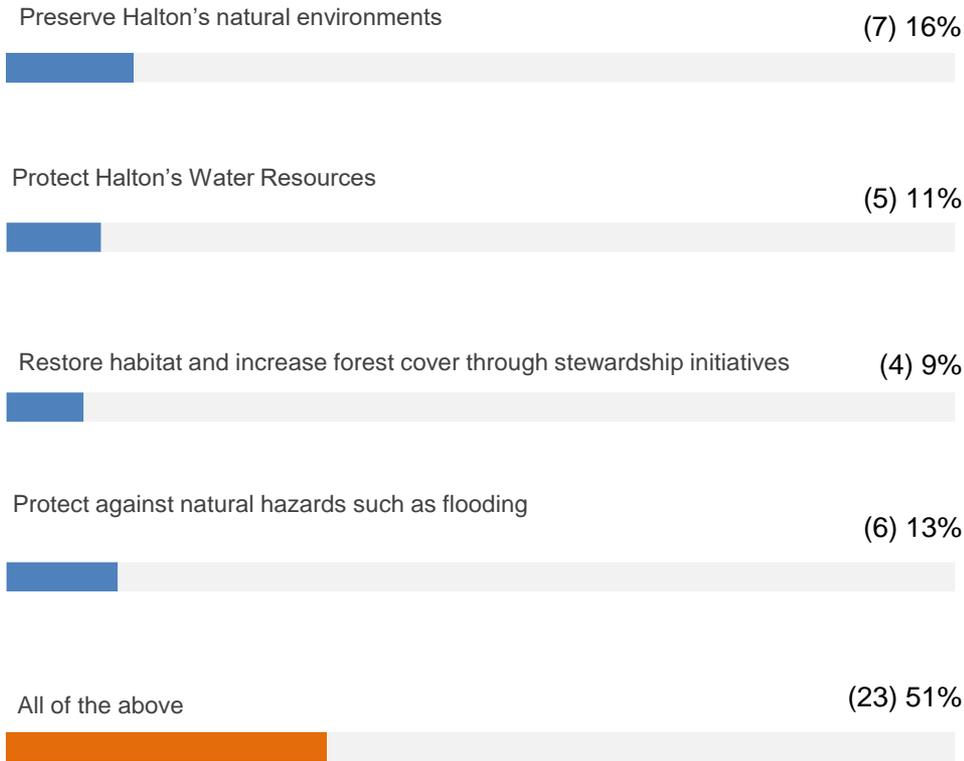
Participant Poll #2

**What are your interests in Halton's Natural Heritage?
(Multiple Choice)**

- a) Preserve Halton's natural environments
- b) Protect Halton's Water Resources
- c) Restore habitat and increase forest cover through stewardship initiatives
- d) Protect against natural hazards such as flooding
- e) All of the above

Participant Poll #2

What are your interests in Halton's Natural Heritage? (Multiple Choice)

