



MAKING OUR MARK



This is the Niagara Official Plan, the Regional Municipality of Niagara's long-term, strategic policy planning framework for managing growth coming to Niagara. The policies of this Plan will guide land use and *development* thereby influencing economic, environmental, and planning decisions until 2051 and beyond.

The Niagara Official Plan identifies: what we need to protect; how and where we will grow; and policy tools to manage the same. Resources such as the *natural environment system, agricultural system, source water, aggregates and petroleum, and cultural*

heritage and archaeology each are protected for specific reasons whether it be ecological, economic, cultural heritage or community health.

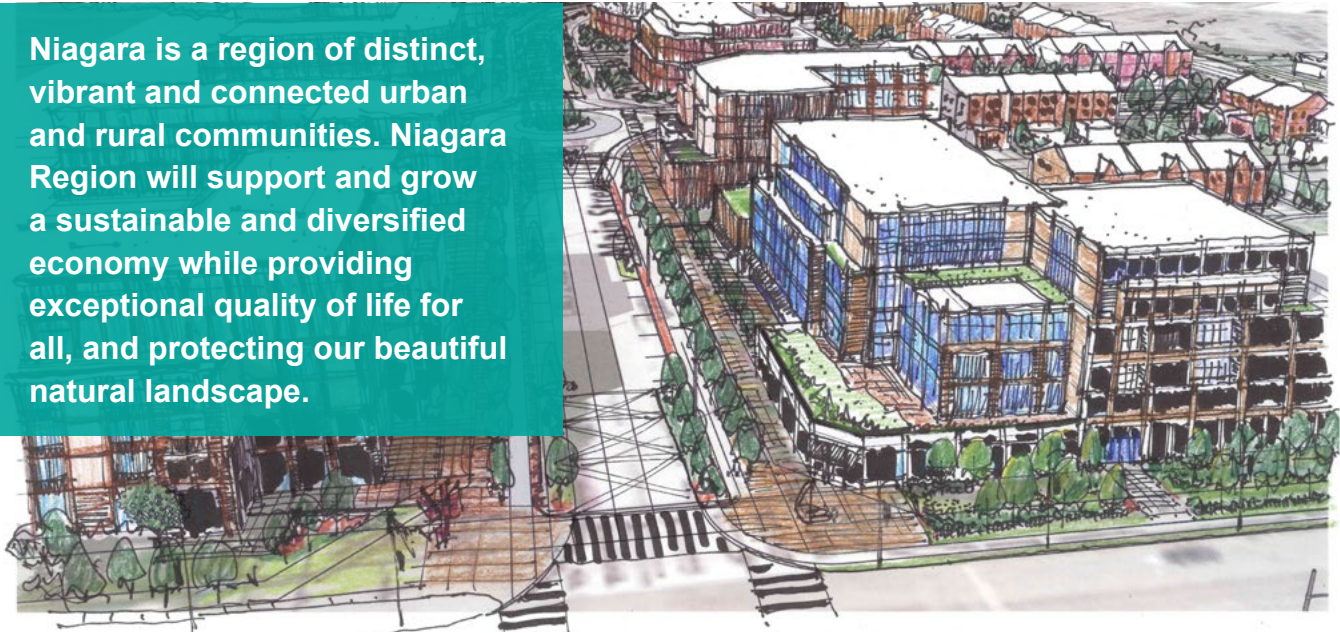
Properly protecting resources while planning for growth is critical. Policy tools such as district and secondary planning, *subwatershed planning* and urban design are important in managing growth to ensure relevant resources are protected. *Infrastructure* in terms of services and a *transportation system* must be sustainably provided for to support growth.

Niagara is on the threshold of significant growth. A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019, as amended) requires Niagara to effectively prepare for a significant increase in population and employment to the year 2051. Niagara is expected to accommodate a minimum population of 694,000 and 272,000 jobs which will be shaped by the proactive growth management, community building, and other forward-thinking policies of this Plan. Proactive growth management will require this Plan to integrate with and inform key engineering and finance programs, including the Development Charges, Water and Wastewater Master Plan and Transportation Master Plan in order to ensure the necessary *infrastructure* is in place to accommodate growth.

