

Brampton's Response to the Provincial Growth Plan

Natural System and Conservation Policy Review Discussion Paper

February 19, 2009



***Brampton's Response to the
Provincial Growth Plan***

CITY OF BRAMPTON

**PLANNING, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	1
Part A: Background and Policy Context	
1. Background	
1.1. Planning Context	4
1.2. Infrastructure Planning	6
1.3. Brampton's 2006 Official Plan Program	7
1.4. Brampton's Natural Heritage System	8
1.5. Cultural Heritage	10
2. Introduction	11
2.1. Sustainable Planning Framework	11
2.2. Growth Plan	12
2.3. Brampton's Official Plan 2006	13
2.4. Region of Peel Official Plan Conformity	15
2.5. Conservation Authorities	15
2.6. City of Brampton Environmental Initiatives and Programs	16
Part B: Protecting What is Valuable	17
3. Brampton's Growth Management Program	17
4. Places to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006	19
4.1. Natural Systems	
4.1.1. Sub-Area Assessments	19
4.1.2. Greenbelt	19
4.1.3. Natural Heritage Features and Areas	21
4.1.4. Parkland and Open Space Trails	23
4.1.5. Urban Open Space	26
4.2. Prime Agricultural Lands	27
4.3. Mineral Aggregates Resources	28
4.4. A Culture of Conservation	30
5. Summary	35
6. Conclusion	36

TABLE OF CONTENTS CONT'D

FIGURES

Figure 1: Provincial Growth Plan Policy Areas	37
Figure 2: Natural Heritage System	38
Figure 3: Recreation Open Space & Cultural Heritage Resources	39
Figure 4: Greenbelt Plan Areas: Protected Countryside & River Corridor Connections	40
Figure 5: Pathways Master Plan & Local Area Trails	41

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Growth Plan Conformity Tables	
Table 1: Greenbelt	42
Table 2: Natural Heritage Features and Areas	44
Table 3: Parkland and Open Space Trails	47
Table 4: Urban Open Spaces	51
Table 5: Mineral Aggregate Resources	53
Table 6: A Culture of Conservation	55
Appendix B: Places to Grow:	
Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006	60

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Planning Context

The Greater Toronto Area-Hamilton (GTAH) is one of the fastest growing regions in North America and Brampton is the second fastest growing community in Canada. While the Province has provided strong direction for urban development and growth, and the protection and management of natural resources, this hasn't lessened the challenges for municipalities faced with financial restrictions and the coordination of services. Brampton's short and long-term growth management initiatives will include attracting both employment and residential growth; providing a significant portion of the GTA's supply of affordable ground-related housing; ensuring a supply of serviced lands; accommodating most of current growth in the Region of Peel to 2021; and managing high growth forecasts with staffing for development processing, capital project delivery and population related services that were based on low growth forecasts.

Brampton recognizes that the foundation of a healthy, liveable city is a robust, healthy environment that provides our air, water, soil and energy resources and mitigates human impacts to these same resources. Brampton's numerous river and valley corridors form the backbone of the City's open space network, and connect the City to some of Ontario's most significant environmental features, including the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario. Linked to these significant natural corridors are tableland woodlands, wetlands, headwater drainage features and the City's active parkland, open space, green infrastructure and cultural heritage systems.



Brampton recently completed an Official Plan update that addresses conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement, Bill 51 and Greenbelt Plan, and represents Council's vision for the proposed form, extent, direction and rate of growth for the City of Brampton. Sustainable development represents the foundation of the Official Plan 2006, and is built on Brampton's long standing ecosystem approach to land use planning that integrates the City's environmental, social, cultural and economic responsibilities to create a complete community. Integrated land use will support a balanced transportation system that gives priority to public transit and pedestrians, and maximizes the use of infrastructure and municipal services. The City's urban design and community revitalization strategies support the preservation of Brampton's rich cultural heritage, and the OP's environmental policies strive to protect, restore and enhance the City's natural heritage resources, as well as define our environmental responsibilities for the long-term management and monitoring of natural, recreational and cultural systems.

The *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006* provides policies that are grounded in 4 key principles:

- Building compact, vibrant and complete communities (Urban Form)
- Supporting a strong and competitive economy (Economy)
- Protecting natural resources (Natural Resources)
- Optimizing infrastructure to support growth (Infrastructure)

The Growth Plan emphasizes sustainability, identification of natural systems, conservation, and the protection of natural resources under the 'Protecting What is Valuable' section. Policies are broken



out for Natural Systems, Prime Agricultural Areas, Mineral Aggregate Resources and a Culture of Conservation. Some of these policies directly affect the City of Brampton, while others are more applicable to the Region of Peel or more rural municipalities.

While the OP environmental policies conform to the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan, Brampton staff is committed to ensuring that the City's documents and programs reflect the newest and emerging science and technology, and environmental planning, conservation and management approaches. The City's Growth Plan conformity exercise titled 'How Should Brampton Grow' began in 2007 and this program is based on component studies and assessments to prepare meaningful policies for the Official Plan amendment, including a Natural System and Conservation Policy Review that is being undertaken through this discussion paper. This discussion paper will:

- Summarize the existing policy framework from the province to the local level that is relevant to the City of Brampton, including the Growth Plan, and Regional and local Official Plan policies;
- Identify municipal strategic initiatives that address the Growth Plan policies;
- Discuss barriers that may prevent or delay municipal environmental initiatives; and
- Propose policy direction and/or the development of municipal initiatives and programs to enhance Brampton's compliance with the Growth Plan's Natural System and Conservation policies.

Growth Plan Conformity

This discussion paper has undertaken a gap analysis for each of the Growth Plan's environmental policies by describing how Brampton's OP policies and/or current municipal initiatives and activities can 'Protect What is Valuable', and by summarizing what environmental concerns may be addressed through the future Growth Plan conformity Official Plan amendment and/or planned municipal environmental programs. Key findings include:

Sec. 4.2.1 Natural Systems

1. Sec. 4.2.1.2 Greenbelt - City staff will continue to monitor the Region of Peel Official Plan Greenbelt Plan conformity in preparation of completing the City's Greenbelt conformity exercise.
2. Sec. 4.2.1.3 Natural Heritage Features and Areas - Brampton will continue to work and partner with the Region of Peel and Conservation Authorities to define and undertake appropriate watershed and subwatershed planning, regional and local natural areas inventories and natural heritage system models, and undertake local natural, cultural and recreational area assessments to prepare restoration, enhancement and management plans.
3. Sec. 4.2.1.4 Parkland and Open Space Trails - the Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan will guide Brampton as a leader, supporter, and partner in the development and delivery of positive leisure and recreational experiences for its residents, and the City will continue to develop and expand on partnership and stewardship activities with adjacent municipalities, Conservation Authorities and private landowners for the development of trails and other activities.
4. Sec. 4.2.1.5 Urban Open Space – the City recognizes that redevelopment and intensification within the built areas will require an expansion of the urban open system by identifying non-traditional opportunities such as accessible rooftop gardens and communal courtyards.

Section 4.2.2 Prime Agricultural Areas

5. The City's Economic Development Office and Tourism Brampton will continue to support local growers and the Brampton Farmers' Market.

Section 4.2.3 Mineral Aggregate Resources

6. The City will follow the provincial direction provided in the Planning Act, Provincial Policy statements and other related Plans to protect aggregate resource areas, and consider extraction subject to a comprehensive rezoning and licensing process that will include rigorous evaluation and assessment through a multi-agency review.

Section 4.2.4 Culture of Conservation

7. Brampton recognizes that better integration of the City's Official Plan policies for natural heritage, environmental management, recreational and cultural heritage will enable better co-ordination of the City's responsibilities to both protect, manage and restore the local natural environment and conserve global resources. To this end, Brampton is embarking on an Environmental Master Plan process.

Summary and Conclusion



This review finds that the Official Plan 2006 policies are in general conformity with the Growth Plan 'Protecting What is Valuable' policies. However, Official Plan policies and schedules may be revised through the Growth Plan conformity Official Plan amendment to better define our local municipal role and responsibilities to ensure the long-term protection, restoration and enhancement of our natural and cultural heritage systems and the provision of recreational and urban open space to address the development of complete communities. A culture of conservation may be as all encompassing as defining *environmental sustainability* and Brampton recognizes that a community should '*ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'¹. Therefore, it is clear the City, its businesses and residential community, and conservation agencies and organizations must work together to minimize, mitigate and compensate for our environmental impacts to the natural environment and climate.

On this basis, the City is preparing an Environmental Master Plan (EMP) to define a sustainable environmental framework for the City as a corporation and land use planning authority. The EMP will complement other strategic master plans to identify opportunities that will strengthen the City's current and planned environmental initiatives. The first step in the study will be a detailed inventory of the City's current and planned environmental services, programs and activities to undertake a gap analysis of what we are doing and what we need to be doing, and serve as a communication tool. A comprehensive public consultation process that engages residents, the business community, stakeholders, government agencies, conservation and community organizations, as well as peer municipalities, will be a keystone activity in the development of the EMP.

¹ Brundtland Report 1987



PART A: BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT

1. Background

Brampton is located in the Greater Toronto Area-Hamilton (GTAH), one of the fastest growing regions in North America. The GTAH is the destination of choice for many people looking to relocate from other parts of Canada and around the world because of its high quality of life and economic opportunities. According to the 2006 Census Brampton is the second fastest growing community in Canada. Traditional land use planning including growth management and the provision of infrastructure has been greatly influenced by recent provincial policy initiatives, as well as associated financial challenges and the coordination of services. All of this has meant that Brampton has emerged in the current decade under great growth pressure due to the convergence of these issues and our location in the GTAH.

1.1. Planning Context

The Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 (amended 2006) sets out the ground rules for land use planning in Ontario and describes how land uses may be controlled, and who may control them. The Act provides the basis for considering provincial interests, such as:

- Protecting and managing our natural resources through the issuance of provincial policy statements under Sec. 3.0 of the Act;
- Establishing local planning administration including the preparation of official plans and planning policies that will guide future development; and
- Developing tools that municipalities can use to facilitate planning for the future; and establishing a streamlined planning process that emphasizes local autonomy in decision-making.

Within the past several years the Province of Ontario has released the following planning and legislative initiatives listed below that provide greater direction for the growth and development of municipalities. With the exception of the current Places to Grow response, all of these have already been incorporated into the new Brampton Official Plan policies.

- ✓ The *Provincial Policy Statement 2005* (PPS) is a key component of Ontario's planning system that sets policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning, growth management, environmental protection, and public health and safety. It aims to provide a stronger policy framework that guides communities in Ontario toward a higher quality of life and a better long-term future. PPS applies to all of Brampton and its activities, and specifically affects Brampton's long term growth management by continuing the long standing obligation for the City to provide for:
 - A continuous ten year supply of land designated for new residential development and intensification;
 - A three year supply of residential units with servicing capacity in draft approved or registered plans; and
 - Significant portions of growth to be accommodated through intensification and infill.
- ✓ The *Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act 2007* (Bill 51) made changes to the *Planning Act*, which now requires that all decisions made by municipal councils after March 1, 2005 "be consistent with" (as opposed to the previous "have regard for") the policies of the PPS. Key policy changes in the PPS include growth management, intensification, protection of employment lands, affordable housing, protection of natural heritage systems, and water resources

- ✓ *Places to Grow 2006* is a framework for building stronger, prosperous communities by better managing growth to 2031, and includes policy directions for growth forecasts that would result in:
 - Most of the growth within the Greater Golden Horseshoe will be directed to the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton, rather than a dispersed growth pattern to areas beyond the Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine;
 - Brampton will need to accommodate approximately 275,000 additional people while Peel Region will ultimately grow to 1.64 million;
 - Intensification targets of 40 per cent are to be met in built areas; and
 - Density targets of 200 persons and jobs per hectare for urban growth centres (which includes downtown Brampton) and 50 residents and jobs per hectare for greenfield areas.
- ✓ The *Greenbelt Plan 2005* provides permanent protection to the agricultural land base and ecological features and functions for 1.8 million acres of land that spans 325 kilometres from Rice Lake to the Niagara River. The Greenbelt includes lands within, and builds upon the ecological protections provided by, the *Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP)* and the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP)*, and complements and supports other provincial level initiatives such as the *Parkway Belt West Plan*. The Greenbelt Protected Countryside covers approximately one per cent of lands within Brampton including the agriculturally and environmentally sensitive lands adjacent to the Credit River valley corridor, and improves linkages between the NEP and ORM to Lake Ontario via the Credit River, West Humber River tributaries and Etobicoke Creek.

Brampton's location in the heart of Peel Region and at the northwest corner of the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton will affect the City's short and long-term growth management initiatives:

- ✓ Over the past several decades, both residential and job growth have been increasingly concentrated in the western part of the GTA, and today the 'centre of gravity' of the GTA could be considered Pearson Airport as opposed to downtown Toronto. Brampton is well placed to attract both employment and residential growth seeking access to jobs in the western GTA.
- ✓ The housing boom of the new millennium has been larger and more sustained than the boom experienced during the 1980s as a result of a combination of demographic factors, employment growth, relative economic stability and low interest rates. Historically, low interest rates make housing very affordable, and Brampton provides a significant part of the GTA's supply of affordable ground-related housing.
- ✓ Brampton has a large supply of land for both residential and employment development. These areas of the City have few servicing constraints relative to land supply and/or servicing constraints in adjacent municipalities such as Halton and York Region, and this will increase growth pressure on Brampton.
- ✓ Brampton also lies within the centre of the market and policy context of the Region of Peel. Mississauga has largely built out their greenfield lands, and therefore, their ability to provide ground-related housing and employment has declined. The Town of Caledon only maintains a small supply of designated land for development, and this is being rapidly developed. This leaves Brampton as the primary location within the Region to accommodate growth for the life of the current Regional Official Plan to 2021.



1.2 Infrastructure Funding

While the Planning Act, Places to Grow, etc. direct municipal growth, infrastructure to support growth is largely funded by development charges revenue that is collected by the City in accordance with the provisions of the Development Charges Act. However, the Act limits what infrastructure the City can collect for and how the service levels can be calculated, including the percentage of funds that the City can collect for certain infrastructure. This means that a significant portion of capital infrastructure costs required to support growth must be covered by other revenue sources such as property taxes. The exact level of property taxes required to fund growth can be difficult to quantify; however a quick snapshot of the 2008 budget year illustrates some of the financial challenges that the City must address including:

- \$13.4 million in growth related operating impacts versus only \$6.1 million in assessment growth;
- \$66.7 million is needed over the next 10 years for the non-DC eligible portion of growth related soft services (\$5.9 million in 2008);
- An already existing development charge deficit in 2008 is rapidly increasing over the 10-year forecast;
- The City is not able to collect enough in development charges to fund necessary growth infrastructure such as public works yards and fire stations, in part due to legislated limits on DC eligible service levels;
- The Development Charge Act does not allow the City to collect DC's for general administration space, cultural facilities, and computer equipment; and
- There are additional unfunded capital programs fully or partially related to growth such as woodlot acquisition, stormwater management retrofits, and maintenance of the expanding roads, facilities and parks infrastructure.

The pace of growth has an impact on the amount of property taxes collected annually that are required to support growth. At a slower pace of growth, infrastructure needs would be spread out over a longer timeframe, and therefore, a smaller percentage of the annual property tax revenue would be needed to fund growth. At a faster pace of growth, the opposite is true.

Lastly, the City is faced with the challenge of ensuring that services and infrastructure such as schools, parks, roads, transit, emergency services, sewer and water, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, etc. are provided at the right time and in the right place so that service level targets are met for both new and existing residents. This requires significant efforts in planning, financing, detailed design, property acquisition, regulatory approvals and construction phasing for all elements of the City's infrastructure and services. Therefore, prioritizing growth areas combined with strategic allocations of financial and staff resources must be coordinated between City departments, the Peel Public and Dufferin-Peel Separate School Boards, and the Region of Peel.



The acquisition of parkland is an excellent example of the planning and financial challenges faced by the City. The Planning Act permits municipalities to collect parkland contributions from new development; however, it limits these contributions to 1ha of parkland for every 300 dwelling units or 5 per cent of the developable land. This development contribution can be taken as an actual transfer of land for parkland, or 'Cash In Lieu' (CIL), or some combination of the two. The determination of new park locations is generally identified through the Secondary Plan process; however, the actual requirements for parkland dedication are determined at the draft plan of

subdivision. The City typically allocates 40 per cent of an area's parkland dedication requirements to assemble Neighbourhood Parks to service the immediate or local area, and the remaining 60 per cent is taken as CIL and used to acquire larger Community and City-wide Park areas to provide



active, indoor and outdoor recreation-oriented parkland and facilities. The City only accepts buildable 'tableland' (i.e. non-valleyland or other environmental features) to fulfill parkland requirements, in order to accommodate active indoor and outdoor recreational development. Parkland acquisition and recreation facility development funded through CIL form part of the City's annual capital budget based on plans and priorities. The provincial amendments to the Development Charges Act in 1997 eliminated the City's ability to supplement the Planning Act collection with Development Charges. At this time, parkland and/or CIL collected through development approval is the only statutory means for the City to acquire new tableland parkland without having to raise taxes or access reserve funds. The Planning Act parkland takings do not meet the City's current requirements for active parkland, and therefore, this leaves no flexibility for Brampton to use this mechanism to acquire natural features and areas.

1.3 Brampton's 2006 Official Plan Program

The City of Brampton Official Plan charts the course for land use decision-making within the municipality for the next 25 years and is used to guide many development and infrastructure decisions on issues such as land use, built form, transportation and the environment. The purpose of the Official Plan is to give clear direction as to how physical development and land-use decisions should take place in Brampton to meet the current and future needs of its residents, as well as reflect their collective aims and aspirations as to the character of the landscape and the quality of life to be preserved and fostered. The Plan also provides policy guidance to assist business interests in their decision to invest and grow in the City of Brampton, and is intended to clarify and assist in the delivery of municipal services and responsibilities.