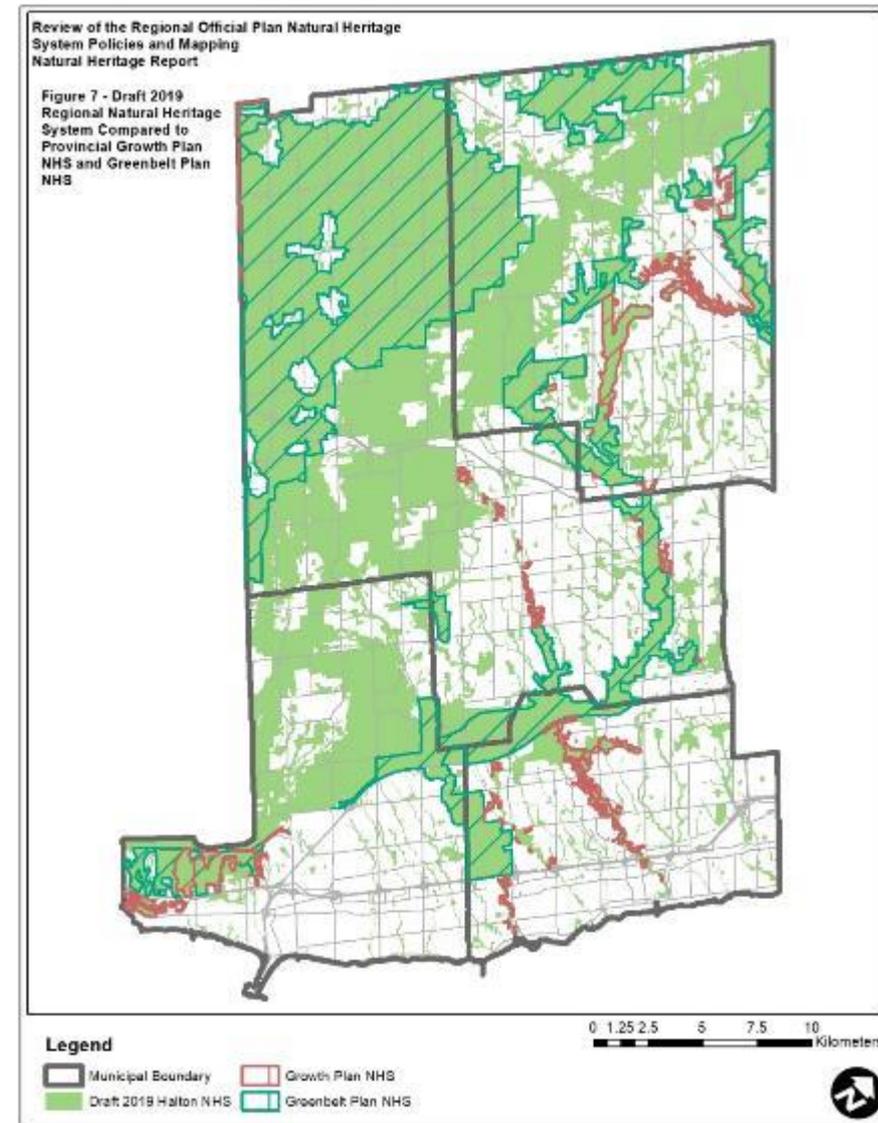


(45 of 45 Votes) 100%
Values rounded

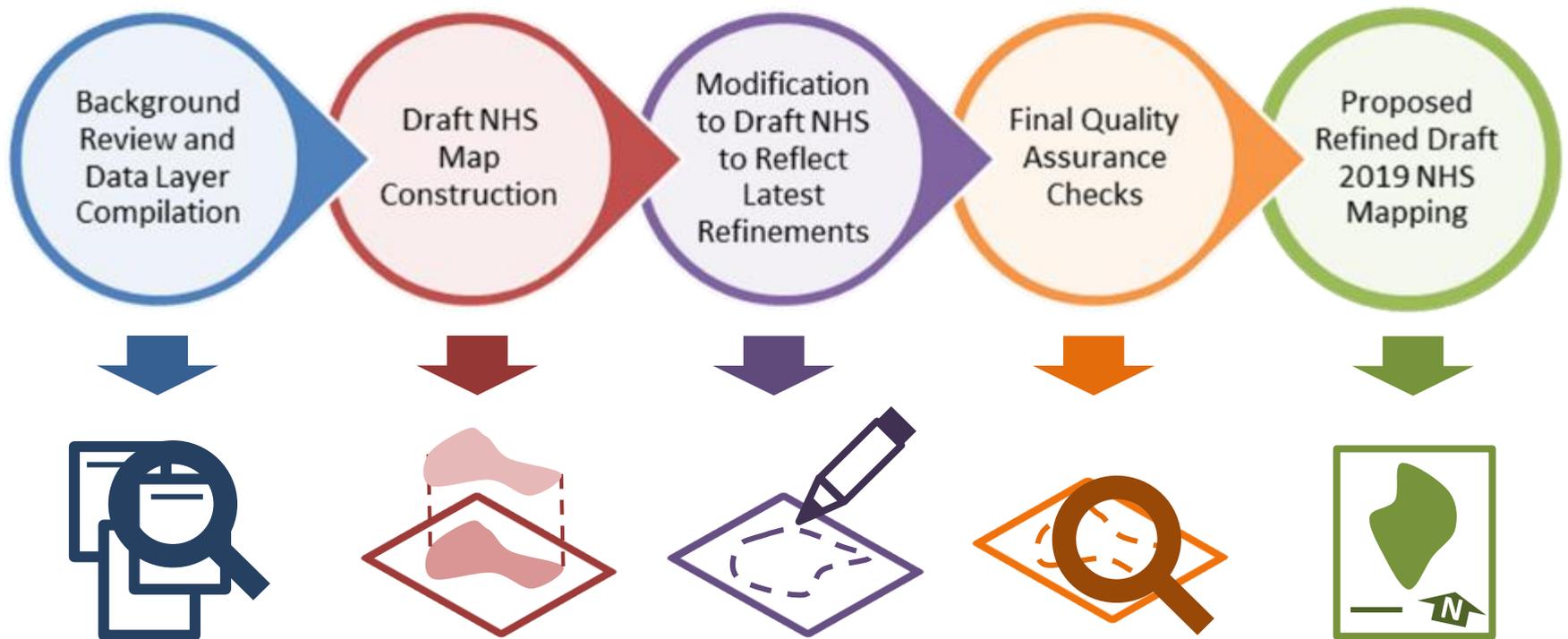


Mapping Updates Natural Heritage System

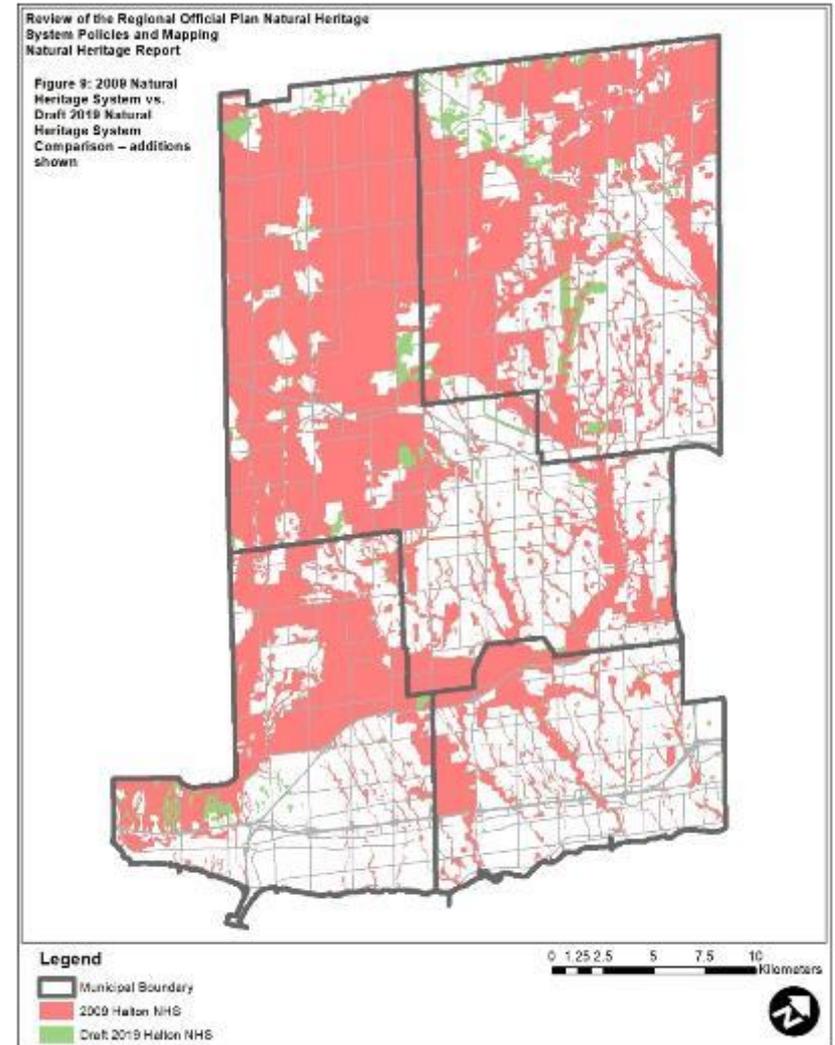
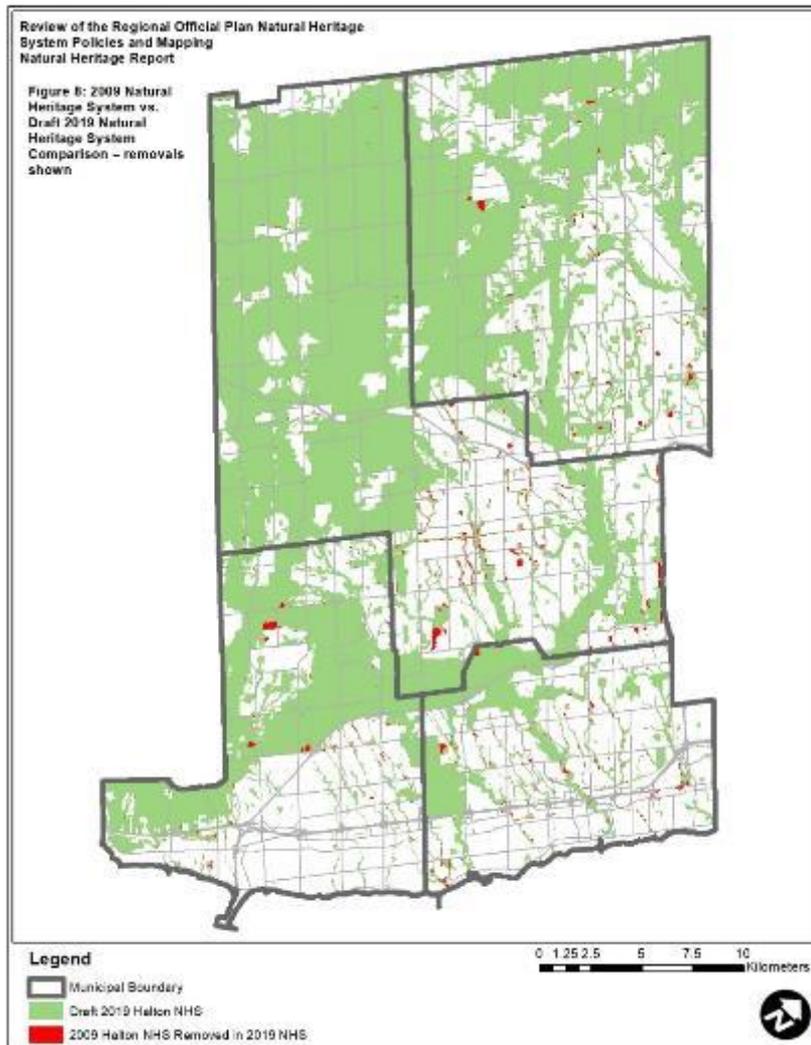
- Proposed refinements to NHS components to:
 - Better reflect provincial policies and guidelines to define the NHS;
 - Recognize Planning Act approvals and OMB Decisions;
 - Use of best available GIS base data information; and
 - Recognize Special Council Permits under Halton Tree-Bylaw and Staff On-site Refinements
- Requirement for Halton's ROP to incorporate the NHS for the Growth Plan.
- A Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) evaluation of the proposed draft 2019 RNHS.



Technical Process for the Proposed Refinement of the Regional Natural Heritage System (Appendix 3, Natural Heritage Discussion Paper)

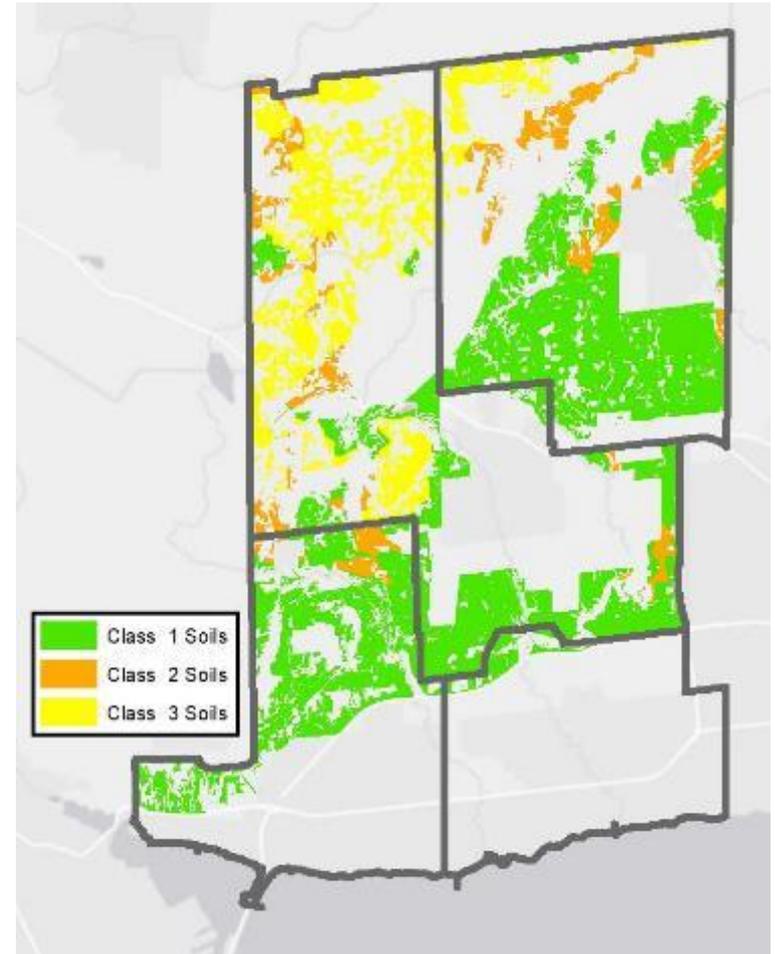
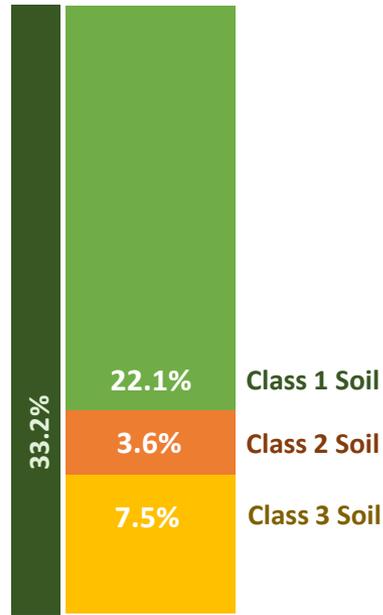
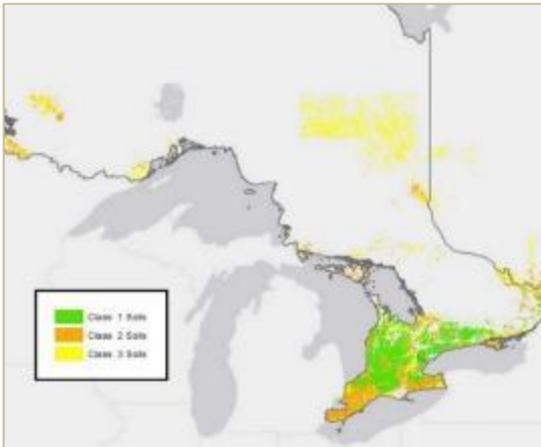
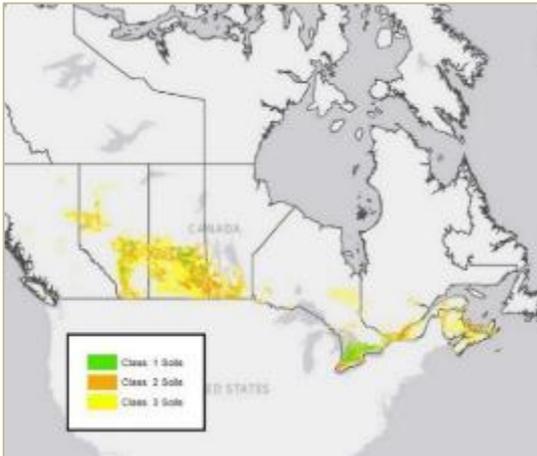


Mapping Comparison – 2009 vs. Draft 2019



Background

Rural and Agricultural System



The Regional Official Plan Rural and Agricultural System Objectives

- 1) Protect farms to promote agriculture and support sector **productivity** for an **economically strong** agricultural system
- 2) Direct sales of **local produce** and other products to visitors and local communities and businesses
- 3) Preserve **farm communities**, **open space character** and **scenic views** of the Escarpment



Current Agricultural Mapping

There are three main components to the agricultural policy framework in the ROP:

1. The Agricultural System

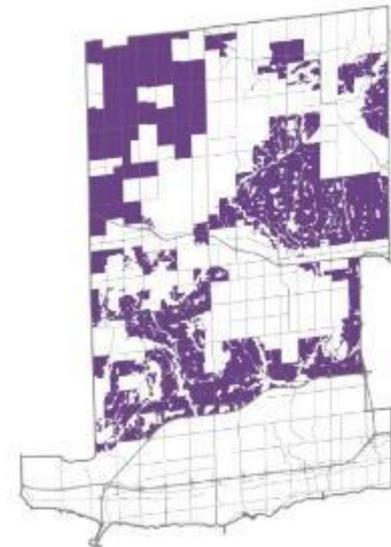
- A concept that groups designations and constraints to set out goals and objectives for where agriculture is supported and protected.