The strategic policy direction of this Plan balances the input provided by individuals, agencies, boards, governments, First Nations, Indigenous communities, and organized interest groups. This input also shaped the creation of a vision and pillar statements that form the foundations of policy development. The vision sets a high-level statement of intent and direction and the pillar statements provide insight into the relationship between community values and policies and expected outcomes over the life of this Plan. Both pillar statements and policies are interconnected and must be considered holistically.

2051 Vision

Niagara is a region of distinct, vibrant and connected urban and rural communities. Niagara Region will support and grow a sustainable and diversified economy while providing exceptional quality of life for all, and protecting our beautiful natural landscape.



Pillar Statements

EXCEPTIONAL Development and Communities

Well-planned, high quality development in appropriate locations that improves our communities, while protecting what is valuable.

DIVERSE Housing Types, Jobs and Population

A wide mix of housing types and employment opportunities that attract diverse populations to Niagara across all ages, incomes and backgrounds.

THRIVING Economy

A prosperous agricultural industry and *employment areas* that provide jobs and grow our economy.

RESILIENT Urban and Natural Areas

Areas rich in biodiversity that mitigate and adapt to *climate change* while strengthening Niagara's ability to recover from extreme weather events.

1.1 Overview – Niagara Past, Present, and Future

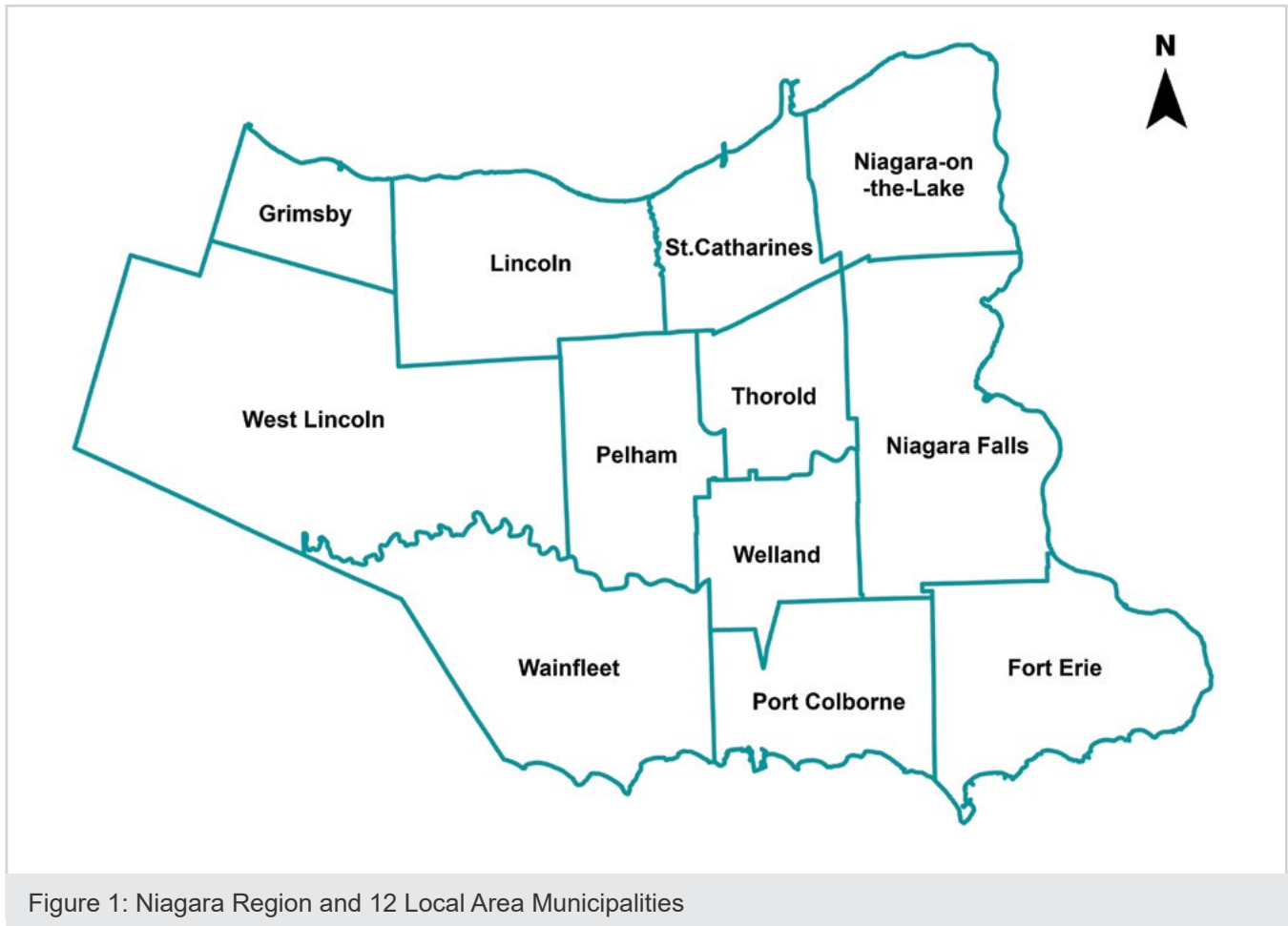


Figure 1: Niagara Region and 12 Local Area Municipalities

Formed in 1970¹, Niagara Region is composed of twelve Local Area Municipalities, comprising urban and rural communities, with a growing population of over 450,000 and a land base of about 1,854 square kilometres.

Niagara is a geographically distinct area of land bordered by Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and the Niagara River. The Niagara Escarpment, a renowned UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, is a prominent visual landmark and natural corridor transecting the region. The geographic areas of the region have an influence on climate, and, combined with the sand and silt soils of the Fonthill kame moraine and along the Lake Ontario plain, create unique areas for the growing of tender fruits and grapes.

¹ On June 26, 1969, the Province of Ontario enacted The Regional Municipality of Niagara Act. On January 1, 1970, twelve area municipal governments and one regional government replaced the two counties and twenty-six municipal structures.

Niagara's history spans more than 10,000 years, beginning with the Indigenous peoples who hunted, fished, foraged and lived sustainably on the lands. There remains evidence of the role the Loyalist migration resulting from the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and Underground Railroad played in how Niagara developed. Evidence of Niagara's rich history can be seen in the considerable number of historic trails, sites, buildings, and monuments that are located throughout the region.