The Official Plan is a document authorized under Part I of the *Planning Act*, which constitutes a legal document upon adoption, by the City of Brampton and approval by the Region of Peel. The Plan is more than just a statement of goals, and objectives, as it also represents the collective vision of City Council for the proposed form, extent, direction and rate of growth for the City of Brampton.

The new Brampton Official Plan (OP) was adopted by City Council on October 11, 2006. The Official Plan review focused on growth management, retail and employment, environmental protection, urban design, and cultural heritage, as well as housekeeping matters, and went through extensive public consultation. In addition to the statutory meeting required under the Planning Act, the City provided other opportunities for public input including Mayor's Town Hall meetings, open houses, workshops and the website, as coordinated under the "Our Brampton Our Future" communications program. These events were well attended by residents, government and public agencies, the business community, community groups and other stakeholder groups. The City received valuable public input that reaffirmed the Official Plan direction and the City's commitment to sustainability that builds upon the established ecosystem approach to planning to create a compact, complete and transit oriented city.

To address conformity with the *Provincial Policy Statement 2005*, the OP included stronger wording for the provision of public spaces; promotion of healthy, active communities; conservation of energy resources and support for energy efficiency and improvements to air quality through land use and development patterns; protection of natural features and systems and recognition of linkages between natural features; and the protection, improvement and restoration of the quantity and quality of water.

To address conformity with the *Greenbelt Plan 2005*, the OP included policies in the Natural Heritage and Environmental Management section such as identifying permitted uses within the Greenbelt, adjacent lands and lot creation; and by illustrating the Greenbelt Plan boundaries on



relevant Official Plan schedules (e.g. City Concept, General Land Use Designations, Natural Heritage Features and Areas and Major Recreational Open Space).

In addition to the provincial conformity exercise, Brampton reviewed other municipal environmental policies of neighbouring municipalities and identified opportunities to strengthen the OP policies to be a municipal role model in environmental protection, including setting specific guidelines to determine developable area and buffers, and recognizing linkages and remnant natural features that contribute to the overall health of the environment.

Brampton staff worked with the Region of Peel, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and other stakeholders throughout 2007 to prepare policy modifications, many of which focused on conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement, Bill 51, Greenbelt Plan and *Places to Grow Act 2005/Growth Plan*. The Region of Peel approved the Official Plan on January 17, 2008. Given the timing of the OP review and the release of the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006*, Section 2.5.2 was included in the OP which identifies that *“The City shall undertake a Growth Plan conformity exercise and include detailed policies in the Official Plan through an official plan amendment to implement the Growth Plan. The City will have this undertaking completed within the timeline set in the Places to Grow Act 2005. In the meantime, the City shall continue providing planning services in accordance with the Growth Plan and all other relevant legislation.”* This placeholder policy recognizes that sections of the OP including population and employment forecasts, intensification/density targets, employment lands, and the Urban Growth Centre (i.e. Downtown Brampton) will have to be revised in order to fully conform to the Growth Plan. A placeholder policy was also included for the City to continue its Greenbelt Plan conformity exercise, including the preparation of Official Plan policies and related mapping for Council adoption, following the Region of Peel Greenbelt Plan conformity exercise.

In April 2007, the City released a strategic work plan to undertake the Official Plan conformity exercise in order to fully implement the Growth Plan by June 16, 2009. City staff was given direction to proceed with the work plan and also work in consultation with the Region of Peel, the City of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon to ensure that Provincial targets are met at the Regional level.

1.4 Brampton’s Natural Heritage System

Brampton recognizes that the foundation for a healthy, liveable city is the protection, restoration and management of a robust, biologically diverse and self-sustaining natural heritage system. The natural heritage system is intrinsic to providing our air, water, soil and energy resources, and is also vital to mitigating human impacts to these same resources. Brampton is blessed by the numerous river and valley corridors of the Credit River, Fletcher’s Creek, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek and West Humber River watersheds form the backbone of the City’s open space network, and connect the City to some of Ontario’s most significant environmental features, including the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario. Linked to these significant natural corridors are tableland woodlands, wetlands, headwater drainage features and the City’s active parkland, open space, green infrastructure and cultural heritage systems. Brampton’s natural heritage system identified to date covers approximately 4600 hectares (ha) or 17% of the municipal land base, although only 2200 ha are currently in public [City and Conservation Authority] ownership.

Guiding all City initiatives is a vision to form *“a vibrant, safe and attractive city of opportunity where efficient services make it possible for families, individuals including persons with disabilities, and the business community to grow, prosper and enjoy a high quality of life”*. This vision was formulated in

concert with the community's residents and businesses, stakeholders and City's employees, and is carved out of the City's past experiences and evolving relationship with the rest of the GTAH. Brampton's Strategic Plan 2003 provides the blueprint for the overall development and management of the City, and is the foundation upon which all future strategic plans, including the Official Plan, are based. The Plan recognizes the need to manage growth, achieve a modern transportation system, protect our environment, enhance our neighbourhoods, foster a dynamic and prosperous economy, ensure a community lifestyle and provide excellence in local government in all matters of land-use planning and policy development.

The principle of sustainable development represents the foundation of the Council adopted Official Plan 2006 and is built on the City's long-standing ecosystem approach to land use planning to achieve a sustainable, healthy natural heritage system. In addition, integrated land use will support a balanced transportation system that will give priority to public transit and pedestrians to create complete communities; the City's urban design and community revitalization strategies will ensure the preservation and enhancement of the City's rich cultural heritage; and sustainable growth management will ensure that growth takes place in a coordinated and fiscally responsible manner. The Official Plan environmental policies are based on sound ecological and technical rationale that:

- Support the ecosystem approach to land use planning;
- Direct efforts for the protection, restoration and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage resources;
- Advocate sustainable development including promoting the use of best management practices; and
- Define environmental responsibilities for long-term management and related monitoring of natural, recreational and cultural systems.

These OP sections are integrated with all the other Official Plan policy sections, including Transportation, Residential, Urban Design, etc. to promote a holistic approach to planning to address the City's multiple dimensions of sustainability – economic, social, environmental, and cultural.

Brampton's natural environment has been fragmented from over 150 years of agricultural land clearing and farming activities, which resulted in the extensive loss and alteration of the pre-settlement vegetation communities and natural heritage features. With the assistance of the Conservation Authorities, Brampton's environmental management programs are focused on the mitigation, remediation and enhancement of approximately 2200 ha of valleys (that were ploughed), woodlands (that were grazed by farm animals and cut for firewood), creek channels (that were altered to permit field drainage) and wetlands (that were tilled to provide arable land). Sustainable development practices including stormwater management, channel erosion protection, sediment control, vegetative buffers (to woodlands and wetlands) and urban tree planting are used to minimize and mitigate the impacts of typical urban development that reduces groundwater infiltration, increases hazardous flooding, and causes soil and watercourse erosion. Today, Brampton's valley and watercourse corridors and terrestrial features (woodlands and wetlands) are protected from direct development, and it is our goal to use environmentally sensitive construction, management and maintenance practices to address the associated impacts of municipal infrastructure and human uses that must occur within natural features.

Brampton will continue to experience significant development as an urban area within the GTAH as identified by the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006*. It is a joint responsibility of the province, local and regional municipalities and conservation agencies such as the Credit Valley Conservation and Toronto Region





Conservation to develop sustainable environmental policies and implement programs to fulfill the *Provincial Policy Statement 2005*, *Greenbelt Plan 2005* and *Places to Grow Plan 2006*. Within the 9000 ha of greenfield, the City will focus will be on the preparation of comprehensive Subwatershed and related studies to protect, restore and enhance the approximate 2400 ha of existing natural heritage systems identified to date. This will mean identifying, acquiring, linking and connecting natural heritage features and areas, and undertaking long-term management and monitoring of the water, aquatic and terrestrial resources (features, functions and linkages) of these areas. Within the built-up areas, the sustainable environmental challenges will be more complex as the City bridges the gap between past actions and what needs to be done to manage, restore and enhance the approximate 2200 ha of natural areas, 142 ha of open space (stormwater management facilities and cemeteries), and 1100 ha of parkland that are in public ownership.

1.5 Cultural Heritage

The City of Brampton has a rich legacy of cultural heritage resources that are linked to both its historical roots as the 'Flowertown of Canada' and its role as the capital or county seat of the former Peel County. The preservation of Brampton's heritage is important for many reasons, but especially as heritage resources are non-renewable and once lost, can never be regained. A well-preserved cultural heritage contributes to a sense of permanence and continuity, and is the foundation for future community planning by its contribution to the identity, character, vitality, economic prosperity and quality of life of the City as a whole.

Heritage is more than just old buildings and monuments and includes trees, natural features and traditions that define the culture of a place. Today, heritage resources are defined as: structures, sites, environments, artefacts and traditions that are of historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural and contextual values, significance or interest. These include, but are not necessarily restricted to: buildings, groups of buildings, monuments, bridges, fences and gates; sites associated with a historic event; natural heritage features such as landscapes, woodlots, and valleys; streetscapes, flora and fauna within a defined area, parks, scenic roadways and historic corridors; artefacts and assemblages from an archaeological site or a museum; and traditions reflecting the social, cultural or ethnic heritage of the community. The adoption of the term *cultural heritage landscape* reflects this evolution and promotes the need for a more holistic approach to heritage planning.

A Cultural Heritage Landscape refers to a defined geographical area that has been modified and characterized by human activity, and may involve a grouping of features that are both man-made and natural. Collectively, these unique cultural heritage elements are valued not only for their historical, architectural or contextual significance, but also for their contribution to the understanding of the social, economic, political and environmental forces that have shaped and may continue to shape the community. Examples of cultural heritage landscape include heritage conservation districts designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, villages, parks, gardens, cemeteries, main streets, neighbourhoods, valleys and watercourses, lakes, woodlands, wetlands, hedgerows and scenic vistas.

As Brampton continues to develop the greenfield areas and intensify within the built-up areas it will be challenging to protect, restore and enhance our cultural heritage resources. This will mean identifying and acquiring cultural heritage features and areas, and coordinating long-term management and monitoring of these resources in conjunction with initiatives and programs for the natural heritage and recreational open space systems, and urban design.



2. INTRODUCTION

In June 2006, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal released the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006* which was prepared and approved under the *Places to Grow Act 2005*. This legislation stipulates that municipalities subject to the Growth Plan must bring their Official Plans into compliance by June 2009. The policies of the Growth Plan are grounded in four key principles:

- Building compact, vibrant and complete communities (Urban Form)
- Supporting a strong and competitive economy (Economy)
- Protecting natural resources (Natural Resources)
- Optimizing infrastructure to support growth (Infrastructure)

In addition to the overarching principles, the Growth Plan also includes density and intensification targets that municipalities must meet. The *Places to Grow Act 2005* requires that all municipalities amend their respective Official Plans within three years of the Growth Plan coming into effect (by June 16, 2009).

In a broad sense, the goals and principles of the Growth Plan are already embodied in the City of Brampton's vision as they are articulated in our Strategic Plan 2003 and the recent Council adopted City of Brampton Official Plan 2006. This is due in part to the fact that these principles are the foundation for good planning that has been the practice of City planners for years, as well as the City's early engagement in discussions on the Smart Growth initiative, providing feedback to the Province on early drafts of the Growth Plan, and monitoring the Growth Plan directions.

While the Official Plan incorporates many of the principles of the Growth Plan, it does not fully implement the policies of the Growth Plan such as population and employment forecasts, intensification/density targets, employment lands, and the Urban Growth Centre, as the Official Plan policy work was undertaken prior to the adoption of the Growth Plan. To ensure that the City of Brampton and the Region of Peel are in a position to meet the June 2009 target date included in the growth plan, Council approved a work plan in April 2007 to develop a number of component studies to examine growth management issues. The City recognized that a variety of studies and assessments were needed to inform the development of a local growth plan in order to prepare meaningful policies for a future Official Plan amendment, and as such, the City of Brampton initiated the Natural System and Conservation Policy review that is being undertaken through preparation of this discussion paper.

2.1 Sustainable Planning Framework

The scope of what is meant by *sustainability*, *sustainability planning* and *environmental sustainability* can be all encompassing. The Brundtland Commission's 'Our Common Future' (1987) defined the concept of *sustainable development* and acknowledged "*humanity has the ability to make development sustainable to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*" What has become abundantly clear is that individually and collectively, the City, its businesses and residents, and conservation agencies and organizations must work together to minimize, mitigate and compensate for the environmental impacts that humans represent to the natural environment and climate.

This Natural Heritage and Conservation Policy Review Discussion Paper is being prepared to undertake a strategic review of opportunities to enhance the Brampton Official Plan policy



framework in consideration of the Growth Plan policies for 'Protecting What is Valuable'. Specifically this discussion paper will:

- Summarize the existing policy framework from the province to the local level that is relevant to the City of Brampton, including the Growth Plan and Regional and local Official Plan policies;
- Identify municipal strategic initiatives that address the Growth Plan policies;
- Discuss barriers that may prevent or delay municipal environmental initiatives; and
- Propose policy direction and/or the development of municipal initiatives and programs to enhance Brampton's compliance with the Growth Plan's Natural System and Conservation policies.

2.2 Growth Plan

Key to the vision outlined for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Growth Plan emphasizes sustainability, identification of natural systems, conservation, and the protection of natural resources. The specific policies of the Growth Plan that are included under the section titled 'Protecting What is Valuable' are broken out for Natural Systems, Prime Agricultural Areas, Mineral Aggregate Resources and a Culture of Conservation. Some of these policies directly affect the City of Brampton, while others are more applicable to the Region of Peel or more rural municipalities.

The Growth Plan has been prepared to direct the development of *complete communities*, and within urban centres the Plan acknowledges two primary development areas, the *built-up areas* and *designated greenfields*. *Built-up areas* are defined by a *built boundary* that reflects the extent of existing development as of June 16, 2006. It is within this area that *intensification* is to occur, both generally, and specifically in areas that have been identified as *urban growth centres*, *intensification corridors* and *major transit station area*. Figure 1 illustrates these various Growth Plan Policy Areas in Brampton. In November 2007, the Province released a technical paper titled "*Proposed Final Built Boundary for the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*", which outlined a very detailed methodology of how the built boundary was established. City of Brampton planning staff reviewed the proposed final built boundary within the City and concur that the boundary depicted by the Province accurately reflects development that existed prior to June 16, 2006.

Within the built-up area, the Growth Plan identified downtown Brampton as an Urban Growth Centre (UGC). Urban Growth Centres are generally characterized as:

- Vibrant and diverse;
- Economic and employment centres;
- Supporting transit infrastructure; a focal area for regional services; and
- A focal area for commercial, recreational, cultural and entertainment uses.

The Growth Plan requires that UGCs be planned to achieve a minimum gross density target of 200 residents and jobs combined per hectare.

In August 2007, staff delineated a draft urban growth centre boundary that would reflect the City's objectives related to the Central Area vision and meet the characteristics of a UGC as proposed by the Province. In November 2007, the Province verbally confirmed that the City could use this draft Urban Growth Centre boundary in their growth plan conformity studies.



It should be noted that portions of the Urban Growth Centre in Downtown Brampton are located within the Etobicoke Creek floodplain management Special Policy Area (SPA). SPAs must be identified in conformity with the PPS 2005, and site specific policies for intensification and redevelopment within the SPA lands of the UGC will need to address the SPA policy framework set out in the Downtown Brampton Secondary Plan.

According to the definition in the Growth Plan, all of the remaining lands in Brampton, outside of the built boundary are *designated greenfield* areas. These policies stipulate that development of designated greenfield areas across the Region of Peel must be planned to achieve a minimum density of 50 people and jobs per hectare. Figure I depicts lands within the built boundary (including the UGC, intensification corridors and transit supportive nodes) and designated greenfield areas in Brampton.

In the Status Report – Brampton's Response to the Provincial Growth Plan dated May 30, 2008, staff recognized that although the 2006 Official Plan incorporates many of the Growth Plan principles related to natural systems and conservation, a policy review was required to determine if additional changes were necessary to fully implement the Growth Plan. It was proposed to conduct policy reviews through preparation of discussion papers that would compare the Growth Plan policies to the 2006 City of Brampton Official Plan policies and recommend changes to policy direction if deemed necessary. Any amendments to the Official Plan stemming from this policy review would be completed through the overall Growth Plan conformity Official Plan Amendment.

2.3 Brampton's Official Plan 2006

The principle of sustainable development represents the foundation of the City of Brampton Official Plan 2006, and the sustainable planning framework is built on:

- The City's long standing ecosystem approach to land use planning that recognizes the dynamic interrelationship of all elements of the biophysical community that are necessary to achieve a sustainable, healthy natural heritage system;
- An integrated land use and transportation plan that provides a balanced transportation system, giving priority to public transit and pedestrians and creating complete communities;
- A robust commercial and employment land use strategy that promotes economic stability, vitality, and diversity and caters to the changing needs of the market and the residents of Brampton;
- Fostering vibrant residential neighbourhoods that provide a variety of housing options for people at various stages of their life cycle;
- Preserving and enhancing the City's rich cultural heritage and existing social fabric that is integral to the City's urban design and community revitalization strategies including the Flower City Strategy; and
- Sustainable growth management that ensures growth takes place in a coordinated and fiscally responsible manner.

The major environmental policies in the Official Plan distinguish between natural heritage and environmental management, recreational open space, cultural heritage, and agricultural lands such that:

- Section 4.5 Natural Heritage and Environmental Management policies promote an ecosystems approach to natural feature protection and place great emphasis on environmental management to ensure sustainable development. Sec. 4.1.5.4 policies protect

the Greenbelt and identify opportunities for limited growth and development in the Greenbelt Plan area.

- Sec. 4.6 Recreational Open Space policies promote a healthy, active community through the identification of public spaces within a planning framework, and the need to integrate public and private recreational facilities.
- Sec. 4.9 Cultural Heritage policies promote the preservation of the cultural heritage landscape that is deemed to span the built and natural environments, as well as traditions of a community.
- Sec. 4.15 Agriculture policies promote the continuation of agricultural activities within a sustainable environmental framework.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the extent of the Natural Heritage System and the Recreation Open Space-Cultural Heritage Resources, respectively.