2. The Agricultural Area

- A designation that sets out the permitted uses for this area.

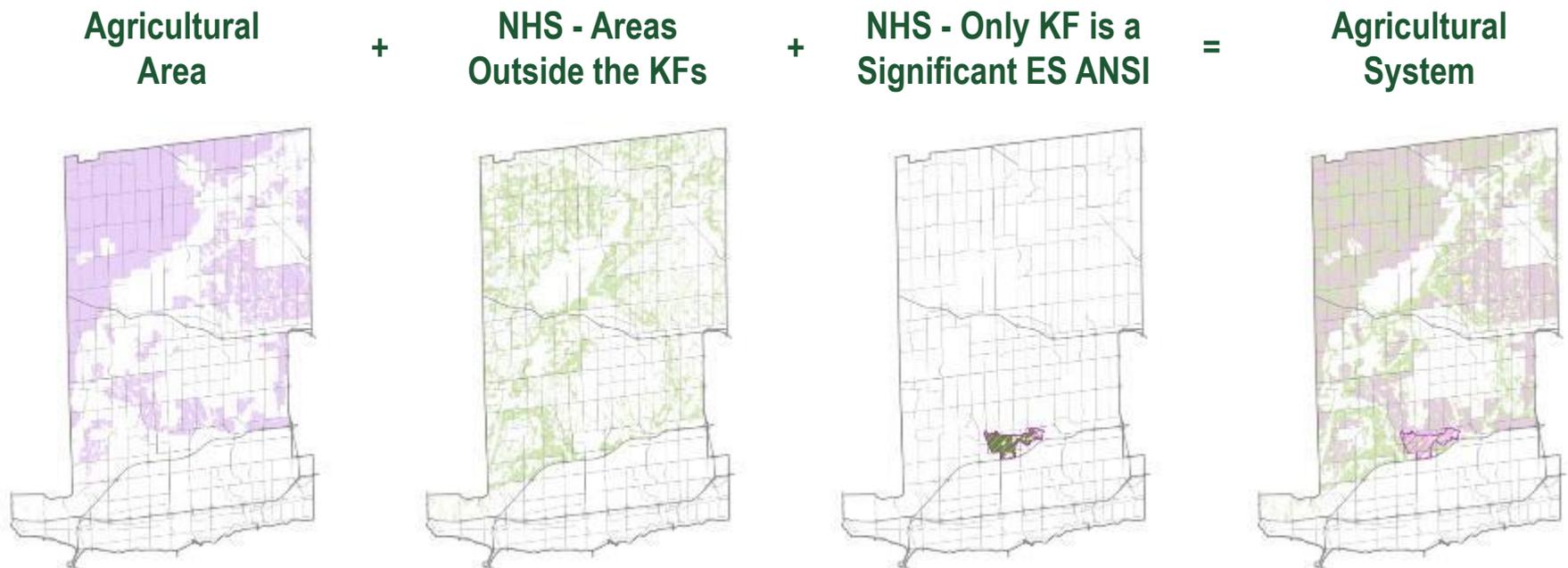
3. Prime Agricultural Areas

- A constraint to development that identifies an area of high value agriculture to assist in the implementation of the ROP.



Agricultural System Components (Section 92)

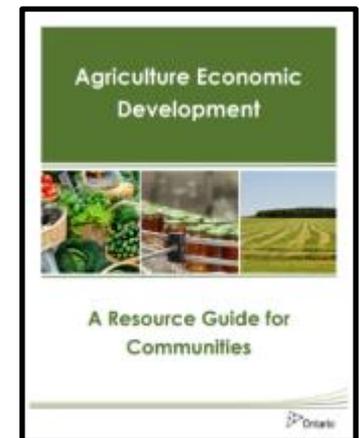
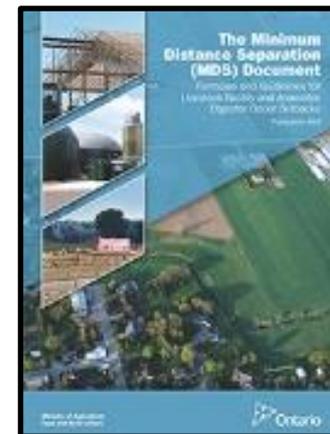
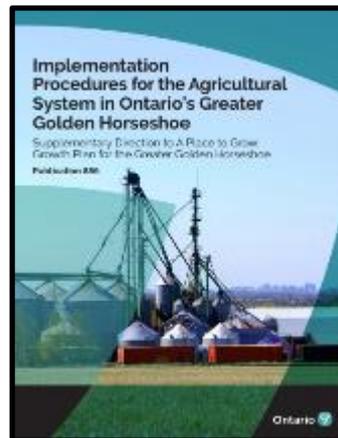
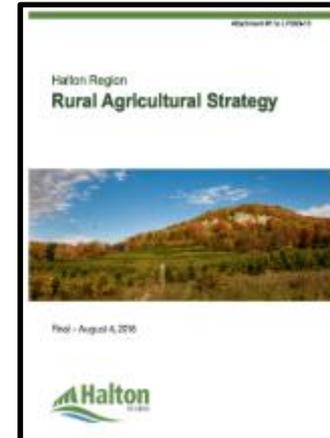
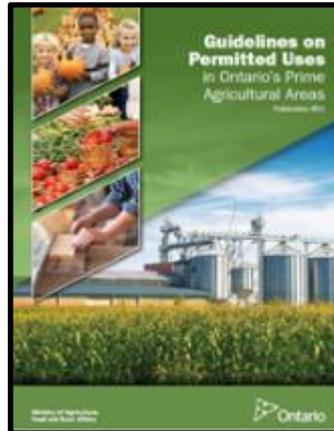
The Agricultural System consists of the following components:



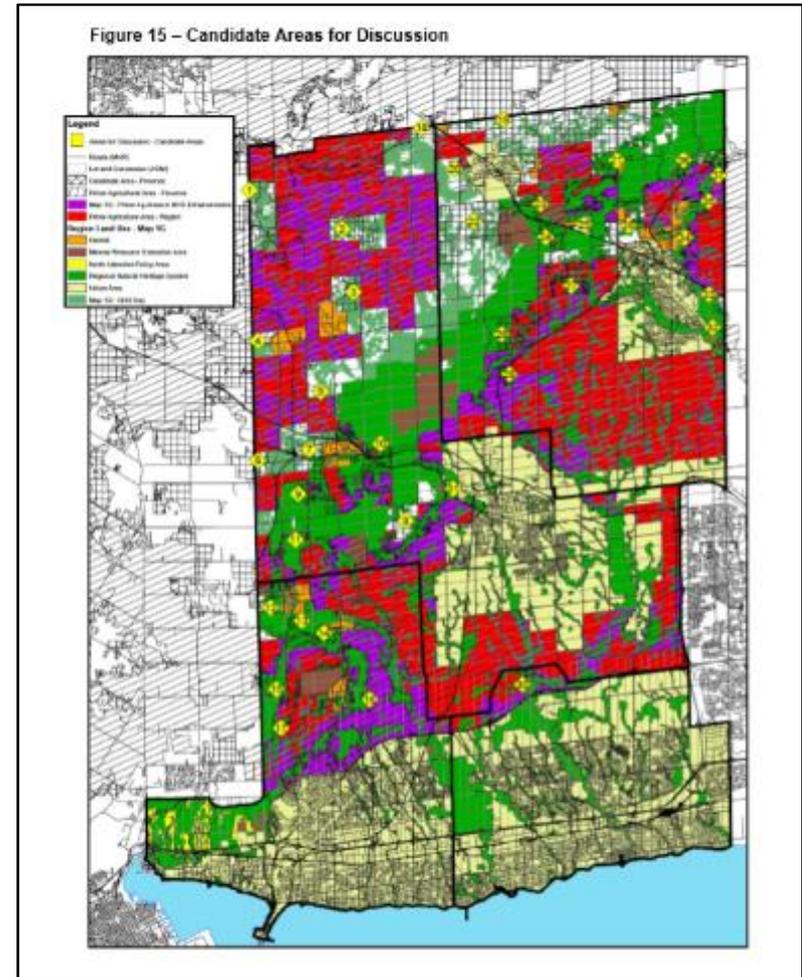
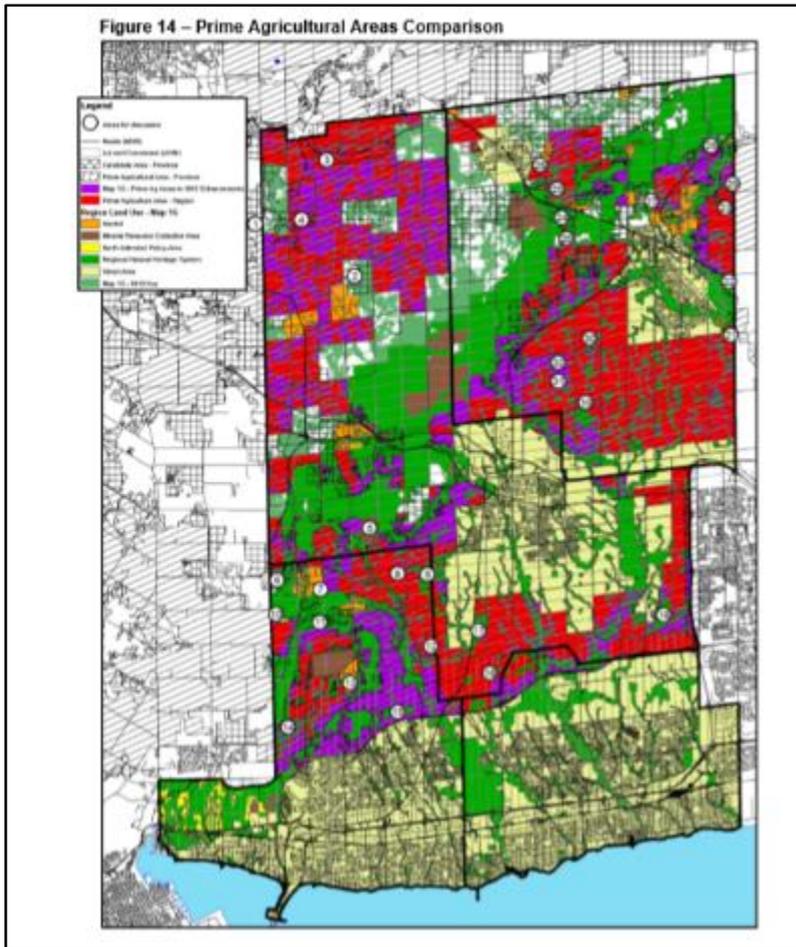
Context for the Regional Official Plan Update