Today, Niagara is a region of contrasts where you can find quaint main streets and animated downtown cores, scenic parkways and busy highways, legendary waterfalls and reflective parks, historic pageantry, the glitz of an entertainment district, world-class wineries, breweries and distilleries, as well as beautiful natural areas and vineyards. These attributes, together with Niagara's diverse economic base with major employment in the hospitality industry, manufacturing, agriculture, construction, service businesses, educational and medical facilities, and governments as well as recent GO Transit train connection to the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, make Niagara a desirable destination for growth. The challenge is managing growth sustainably to maintain and enhance all these attributes.



1.2 Planning Context

1.2.1 Legislative Basis

This Plan supersedes the Region's previous official plan. In 1973 the Region adopted a Regional Policy Plan with amendments throughout the 1970's to solidify urban boundaries. Further core amendments to address natural heritage protection and growth management were approved. It was in 2014 that the Regional Policy Plan was reformatted into an official plan.

An official plan is not intended to be a static document. In accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act, the Region is required to prepare and regularly update its official plan.

In 2017, Regional Council determined that a new official plan was needed and directed Regional staff to commence a multi-year comprehensive review.

The Planning Act requires that all official plans contain goals, objectives, and policies to manage and direct physical (land use) change and its effects on the cultural, social, economic, and natural environment within legislated boundaries. It is required to have policies and measures as are practicable to ensure among other matters: sufficient lands to accommodate growth; *climate change* mitigation and adaptation; the adequate provision of *affordable* housing; protection of the environment; the development of *complete communities*; and protection of *employment areas*, agriculture and resources.

This Plan was adopted by Regional Council on June 23, 2022. The Province is the approval authority for this Plan.

1.2.2 Plan Conformity

This Plan is a legal document. The Planning Act requires that all Regional and Local *public works projects*, Local official plans, amendments, land-use related by-laws, and all future *development* must conform to the approved Plan.

The Planning Act requires that Local official plans must be updated to conform to this Plan within one year of Provincial approval.

Under the Planning Act, the Region is the approval authority for Local official plan conformity. To assist Local Area Municipalities in updating their official plans for conformity, the Region will develop guidelines. Within this framework, Local official plans are to provide the detailed community planning goals, objectives, and policies that implement this Plan in a manner that reflects unique local needs and circumstances.

Land use planning is a shared responsibility between the Region and Local Area Municipalities. This responsibility is grounded in the idea that citizens are best served by effective Regional and Local municipal partnerships and collaboration, including the development and review of their respective official plans.