The ecological and technical rationale behind these policy sections of the Official Plan are sound as they support an ecosystem approach to land use planning, direct efforts for the protection, restoration and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage resources, advocate sustainable development including promoting the use of best management practices, and define environmental responsibilities for long-term management and related monitoring of natural, recreational and cultural systems. These sections are integrated with all the other Official Plan policy sections including Transportation, Residential, Urban Design, etc., to promote a holistic approach to planning and to address the multiple dimensions of sustainability – economic, social, environmental, and cultural.

While the OP policies conform to the Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan, the City recognizes that there will always be new and emerging science and technology, and environmental planning, conservation and management approaches being developed. These new approaches could provide clearer direction to address the long term protection, restoration and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage systems and the provision of recreational open space, particularly to address intensification and the development of complete communities. The City recognizes that this new information and/or environmental planning approaches may come from new initiatives and programs prepared by the Region of Peel, Conservation Authorities or within the various departments of the City of Brampton.

2.4 Region of Peel Official Plan Conformity

The Region of Peel Official Plan Review (PROPR) was initiated in accordance with the Planning Act requirement to bring the Regional Official Plan into conformity with the latest Provincial legislation and policies including the Growth Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement, and Bill 51 (Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act). In September 2007, Peel Regional Council approved a work program for PROPR including Managing Growth, Regional Housing Strategy, Employment Land Policies, Transportation, Water Resources, Natural Heritage, Agriculture, Greenbelt Conformity, Integrated Waste Management, Energy, Air Quality, Sustainability, Monitoring Policies, Communication, Consultation and Engagement, and Planning Tools and Updates. The work program is expected to be completed in advance of the provincial date for Growth Plan conformity, thereby providing sufficient time for area municipalities to achieve conformity with the updated Regional OP (as well as their provincial compliance by June 16, 2009).

Peel Region established two special working groups to guide the PROPR process - the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and a Transportation Working Group (TWG) comprised of



senior level Regional and area municipal planning and transportation staff, respectively. The existing Inter-Municipal Planning Subcommittee (IMPSC) continues to provide policy guidance and recommendations to the Regional Council.

City staff has been actively participating in the PROPR process including senior level staff representation at TAC and TWG, and involvement in 12 of the focus reviews (Managing Growth; Regional Housing Strategy; Employment Land Policies; Transportation; Water Resources; Natural Heritage; Agriculture; Greenbelt Conformity; Energy; Air Quality; Sustainability and Planning Tools).

City staff has provided input on terms of reference, scope of work, and draft discussion papers and reports, and participated in working groups and stakeholder consultation events, and will continue to work closely with Regional staff to facilitate smooth integration between the PROPR process and the City's Growth Plan conformity exercise. Specifically, staff note the importance for the Region to process the ROPAs to allow sufficient time for the City to conform with the ROPAs as well as the Provincial Growth Plan by June 16, 2009.

Staff recognize that the Region's focus reviews of Natural Heritage, Greenbelt Conformity, Water Resources, Energy, Air Quality and Sustainability may influence this Discussion Paper, particularly the Region's review of Sustainability and Sustainability Planning to develop Regional Official Plan sustainability policies and inform subsequent corporate sustainability work. The aim of the sustainability approach is to find 'multiple wins' by integrating the quadruple dimensions of sustainability – economic, social, environmental, and cultural – in future policies and decisions, as well as focusing on both the short term and long term implications of those decisions. Ultimately this may require reconsideration of Peel's decision-making structures and processes leading to the development of a sustainability governance framework.

2.5 Conservation Authorities

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority and Toronto & Region Conservation Authority have jurisdiction in the City of Brampton. While the Official Plan 2006 reflects the role, policies and regulations of the Conservation Authorities, as appropriate, each CA has continued to develop new initiatives and programs that may influence both municipal policies and programs, as well as how the City will address growth in the designated greenfield and built-up areas. At this time, both CAs are undertaking natural areas inventories, impact and effectiveness monitoring programs for water, aquatic and terrestrial resources, developing natural heritage system models, and implementing community outreach programs (e.g. TRC's Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition and CVC's Green Cities). To ensure sustainable development, the City recognizes that its' documents and programs must continue to reflect new and emerging science, information and environmental approaches promoted by the CAs.

2.6 City of Brampton Environmental Initiatives and Programs

The City of Brampton is preparing and updating many strategic documents in the coming year, both in conformity to provincial initiatives and to address fundamental challenges in population growth and diversity, public health and safety, environmental responsibilities, and corporate management. This work will include a Council update to the *Strategic Plan 2003* - Brampton's blueprint for the City's overall development and management, and the foundation of all City plans and future plans. As noted above, Brampton's Growth Management program is intended to direct the development of



complete communities in recognition of intensification and density targets, enhancing transportation-transit and better protection for natural and cultural heritage systems. The City is also preparing various Master Plans (e.g. *Transportation and Transit, Stormwater Management, Parks, Culture and Recreation*, etc.) that identify programs and actions that are necessary for future growth and development, and management of existing activities.

As part of the City's requirement for an *integrated community sustainability plan* (in order to receive the Gas Tax funding), Council directed the preparation of an Environmental Master Plan (EMP) as part of the Planning Department's 2008 work program. The goal of the EMP will be to provide a sustainable environmental framework for the City of Brampton, as a corporation and as a planning authority, and a communication tool to educate, influence and engage our residents, businesses and community stakeholders to protect, maintain and improve the environment within the City of Brampton. The EMP, in concert with the Strategic Plan, Official Plan and the Growth Management Program shall be deemed the City's *integrated community sustainability plan*. The EMP will be intrinsically linked to the City's corporate strategic initiatives and other master plan documents.

In addition to the EMP, Council directed staff to establish and define the role for a Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (BEPAC). As approved by Council, BEPAC would review strategic environmental planning initiatives undertaken by the City, Region of Peel, Conservation Authorities, and Provincial and Federal Governments, and provide comments and recommendations to help form the City's position and responses to these initiatives. BEPAC will be fundamental in providing community based input into the Growth Management Project review of natural heritage and conservation issues, as well as in the development of the EMP and assisting municipal staff to raise public awareness and appreciation of environmental initiatives and achievements in the City.

In conjunction with the Official Plan and these strategic initiatives, the City has many other environmental sustainability documents, programs and services including, but not limited to:

- ✓ Flower City Strategy, Communities in Bloom and Clean City;
- ✓ Development of an energy efficient fleet and equipment;
- ✓ Urban Development Design Guidelines promoting LEED building practices;
- ✓ Clean and Green Committee – 2007 Environmental Fair; and
- ✓ Support for the Pearson (GTAA) Eco-Business Park.

Current land use development in Brampton is undertaken within a sustainable planning framework that combines the expertise and experience of planners (development, urban design, open space, transportation), engineers (civil, water resources, geotechnical, hydrogeological, geomorphological) and ecological specialists (fish and wildlife biologists, ecologists, foresters, landscape architects) working on behalf of the City of Brampton, Toronto Region and Credit Valley Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and development stakeholders. An ecosystem approach to land use planning requires the preparation of subwatershed plans and environmental studies that inform the development of Secondary and Block Plans, and regulatory permits that guide and direct development applications.

Within Brampton's greenfield development areas this will result in the protection, restoration and enhancement of existing natural areas and the creation of channels and corridors that can provide fish and wildlife habitat through the planting of wetland, and riparian and valley slope vegetation communities. These created channels-corridors can connect and link the existing natural areas and features to develop a natural heritage system.



PART B: PROTECTING WHAT IS VALUABLE

Today, municipalities are constantly preparing and updating documents and programs (that will meet current legislation, plans and policies) to define a sustainable framework for how their community will grow and evolve. A municipality may often be implementing new directions and programs in land use planning, land and water management, parks operations, smog management, public transit, greening programs (e.g. use of renewable energy, and best practices for construction, stormwater management, etc.), natural heritage stewardship and education, etc. before they are able to put pen to paper.

The preparation of the City of Brampton Official Plan 2006 preceded the adoption of the provincial Growth Plan, and therefore, the initiation of the City's Growth Plan conformity exercise. While both the goals and principles of the Growth Plan are embodied in Brampton's Strategic Plan and the 2006 Council adopted Official Plan, the City recognizes the need for comprehensive assessments to inform the development of a local growth plan and the preparation of meaningful policies for a future Official Plan amendment. As such, the process to bring Brampton's OP into conformity was commenced, and this discussion paper reflects the Natural System and Conservation Policy review that is being undertaken by City staff. Any amendments to the Official Plan stemming from this policy review would be completed through the overall Growth Plan conformity Official Plan Amendment.

As described below, the City believes that the Official Plan 2006 is in general conformity with the Natural Heritage and Conservation policies of the Growth Plan. However, staff recognizes that there are opportunities to reference new and emerging science and technology, and environmental planning, conservation and management approaches through clearer Official Plan policy direction and/or via other municipal environmental initiatives or programs.

3. Brampton's Growth Management Program

All municipalities are challenged with urban growth, and those municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe and Hamilton area have been experiencing rapid urbanization since the 1980's. Brampton first introduced its Growth Management Program in 2003 to coordinate the distribution of growth with the delivery of services and structures. Elements of the Growth Management program included the preparation of the 2006 Official Plan, a Development OUTLOOK Report, a Development Allocation, a Block Planning process, Infrastructure-Capital program and Transit-Transportation Planning Strategy.

In April 2007, the City released a strategic work plan for undertaking the Official Plan conformity exercise to fully implement the Growth Plan by June 16, 2009. City staff was given direction to proceed with the work plan and also to work in consultation with the Region of Peel, the City of Mississauga and the Town of Caledon to ensure that Provincial targets are met at the Regional level.

Brampton's response to the provincial Growth Plan is titled 'How Should Brampton Grow', and the strategic work plan including the preparation of a land inventory and density analysis, employment and intensification studies, infrastructure capacity review, transit and transportation master plan, natural systems and conservation review, financial and municipal management review, and ongoing reports and monitoring. The Program also involves a full consultation and engagement process with Brampton residents, businesses and stakeholders.



The Council adopted Official Plan 2006 provides interim growth management policies that will:

- Direct intensification to the City's transit nodes, intensification corridors and the Central Area; and
- Deem the conversion of employment lands to non-employment uses premature pending completion of the Growth Plan conformity exercise

Mayor Susan Fennell hosted a Mayor's Town Hall Meeting on February 27, 2008 to introduce the Growth Plan and its goals, the impact of the Growth Plan on Brampton and how Brampton plans to respond to the Growth Plan. By 2031, it is envisioned that Brampton will grow to approximately 750,000 people with a work force of over 300,000 people.

An Introductory Workshop was held April 3, 2008 to obtain input on how the participants would like to see the Growth Plan's policies implemented in Brampton. Environmental comments received from both the February Mayor's Town Hall Meeting and the April workshop included:

- Transit and transportation - expanding GO and transit service, developing a GTA West Corridor, traffic lights contribute to air pollution, and building a comprehensive bike pathways network;
- Open Spaces – maintain natural places, need open spaces for recreation, develop green spaces such as golf courses with residential development; and
- Development – development gap for building permits, minimize property expropriation for road development, ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure to service development, and combine junior and senior public schools to reduce traffic and pollution.

In the written responses received by the City, participants identified that the benefits of living in Brampton included its parks and open green space, recreational facilities and focus on fitness and the City's close proximity to services, work places, green-open spaces and the airport. The participants are most concerned about the need to address traffic; improving Brampton's transportation, transit and road network; population growth and congestion; and the loss of green space and farmland.

4. Places to Grow: The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006

As identified in Sec. 2.2 of this Discussion Paper, the Growth Plan emphasizes sustainability, identification of natural systems, conservation, and the protection of natural resources. The Growth Plan under the section titled 'Protecting What is Valuable' provides specific policies for Natural Systems, Prime Agricultural Areas, Mineral Aggregate Resources and a Culture of Conservation. Some of these policies directly affect the City of Brampton, while others are more applicable to the Region of Peel or more rural municipalities.

The following section of the discussion paper has been prepared to identify Official Plan policy gaps, barriers and opportunities with regard to:

- Natural Systems;
- Prime Agricultural Areas;
- Mineral Aggregate Resources; and
- Culture of Conservation.

The discussion under each of these sections, combined with the attached Tables 1 to 6, has been structured to:

- Identify the specific Growth Plan policy;



- Describe how Brampton's Official Plan and/or current (or planned) municipal initiatives, studies, programs and services have addressed the policy; and
- Summarize what policies may be provided through the future Growth Plan conformity Official Plan amendment and/or what actions may be taken through other municipal environmental initiatives or activities.

4.1 Natural Systems

4.1.1 Sub-Area Assessments

The Growth Plan, Sec. 4.2.1 (1) states "Through sub-area assessments, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal and other Ministers of the Crown, in consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders will identify natural systems for the GGH, and where appropriate develop additional policies for their protection."

Summary:

At this time, the province has not prepared any *sub-area assessments* to identify natural systems for the Greater Golden Horseshoe area, and/or the development of additional policies for their protection.

4.1.2 Greenbelt

The Growth Plan, Sec. 4.2.1 (2) states "For lands within the Greenbelt Area, all policies regarding natural systems set out in provincial plans, applicable to lands within the Greenbelt Area, continue to apply."

Overview

The province designated a portion of the Credit River Valley corridor and associated tablelands in North West Brampton as being within the Greenbelt Plan area, as shown on Figure 2. The majority of these lands are designated Natural Heritage System, part of the Protected Countryside, as refined on Figure 3. Staff note that the Greenbelt-Protected Countryside designation for the Etobicoke Creek, the West Humber River and the Humber River ends at the Brampton-Caledon boundary. However, each river system, including the Credit River, is identified as a 'River Valley Connection' through Brampton and Mississauga to Lake Ontario, as shown on Figure 4 (an excerpt from Schedule 1: Greenbelt Plan Area). The provincial designation of the Natural Heritage System-Protected Countryside area in Brampton recognized the City's urban boundary circa 2005, wherein only lands beyond the urban boundary were included in the Greenbelt Plan area. The City's Official Plan brought the North West lands into the urban boundary in 2006.

Growth Plan Compliance

The Official Plan, Sec. 4.5.14 Greenbelt policies identify the protection of Key Natural Heritage Features [KNHF] and Key Hydrologic Features [KHF] as well as External Connections. These policies recognize limited development opportunities in the Greenbelt Plan area including lot creation, and restrictions within adjacent lands to KNHF/KHF. As well, Sec. 4.515.4 states that "*The City of Brampton will continue its Greenbelt conformity exercise and prepare policies and*



related mapping for Council adoption following Regional Council's adoption of Peel Region's Greenbelt conformity exercise".

In Sec. 4.14 of the Official Plan, the City recognizes that the North West Brampton Urban Development Area essentially surrounds the Greenbelt Plan-Protected Countryside area. Detailed policies for the development of these urban lands are provided, including requiring six stages of planning approvals that must be realized before development can occur. Stage 1 of the planning approvals requires the completion of a terrestrial landscape scale analysis (LSA) and subwatershed studies (e.g. for Huttonville Creek and the Main Credit) in order to define a natural heritage system. Through this process the City will ensure that environmental studies that investigate and define the Key Natural Heritage and Hydrologic Features of the Greenbelt Protected Countryside are coordinated and integrated with the LSA/subwatershed studies to define the natural heritage system for the North West Development lands.

Opportunities:

The Greenbelt is a significant environmental feature of importance to Brampton as it connects the City, via our major valley and creek systems, to other features of provincial concern such as the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario. While the Official Plan policies for Valleylands and Watercourse Corridors (Sec. 4.5.7) will protect the Credit River, Etobicoke Creek and West Humber River valley corridors, the City may consider building on the intent of the Greenbelt Plan by providing a Special Policy framework for these Open Space systems that will promote restoration, enhancement, buffering and stewardship works to strengthen the River Valley Connections.

Summary:

City staff must continue to monitor the Region of Peel Official Plan Greenbelt Conformity work in preparation of completing the City's Greenbelt conformity exercise.

Revisions to Official Plan schedules can be undertaken to more clearly illustrate:

- That the Greenbelt lands are not within the urban boundary (Schedules 1 and A);
- The extent of the Natural Heritage System within the Protected Countryside (Schedules 1, A and D);
- The extent of the Greenbelt-Protected Countryside areas of the Etobicoke Creek and West Humber and Humber River within Caledon just north of Brampton's boundaries (Schedule D); and
- The River Valley Connections along the Credit River, Etobicoke Creek, and West Humber and Humber River valleys (Schedule D).

In addition, the City will continue to work with Credit Valley Conservation and the North West landowners to coordinate and integrate the natural heritage system planning for the North West Urban Development Area and the Greenbelt Plan area.

Refer to Appendix A: Table 1 for additional information regarding Official Plan opportunities.

4.1.3 Natural Heritage Features and Areas

The Growth Plan Sec. 4.2.1 (3) states "Planning authorities are encouraged to identify natural heritage features and areas that complement, link or enhance natural systems".

Overview:

Brampton is blessed by the numerous river and valley corridors of the Credit River, Fletcher's Creek, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek and the West Humber River watersheds that form the backbone of the City's open space network and connect the City to some of Ontario's most significant environmental features, including the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario. Linked to these significant natural system corridors are Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA), Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), tableland woodlands, wetlands, headwater drainage features, hedgerows, etc., as shown on Figure 2. Currently, approximately 4600 ha of natural areas have been identified to date to form the basis of the City's natural heritage system, and approximately 2200 ha are in public [City and Conservation Authority] ownership.

Growth Plan Compliance:

Section 4.5 of the Official Plan - Natural Heritage and Environmental Management provides detailed policies that identify and protect the natural heritage system, including individual areas and features of the system such as Valley and Watercourse Corridors, Wetlands, Woodlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Environmentally Significant Areas, and Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Other policies in this section identify requirements to conserve, restore and create other natural features and functions that will complement, link or enhance the natural heritage system, including stormwater management, groundwater resources, the urban forest and environmental buffers, setbacks and linkages. On this basis, the Official Plan is in conformance with PPS, as well as with the Growth Plan natural heritage policies. The City's natural heritage features and areas are depicted on Figure 2.