Rural and Agricultural System

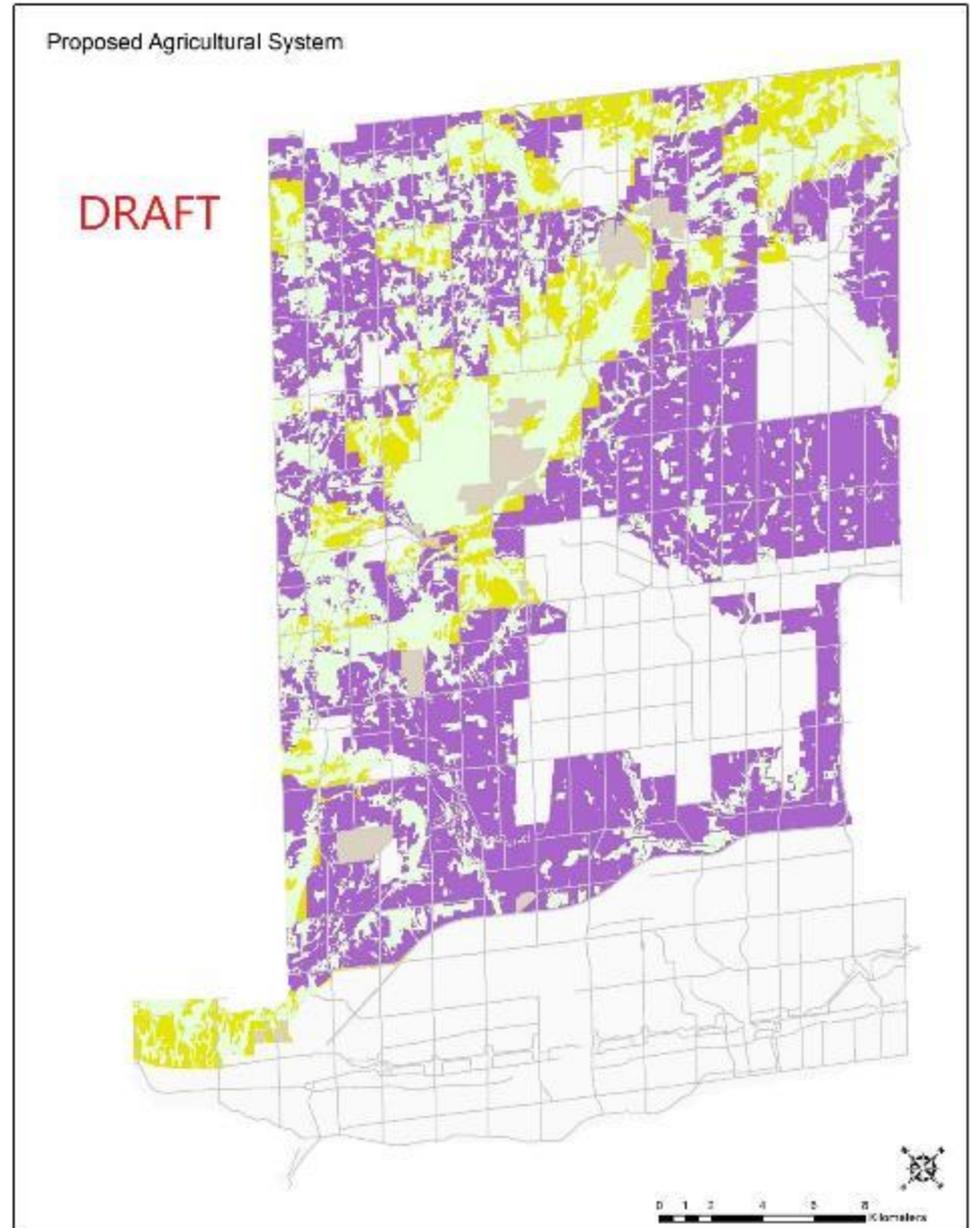
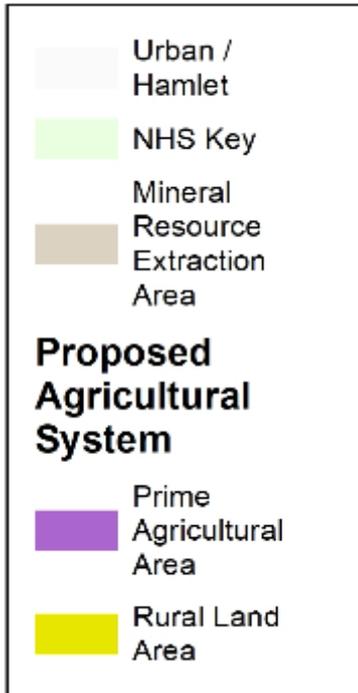
- New and emerging Provincial framework.
- Focus on Regional implementation of Provincial Agricultural System (2018).



The Provincial Mapping of Prime Agricultural Areas and Candidate Areas



Proposed Mapping and Designation of Prime Agricultural Areas



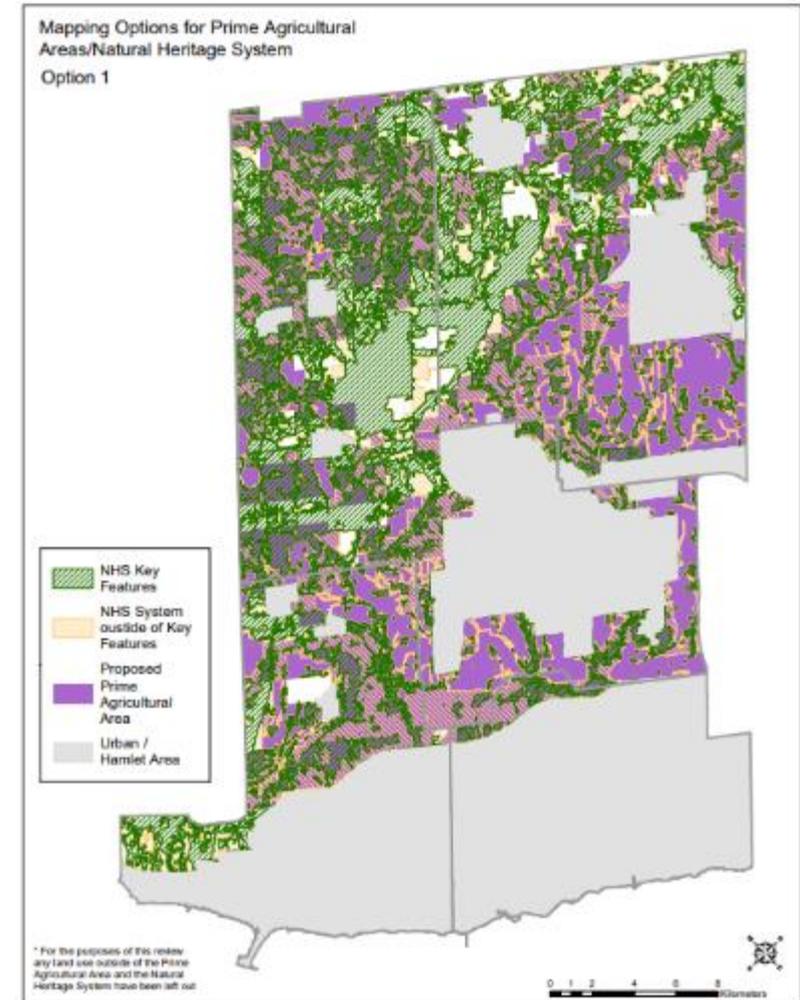
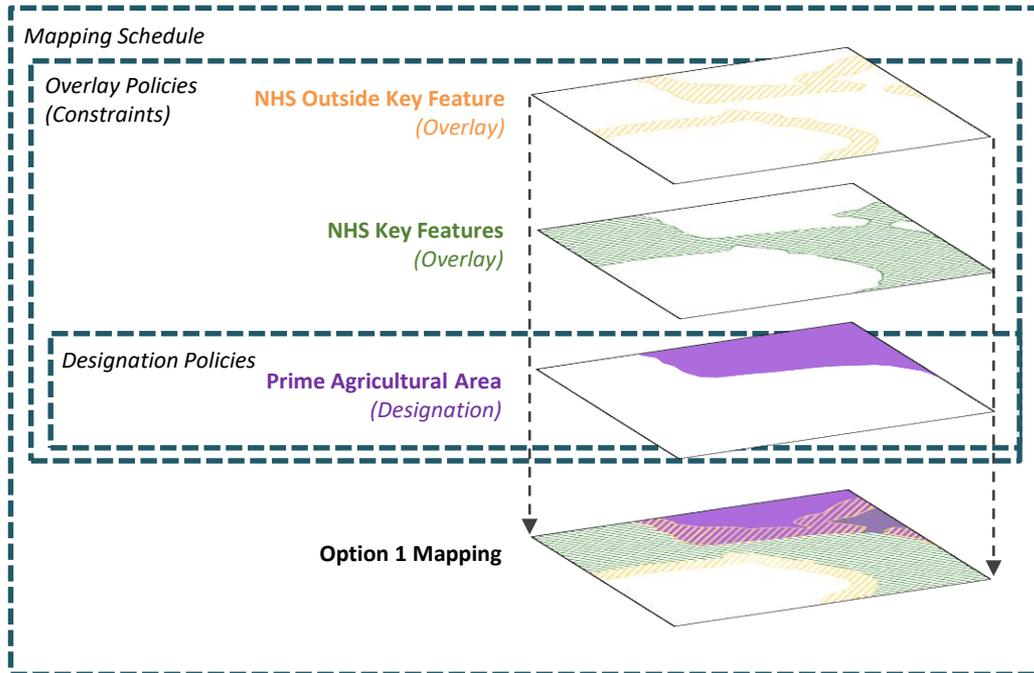
Mapping Implementation Options

Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems

- Growth Plan, 2019, has indicated that the Agricultural System is made up of Prime Agricultural Areas and Rural Areas.
- The PPS now requires that Prime Agricultural Areas be designated and that NHS Key Features be identified.
- In the ROP the Natural Heritage System is a designation and the Prime Agricultural Area is a constraint to development not a mutually exclusive land use designation
- The Region has identified four options for implementation of the Prime Agricultural Area and the Natural Heritage System.
- Each option includes a different combination of designations and overlays.