This Plan is required to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (2020), conform to the Growth Plan (2019, as amended) and Greenbelt Plan (2017), and not conflict with the Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017).

1.2.3 Plan Utilization

This Plan will be used by Regional Council and Local Area Municipalities relative to making planning decisions and updating Local official plans and zoning by-laws. This Plan will also be used by other government agencies, businesses, industry and private citizens in considering their own plans, investments, and programs.

1.3 How to Read the Plan

1.3.1 Relationship with Provincial Legislation

This Plan must be read in conjunction with the Provincial policy plans identified in Section 1.2.2.

This Plan builds upon the policy foundation provided by the Provincial legislation and provides additional and more specific land use planning policies to address issues facing Niagara.

The policies in Chapter 7 and Provincial policies and legislation will assist in interpreting this Plan.

1.3.2 Format

This Plan consists of policies, tables, comment boxes, maps, figures, schedules, appendices, and a Glossary of Terms. The schedules, tables and Glossary of Terms must be read in the context of the related policies. For the purpose of the Planning Act and the Municipal Act, Chapters 1 to 8 and the Glossary of Terms, inclusive of policies, schedules, and tables, shall be considered the Plan.

Comment boxes are included within this Plan to add context and clarification. Comment boxes are not part of the Plan and may be changed or updated from time to time by Regional Council without requiring an amendment to this Plan.

A leaf image can be found beside key policies located throughout chapters and sections of this Plan to highlight their relation to *climate change* adaptation and mitigation.

Changes to certain schedules may be made without an amendment to this Plan where permitted in policy. Appendices provide context for understanding policy application but are not part of this Plan and can be amended without an amendment.

Italicized terms contained in this Plan are included in the Glossary of Terms. Certain terms are used in this Plan for the purpose of achieving conformity with Provincial plans and policies. Defined terms are intended to capture both the singular and plural forms of these terms.

1.3.3 Horizon of this Plan

Where a specified planning horizon is required, this Plan uses the year 2051. However, in all planning decisions, it must be considered that land-use decisions may have an impact on the region I beyond this 30-year horizon. The objectives of this Plan are intended to be achieved within the horizon of this Plan. However, this Plan does not limit the planning for *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* beyond the horizon of the Plan.

1.3.4 Interpretation

It is important to consider the specific language of the policies. The choice of language is intended to distinguish between the types of policies and the nature of implementation.

Where the term “Region” is used, it refers to the Corporation of the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Where the term “region” is used, it refers to the geographical area comprising the Niagara Region.

Auxiliary verbs, such as “shall”/“will”, “should”, and “may” are used throughout this Plan. “Shall” implies that the policy directive is mandatory and requires full compliance. For example, “*prime agricultural land* and *specialty crop areas* shall be protected for long-term use for agriculture.” The term “will” is similar and requires the policy direction to be carried out. The term “should” implies that the policy is intended to be applied unless there is a good planning rationale. Other policies use enabling or supportive language, such as “may”, “promote”, and “encourage”, which implies that the policy is permissive and not mandatory or obligatory. There is some discretion when applying a policy with enabling or supportive language in contrast to a policy with a directive, limitation, or prohibition.

Enabling or supportive language in policies is not to be interpreted as committing Regional Council to any form of financial support or funding for their implementation.

1.3.5 Determining Applicability and Conformity

This Plan is intended to be read in its entirety. All policies must be considered together to determine applicability and conformity. Individual policies should not be read or interpreted in isolation. Relevant policies are to be applied to each situation. When more than one policy is relevant, a decision-maker should consider all of the relevant policies to understand how they work together. The language of each policy will assist in understanding how the policies are to be implemented.

While specific policies sometimes refer to other policies for ease of use, these cross-references do not take away from the need to read the Plan as a whole.

There is no implied priority in the order in which the policies appear, unless otherwise stated.

1.3.6 Policies Represent Minimum Standards

The policies of this Plan represent minimum standards. Decision-makers are encouraged to go beyond these minimum standards to address matters of importance, unless doing so would conflict with any policy of this Plan.

1.4 Organization of the Niagara Official Plan

The structure of the Plan includes eight chapters, a Glossary of Terms, schedules and appendices. Schedules of this Plan identify geographically where certain policies apply and are listed in the Table of Contents. Appendices, also listed in the Table of Contents, provide supplemental information to assist with policy understanding and implementation. Descriptions of the core chapters are as follows:

1.4.1 Chapter 1 – Making Our Mark

The introduction identifies Niagara’s planning context, provides a vision, pillar statements and directives upon which the Plan is based, the legislative basis of the Plan, a guide to reading the Plan and an outline of the Plan’s structure and organization.