Staff would note that Section 4.5, combined with Implementation policies of Section 5.0 of the Official Plan, establishes a sustainable environmental planning framework in which to identify and protect the natural heritage system. This includes:

- Requirements for secondary plans (Sec. 5.4) based on the recommendations of watershed and subwatershed studies (Sec. 4.5.1);
- Community block plans and tertiary plans (Sec. 5.5) based on the recommendations of environmental implementation reports (Sec. 4.5.2); and
- Subdivision approval (Sec. 5.6) and site plan control (Sec. 5.7) based on the review-implementation of development and operational guidelines.

Opportunities:

While the City is protecting and managing Brampton's existing natural heritage areas and features, the Conservation Authorities are developing natural inventory databases and science-based, integrated modelling systems that will provide new information and new approaches to defining comprehensive natural heritage system planning for our aquatic, terrestrial and water resources.



City staff is currently working with Toronto Region Conservation to implement recommendations from their Terrestrial Natural Heritage System program in current subwatershed studies and secondary plans that are underway. Staff have also joined the Municipal Staff Working Group in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and other municipal stakeholders, to work with



Credit Valley Conservation on the development of their Terrestrial Ecosystem Enhancement Model for the Credit River watershed. As the Conservation Authorities programs evolve, we hope to develop with them a Citywide natural areas inventory program and natural heritage system model to be applied across the two watersheds. The inventory and model will build on the principles of the Greenbelt Plan, and complement-supplement the existing ecological inventories and natural heritage systems identified through current approved Subwatershed and EIR studies to ensure environmental consistency across the City.

There are 14 lake-pond systems in the City of Brampton - mostly 'esker type' lakes that are either groundwater fed or associated with creek systems - that have been identified as part of the City's natural heritage system. The City currently manages nine of these lakes-ponds, three will ultimately be transferred and assumed by the City, and two lakes are within the Heart Lake Conservation Area managed by TRCA. A City of Brampton Citywide Lake Assessment-Management Study (Draft December 2005) was prepared to identify and establish the fundamental ecological roles and functions of each lake, as well as characterize existing conditions including the functional ecosystem boundaries and current and anticipated problems. As recommended by the draft study, there is a need to develop Lake Management Plans for each major lake as well as a general plan for the smaller system.

The City's parkland system and the cultural heritage landscape contributes to the health and diversity of the City's natural environment. While many of the City's recreational open space and cultural heritage resource areas reflect human influences and impacts, the potential to restore and enhance these areas offers a significant opportunity to complement, link and enhance natural heritage areas and features. City staff recognizes the value of undertaking appropriate studies and/or management plans to maintain, restore and enhance municipal parks and cultural resource areas as part of the natural heritage system, as well as the need to promote their social and educational values.

Summary:

City staff is of the opinion that the Official Plan policies are in conformity with the Growth Plan policies.

The City will continue to:

- Work with the Conservation Authorities to implement and/or develop natural heritage system modelling based on watershed criteria;
- Work with the Conservation Authorities to define an appropriate natural areas inventory and natural heritage system model for the City of Brampton;
- Finalize the City-wide Lake Assessment (in conjunction with TRCA) in order to initiate the preparation of management plans; and
- Review and/or develop parks and cultural resource area management plans, as appropriate, to complement natural heritage areas, functions and linkages.

Revisions to Official Plan schedules can be undertaken to more clearly illustrate:

- The inclusion of the lake-pond systems throughout the City (Schedule D).

Refer to Appendix A: Table 2 for additional information regarding Official Plan opportunities.



4.1.4 Parkland and Open Space Trails

The Growth Plan Sec. 4.2.1 (4) states “Municipalities, conservation authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties are encouraged to develop a system of publicly accessible parkland, open space trails, including shorelines, within the GGH that: clearly demarcate where public access is permitted; based on a co-ordinated approach to trail planning and development; and is based on good land steward practices for public and private lands.”

Overview:

Brampton is recognized internationally as a city of outstanding beauty. Known as ‘The Flower Town of Canada’ in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and ‘The Greenest Community in Canada’ in the 1980s and 90s, Brampton has been recognized as a national and international leader in Communities in Bloom – winning the international title for the first time in 2008 – and since 2000 receiving top honours in the Canada Blooms competition. Part of Brampton’s success can be attributed to the more than 1100 ha of active parkland, including 260 sports fields and 300 playgrounds and 142 ha of open space (i.e. stormwater management facilities), a spectacular urban tree canopy and 90 kilometres of recreational pathways.

Growth Plan Compliance:

Within the Official Plan, Sec. 4.4.6 Pathways System policies recognize that cycling and pedestrian movement are part of creating a balanced, integrated and accessible multi-modal transportation system that will provide for the safe, economic and efficient movement of people. An integrated Transportation System will play a major role in shaping the form, character and growth of the City.

Sec. 4.6, Recreational Open Space policies define the municipal system of parks, pathways and open spaces that will accommodate a wide array of recreational, leisure, cultural and environmentally-focussed opportunities catering to persons of varying abilities and cultural background, as shown on Figure 5. A parkland hierarchy has been established that is characteristic of the distribution and demand needs of the community, and includes City, Community and Neighbourhood Parks.

In addition to these identified parklands, the City recognizes the value and contributions of other public and private land recreational opportunities, including passive recreation-trails along utility corridors (e.g. Trans-Canada pipeline) and stormwater management ponds, neighbourhood playing fields at school sites, private play areas in townhouse developments, and private commercial recreational facilities like golf courses. The public use of Conservation Areas is encouraged to the greatest extent practical while considering any site-specific environmental sensitivity. City policies also identify that where recreational lands are under private ownership, it shall not be construed that such areas are free and open to the general public, or that these lands are to be acquired by the municipality or any other public agency to facilitate the development of the open space system. However, consideration will be given to public acquisition of these lands through the development approval process.

The City of Brampton has developed a Community Block Plan process to implement the policies of Secondary Plans and the recommendations of a subwatershed study on a sub area basis. Sec. 5.5 identifies that Block Plans and supporting reports such as Community Design

Guidelines, Environmental Implementation Report and Functional Servicing Report are intended to identify the:

- Overall delivery of services and infrastructure;
- Allocation of development priority;
- Layout of arterial, collector and strategic local roads;
- Location, configuration character, size and urban form of parks, institutional, commercial and industrial sites; and
- Layout and function of open space corridors, valley lands, woodlands and other natural features and functions, including storm water management.

Sec. 4.6.8 policies outline the recreational open space requirements to be addressed at the Community Block Plan Stage and include:

- Determining the site-specific locations and sizes of all parks;
- Refining connectivity and linkage between all types of open space;
- Building on the City-wide and Community pathways to create neighbourhood pathway connections to school sites, recreation centres, libraries, parks, commercial sites and other destinations within the boundaries of the Community Block Plan area; and
- Identifying opportunities for open space components to also provide a design element within the Community Block Plan areas.

The Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan will guide Brampton in its role as a leader, supporter, and partner in the development and delivery of positive leisure experiences for all its residents. This Plan documents the leisure needs and interests expressed by community residents and stakeholder groups, as well as trends, existing services, and issues that will form the basis of strategies to establish core services and priorities for parks, culture and recreation. In particular, this Plan recognizes that the pace and magnitude of population growth in Brampton – and the fiscal constraints imposed by the natural lag associated with the City's collection of funding resources – will challenge the ability of the City to provide measured and consistent services to its growing community. Therefore, the Plan is intended to guide the City in its service development and allocation of financial and other resources, and promote the value of partnering with adjacent municipalities

Opportunities:

The City consults and works with adjacent municipalities and private developers to provide trails. It recognizes the value of developing partnerships with these stakeholders as well as with stewardship groups and landowners such as Conservation Authorities, to ensure a coordinated parks and pathways system. In addition to developing trails, the City will use these opportunities to undertake a broader range of environmental initiatives on those same lands including the remediation, restoration and enhancement of watercourse channels and vegetation communities.



Downtown Brampton has been identified as the City's Urban Growth Centre (UGC), and stretches along Queen Street from the eastern edge of the Fletcher's Creek valley corridor to Highway 410. The Downtown Brampton UGC will be developed as a vibrant and diverse, economic and employment centre that supports transit infrastructure (e.g. GO Station and local bus station), and will also be a focal area for regional services and commercial, recreational, cultural and entertainment uses. Downtown Brampton will be planned to achieve a minimum



gross density target of 200 residents and jobs combined per hectare. Currently, only Ken Whillans Square and the Central Public School Park are located within the UGC; however, this area has access to many parks located within the Fletcher's Creek and Etobicoke Creek valley corridors, and lies adjacent to Gage Park, the Old Fairgrounds Park and Flower City Campus. Connecting pathways to the UGC are along Queen Street and the Etobicoke Creek valley trail. Parks & Facility Planning will be undertaking a study to examine the development of parks and trails in Downtown Brampton and the UGC.

Summary:

City staff is of the opinion that the Official Plan policies are in general conformity with the Growth Plan policies; however, a policy to recognize the Parks & Facility Planning initiative to examine the development of parks and connecting pathways in Downtown Brampton and the Urban Growth Centre would be important as this area redevelops and intensifies. The City should continue to develop and expand on partnership and stewardship activities with adjacent municipalities (e.g. City of Mississauga - Credit River and Etobicoke Creek trails), Conservation Authorities (e.g. TRC - West Humber trail) and private landowners for the development of trails and other recreational activities.

Revisions to Official Plan schedules can be undertaken to more clearly illustrate:

- The Major Pathway Network (and other pathways) connections to Transit-Supportive Nodes, Central Area, Intensification Corridors (Schedules 1 and/or 2); and
- Differentiation between existing and proposed-future trails, e.g. Credit Valley trail (Schedule C1).

Refer to Appendix A: Table 3 for additional information regarding Official Plan opportunities.

4.1.5 Urban Open Space

The Growth Plan Sec. 4.2.1 (5) states "Municipalities are encouraged to establish an urban open space system within built-up areas, which may include rooftop gardens, communal courtyards and public parks."

Overview:

Brampton, 'A City that Works Beautifully' is a reflection of the Flower City Strategy, a multi-faceted approach that focuses on the city's design, development, beautification and landscaping efforts, as well as natural and cultural heritage conservation. The goal of the Strategy is to create a civic environment that honours our heritage and recognizes opportunities to guide our future development and growth. In addition to the approximate 1300 ha of parkland and open space, the urban forest and extensive recreational pathways, Brampton's urban spaces also include streetscapes, edges and gateways, landmarks and public squares, institutions, and heritage properties and resources, such as landscapes and cemeteries.

Growth Plan Compliance:

As noted above, Sec. 4.6 Recreational Open Space policies define a comprehensive municipal system of parks, pathways and open spaces that will accommodate a wide array of recreational, leisure, cultural and environmentally focused opportunities.



Urban design objectives, principles, policies and guidelines form an integral part of the City's land use planning and decision-making processes to achieve the goal of a high quality and sustainable physical environment. Sec. 4.10 Urban Design policies and the City's Development Design Guidelines recognize that a city involves 'place, people and vision', and that the continued evolution and design of Brampton's urban form must address sustainability, demographics, natural environment, human need, land use and transportation.

Sec. 4.10.2 Public Realm policies are intended to ensure that the design of the public domain is identifiable by its character and quality, ease of movement, legibility, adaptability and diversity. The key assets of the public realm (e.g. streetscape, public squares and landmarks, edges and gateways, views and vistas and semi-public open space) help bond people and places together, and make up a significant part of the image and identity of a city while instilling a sense of civic pride for the community. Urban design policies are provided for each structural element such that:

- Streetscape design will achieve a pedestrian-scaled environment that is safe and comfortable;
- Public square and landmarks will be developed as prominent, memorable landscapes and buildings that are recognizable for their symbolic significance, cultural heritage or special interest (e.g. City Hall, Gage Park and the Rose Theatre);
- Edges and gateways will provide the means for a community to define its boundaries and reveal (or conceal) the community and/or a neighbourhood's character;
- Views and vistas will maintain significant visual compositions of public and historic buildings, natural heritage and recreational open spaces, landmarks and skylines that enhance and liven the overall physical character of an area; and
- Semi-public open space will ensure that private development contributes to creation of public spaces that allow reasonable use by the public, regardless of patronage.

Sec. 4.10.3.2 policies address community revitalization to maintain and improve the City's established neighbourhoods and built-up areas to ensure their vitality and continuing function, and Sec. 4.10.3.3 policies encourage transit-oriented development to achieve sustainable development that reduces the impact on the environment in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

Opportunities:

The City recognizes that redevelopment and intensification within built-up areas will require consideration of the need to expand the urban open system, and may involve identifying opportunities that are non-traditional such as accessible rooftop gardens and communal courtyards. Through appropriate community and environmental studies, the City will examine opportunities to provide open space in combination with addressing stormwater management, and protecting, restoring and linking natural and cultural heritage features and existing recreational open space areas. The City's challenge will be to ensure the development of a cohesive community-neighbourhood open space system appropriate to the scale of the intensification-revitalization opportunities (e.g. infill, replacement, etc.) given the unknown timelines in which these redevelopment projects may occur.

Summary:

City staff is of the opinion that the Official Plan policies are in conformity with the Growth Plan policies. The City will need to define the type and extent of community and environmental studies that are necessary to address the provision of parks, pathways and other public spaces



as redevelopment and intensification occurs within the built-up areas of the City, particularly the Urban Growth Centre and Downtown Brampton.

Refer to Appendix A: Table 4 for additional information regarding Official Plan opportunities.

4.2 Prime Agricultural Areas

The Growth Plan, Sec. 4.2.2 states:

- (1) Through *sub-area* assessment, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal and other Ministers of the Crown, in consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders, will identify *prime agricultural areas*, including specialty crop area, in the GGH, and where appropriate, develop additional policies for their protection
- (2) For lands within the *Greenbelt Area*, all policies regarding agricultural areas set out in provincial plans, applicable to lands within the *Greenbelt Area*, continue to apply.
- (3) Municipalities are encouraged to maintain, improve and provide opportunities for farm-related infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation.
- (4) Municipalities are encouraged to establish and work with agricultural advisory committees and consult with them on decision-making to agriculture and growth management.

Overview:

Agriculture has traditionally played an important role in Brampton's economy, but agricultural activity has been in decline for many years as evidenced by the decreasing number and size of family owned farms, lack of improvements in land and croplands, and the increasing amount of rental land representing non-farm ownership. Brampton is designated as a growth centre in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan, and as such, the City's urban boundary was extended to the Halton and Caledon borders of the City, as approved through the Region's Official Plan Amendment 15 and Local Official Plan Amendment OP93-245. The urban boundary includes the remaining Agricultural designated lands located in North West Brampton, but excluding lands designated as Protected Countryside by the Greenbelt Plan.

There are the remnants of a specialty crop community (e.g. orchards, fruits and vegetables) in the southwesterly section of the City in the vicinity of the Credit River Valley and Huttonville (i.e. Heritage and Embleton Roads) that is considered to be of local agricultural significance. Although it is anticipated that these lands will be developed for urban uses during the timeframe of the Official Plan, the City will continue to support the agricultural community as urbanization occurs.

Sponsored by the City of Brampton Economic Development Office, the Brampton Farmers' Market has been a 'growing tradition' for the past 22 years. Held from mid-June to mid-October, 50,000 visitors annually are able to purchase local and Ontario produce grown within a 100-mile radius of downtown Brampton.

Growth Plan Compliance:

Sec. 4.15 of the Official Plan includes Agricultural policies that will permit agriculture and related activities to continue as long as possible. These policies promote agricultural uses while



encouraging protection of the natural environment including soil conservation and best farm management practices to maintain and enhance ecosystem functions (e.g. surface and groundwater quality). Additional policies are included to address the phasing of development in North West Brampton to maintain high agricultural capable lands in production for as long as practical.

The Greenbelt Plan area in Brampton comprises approximately 500 acres (202 ha), and Sec. 4.5.14 of the Official Plan recognizes that farmlands, activities and agricultural-related and secondary uses are permitted within the Protected Countryside.

Opportunities:

The Tourism Brampton website promotes local growers as well as the Brampton Farmers' Market and other country markets located throughout the western portion of the City as part of the Shopping & Dining experiences that can be enjoyed in Brampton.

Summary:

City staff is of the opinion that the Official Plan policies are in conformity with the Growth Plan policies. The City will continue to support the specialty crop community (orchards, fruits and vegetables) in the Huttonville area.

4.3 Mineral Aggregate Resources

The Growth Plan Sec. 4.2.2 states “Through sub-area assessments, the MPIR and MNR will work with municipalities, producers of mineral aggregate resources, and other stakeholders to identify significant mineral aggregate resources for the GGH, and to develop a long-term strategy for ensuring the wise use, conservation, availability and management of mineral aggregate resources in the GGH, as well as identifying opportunities for resource recovery and for co-ordinated approaches to rehabilitation where feasible.”

Overview:

Brampton is located on the Peel Plain and is characterized with areas of sands and gravels, and shale. Shale has been extracted in areas throughout Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga and made into bricks since the mid-1800s, when James Packham opened the Packham Brick Works south of Queen Street and the railway tracks in 1861. Over the past decades approximately six aggregate operations have existed in Brampton, mostly sand and gravel operations along the Brampton Esker. Currently, there are no active licensed pits in Brampton, and most of the sites have been rehabilitated into residential neighbourhoods, such as the Professor's Lake community.

Professor's Lake is a 65-acre spring-fed artificial lake that produced approximately 20 million tonnes of sand and gravel. When digging hit the water table, the gravel pit flooded and the lake was formed. Improvements to the resulting lake were undertaken in 1973 by the company that owned the gravel pit operations, and it was at this time that it was given its name in honour of Hans Abromeit, a German professor of economics and the company's president. Professor's Lake is part of the City's recreational open space, and is used extensively for sailing, windsurfing, fishing and canoeing.