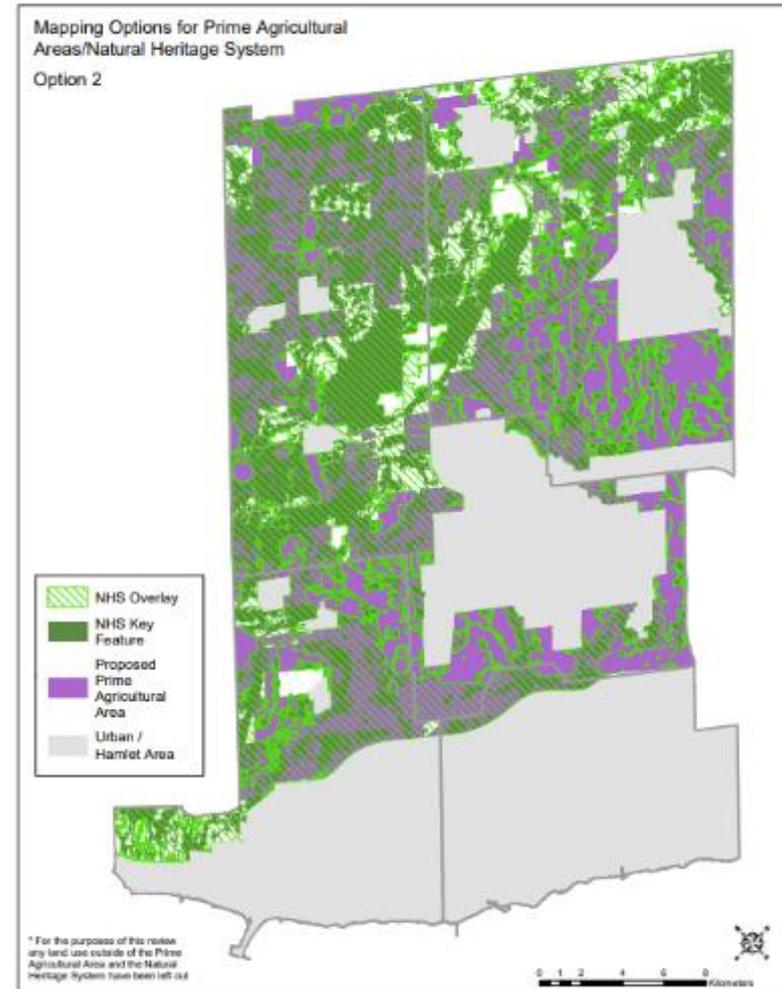
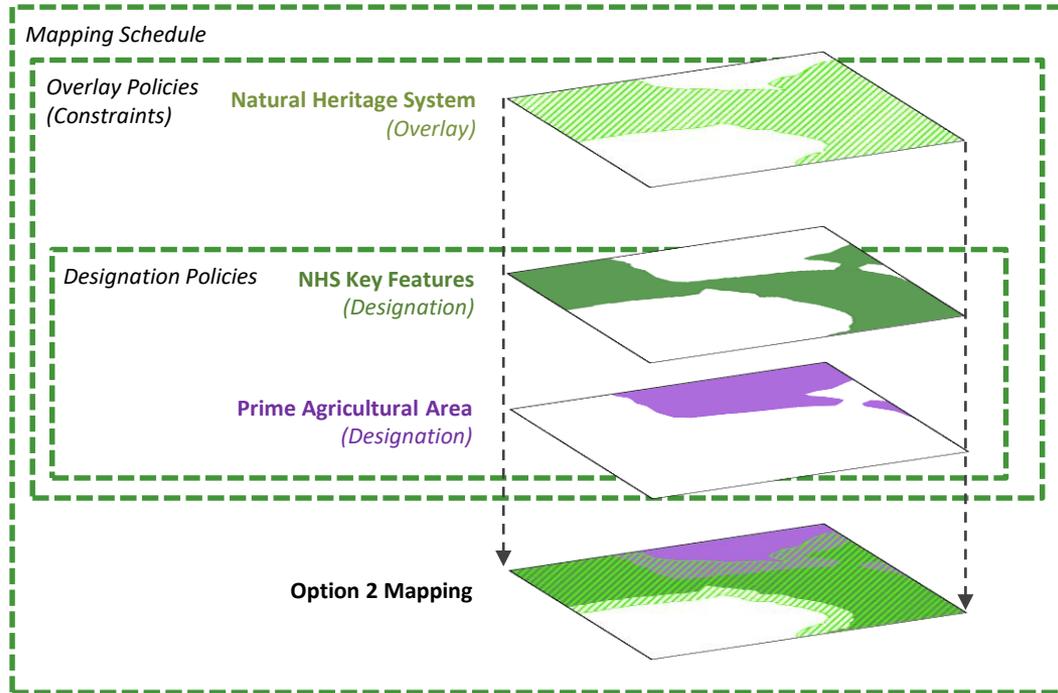
Option 1

Prime Agricultural Area with NHS Key Features overlay and NHS Outside Key Features overlay



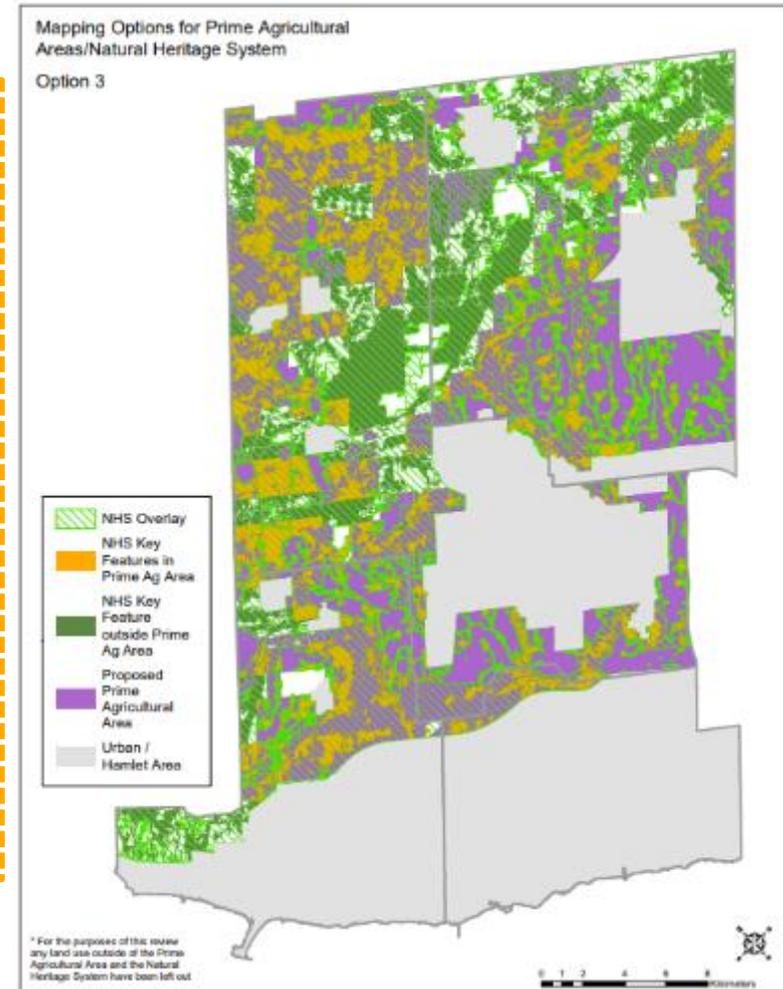
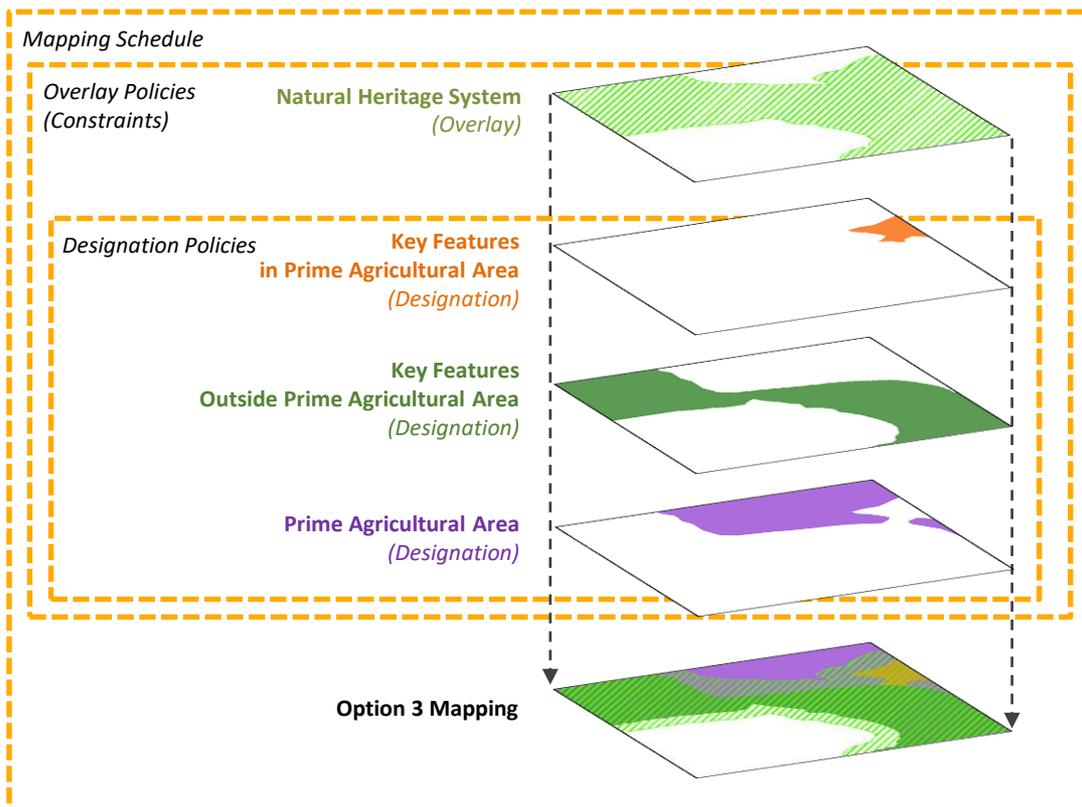
Option 2

Prime Agricultural Area and Key Features are designated with a Natural Heritage System overlay.