1.4.2 Chapter 2 – Growing Region

Directive – Manage growth strategically and diversify the housing stock to accommodate all ages and incomes.

This chapter identifies how and where growth and *development* are to occur within Niagara. It identifies population and employment forecasts, land needs and the distribution of forecasted growth, as well as Niagara’s growth strategy. This chapter contains general policies that support residential *intensification*, *redevelopment*, and other enhancements to the supply of housing to address affordability in Niagara. *Settlement area* boundaries and *fringe land* planning are also addressed. There are several schedules and tables that must be read in conjunction with the policies.

1.4.3 Chapter 3 – Sustainable Region

Directive – Enhance the sustainability and resilience of Niagara’s built and natural environment.

This chapter outlines the policy framework that will enhance the sustainability and resilience of the Region’s built and natural environment. Policies and schedules for the integrated *natural environment system* and *watershed planning* provide for the protection of environmental features and *ecological functions* from adverse impacts. The policies of this chapter also give direction for *climate change* mitigation and adaptation, although *climate change* is also addressed throughout the Plan. This chapter also provides policy direction on *source water* protection, *excess soil* management and planning within the Niagara Escarpment.

1.4.4 Chapter 4 – Competitive Region

Directive – Plan and manage growth to position Niagara for economic prosperity.

This chapter focuses on the importance of a vital, competitive, and diverse economy, and a sound tax base to position Niagara for economic prosperity. Agricultural policies direct the protection and enhancement of Niagara’s vital agri-food sector. Employment policies identify and protect *employment areas*, establish density targets for *employment areas* and provide evaluation processes for converting existing or establishing future *employment areas*. Policies in this chapter also protect *mineral aggregate resources* and *petroleum resources* from incompatible land uses and provide for extraction while minimizing environmental and social impacts. The economic prosperity section captures policy direction from other chapters and sections, which can directly or indirectly assist in improving economic prosperity.

1.4.5 Chapter 5 – Connected Region

Directive – Provide connections within and between communities, and outside the region.

This chapter addresses Niagara’s *infrastructure*, transportation, services and trails and open spaces for existing and future needs. Policies direct for integrated planning and *development* and ensure capacity to support forecasted population and employment growth, financial sustainability and *climate change* resiliency. Transportation policies prioritize investments in public transit, the design and construction of *complete streets*, and *active transportation*. *Infrastructure* policies address the Region’s *infrastructure* needs relating to drinking water, wastewater, waste, energy, and *utility* services. Trails and open space policies ensure active and healthy connections within and between communities.

1.4.6 Chapter 6 – Vibrant Region

Directive – Elevate the livability and engaging qualities of communities, facilities and attractions.

This chapter focuses on elevating the livability of Niagara’s communities and introduces policies related to creating vibrant urban and rural places. District plans and secondary plans are identified as important tools to effectively and proactively manage growth through coordinated and comprehensive growth management planning within these defined areas. Urban design policies assist the Region in achieving a high-quality built environment through the design of the *built form* and mobility networks. Healthy community policies support the development of healthy, vibrant and safe communities. Cultural and archaeological heritage are also addressed in this chapter with policies directing for conservation of *cultural heritage resources* and early screening for *significant archaeological resources* as part of Planning Act applications.