Brampton has a long-standing position that mineral extraction operations can have a serious impact on our residential communities, environment, and road network. Nevertheless, the City must follow the laws, policies and regulations set out by the Province in the Planning Act and Provincial Policy statements and other related document. In this regard,

- The Provincial Policy Statement mandates the protection of aggregate resource areas to the greatest extent possible, and precludes development and activities adjacent to, or in known deposits of, mineral aggregate resources that would hinder the establishment of new operations or access to the resources;
- The Provincial Greenbelt Plan protects mineral aggregate resource areas and permits extraction within its boundaries. Part of North West Brampton is within the Greenbelt; and
- The Provincial Growth Plan includes policy direction to protect natural systems including aggregate resource areas.

North West Brampton is subject to Region of Peel's ROPA 15 and Brampton's OP93-245 which brought these lands into the urban boundary and identified the area west of Mississauga Road for the express purpose of protecting the area for aggregate extraction for 10 years. This was a requirement of the Province of Ontario that was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board. Notwithstanding these strong provincial mandates imposed on Brampton, the approval of mineral extraction operations is subject to a comprehensive rezoning and licensing process that includes rigorous evaluation and assessment through a multi-agency review. The City may have defensible technical grounds to refuse such applications based on land use incompatibility; environmental and road network impacts.

Growth Plan Compliance:

At this time, the province has not prepared any *sub-area assessments* to identify significant mineral aggregate resources and develop a long-term strategy for the use, conservation, availability, management, resource recovery and rehabilitation of aggregate resources.

The North West Brampton Policy Area (NWBPA) designation on Schedule "F" of the Official Plan implements the High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resource Area (HPMARA) identified on Schedule "C" of the Regional Official Plan, including the Greenbelt Plan area lands in Brampton. The purpose of the North West Brampton Policy Area (NWBPA) is to provide for the protection and potential use of shale under a detailed policy structure, while recognizing that the long-term use of these lands will be for urban purposes. The Official Plan provides mineral aggregate extraction policies (Sec. 4.14.4) for the North West Brampton Urban Development Area (Sec. 4.14). It is the intent of the Official Plan that no amendment to the extent of the NWBPA or to the associated policy framework may be made for at least 10 years from the date of approval of this policy (i.e. October 2006). Following the expiry of the 10 year time period, the Region of Peel in consultation with the Province and the City of Brampton shall undertake a review of the NWBPA as set out in the Regional Official Plan (Sec. 5.3.4) or earlier, if it is initiated by the Province. Notwithstanding the 10 year time frame, if the Region receives a written request for an earlier review from the Province through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in consultation with other ministries, Regional Council may determine that this review and any associated amendments may occur sooner.

Notwithstanding that aggregate extraction is a permitted use within the Greenbelt, the City recognizes that a study is required to define the KNHF and KHF of the Greenbelt Natural Heritage System, and also to aid in defining policies that will ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage system, as well as addressing site operations, management and rehabilitation to eliminate, minimize and mitigate impacts to the adjacent



communities (e.g. Village of Norval, Halton Hills and future development in North West Brampton).

Summary:

City staff is of the opinion that the Official Plan policies are in conformity with the Growth Plan policies. Within the North West Brampton Policy Area, the City will continue to provide for the protection and potential use of shale under a defined policy structure, while recognizing that the long-term use of these lands will be for urban purposes.

Revisions to Official Plan schedules can be undertaken to more clearly illustrate:

- The Greenbelt Plan area within Northwest Brampton (Schedule F); and
- Identify previously licensed and rehabilitated properties to indicate how these aggregate operations have been converted to urban land uses (i.e. New Figure).

Refer to Appendix A: Table 5 for additional information regarding Official Plan opportunities.

4.4 A Culture of Conservation

The Growth Plan Sec. 4.2.4 states “Municipalities will develop and implement official plan policies and other strategies in support of the following conservation objectives: a) water conservation - water demand management; and water recycling. B) Energy conservation - in municipal facilities; opportunities for alternative energy generation/distribution; energy demand management; and land use patterns and urban design standards for energy-efficient buildings and cogeneration C) Air quality protection including emissions reductions from municipal-residential sources D) Integrated waste management - enhanced waste reduction, composting-recycling initiatives - comprehensive plan for integrated approaches to waste reduction - reuse-recycling of construction materials E) Cultural heritage conservation, including conservation of cultural heritage and archaeological resources where feasible, as built-up areas are intensified.”

Overview:

Responsibility for the protection, conservation and management of environmental resources such as water, energy, air and waste management is a shared responsibility between provincial ministries, the Region of Peel and the City of Brampton, as well as businesses involved in the production, use and disposal of those resources.

The Province provides legislation and regulations, policies and plans that provide considerable direction for issues ranging from resource conservation (e.g. air, water, soil and energy conservation and the wise use of non-renewable resources), natural heritage system protection and land use development, intensification and density, transportation, etc. These directives, which are to be implemented by regional and local municipalities and businesses, include, but are not limited to:

Air, Water, Soil, Energy and Waste Management

- ✓ Environmental Protection Act – regulations have been passed for local air quality, ambient air quality criteria, municipal sewer, water and road projects, spills and discharges, designation of waste, waste management, landfilling sites, sewage systems;
- ✓ Energy Efficiency Act, 1990
- ✓ Clean Water Act, 2006



Natural Heritage Systems and Resource Management:

- ✓ Aggregate Resources Act, 1990 - the management of the aggregate resources of Ontario, including minimizing adverse impact on the environment in respect of aggregate operations and the rehabilitation of land from which aggregate has been excavated
- ✓ Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act, 1990
- ✓ Greenbelt Act, 2005
- ✓ Endangered Species Act 2007 (and the federal Species at Risk 2005) protects wildlife and plant species that are extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern, and their habitat.

Land Use Development and Growth Management (Legislation, Plans and Policies)

- ✓ Building Code Act, 1992
- ✓ Development Charges Act, 1997
- ✓ Planning Act
- ✓ The *Provincial Policy Statement 2005*.

The Region of Peel is directly responsible for planning, delivering and contributing to the funding of water and wastewater services (i.e. water treatment facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, pumping stations, reservoirs, watermains and sanitary sewers) and waste management (i.e. garbage collection, recycling, composting and household hazardous wastes). The Region's Public Health department also provides key services and programs for issues related to air pollution and air quality.

Brampton's Communities in Bloom is a celebration of the annual events and activities that are undertaken by the City of Brampton, as well as our municipal (Region of Peel), community and corporate partners, municipal staff, volunteers and residents to make this city a beautiful, safe and fun place to live. Brampton has been recognized as a national and international leader in Communities in Bloom – winning the international title for the first time in 2008. The Communities in Bloom program implements the Flower City Strategy and focuses its efforts on initiatives, programs and activities that keep the city clean and green, protect the environment, engage the community, share our natural and cultural heritage, and create and care for our public spaces. In many ways, Communities in Bloom is a report card of Brampton's diverse environmental efforts and a postcard illustrating our culture of conservation.

Growth Plan Compliance:

The Official Plan provides numerous policies that identify the City's requirements to conserve our natural and cultural heritage resources, make wise use of our renewable and non-renewable resources, and develop a culture of conservation.

- Sec. 3.0 Sustainable City Concept and Sustainable Planning Framework defines:
 - A sustainable planning framework to guide Brampton's growth, to achieve a balance between the social and economic needs of the community and environmental and cultural conservation.
 - An ecosystem approach for land use and natural heritage system planning;
 - Natural and cultural heritage resource protection, restoration and enhancement;
 - Resource conservation through reducing unnecessary consumption, recycling and reuse, and the use of sustainable management practices that address air, water, soils and energy conservation;
 - Community protection from potential natural and man-made hazards;
 - Public and private stewardship and partnerships; and

- A balanced transportation-transit-pathway system.
- Sec. 4.1 Residential policies promote efficient land uses close to public transportation facilities, as well as sustainable management practices and green building design standards.
- Sec. 4.4 Transportation policies are aimed to develop a safe, convenient, economical, efficient, sustainable and energy conserving transportation system for the movement of people and goods.
- Section 4.5 Natural Heritage and Environmental Management policies promote an ecosystems approach to natural feature protection and place great emphasis on environmental management to ensure sustainable development including:
 - Sec. 4.5.1 to 4.5.12 identify policies to protect, maintain, improve and restore groundwater quality and quantity, and ensure that land use decisions promote water conservation and support the efficient use of water resources;
 - Sec. 4.5.15 public health policies address both potential natural and man made hazards that may affect public health and safety and cause damage to private properties. These policies are intended to take a proactive and precautionary approach to avoid or reduce the occurrence of nuisances or hazards to people and property including noise (aircraft, road, rail and stationary sources), vibration and hazardous materials and contaminated sites; and
 - Sec. 4.5.15.2 policies endeavour to protect and enhance air quality and contribute to energy conservation, and promote green urban and building design standards and the use of alternative or renewable energy by implementing a sustainable planning framework.
- Sec. 4.6 Recreational Open Space policies promote a healthy, active community through the identification of public spaces within a planning framework, and the need to integrate public and private recreational facilities.
- Sec. 4.7 Infrastructure and Utilities policies promote the coordinated and timely provision of services (with the responsible agencies such as the Region of Peel and power companies) that are financially sustainable and meet the needs of the existing community as well as future growth.
- Sec. 4.9 Cultural Heritage policies promote the preservation of the cultural heritage landscape that is deemed to span the built and natural environments, as well traditions of a community as shown on Figure 3.
- Sec. 4.10 Urban Design policies promote sustainable management practices and green building design standards.

Beyond the Official Plan, the City of Brampton is:

- Developing or updating many strategic master plan documents such as the Transportation and Transit Master Plan, draft Stormwater Management Plan, and Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan, etc. that outline major municipal functions for the delivery of environmental and recreational services, facilities and infrastructure;
- Undertaking many corporate initiatives such as the Brampton Heritage Committee, Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee, Communities in Bloom and Brampton Clean City that focus on the delivery of environmental and cultural programs and activities;
- 'Greening' our operations and management programs through:
 - Clean and Green Transit – our entire transit and corporate fleet uses biodiesel fuel;
 - Procuring green products including cleaning supplies, furniture, building fixtures and vehicles;





- Energy audits for our administrative facilities;
- Eride – innovative online trip planning service for transit users;
- AcceleRide – improve speed, frequency and quality of transit services, etc.
- Partnering with, and supporting the Region of Peel in the delivery of appropriate air, water, energy and waste management programs;
- Participating in inter-municipal committees such as the Greater Toronto Area Clean Air Committee, Peel Regional Air Quality Working Group, etc. to identify and deliver appropriate water, energy, air and waste conservation programs;
- Partnering with the Conservation Authorities, local conservation groups, residents and business for the delivery of a variety of stewardship programs and activities including Adopt-a-Park, Gimme-5 and Play Clean (projects of the Clean City Committee); Downtown Clean Sweep; Spring and Fall Harvest Clean-ups, public and school community gardens, Brampton Community Conservation Forest, community plantings days and Fletcher's Creek Re-naturalization Program; and
- Sharing our cultural heritage through developing a cultural heritage resources register, conservation district plans and assessment criteria, and partnering in heritage conservation with the Brampton Historical Society, Friends of Bovaird House and Peel Heritage complex, etc.

Opportunities:

Better integration of the City's natural heritage, environmental management and cultural heritage policies in the Official Plan will enable better co-ordination of departmental responsibilities for the acquisition, linkage and management of these areas, as well as the development of long term partnerships. There is a need to better communicate our corporate environmental and cultural programs and activities to City staff, our partners, stakeholders, local businesses and residents. A culture of conservation could include such initiatives as developing a green economic development strategy (e.g. promote and attract green businesses to Brampton), implementing a city-wide Yellow Fish Road (Stormsewer communication program re: water quality), planting community butterfly gardens, developing an energy management strategy, and participating in global, national and provincial campaigns such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Earth Hour.

As noted above, Brampton's Flower City Strategy is a multi-faceted approach that focuses on cultivating opportunities to strengthen the City's identity - establish Brampton as a creative place to live and work - and connect Brampton's residents to each other and their heritage. The goal of the Strategy is to create a civic environment that honours our heritage and recognizes opportunities to guide our future development and growth. The Communities in Bloom program is a report card of Brampton's diverse environmental efforts and the keystone to developing a culture of conservation that has grown out of our City's pride in our past cultural history and our current multicultural population.

To further the value of the Official Plan policies, Flower City Strategy and the Communities in Bloom initiatives, Brampton recognizes the need for a sustainable environmental framework, both as a corporation and as a planning authority. This environmental framework will be used to educate, influence and engage municipal residents, businesses and community stakeholders to protect, maintain and improve the environment within the City of Brampton. On this basis, Council has approved the preparation of an Environmental Master Plan as part of the Planning, Design & Development department's 2008 work program. An environmental planning position was also created to manage this project.



Summary:

Defining a culture of conservation may be as challenging as defining *sustainability* and *environmental sustainability*. Brampton recognizes that a community should ensure that it is able to '*meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'² Therefore, it is clear the City, its businesses and residential community, and conservation agencies and organizations must work together to minimize, mitigate and compensate for our impacts to the natural environment and climate

City staff is of the opinion that the Official Plan policies are in conformity with the Growth Plan policies; however, the Official Plan should include a policy that supports the preparation of an Environmental Master Plan study to assist in bringing cohesion to the many environmental policies, programs and services from across the City's departments, operations and activities, without duplicating the work and value of the other municipal strategic documents and initiatives.

The City of Brampton has begun preparation of the Environmental Master Plan (EMP) study as of the fall of 2008. The EMP is to define a sustainable environmental framework for the City as a corporation and land use planning authority to strengthen the City's sustainable environmental activities, and partnerships with stakeholders, conservation agencies and community interest groups. As part of the EMP, the City will be undertaking a detailed inventory of all current environmental initiatives, programs, services and activities to undertake a gap analysis of what is being done, and what needs to be done, to create an environmentally sustainable community. Comprehensive public consultation will be undertaken to engage residents, businesses, stakeholders, government agencies, conservation and community organizations, as well as peer municipalities in the development of the EMP, and its ultimate implementation.

Refer to Appendix A: Table 6 for additional information regarding Official Plan opportunities.

5. SUMMARY

The policies of the Growth Plan are grounded in four key principles:

- Building compact, vibrant and complete communities;
- Supporting a strong and competitive economy;
- Protecting natural resources; and
- Optimizing infrastructure to support growth.

These principles are the foundation for good planning that has been the practice of City planners for years. Brampton has embraced the concepts of *sustainability*, *sustainability planning* and *environmental sustainability*, and our strategic documents, policies, programs and actions are directed to ensuring *sustainable development* so that we can *meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*.

The City of Brampton has been actively addressing the opportunities and challenges of managing growth, particularly the rapid urbanization that is being experienced by communities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe and Hamilton area. Brampton's corporate, policy and

² Brundtland Report 1987.



program initiatives that address the natural heritage and conservation, recreational and open space and cultural heritage policies of the Growth Plan span a broad range of municipal responsibilities including, but not limited to:

- Council initiatives such as the Flower City Strategy, Communities in Bloom, Clean City Committee, as well as the multitude of community engagement efforts with our residents, businesses, schools and adjacent municipalities;
- Council adopted Official Plan 2006 that provides a sustainable planning and environmental planning policy framework for the protection, restoration and enhancement of the City's natural and cultural heritage systems, the provision of recreational open space and the development of a culture of conservation;
- Growth management planning including the Block Plan planning process, Development Cap, Queen Street corridor revitalization, etc.;
- The preparation and/or updating of Master Plan documents that direct the delivery of effective infrastructure and services;
- Environmental operations and management programs and activities such as valley enhancement and urban tree canopy planting programs, integrated turf and pesticide management, Peel Village Golf Course, 10 million bulb challenge, community gardens, Historic Bovaird House, Clean Fuel-biodiesel fleet, energy audits, AcceleRide and ERide.;
- Initiation of the Environmental Master Plan to define a sustainable environmental framework for the City as a corporation and as a land use planning authority. The EMP will complement other strategic master plans and programs and identify opportunities to strengthen the City's sustainable environmental activities, and develop partnerships. A detailed inventory of current and planned environmental initiatives, programs, services and activities of the City will enable a gap analysis of what we are doing and what we need to be doing. A comprehensive public consultation process to engage residents, the business community, stakeholders, government agencies, conservation and community organizations, as well as peer municipalities, will be a keystone activity in the development of the EMP. The EMP, in concert with the Strategic Plan, Official Plan and the Growth Management Program shall be deemed the City's *integrated community sustainability plan*. The EMP will be intrinsically linked to the City's corporate strategic initiatives and other master plan documents.
- Initiation of the Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (BEPAC) to review and comment on strategic environmental planning initiatives undertaken by the City, Region of Peel, Conservation Authorities, and Provincial and Federal Governments. BEPAC will be fundamental in providing community-based input for this Discussion Paper and the EMP, and assisting municipal staff to raise public awareness and appreciation of environmental programs and achievements in the City.