Option 3

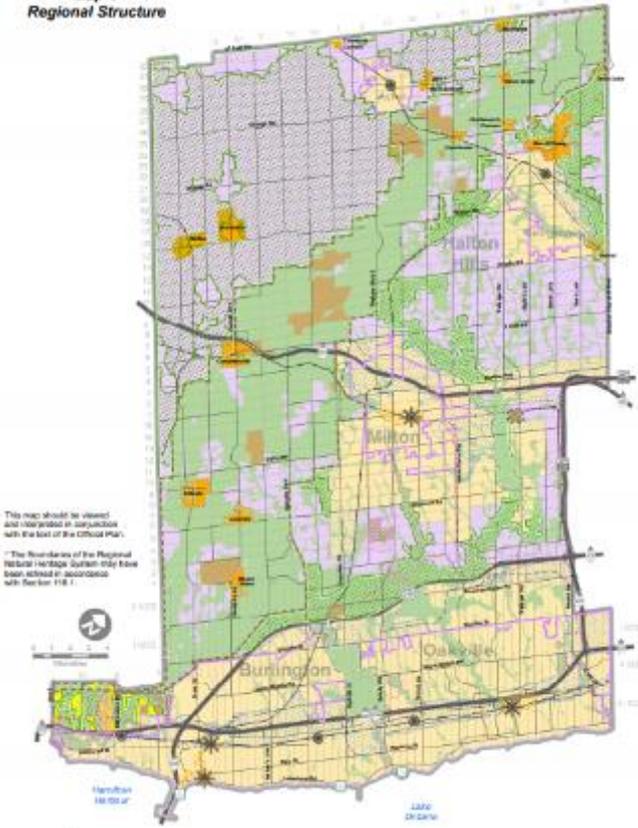
Prime Agricultural Area and Key NHS Features in the Prime Agricultural Area are designated with other Natural Heritage components as an overlay.



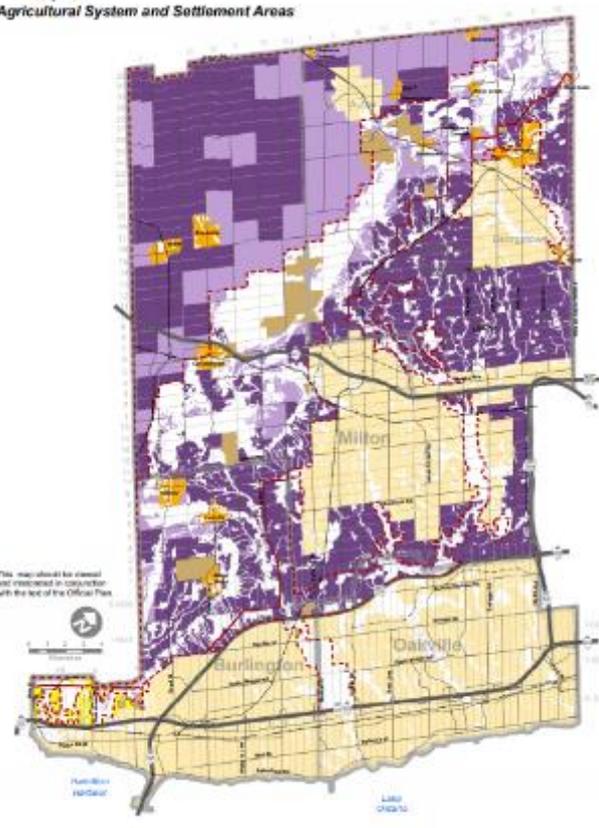
Option 4

ROPA 38 Approach

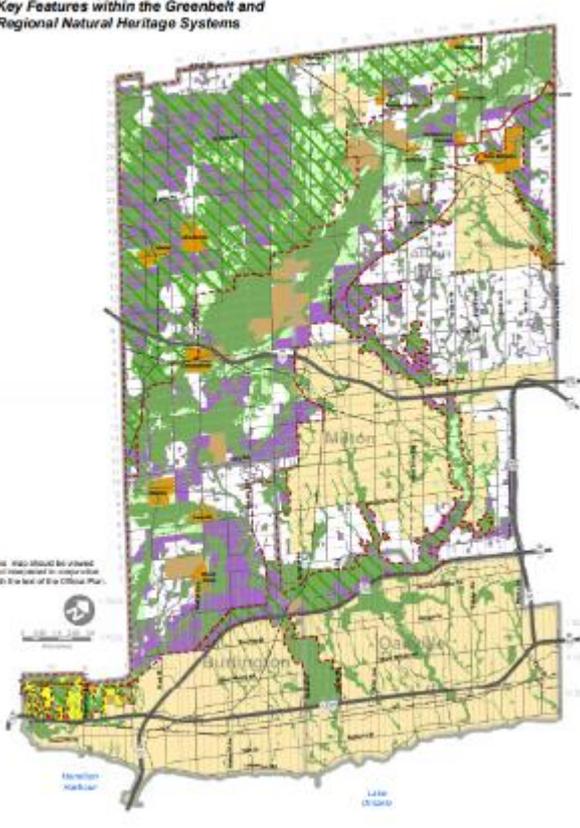
Map 1
Regional Structure



Map 1E
Agricultural System and Settlement Areas



Map 1G
Key Features within the Greenbelt and Regional Natural Heritage Systems



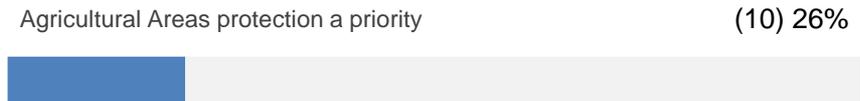
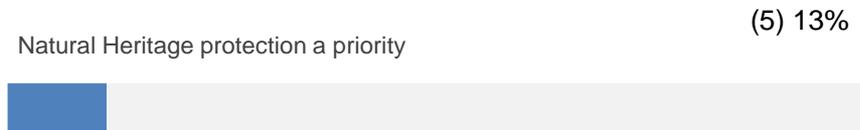
Participant Poll #3

Generally, how should the Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System be integrated?

- a) A balanced approach
- b) Natural Heritage protection a priority
- c) Agricultural Areas protection a priority

Participant Poll #3

Generally, how should the Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System be integrated?



(38 of 38 Votes) 100%
Values rounded



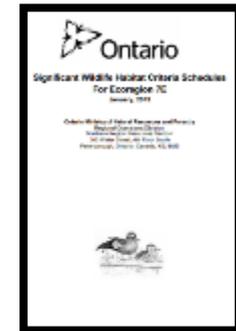
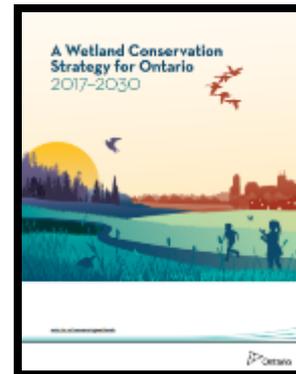
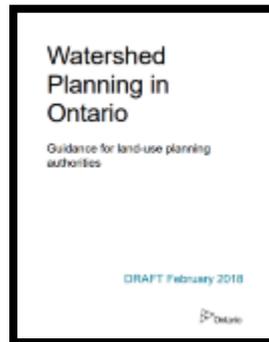
Natural Heritage Policy Updates

Phase 2 Discussion Paper

Emerging Policies and Research

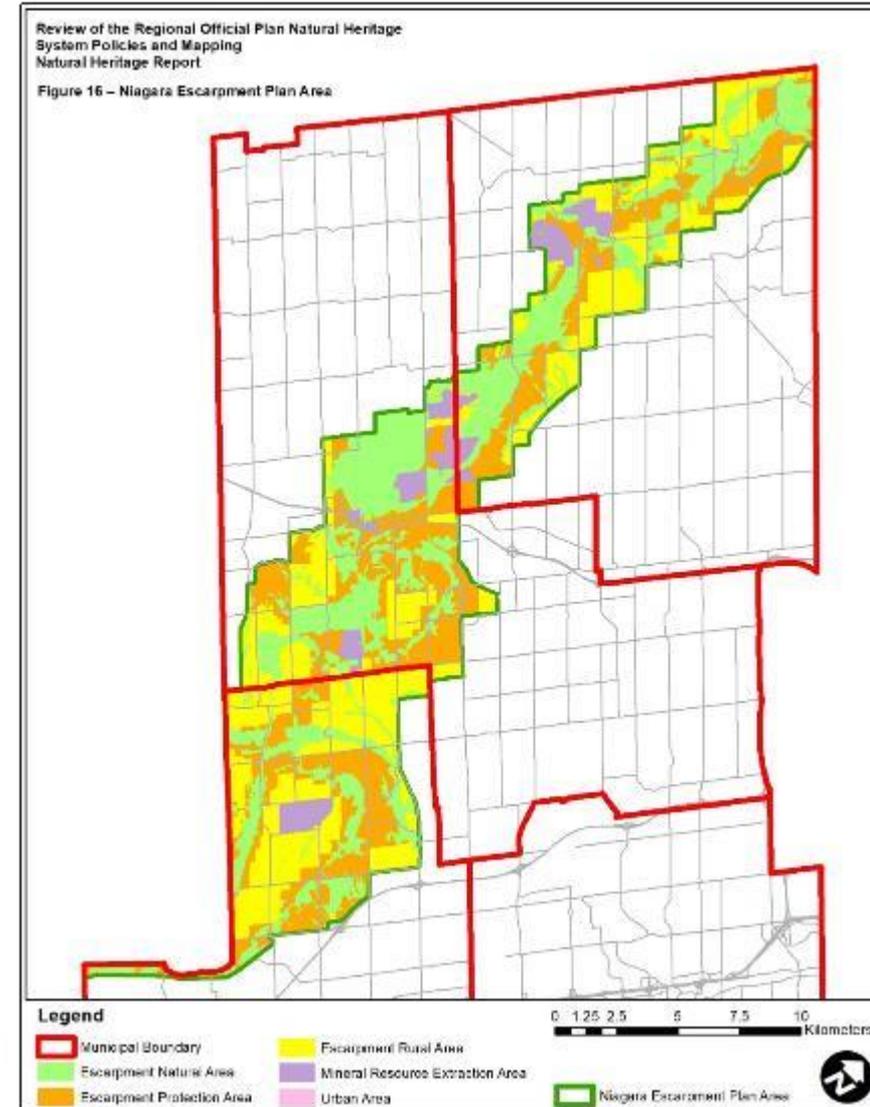
Natural Heritage

- New and emerging Provincial framework:
 - Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS) and Provincial Plans
 - Draft Watershed Planning Guidelines (2018)
 - MNRF Wetland Conservation Strategy (2017)
 - Significant Wildlife Habitat Ecoregion Criteria Schedules (2015)
 - Natural Heritage Reference Manual (2010)
- Key Technical Memos prepared by Region and Consultants.
- Growth Plan Natural Heritage System mapping prepared by the Province.
- Review of Best Practices in Ontario