1.4.7 Chapter 7 – Implementation

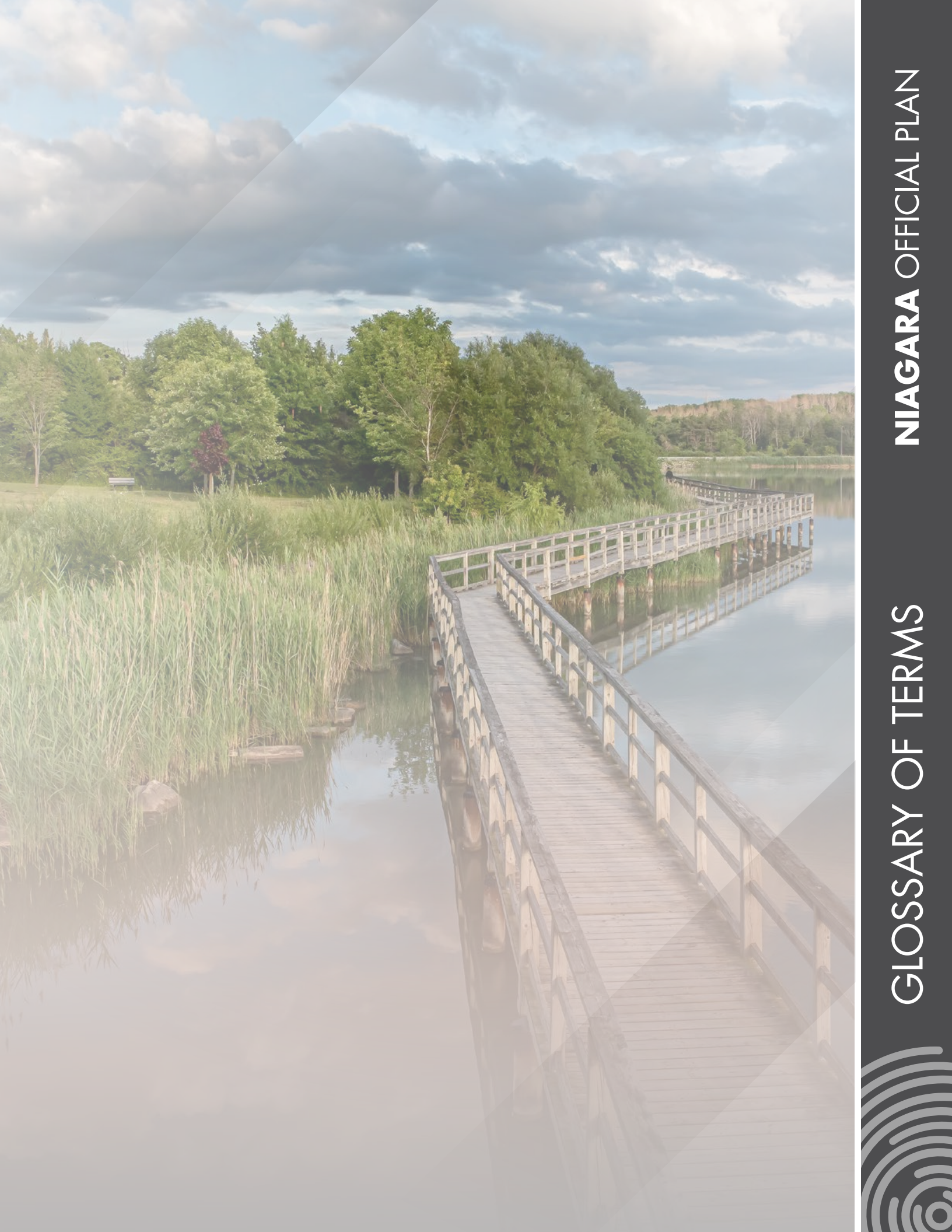
This chapter provides implementation policies that identify how the Plan is intended to be carried out to achieve the key directives, and focuses on identifying consultation requirements, performance indicators, monitoring, coordination of roles, complete applications, phasing, transition, as well as consultation policies.

1.4.8 Chapter 8 – Site Specific Policies

This chapter contains policies for site specific permitted land uses and *infrastructure* across the Region. These policies provide additional permissions for specific properties in Niagara Region, such as land use designations, permitted uses and *infrastructure*.

1.4.9 Glossary of Terms

The Glossary of Terms provides definitions of terms that are italicized within the Plan.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Active Transportation

Any form of self-propelled transportation that relies on the use of human energy such as walking, cycling, inline skating, jogging, or travel with the use of mobility aids, including motorized wheelchairs and other power-assisted devices at a comparable speed (Growth Plan, 2019).

Additional Residential Units

Self-contained residential units with kitchen and bathroom facilities located within a primary dwelling or within an accessory structure that is detached from the primary dwelling, as provided for in Subsection 16 (3) of the Planning Act, 1990.