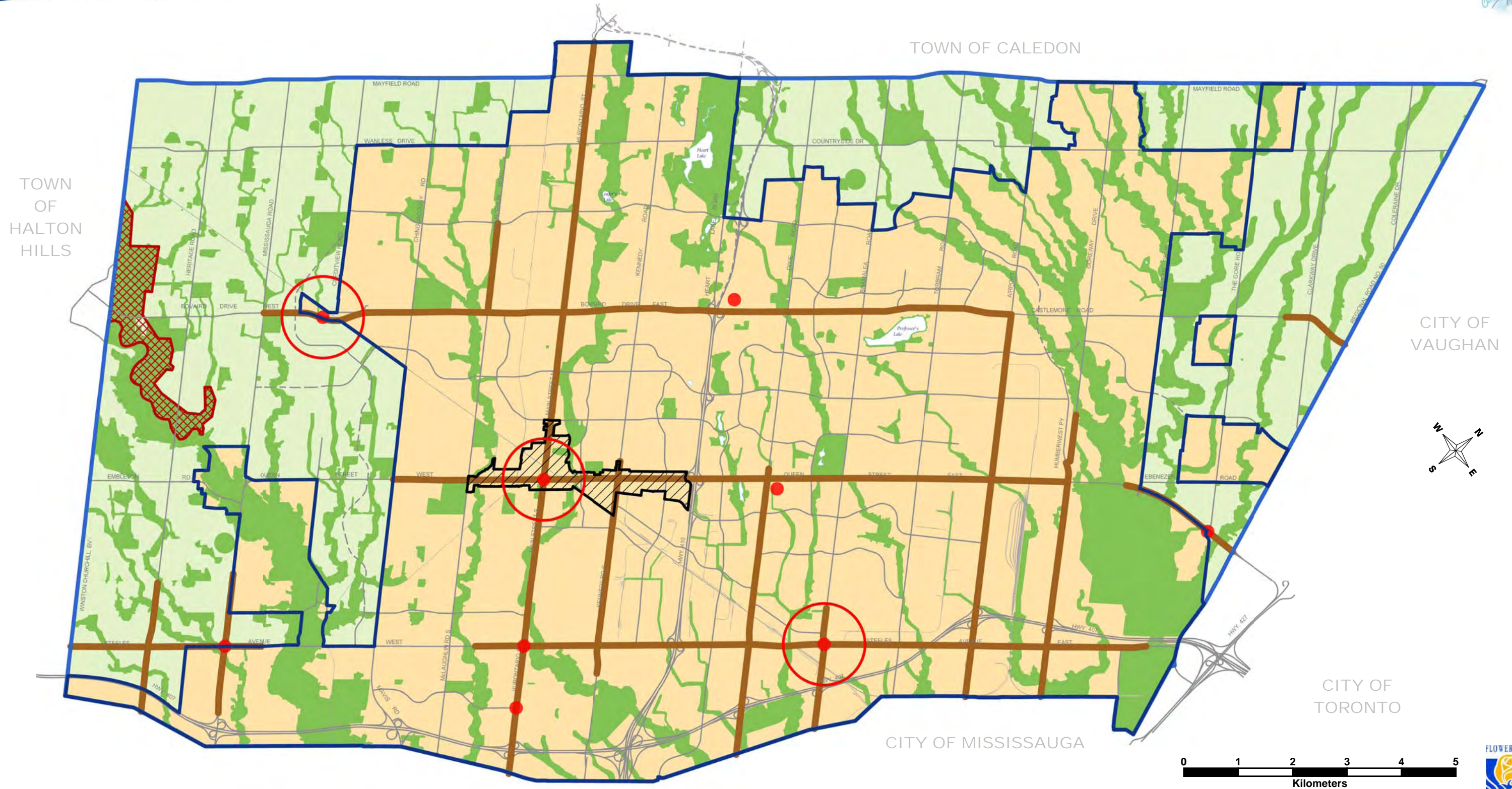
Brampton is responding to the *Places to Grow Act 2005*. This Discussion Paper highlights how Brampton's current strategic documents and future initiatives will ensure that Brampton remains a leader in the protection of its' natural and cultural heritage systems, and the main provider of recreational and urban open space to residents, businesses and visitors. The conservation of local resources and the creation of a culture of conservation is a shared responsibility of the province, Region of Peel, City of Brampton, residents, businesses and stakeholders. Brampton

will endeavour to define and demonstrate the multiple dimensions of sustainability – economic, social, environmental and cultural, through its corporate programs and actions, land use planning services and decisions, and communications with peer municipalities, conservation agencies, residents, local businesses and stakeholders.

6. CONCLUSION

This review concludes that the Official Plan 2006 policies are in general conformity with the Growth Plan policies as described in this Natural Heritage and Conservation Policy Review Discussion Paper. However, the 2006 Official Plan policies and schedules will be revised through Growth Plan conformity Official Plan amendment to better define our local municipal role and responsibilities to ensure the long-term protection, restoration and enhancement of our natural and cultural heritage systems, and the provision of recreational and urban open space to address the development of complete communities.





Note: Transit Supportive Nodes and Intensification Corridors as per 2006 Official Plan

LEGEND










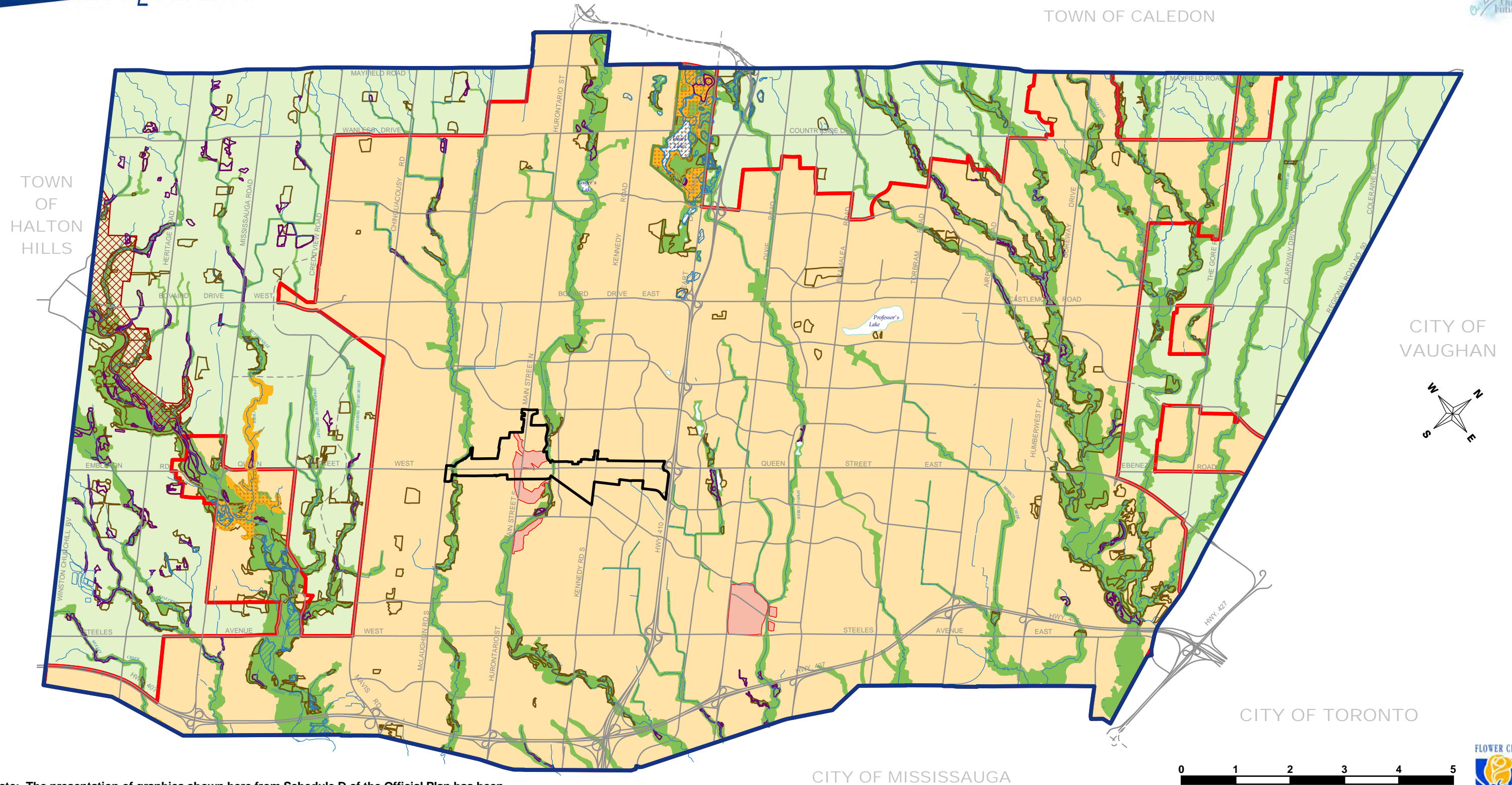
- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|  | FINAL BUILT BOUNDARY |  | DRAFT URBAN GROWTH CENTRE |  | INTENSIFICATION CORRIDORS |
|  | LANDS WITHIN BUILT BOUNDARY |  | TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE NODES |  | OPEN SPACE |
|  | DESIGNATED GREENFIELD AREA |  | POTENTIAL MAJOR TRANSIT STATION AREAS |  | PROVINCIAL GREENBELT AREA / PROTECTED COUNTRYSIDE |













Figure 1

Provincial Growth Plan
Policy Areas



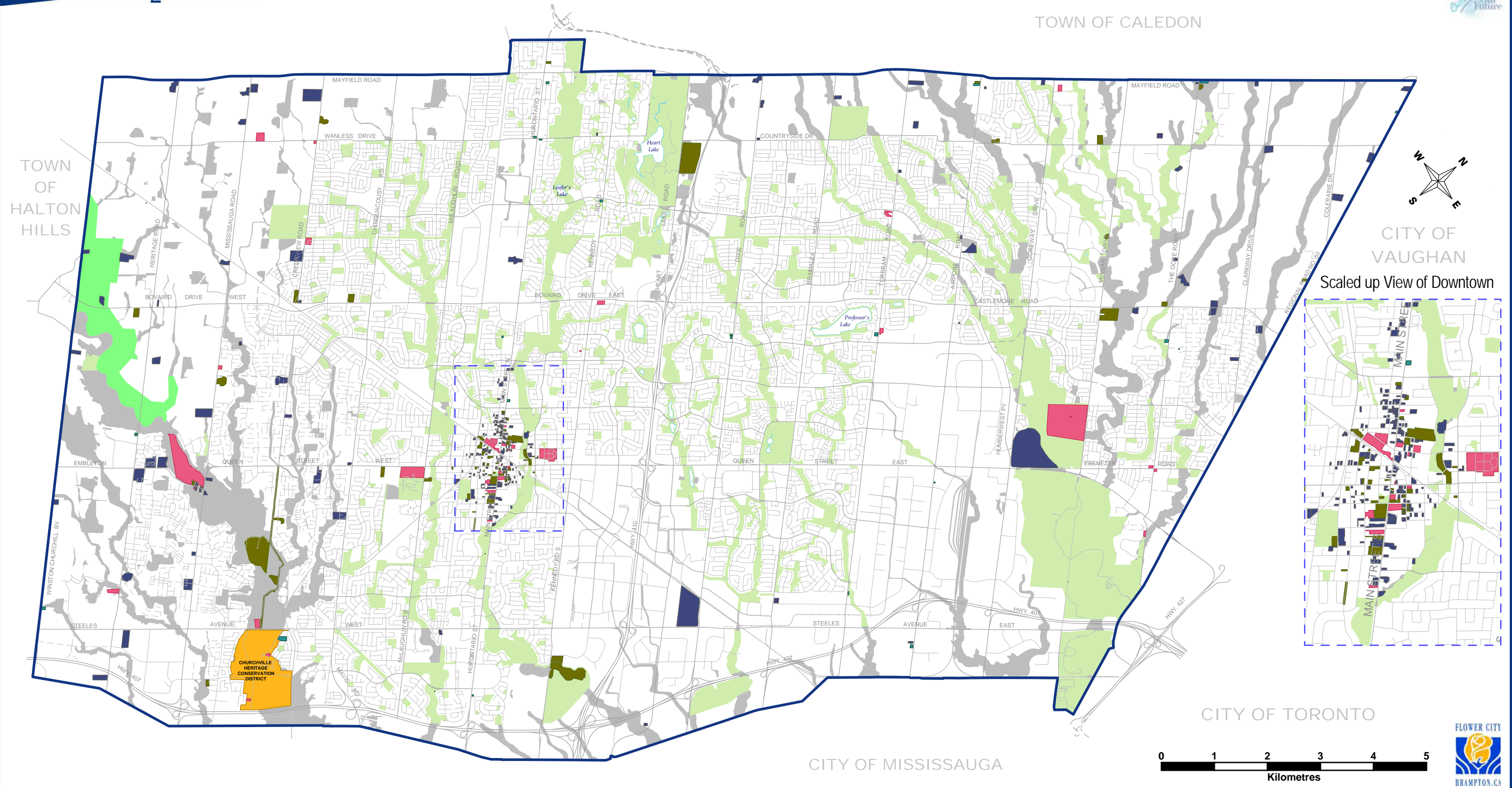
Note: The presentation of graphics shown here from Schedule D of the Official Plan has been changed slightly for the purposes of this map. All spatial data remains unchanged.

LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  VALLEYLAND / WATERCOURSE CORRIDOR |  SPECIAL POLICY AREA (FOR FLOODPLAIN MGMT) |  AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST - EARTH SCIENCE |
|  WOODLANDS |  ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / SIGNIFICANT AREAS |  AREAS WITHIN BUILT BOUNDARY |
|  PROVINCIALY SIGNIFICANT WETLAND |  PROVINCIAL GREENBELT / PROTECTED COUNTRYSIDE |  DESIGNATED GREENFIELDS |
|  OTHER WETLANDS |  AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST - LIFE SCIENCE |  PROPOSED DRAFT URBAN GROWTH CENTRE BOUNDARY (UGC) |

0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometers

Figure 2
Natural Heritage System



LEGEND

HERITAGE RESOURCES

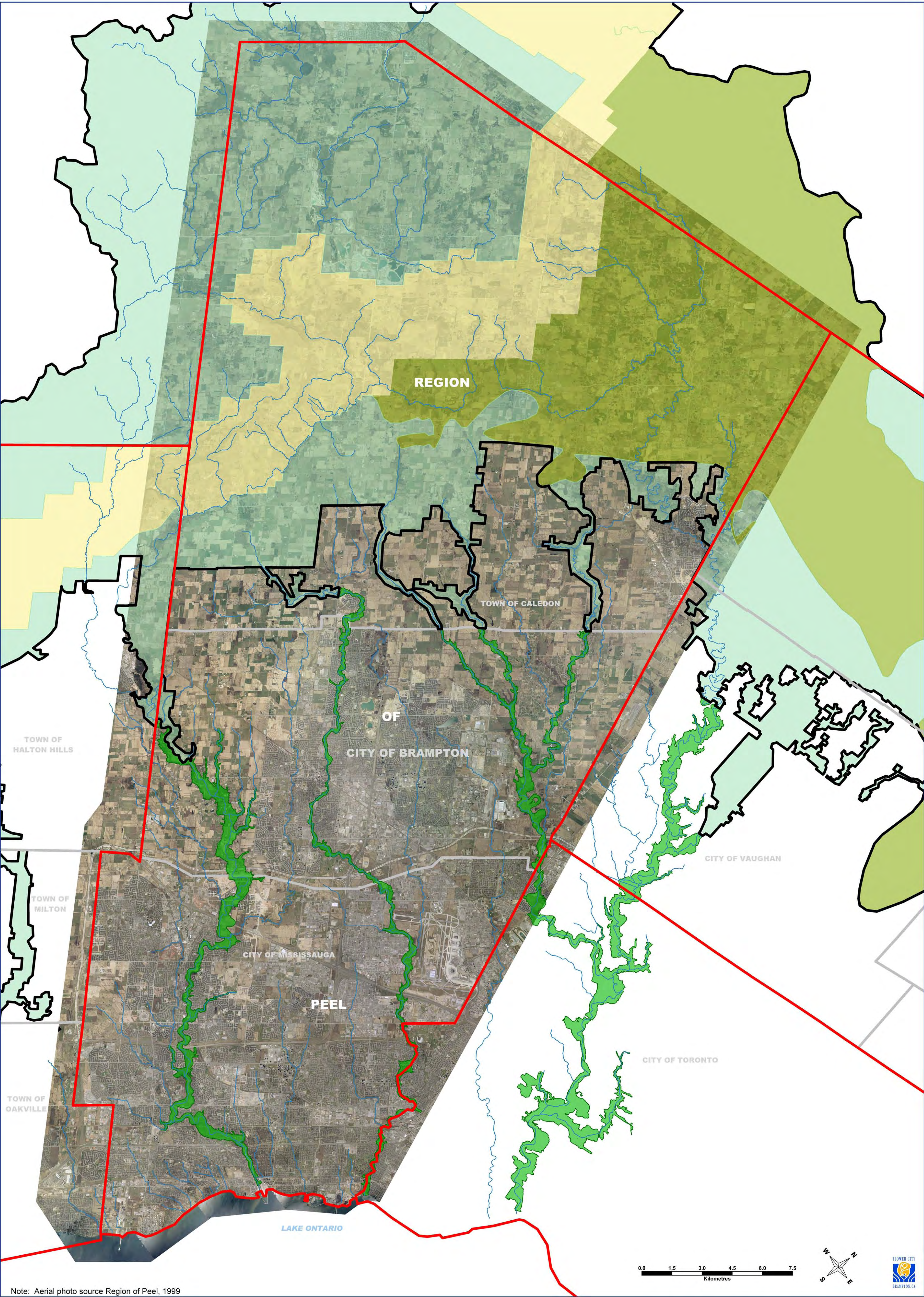
- A - MOST SIGNIFICANT AND WORTHY OF PRESERVATION/HERITAGE DESIGNATION
- B - SIGNIFICANT; WORTHY OF PRESERVATION; DESIGNATION WILL BE CONSIDERED
- O - DESIGNATED UNDER ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT (PART IV)
- O - DESIGNATED UNDER ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT (PART V)
- HERITAGE CEMETERY

OPEN SPACE / NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM

- PROVINCIAL GREENBELT / PROTECTED COUNTRYSIDE
- EXISTING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
- NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES FROM SCHEDULE D OF OP (NOT IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP TO DATE)