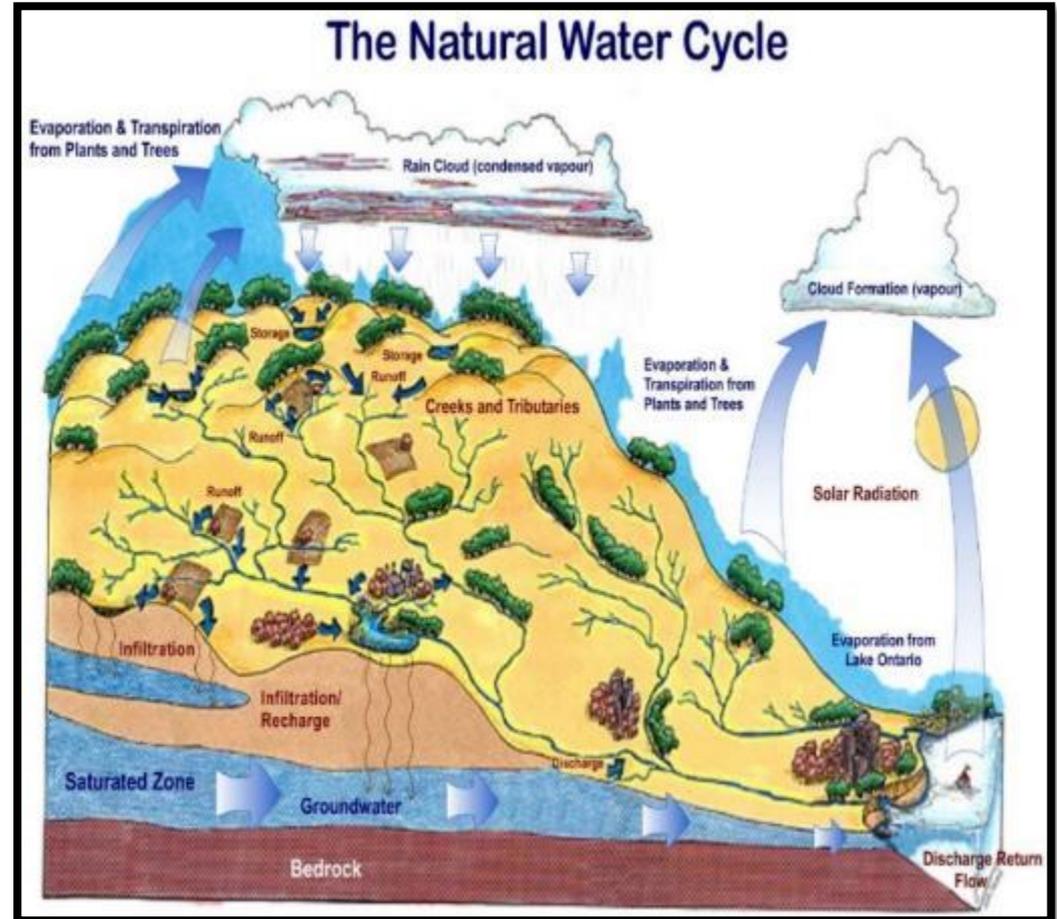
Niagara Escarpment Plan, 2017

- Policy refinements to Escarpment Natural Area and Escarpment Protection Area
- Development Criteria:
 - s.27 – Development Affecting Natural Heritage
- Escarpment Natural Area and Escarpment Protection Area Mapping Updates



Water Resource System Natural Heritage

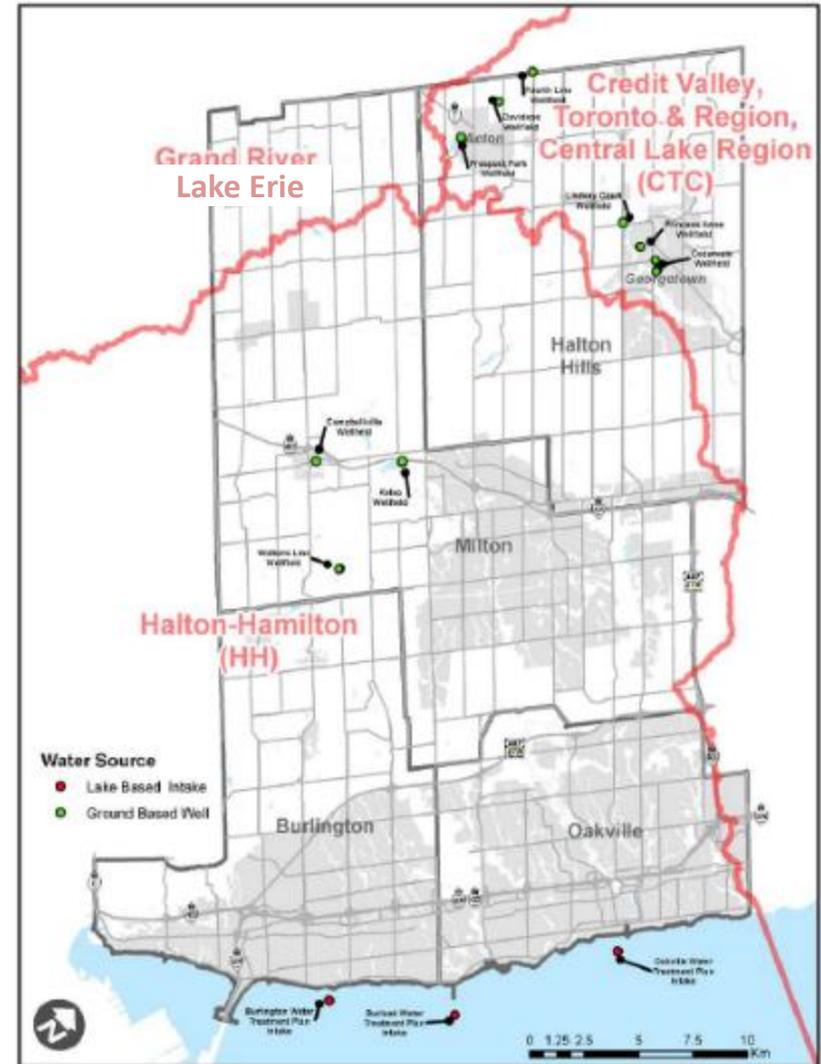
- New Provincial direction for municipalities to identify a Water Resource System (WRS).
- An approach needs to be created to map the WRS mapped at high level with policies that allow for the WRS to be refined.



Drinking Water Source Protection

Natural Heritage

- A Source Protection Plan (SPP) is a list of policies and programs to protect current and future sources of municipal drinking water from contamination and overuse.
- Halton is in three different watersheds and as such is subject to the unique policies of three SPPs.



Natural Hazards

Natural Heritage

- PPS 2020 – a greater emphasis on avoiding rather than mitigating natural hazards
- Natural hazards include:
 - hazardous lands,
 - flooding hazards,
 - erosion hazards,
 - dynamic beach hazards,
 - wildland fire



Itabashi Bridge – Burlington, ON (2014)

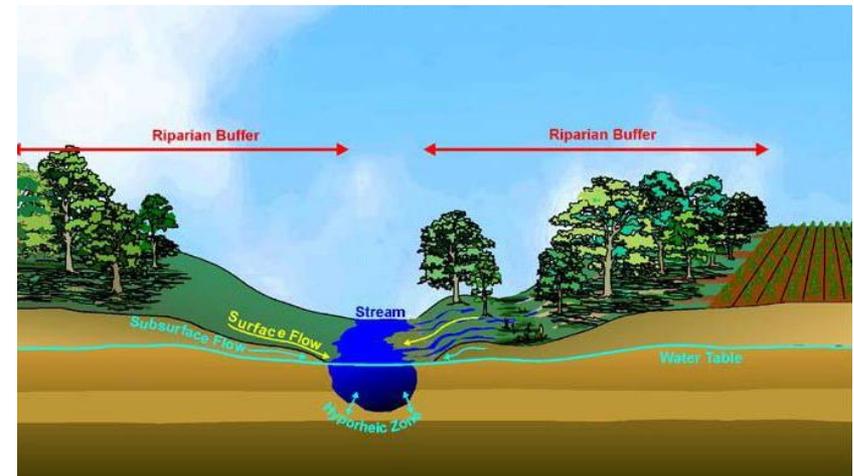
(Source: stockphoto)

- Consideration should be given to how the Regional Official Plan policies and mapping for natural hazards can be strengthened and revised to address the new policies in the Provincial Policy Statement

Buffers and Vegetation Protection Zones

Natural Heritage

- The ROP includes definition of “Buffer” but no policies on standard buffer widths (s.220.1.1)
- Mitigation measure for achieving no negative impact to key features in the Regional Natural Heritage System
- Greenbelt, 2017 and Growth Plan, 2019 Policy Conformity
- Region is considering options to include policies for applying buffers to key features through the planning process



*Diagram of a riparian buffer in an agricultural context
(from Mayer et al.2006)*

Significant Woodlands

Natural Heritage

- “Significant Woodland” is a “Key Feature” in the Regional Natural Heritage System (s.277 – Definition)
- Examine definition of “woodlands” and “significant woodlands” to address quality of a woodland
- For example: quality criteria could address invasive tree species or severe disturbance



Halton Regional Forest – Britton Tract

Policy Gaps

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- Contains natural features (i.e. woodlands) and earth science features (i.e. geologic formation)
- Supports the system-based approach for the Regional Natural Heritage System
- Mapped as part of the current Regional Natural Heritage System

Centres for Biodiversity

- Large landscapes >200 ha of contiguous areas of wildlife habitat;
- Encompasses existing natural heritage features and enhancement areas;
- Sufficient size, quality and diversity that can support a wide range of native species and ecological functions



Drumquin Woods Wildlife Collage: Conservation Halton

Natural Heritage Strategy

Natural Heritage

- Policy considerations and community input to support the future development of a Natural Heritage Strategy that aligns with the Halton Region Strategic Business Plan 2019-2022.