Adjacent Lands

- a. For the purposes of Section 5.1, those lands contiguous to existing or *planned corridors* and transportation facilities where *development* would have a negative impact on the corridor or facility. The extent of the *adjacent lands* may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives;
- b. For the purposes of Section 3.1 and 3.2, those lands surrounding a *key natural heritage feature, natural heritage feature and area* and/or *key hydrologic feature* where it is likely that *development* or *site alteration* would have a negative impact on the feature;
- c. For the purposes of Section 4.4, those lands contiguous to lands on the surface of known *petroleum resources, mineral deposits, or deposits of mineral aggregate resources* where it is likely that *development* would constrain future access to the resources. The extent of the *adjacent lands* may be recommended by the Province; and
- d. For the purposes of section 6.4 and 6.5, those lands contiguous to a protected *heritage property* or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan (PPS, 2020).

Adverse Effects

As defined in the Environmental Protection Act, means one or more of:

- a. impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it;
- b. injury or damage to property or plant or animal life;
- c. harm or material discomfort to any person;
- d. an adverse effect on the health of any person;
- e. impairment of the safety of any person;
- f. rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for human use;
- g. loss of enjoyment of normal use of property; and
- h. interference with normal conduct of business (PPS, 2020).

Aerodrome

For the purposes of this Plan, means the Niagara Central Airport.

Affordable

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

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

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

- c. a unit for which the rent does not exceed 30 per cent of gross annual household income for *low and moderate income households*; or
- d. a unit for which the rent is at or below the average market rent of a unit in the regional market area (Growth Plan, 2019).

Agricultural Condition

- a. In regard to *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored, the same range and productivity of specialty crops common in the area can be achieved, and, where applicable, the microclimate on which the site and surrounding area may be dependent for specialty crop production will be maintained or restored; and
- b. In regard to *prime agricultural land* outside of *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored (PPS, 2020).

Agricultural Impact Assessment

A study that evaluates the potential impacts of non-agricultural development on agricultural operations and the agriculture system and recommends ways to avoid, or, if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Agriculture-Related Uses

Those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are directly related to farm operations in the area, support agriculture, benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations, and provide direct products and/or services to farm operations as a primary activity (PPS, 2020).

Agricultural Source Material

Treated or untreated materials, as defined by the Nutrient Management Act, other than compost that meets the Compost Guidelines, or a commercial fertilizer, if they are capable of being applied to land as nutrients.

Agricultural System

The system mapped and issued by the Province, comprised of a group of inter-connected elements that collectively create a viable, thriving agricultural sector. It has two components:

- a. an agricultural land base comprised of *prime agricultural areas*, including *specialty crop areas*, and *rural lands* that together create a continuous, productive land base for agriculture; and
- b. an *agri-food network*, which includes *infrastructure*, services and assets important to the viability of the agri-food sector (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Agricultural Uses

The growing of crops, including nursery, biomass, and horticultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, fur or fibre, including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agro-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures, including, but not limited to livestock facilities, manure storages, value-retaining facilities, and accommodation for full-time farm labour when the size and nature of the operation requires additional employment (PPS, 2020).

Agri-food Network

Within the *agricultural system*, a network that includes elements important to the viability of the agri-food sector such as Regional *infrastructure* and transportation networks; on-farm buildings and *infrastructure*; agricultural services, farm markets, distributors, and primary processing; and vibrant, agriculture-supportive communities (PPS, 2020).

Agri-Tourism Uses

Those farm-related tourism uses, including limited accommodation such as a bed and breakfast, that promote the enjoyment, education or activities related to the farm operation (PPS, 2020).

Airport

For the purposes of this Plan, means the Niagara District Airport.

Alternative Energy Systems

A system that uses sources of energy or energy conversion processes to produce power, heat and/or cooling that significantly reduces the amount of harmful emissions to the environment (air, earth and water) when compared to conventional energy systems (PPS, 2020).

Archaeological Resources

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

Archaeological Site

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

Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas with the likelihood to contain *archaeological resources*. Criteria to identify archaeological potential are established by the Province. The Ontario Heritage Act requires archaeological potential to be confirmed by a licensed archaeologist.

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)

Areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education (PPS, 2020).

Life Science ANSI means an area identified as being high quality example(s) of ecological form and function in each Ecodistrict in the province (provincially significant) and the region (regionally significant) and are generally defined by *natural heritage features* (e.g., a *woodland*, valley top of bank, etc.) and generally exclude anthropogenic land uses (e.g., residential areas / properties). Life Science ANSIs include areas identified as provincially significant and regionally significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.