0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometres

Figure 3
Cultural Heritage Resources

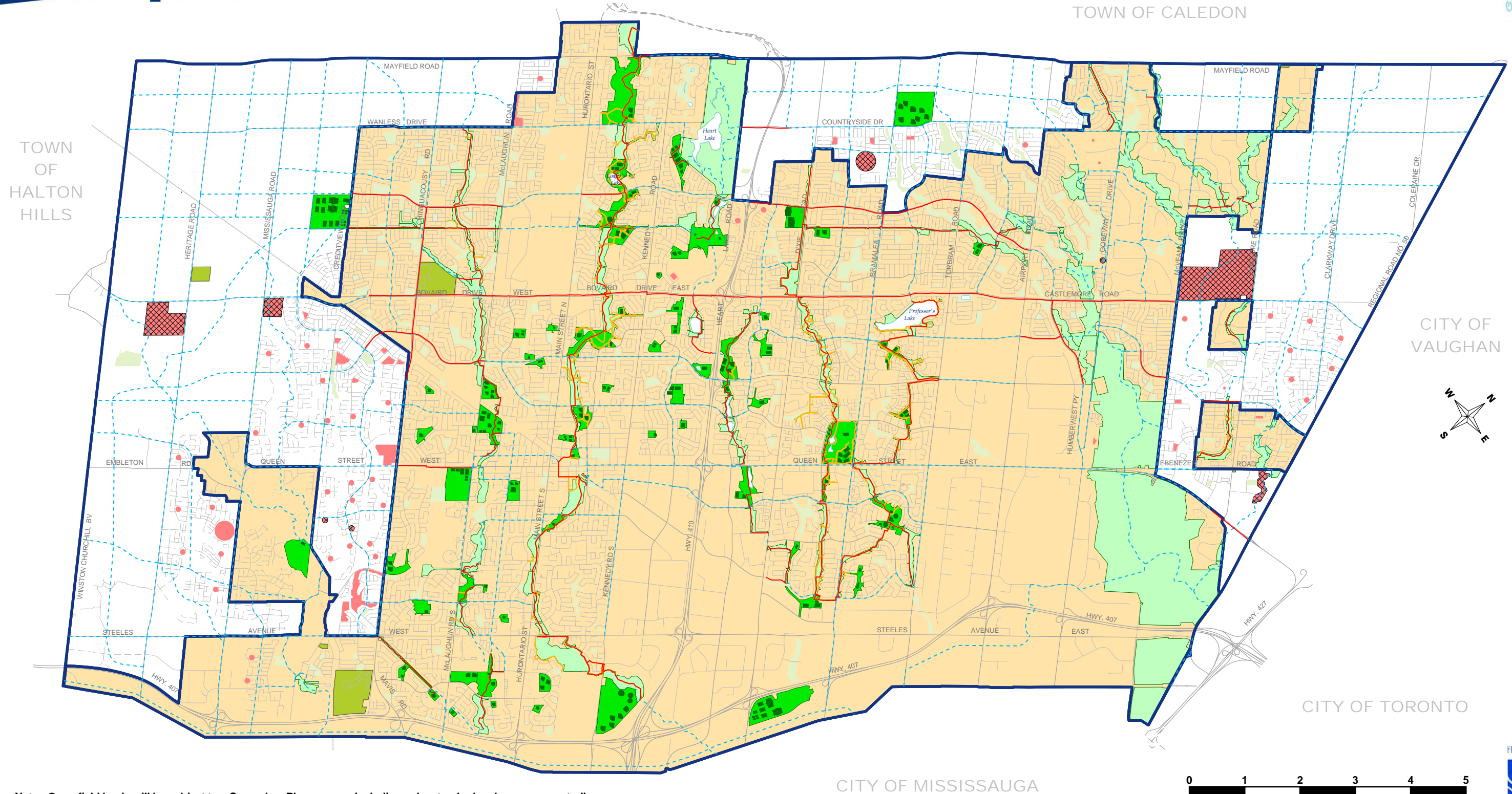


- LEGEND**
- GREENBELT PLAN
 - PROTECTED COUNTRYSIDE
 - OAK RIDGES MORaine AREA
 - NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLAN AREA
 - RIVER VALLEY CONNECTIONS
 - MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
 - REGIONAL BOUNDARY
 - MAJOR WATERCOURSES

0.0 1.5 3.0 4.5 6.0 7.5
Kilometres



Figure 4
Brampton In Context
of the Greenbelt Plan



Note: Greenfield lands will be subject to a Secondary Plan process including subwatershed and open space studies. Future parks and open space, and the natural heritage system will be determined at that time.

LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| — EXISTING MASTER PLAN PATHWAYS | ACTIVE PARKS WITH PROGRAMMED OUTDOOR FACILITIES | FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE (SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED TO DATE) |
| - - - PROPOSED MASTER PLAN PATHWAYS | PASSIVE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE WITHIN PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN NETWORK | NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES FROM SCHEDULE D OF OFFICIAL PLAN (NOT CURRENTLY IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP) |
| — LOCAL AREA TRAILS AND/OR PATHWAY CONNECTIONS | OTHER PARKS AND OPEN SPACE | PRIVATE CEMETERIES |
| ACTIVE OUTDOOR FACILITIES | FUTURE PARKS WITHIN PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN NETWORK | AREAS WITHIN BUILT BOUNDARY |

File: Figure5_Pks&OpenSpace
Nov. 26, 2008
Sheet: Figure5

0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometers



Figure 5
Existing Parks & Public Open Space

APPENDIX A: TABLE 1
Sec. 4.2.1 (2) – Greenbelt

For lands within the Greenbelt Area, all policies regarding natural systems set out in provincial plans, applicable to lands within the Greenbelt Area, continue to apply.

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
OP and Strategic Plan Objectives and Sustainable City Concept and Framework	<p>The north-east Credit River valley and adjacent tablelands, outside urban boundary (circa 2005), designated Greenbelt – Natural Heritage System. The Credit River, Etobicoke Creek and West Humber River tributaries designated River Valley Connections.</p> <p>The Region of Peel is undertaking its Greenbelt conformity exercise.</p>	<p>Sec. 4.5.7 – Valleylands and Watercourse Corridors provides policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognize environmentally hazardous and ecologically sensitive features recognize development impacts on both biotic/abiotic, physical (linkage), as well as scenic and visual functions of these systems need to zone in restrictive category gratuitous dedication vista blocks/window streets and public access along corridors define opportunities to mitigate, enhance or restore natural features, functions and linkages 	<p>The City could more clearly recognize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence and importance of the Greenbelt in Brampton along the Credit River valley, and its delineation along the valley corridors of the Etobicoke Creek and West Humber and Humber Rivers, immediately north of our boundary. A general concern to manage expansion of the transportation system, particularly major transportation corridors, to conserve the ecologically sensitive features of Greenbelt lands <p>Continue to monitor the Region of Peel Greenbelt Conformity Exercise in order to complete Brampton’s conformity exercise.</p>	<p>Revise Schedules 1, A and D to clearly define:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenbelt lands are not within Urban Boundary; Natural Heritage System and Protected Countryside in Northwest Brampton; The designation of the Credit River, Etobicoke Creek and West Humber River tributaries as River Corridor Connections; and The Natural Heritage System of the Etobicoke Creek and West Humber River tributaries that come right to Brampton’s northern boundary. <p>This delineation will provide the regional context and connectivity that supports our local NHS</p>

APPENDIX A: TABLE 1
Sec. 4.2.1 (2) – Greenbelt

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
4.5.14 Greenbelt	The Greenbelt and River Valley Connections the City to the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario which are other regional features of provincial concern.	Sec. 4.5.14 – Greenbelt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize Key Natural Heritage Features and Key Hydrologic Features policies as well as External Linkages; Recognize limited development opportunity, City will continue its Greenbelt conformity exercise when Region’s adopts their Greenbelt conformity work Recognize agricultural operations; forest, fish and wildlife management; conservation works; passive recreation; naturalized SWM ponds; infrastructure and aggregate extraction in Protected Countryside 	Identify need to undertake environmental studies to identify the Key Natural Heritage Features and Key Hydrologic Features. Ensure that land use and/or associated activities do not interrupt or negatively effect future connectivity from the Greenbelt to areas both within and beyond the City. The City may consider a Special Policy framework for these Open Space systems that will promote restoration, enhancement, buffering and stewardship works for these valleys and watercourses to strengthen these River Valley Connections	Consider opportunities (with CVC, MNR, Region of Peel) to apply current landscape and/or subwatershed study work and/or a natural heritage system model to define the KNH and KNHF and connectively/linkages of the Greenbelt lands in Brampton. Would need future revisions to Schedule D based on results of KNHF/KHF study, and/or future North West Brampton study.
	North West Brampton Urban Development Area essentially surrounds the Greenbelt Plan-Protected Countryside area	Sec. 4.14.2 – NW Brampton Urban Dev. Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed policies for development of urban lands Six stages of planning approvals before development can occur - require terrestrial landscape scale analysis (LSA) and subwatershed studies (e.g. for Huttonville Creek and the Main Credit) to define a natural heritage system. 	Ensure the coordination and integration of the environmental studies for the North West Urban Development Area and any works within the Greenbelt to identify and protect a connected natural heritage system	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 2

Sec. 4.2.1 (3) Natural Heritage Features and Areas

Planning authorities are encouraged to identify natural heritage features and areas that complement, link or enhance natural systems

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	MAPPING-STUDIES (& EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT)
OP and Strategic Plan Objectives and Sustainable City Concept and Framework	<p>The foundation of Brampton's natural heritage system is the Credit River, Fletcher's Creek, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek and the West Humber River valley systems that connect to the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario, some of Ontario's most significant environmental features. Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA), Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), tableland woodlands, wetlands, headwater drainage features, hedgerows, etc connect to these valleys.</p> <p>The City prepared numerous strategic master plans and documents to aid in protecting natural heritage features and areas.</p>		<p>Within these various sections the City needs to recognize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current fragmentation of City's Natural Heritage System, the presence and importance of the Greenbelt and Brampton's River Valley Connections to the NEC, ORM and Lake Ontario via the Credit River, Etobicoke Creek and Humber River valley corridors the need to focus science and resources to restoring, enhancing and linking these areas to create a functioning NHS. <p>.</p>	<p>Need to review the current NAI and NHS modelling programs of CVC and TRC to determine what is appropriate for Brampton. We will need to define a natural areas inventory and natural heritage system modelling with</p>
4.2.2 The Central Area	<p>Downtown Brampton (within the Central Area Secondary Plan area) has been identified as an Urban Growth Centre. The UGC is bounded on the west by the Fletcher's Creek valley system and bisected by the Etobicoke Creek valley system.</p>	<p>Within the UGC there is a Specialized Park and a parkette, however, there are approximately 60 parks in the Central Area that provide 470 acres of recreational open space that the UGC can utilize.</p> <p>The UGC is connected parks throughout the city via the Fletcher's Creek and Etobicoke Creek pathways that literally connect the city's north and south boundaries. East-West pathways in the UGC are currently Class III sign routes</p>	<p>As redevelopment occurs within the UGC, opportunities to create public open space to complement the natural heritage and recreational open space areas of the Central Area should be identified.</p>	.

APPENDIX A: TABLE 2
Sec. 4.2.1 (3) Natural Heritage Features and Areas

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	MAPPING-STUDIES (& EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT)
		located within and/or along roadways, including Queens Street.		
4.5 Natural Heritage and Environmental Management	<p>The current state of the City’s natural environment reflects +/- 150 years of agriculture and development activity that has resulted in massive vegetation clearing, loss and alteration to features and habitat; loss of natural connections and linkages, creation of impervious surfaces, etc.</p> <p>However, municipalities now require numerous reports and studies to support the development of secondary plans (e.g. subwatershed study). The Province and the Conservation Authorities are busy developing natural heritage and engineering methodologies, guidelines and models; preparing natural area inventories and natural heritage system models; as well as promoting sustainable best practices and management measures for stormwater, invasive species, conservation of endangered species, etc.</p>	<p>Detailed policies are provided for natural heritage system protection, restoration and enhancement, as well as environmental management (refer to Appendix A).</p> <p>Draft Citywide Lake Assessment and Management Study underway for 14 lake-pond systems in Brampton which recommends the preparation of management plans</p>	<p>Support CA-Region watershed inventory and natural heritage system modelling. Support the GTA-Region Urban Forestry Study and determine a Brampton strategy for protecting and improving our urban forest canopy.</p> <p>Review the CAs natural areas inventories and systems modelling to determine what is appropriate for Brampton, as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and confirm that information, data and NHS delineation as per approved subwatershed studies is satisfactory, so as to focus future inventory/modelling efforts on the remaining areas to reduce duplication but ensure consistency across the City. • Review approved environmental studies to determine if they address natural heritage system planning. Report updates may be required (e.g. Gateway West Subwatershed Study Update). <p>Finalize the City-wide lake study and prepare management plans for the protection, restoration and management of these systems.</p>	<p>TRC-CVC-Region of Peel- MNR- other local municipalities</p> <p>TRC-CVC-Region of Peel</p> <p>Ensure that Schedule D includes all 14 lakes-ponds.</p>

APPENDIX A: TABLE 2
Sec. 4.2.1 (3) Natural Heritage Features and Areas

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	MAPPING-STUDIES (& EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT)
<p>4.6 Recreational Open Space (4.6.1 and 4.6.1.2)</p>	<p>With close to 600 parks, including 260 sports fields and 300 playgrounds, Brampton has over 6000 acres of parkland and green space.</p> <p>The OP recognizes the integration of natural heritage features and treed areas into parks, and even the use of stormwater management ponds for passive recreation.</p>	<p>Objectives and Sec. 4.6.1 Policies</p> <p>The Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan provide key recommendations that recognize the importance of passive open space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS POS 001a: recommends a service level of 0.4 ha per 1000 residents. • AS POS 004a: recommends securing lands that establish a east-west connections • AS POS 006a to e – recommends the adoption of sustainable maintenance practices, continue public education efforts, valleyland replanting program and community development initiatives. 	<p>The OP should further:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocate that the parks system can contribute to the natural heritage system by connecting and linking areas, as well as enhancing habitat through site design and maintenance. • recognize that parks can provide functions related to stormwater management including opportunities for sustainable best practices; and • use both passive and active parkland, as feasible to enhance the City’s urban canopy. <p>Pending results from a natural areas inventory and NHS modelling, the City may need to recognize the need for an additional study and/or area management plans for parks, to confirm existing or potential natural features/functions that can be provided by (or within) the park system. Need to develop natural heritage criteria/standards that new park designs should address, eg. Low impact development.</p>	<p>NAI + NHS modelling + park management plans (TRC/CVC, MNR, Region of Peel)</p> <p>See study on infill swim ponds in existing older areas</p>

APPENDIX A: TABLE 3
Sec. 4.2.1 (4) Parkland and Open Space Trails

Municipalities, conservation authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties are encouraged to develop a system of publicly accessible parkland, open space trails, including shorelines, within GGH that: clearly demarcate where public access is permitted; based on a co-ordinated approach to trail planning and development; and is based on good land steward practices for public and private lands.

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
OP and Strategic Plan Objectives and Sustainable City Concept and Framework	<p>Communities need to develop a comprehensive park system that supports sustainable development to create complete communities, and which provides active and passive recreational areas that integrates natural areas and features to protect the integrity of the natural heritage system.</p> <p>A complete community is one that supports cycling as an alternative transportation method as well as a recreational activity. Pathway connections to local destinations as well as municipal and interregional transit nodes will be critical for a modern transportation system. In addition to pathways, cyclists require facilities to support using bicycles as an alternative transportation option, including bike racks on buses, bike lockers at destinations, etc</p>	<p>The Six Pillars of the Strategic Plan recognize that a comprehensive pathways system is a component of a Modern Transportation System that should connect Brampton’s major destinations as well as trail systems outside of Brampton. Community Lifestyle is founded on our parks, recreation and sports; police and emergency services; cleanliness; multiculturalism; arts and culture; and Brampton's rich history.</p> <p>Brampton’s Pathways Master Plan 2002 recognizes the significant individual, societal, environmental and economic benefits of cycling and walking wherein they contribute to reduced automobile use, promote healthy communities, and are energy efficient and environmental friendly that contribute to mitigating ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, ground-level air pollution, photochemical smog, acid rain and noise pollution. Pathways must be well planned in regard to integration in to the natural heritage system, as well as the road transportation network</p>	<p>The OP should recognize the need to consult and partner with adjacent municipalities and stewardship groups to coordinate trail locations and designs</p> <p>Endorsement of the Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan and integration of the various pathways implementation and direction plans, e.g. Implementation Plan, Routing Plan, Hierarchy, etc.</p> <p>Update the City’s Pathways Pocket Book (originally produced 2007) that highlights the Etobicoke Creek Trail, Chingaucousy Trail and Professor’s Lake.</p>	Schedule 1 (and/or 2) would benefit from including the Major Pathway Network to illustrate alternative transportation connections to Transit-Supportive Nodes, Central Area, Intensification Corridors, etc.

APPENDIX A: TABLE 3
Sec. 4.2.1 (4) Parkland and Open Space Trails

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
4.2.2 The Central Area	Downtown Brampton is a designated Urban Growth Centre that will be developed as a diverse economic, employment, entertainment and cultural centre that supports local and interregional transit infrastructure. Pathway connections to the UGC from all parts of the City will facilitate the success of this development	<p>A draft Pathways Implementation Plan identifies phasing plan for the construction of paths that close gaps in the existing network. Annual budget submission will determine priority projects.</p> <p>A revised routing plan identifies a number of future paths in the Central Area with Queen Street as its spine route. Connecting routes are identified as Class III signed routes in the medium with the expectation that future studies will investigate methods of developing Class II bike lanes</p>	<p>The OP should recognize current City initiatives and studies that are being prepared to support the development of Downtown Brampton and its connection to other parts of the City, as appropriate.</p> <p>The revised routing plan to be endorsed by Council and will be appended to the Pathways Master Plan.</p>	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 3
Sec. 4.2.1 (4) Parkland and Open Space Trails

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
4.4.6 Pathways System	Pathway development must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be comprehensive in connecting to local and interregional destinations as well as other transit facilities; • ensuring accessibility for all persons, as feasible; • Sensitive to protecting the natural heritage system. 	<p>City currently has 90 kilometres of pathways, and the revised Pathway Routing Plan recommends an additional 100 kilometres of valleyland paths</p> <p>A draft (revised) Pathways Hierarchy incorporates new paths standards that are sensitive to natural features, and includes the development of mown nature paths and 2.4 metre gravel paths in ecologically sensitive areas.</p> <p>Draft Pathways Implementation Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Peel, Mississauga and Caledon to establish a Regional Pathway Network. • Mississauga to provide connections as part of road redevelopment projects, and valleyland development; • TRCA for the establishment of paths in the Claireville Conservation Area <p>An interdepartmental Pathways Working Team (Works & Trans. Community Services and Planning) developed a long term Pathways Action Plan.</p>	<p>Recognize that Brampton park and trail development, including cross-boundary trails, should be undertaken to achieve a broader range of environmental issues/objectives, e.g. Channel and/or vegetation restoration & enhancement.</p> <p>The Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan recommends that the City establish a stable funding source for Pathways Development</p>	<p>Revise Schedule C1 (or include a separate schedule) to clearly differentiate between existing and proposed/future paths, e.g. Credit valley trail. This recognition of trail status should be for both those within the City and the external connections in adjacent municipalities.</p>

APPENDIX A: TABLE 3
Sec. 4.2.1 (4) Parkland and Open Space Trails

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
Sec. 4.6 Recreational Open Space	Municipalities must ensure the development of a comprehensive park system that supports sustainable development as well as providing active and passive recreational areas that integrate natural areas and features to protect the integrity of the natural heritage system	<p>The City’s Open Space System consists of both natural heritage and recreational open space that are an integral component of sustainable Development. The City of Brampton is known for its extensive system of parks, pathways and open spaces and the OP provides policies aimed at promoting healthy, active communities through the safe, equitable and accessible planning of public spaces.</p> <p>The Public, Culture and Recreational Master Plan provides a series of actions that have recognized the diverse leisure needs and interests of Brampton’ s residents and stakeholders, as we as trends, existing services, and issues to identify strategies to establish core services, and priorities for parks, culture and recreation.</p>	The City will continue working community residents and stakeholder groups to implement the action items identified in the Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan.	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 4
Sec. 4.2.1 (5) Urban Open Space

Municipalities are encouraged to establish an urban open space system within built-up areas, which may include rooftop gardens, communal courtyards and public parks.