Climate Change

Natural Heritage and Agriculture

- Protecting the natural environment which acts as a valuable carbon sink and creates more resilient environments
- Strengthening the ROP policy framework and mapping of natural heritage features, components and natural hazard lands in order to better respond to extreme weather events
- Protection of healthy agricultural soils using sustainable farming practices
- Promotion of a viable agricultural practice through the permission of on-farm diversified uses
- Encouraging stewardship practices





Rural and Agricultural System Policy Updates

Phase 2 Discussion Paper

Agriculture-Related Uses

Rural and Agricultural System

- Updated term in PPS and Provincial Plans:

“means those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are directly related to farm operations in the area, support agriculture, benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations, and provide direct products and/or services to farm operations as a primary activity.”

Select Examples



Agricultural Research Centre



Farm Equipment Repair Shop

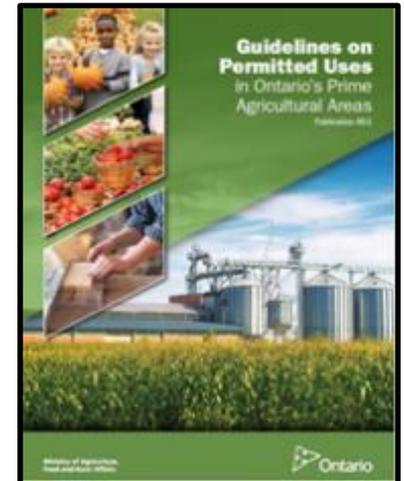


Grain Dyer for Local Grain

Agriculture-Related Uses

Rural and Agricultural System

1. Must be directly related to farms in the area and primarily provide products or services that are:
 - a) Associated with agricultural operations in the area; or
 - b) Required by agricultural operations in the area; or
 - c) Enhance agricultural operations in the area.
2. Must be a farm related commercial use and/or a farm related industrial use which supports agriculture.
3. Must benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations.



On-Farm Diversified Uses

Rural and Agricultural System

- Updated term in PPS and Provincial Plans which replaces “Secondary Uses”:

“means uses that are secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property, and are limited in area. *On-farm diversified uses* include, but are not limited to, home occupations, home industries, *agri-tourism uses*, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products.”

Select Examples



Home Industry



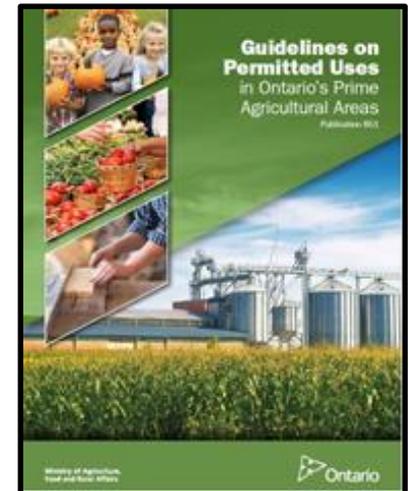
Farmers Markets



Agri-Tourism

On-Farm Diversified Uses Rural and Agricultural System

1. Must be located on a farm.
2. Must be secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property (Temporal and spatial considerations).
3. Must be limited in area (Compared to principal agricultural use).
4. May be, but are not limited to, home occupations, home industries, agri-tourism uses and uses that provide value added agricultural products.
5. Must be compatible with and not hinder surrounding agricultural operations.



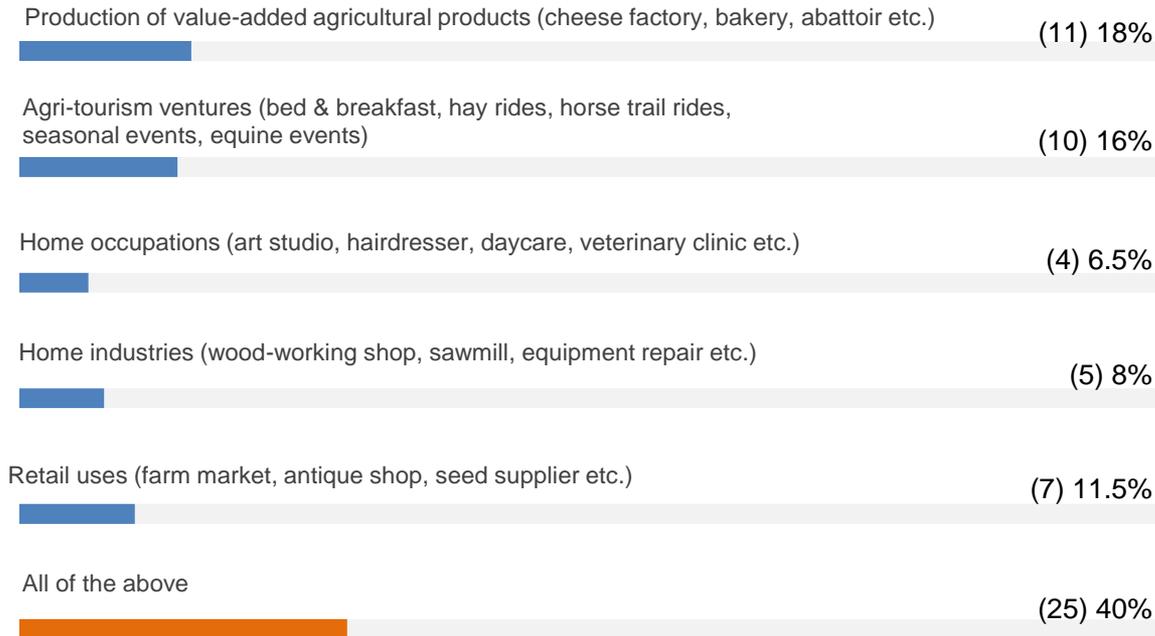
Participant Poll #4

Which of the following on-farm diversified uses do you believe would be important in helping to create a more viable agricultural industry in Halton? (Multiple Choice)

- a) Production of value-added agricultural products (cheese factory, bakery, abattoir etc.)
- b) Agri-tourism ventures (bed & breakfast, hay rides, horse trail rides, seasonal events, equine events)
- c) Home occupations (art studio, hairdresser, daycare, veterinary clinic etc.)
- d) Home industries (wood-working shop, sawmill, equipment repair etc.)
- e) Retail uses (farm market, antique shop, seed supplier etc.)
- f) All of the above

Participant Poll #4

Which of the following on-farm diversified uses do you believe would be important in helping to create a more viable agricultural industry in Halton? (Multiple Choice)



(62 of 62 Votes) 100%
Values rounded

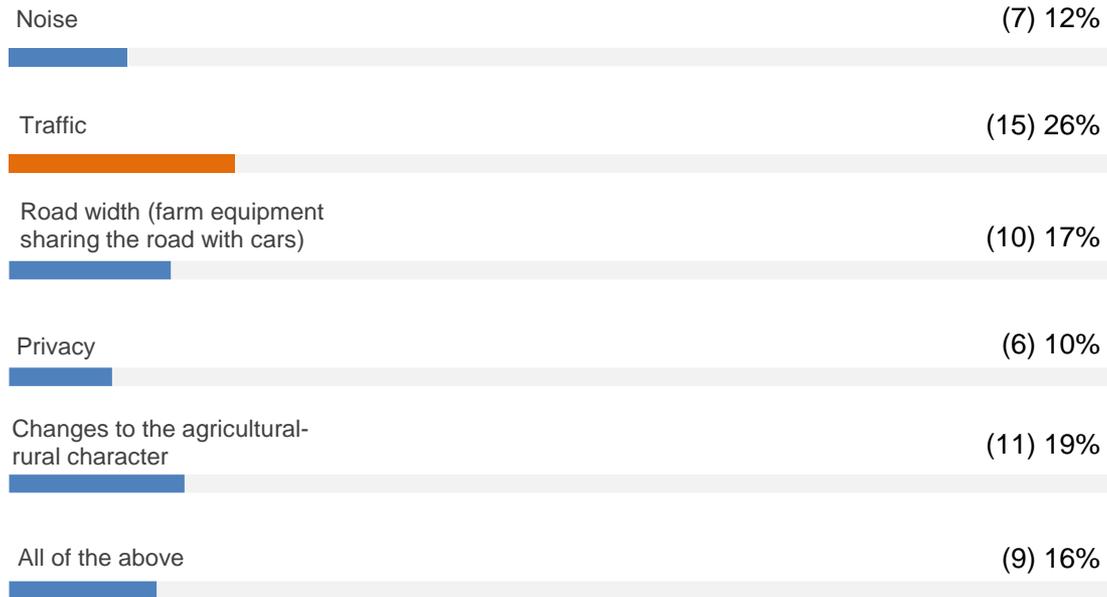
Participant Poll #5

With permissions expanding for on-farm diversified and agriculture-related uses, which of the following do you consider to be potential issues for the agricultural system? (Multiple Choice)

- a) Noise
- b) Traffic
- c) Road width (farm equipment sharing the road with cars)
- d) Privacy
- e) Changes to the agricultural-rural character
- f) All of the above

Participant Poll #5

With permissions expanding for on-farm diversified and agriculture-related uses, which of the following do you consider to be potential issues for the agricultural system? (Multiple Choice)



(58 of 58 Votes) 100%
Values rounded

Other Policy Review Areas

Rural and Agricultural System

Cemeteries

- Consideration should be given to whether cemeteries should be permitted in the prime agricultural area.

Agricultural Impact Assessments (AIAs)

- Consideration should be given to additional requirements for AIAs and policies requiring AIAs for other uses in the ROP.

Special Needs Housing

- Consideration should be given to conditions in which special needs housing may be located outside of the Urban Area.

Participant Poll #6

**Should cemetery uses be permitted in:
(Multiple Choice)**

- a) The Prime Agricultural Area
- b) The non-Prime Agricultural Area (rural lands)
- c) Settlement Areas

Participant Poll #6

Cemetery uses should be permitted in: (Multiple Choice)



(65 of 65 Votes) 100%
Values rounded

Concluding Comments

Natural Heritage and Rural and Agricultural Systems

The Discussion Papers:

- Intend to inform a fulsome and robust policy and mapping discussion, there are no predetermined conclusions
- Facilitate the exploration of ideas in the context of broad public engagement, where all relevant options are explored
- Regional staff are currently engaging with members of the community, stakeholders, and partner agencies to gain input on ideas and options outlined in the Discussion Papers

Questions?



Community Engagement

Virtual Public Information Centres (Start at 7pm):

- Sept. 3 – Climate Change (*Complete*)
- Sept. 9 – North Aldershot Planning Area (*Complete*)
- Sept. 10 – Regional Urban Structure / Integrated Growth Management Strategy (*Complete*)
- Sept. 17 – Rural and Agricultural System & Natural Heritage

Website: www.halton.ca/ropr

- Download the 5 Discussion Papers
- Complete Questionnaires
- View Draft Mapping

Email: ropr@halton.ca

Telephone: 311



We Want to Hear from You!

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