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
OP and Strategic Plan Objectives and Sustainable City Concept and Framework	<p>How can the urban open space be expanded within the existing developed areas of the City, as well as linked to the natural heritage, recreational open space and cultural heritage systems of the greenfield areas.</p> <p>Can urban open space contribute to, or be combined with, other infrastructure required in the built up areas, such as stormwater management.</p>	The Flower City Strategy is a multi-faceted approach that focuses on the city's design, development, beautification and landscaping efforts, as well as natural and cultural heritage conservation. Brampton's urban spaces include 6,000 acres of parkland and open space, the urban forest and extensive recreational pathways, streetscapes, edges and gateways, landmarks and public squares, institutions, and heritage properties and resources, including landscapes and cemeteries.	<p>The OP should promote the development of sustainable urban open space system that could contribute to and complement the natural heritage system and parkland, open space and trails, as well as support municipal infrastructure, as feasible (e.g. stormwater management).</p> <p>.</p>	
4.2.2 Central Area	Downtown Brampton is a designated Urban Growth Centre that will be developed as a diverse economic, employment, entertainment and cultural centre.		Appropriate community and/or environmental studies will be required as redevelopment occurs to identify opportunities to provide urban open space in combination with infrastructure such as stormwater management, as well as contributing to the natural and cultural heritage system and recreational open space areas	
4.6. Recreational Open Space	What is the process for re-evaluating the open space requirements population as built-up areas are intensified?	<p>The City has defined a comprehensive municipal system of parks, pathways and open spaces that will accommodate a wide array of recreational, leisure, cultural and environmentally focussed opportunities.</p> <p>The draft Parks, Culture & Recreation Master Plan has been completed that provides recommendations and actions for acquiring passive open space and</p>		

APPENDIX A: TABLE 4
Sec. 4.2.1 (5) Urban Open Space

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
		community development initiatives.		
Sec. 4.10 Urban Design	Need to ensure that a cohesive community including neighbourhood urban open space is achieved as greenfield development and redevelopment within the built boundary occurs over a long time period.	<p>Urban Design policies and Development Design Guidelines recognize that a city involves ‘place, people and vision’. Continued evolution and design of urban form must address sustainability, demographics, natural environment, human need, land use and transportation.</p> <p>Public Realm policies are to ensure that the public domain has character- quality, ease of movement, legibility, adaptability and diversity, and that the key assets (streetscape, pubic square and landmarks, edges and gateways, views and vistas and semi-public open space) help bond peoples and places together to instill a sense of civic pride for the community.</p> <p>Community revitalization (infill, intensification, replacement, redevelopment) must maintain and improve the City’s established neighbourhoods and built-up areas to ensure their vitality and continuing function.</p> <p>Transit-oriented development is necessary to achieve sustainable development that reduces the impact on the environment in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	Appropriate community and/or environmental studies will be required to identify opportunities to provide urban open space in combination with infrastructure such as stormwater management, as well as contributing to the natural and cultural heritage system and recreational open space areas.	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 4
Sec. 4.2.1 (5) Urban Open Space

APPENDIX A: TABLE 5
Sec. 4.2.2 Mineral Aggregate Resources

Through sub-area assessments, the MPIR and MNR will work with municipalities, producers of mineral aggregate resources, and other stakeholders to identify significant mineral aggregate resources for the GGH, and to develop a long-term strategy for ensuring the wise use, conservation, availability and management of mineral aggregate resources in the GGH, as well as identifying opportunities for resource recovery and for co-ordinated approaches to rehabilitation where feasible

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
OP and Strategic Plan Objectives and Sustainable City Concept and Framework	The Provincial Policy Statement 2005 requires protection of mineral aggregate resources, and identifies that development and activities (in or adjacent to aggregate resources) will only be permitted if: resource use is not feasible; or the proposed land use or development serves a greater long-term public interest; and issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.	<p>A Shale Resources Study was completed for north west Brampton as part of the urban boundary expansion official plan amendment that identified a shale protection area west of Mississauga Road and north of the Credit River valley corridor.</p> <p>Schedule F implements the High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resource Area (HPMARA) shown on Schedule C of the Region of Peel Official Plan.</p>		Identify previously licensed and rehabilitated properties on an existing OP schedule, to illustrate how these properties have been converted to urban land uses.
4.14.4 Northwest Brampton Policy Area – Aggregate Policies		<p>The North West Brampton Policy Area (NWBPA) identifies an opportunity for resource extraction (as an interim land use) until 2016.</p> <p>The City shall regulate shale extraction operations and accessory uses to ensure that environmental and community impacts are minimized in accordance with legislative standards and municipal regulations.</p>		

APPENDIX A: TABLE 5
Sec. 4.2.2 Mineral Aggregate Resources

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
		Urban development may only occur after the City adopts an Official Plan amendment to establish general urban land use designations (supported by appropriate studies) and based on staging and sequencing strategies.		
4.5.14 Greenbelt	Aggregates are a permitted use within the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt lands are not considered to be within the urban boundary.	Studies are required to establish the Key Natural Heritage Features and Key Hydrologic Features of the Natural Heritage System. An environmental impact and hydrogeological studies are required in accordance with provincial legislation and Region of Peel - Credit Valley Conservation policies to ensure that significant features and ecological functions, surface and groundwater resources are protected within the North West Brampton Policy Area.		Revise Schedule F to identify the Greenbelt Plan area within the North West Brampton Policy Area.

APPENDIX A: TABLE 6
Sec. 4.2.4 A Culture of Conservation

Municipalities will develop and implement official plan policies and other strategies in support of the following conservation objectives: A) water conservation; efficient underground irrigation systems equipped with rain and ET monitoring equipment. –water demand management; and water recycling. Recycle grey water for sports fields from splash pads. B) Energy conservation – in municipal facilities; opportunities for alternative energy generation; solar pathway lighting/distribution; energy demand management; and land use patterns and urban design standards for energy-efficient buildings and cogeneration C) Air quality protection including emissions reductions from municipal-residential sources D) Integrated waste management recycling in parks and streetscapes – enhanced waste reduction, composting-recycling initiatives – comprehensive plan for integrated approaches to waste reduction – reuse-recycling of construction materials E) Cultural heritage conservation, including conservation of cultural heritage and archaeological resources where feasible, as built-up areas are intensified

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
OP and Strategic Plan Objectives and Sustainable City Concept and Framework	<p>The conservation and management of environmental resources (e.g. water, energy, air and waste management) is a shared responsibility between the province, Peel, Brampton and business.</p> <p>Provincial legislation-policy directs resource conservation including wise use of non-renewable resources, natural heritage system protection, as well as land use development (intensification, density, transportation, etc.) to be implemented by regional and local municipalities, as well as businesses.</p> <p>Peel Region is directly responsible for water and wastewater services and waste management, as well as Public Health services and programs for issues related to air pollution and air quality.</p>	<p>Six Pillars of the Strategic Plan 2003 provides a blueprint to develop a modern transportation-transit system, manage growth, protect the environment, foster a dynamic and prosperous economy and define a healthy community lifestyle.</p> <p>Sec. 3.1 defines a sustainable planning framework to guide growth to balance the social, economic, cultural and environmental needs of the community. This also includes making wise use of non-renewable resources, as well as protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural heritage system.</p> <p>The City is developing many strategic master plan documents that outline major municipal functions for the delivery of environmental and recreational services, facilities and infrastructure;</p> <p>The City is undertaking corporate initiatives that focus on the delivery of environmental and cultural programs and activities that range from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attracting green businesses to Brampton, 	<p>Need a cohesive message to promote a culture of conservation that balances the responsibilities of the province, regional municipality and the City of Brampton.</p> <p>Can better integrate policies to direct and integrate corporate programs and activities, and use these in turn to influence and encourage development as well as our residential and business community to undertaken water and energy conservation, reduce, reuse and recycling, etc.</p>	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 6
Sec. 4.2.4 A Culture of Conservation

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• recognizing ‘green’ business efforts that contribute to both our local environment and economy;• supporting Eco-industrial parks,• supporting education, awareness and stewardship programs;• promoting local agricultural products; and• promoting sustainable management practices, to green building design standards and green infrastructure, etc.		
Sec. 4.4 Transportation		<p>Policies aim to develop a safe, convenient, economical, efficient, sustainable and energy conserving transportation system for the movement of people and goods.</p> <p>Sec. 4.4.6 Pathways System - Brampton promotes that the City’s pathways system (and cycling/walking) are an important component of the overall transportation system and a means to conserve energy and natural resources, contribute to the reduction of dependence on the automobile, and alleviate pollution concerns such as mitigating ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, ground-level air pollution, photochemical smog, acid rain and noise pollution</p> <p>Greening’ our operations and management programs including using Biodiesel fuel; procuring green products; energy audits; online transit trip planning; Acceleride, etc.</p>		

APPENDIX A: TABLE 6
Sec. 4.2.4 A Culture of Conservation

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
4.5 Natural Heritage System	Need to advocate cohesive policies that provide technical conservation direction, as well as integrate conservation efforts, as a corporation, as an example of the community and as a land use planning authority.	<p>Policies for Stormwater Management; Groundwater Resources; Soils Conservation; Woodlands and the Urban Forest (woodlot and tree by-laws); Wetlands; Environmental Buffers, Setbacks and Linkages; Protecting Public Health and Safety (Noise and Vibration, Air Quality and Energy, Hazardous Facilities, and Contaminated Sites and Waste Disposal Sites)</p> <p>Participate in the inter-municipal committees such GTA-Peel Urban Forest Canopy Study, GTA Clean Air Committee, Regional Air Quality Working Group, etc.</p> <p>Partnering with the CAs, conservation groups, residents and local businesses for the delivery of a variety of stewardship programs and activities.</p>	<p>Need to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Environmental Master Plan; • Stewardship programs to implement Endangered Species Act Recovery Strategies; • Invasive species management programs; • Comprehensive planting strategies in conjunction with the Conservation Authorities to contribute to natural system health and biodiversity. <p>Develop a UFORE (Urban Forest Effects Model) program.</p> <p>Develop an energy management strategy.</p>	
4.6 Recreational Open Space		Phasing out of pesticides and phasing in of integrated turf/vegetation management.	<p>Need to define opportunities to rehabilitate and/or enhance our existing parks to provide and restore natural features, functions and linkages.</p> <p>Develop an(Urban Forestry Canopy Strategy and management program – air quality and energy conservation.</p> <p>Province to unveil pesticide ban for cosmetic use January 2009.</p>	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 6
Sec. 4.2.4 A Culture of Conservation

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
4.9 Cultural Heritage	Need to better understand and integrate natural heritage and cultural heritage conservation, e.g. landscapes, scenic roadways, historic corridors,	<p>Sec. 4.9.2 Cultural Heritage Landscape Sec. 4.9.7 Flower City Strategy</p> <p>Highlights of Heritage Program (2003-2007):</p> <p>Heritage Resource Management - permit system (2007); evaluation criteria and grading system; expanded Designation and Inventory registers; guidelines for vacant buildings; comprehensive re-evaluation of all listed properties; GIS mapping system; adoption of Canadian Standards and Guidelines for Heritage Conservation (2005); Heritage Cemetery Program; Downtown Heritage Conservation District Study; revised Churchville Heritage District Plan (2007); "Milk House" move to Historic Bovaird House (2005-2006);</p> <p>Communications, Education and Outreach - Incentive Program - Three Year Pilot (2007); "Heritage Times" newsletter; designation-inventory brochures; Plaque Program Re-design; Outreach and Marketing Subcommittee; Communications Strategy; 5-Blooms Award; Heritage Canada Foundation Award for restoration of historic Bowstring Bridge over the Credit River (2007).</p>	<p>Need to ensure that environmental studies examine and integrate natural heritage and cultural heritage features.</p> <p>Need to promote and integrate the value of cultural heritage design in new development, e.g. energy conservation benefits of old buildings.</p>	

APPENDIX A: TABLE 6
Sec. 4.2.4 A Culture of Conservation

OFFICIAL PLAN SECTION	ISSUES & QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED	GROWTH PLAN COMPLIANCE	GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH PLAN CONFORMITY	NEED FOR MAPPING AND/OR STUDIES & EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT
		<p>Heritage Preservation Planning - Official Plan policies; adaptive reuse strategies for resources; Habitat for Humanity partnership; review protocols and consultation process for new development proposals; Downtown Core "Environmental Scan"; Minimum Maintenance and Property Standards By-law; Impact Assessments; Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) Station; Main Street North property evaluations; Tree Protection By-law (2006).</p> <p>2008 - Transition Year: 2008 is the transition year for the overall heritage program. This year the heritage program focuses on: completion of the heritage conservation district feasibility study for downtown; completion of the Alderlea restoration adaptive reuse study; mounted heritage plaque program; securing approval in principle to launch the Heritage Tax Rebate Program; drafting of the new heritage program work plan covering the years 2009 to 2010 .</p>		
4.10 Urban Design		<p>Policies promote Transit-Oriented Development as transit is a priority tool to help achieve sustainable development because it reduces the impact on the environment in terms of greenhouse gases and the take up of Greenfield areas.</p>		

APPENDIX B: PLACES TO GROW: GROWTH PLAN FOR THE GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE 2006

Section	Policies
4.2.1	<p>Natural Systems</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through <i>sub-area</i> assessment, the Minister of Public Infrastructure renewal and other Ministers of the Crown, in consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders will identify natural systems for the GGH, and where appropriate develop additional policies for their protection. For lands within the <i>Greenbelt Area</i>, all policies regarding natural systems set out in provincial plans, applicable to lands within the <i>Greenbelt Area</i>, continue to apply. Planning authorities are encouraged to identify natural heritage features and areas that complement, link, or enhance natural systems. Municipalities, conservation authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties are encouraged to develop a system of publicly accessible parkland, open space and trails, including shoreline areas, within the GGH that – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearly demarcates where public access is and is not permitted is based on a co-ordinated approach to trail planning and development is based on good land stewardship practices for public and private lands. Municipalities are encouraged to establish an urban open space system within built-up areas, which may include rooftop gardens, communal courtyards, and public parks.
4.2.2	<p>Prime Agricultural Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through <i>sub-area</i> assessment, the Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal and other Ministers of the Crown, in consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders, will identify <i>prime agricultural areas</i>, including specialty crop area, in the GGH, and where appropriate, develop additional policies for their protection. For lands within the <i>Greenbelt Area</i>, all policies regarding agricultural areas set out in provincial plans, applicable to lands within the <i>Greenbelt Area</i>, continue to apply. Municipalities are encouraged to maintain, improve and provide opportunities for farm-related infrastructure such as drainage and irrigation. Municipalities are encouraged to establish and work with agricultural advisory committees and consult with them on decision-making to agriculture and growth management.
4.2.3	<p>Mineral Aggregate Resources</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Through <i>sub-area</i> assessment, the Ministries of Public Infrastructure Renewal and Natural Resources will work with municipalities, producers of <i>mineral aggregate resources</i>, and other stakeholders to identify significant <i>mineral aggregate resources</i> for the GGH, and to develop a long-term strategy for ensuring the wise use, conservation, availability and management of mineral aggregate resources in the GGH, as well as identifying opportunities for resource recovery and for co-ordinated approaches to rehabilitation where feasible.

APPENDIX B: PLACES TO GROW: GROWTH PLAN FOR THE GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE 2006

4.2.4	<p>A Culture of Conservation</p> <p>1. Municipalities will develop and implement official plan policies and other strategies in support of the following conservation objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Water conservation, including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i water demand management, for the efficient use of water ii water recycling to maximize the rescue and recycling of water. b) Energy conservation, including – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. energy conservation for municipally owned facilities ii identification of opportunities for alternative energy generation and distribution iii energy demand management to reduce energy consumption iv. land-use patterns and urban design standards that encourage and support energy-efficient buildings and opportunities for cogeneration. c) Air quality protection, including reduction in emissions from municipal and residential sources. d) Integrated waste management, including _ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. enhances waste reduction, composting, and recycling initiatives and the identification of new opportunities for source reduction, reuse, and diversion where appropriate ii. a comprehensive plan with integrated approaches to waste management, including reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, diversion, and the disposal of residual waste. iii. Promotion of reuse and recycling of construction materials iv. Consideration of waste management initiatives within the context of long term regional planning, and in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities e) Cultural heritage conservation, including conservation of cultural heritage and archaeological resources where feasible, as <i>built-up areas</i> are intensified.
-------	--