Earth Science ANSI means an area that represent the best examples of geologic and geomorphic landforms and areas (e.g., a moraine) in each Ecodistrict in the province (provincially significant) and the region (regionally significant). They may encompass a single feature or a group of related features (e.g., a drumlin field). As geologic / geomorphic landforms, the overlying land use may include a composite of natural and anthropogenic uses (e.g., woodland, agricultural, rural residential, etc.). Earth Science ANSIs include areas identified as provincially significant and regionally significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.

Artifact

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

Attainable Housing

Rental or ownership housing provided by the market for *moderate income households* that are generally within the fifth and sixth income decile of the *regional market area*. *Attainable housing* can include dwelling types of various sizes, densities, and *built forms*, and is intended to provide individuals with the opportunity to access housing more suitable to their needs.

B

Bicycle Infrastructure

All *infrastructure* and facilities used for cycling, including bicycle routes (dedicated, buffered, and separated bike lanes, multi-use paths, and off-road trails), and trip end facilities such as bicycle parking and storage (e.g. bicycle racks and lockers).

Brownfields

Undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant (PPS, 2020).

Buffer

An area of land located adjacent to *natural heritage features and areas, other wetlands*, and watercourses and usually bordering lands that are subject to *development* or *site alteration*. The purpose of a *buffer* is to protect the features and areas and their *ecological functions* by mitigating impacts of the proposed *development* or *site alteration*. *Buffers* shall consist of *natural self-sustaining vegetation* as a condition of *development* (except where certain agricultural uses are exempt from the requirement of a *buffer*).

Built Form

The function, shape, and configuration of buildings, as well as their relationship to streets and open spaces.

Built-Up Areas

The limits of the developed urban areas as defined by the Minister in consultation with affected municipalities for the purpose of measuring the minimum intensification target in this Plan. *Built-up areas* are delineated in Schedule B.

C

Centreline

The centre of a right-of-way based on the original survey of the right-of-way.

Climate Change

Long-term changes in weather patterns at local and regional levels, including extreme weather events and increased climate variability.

Coastal Wetland

- a. Any wetland that is located on one of the Great Lakes or their connecting channels; or
- b. Any other *wetland* that is on a tributary to any of the above-specified water bodies and lies, either wholly or in part, downstream of a line located 2 km upstream of the 1:100 year floodline (plus wave run-up) of the large water body to which the tributary is connected (PPS, 2020).

Combined Sewers

A sewer designed to convey both sanitary sewage and storm water through a single pipe to a sewage treatment plant.

Community Housing

Housing owned and operated by non-profit housing corporations, housing co-operatives and municipal governments, or district social services administration boards. *Community housing* providers offer subsidized or low-end-of market rents.

Community Hubs

Locations that serve as central access points, which offer services in collaboration with different community agencies and service providers, reduce administrative duplication, and improve services for residents and are responsive to the needs of their communities.

Community Infrastructure

Lands, buildings, and structures that support the quality of life for people and communities by providing public services for health, education, recreation, socio-cultural activities, security and safety, and affordable housing.

Compact Built Form

A land-use pattern that encourages the efficient use of land, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed land uses (residential, retail, workplace and institutional) all within one neighbourhood, *active transportation*, proximity to transit and reduced need for *infrastructure*. *Compact built form* can include detached and semi-detached houses on small lots as well as townhouses and walk-up apartments, multi-storey commercial developments, and apartments or offices above retail. Walkable neighbourhoods can be characterized by roads laid out in a well-connected network, destinations that are easily accessible by transit and *active transportation*, sidewalks with minimal interruptions for vehicle access, and a pedestrian-friendly environment along roads to encourage active transportation.

Compatible

A *development*, building and/or land use that can co-exist or occur without conflict with surrounding land uses and activities in terms of its uses, scale, height, massing and relative location.

Complete Communities

Places such as mixed-use neighbourhoods or other areas within cities, towns, and *settlement areas* that offer and support opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to conveniently access most of the necessities for daily living, including an appropriate mix of jobs, local stores, and services, a full range of housing, transportation options and *public service facilities*. *Complete communities* are age-friendly and may take different shapes and forms appropriate to their contexts (Growth Plan, 2019).

Complete Streets

Streets that are planned to balance the needs of all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, transit-users, and motorists, and are designed for the safety of people of all ages and abilities.

Comprehensive Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of land from which *mineral aggregate resources* have been extracted that is coordinated and complementary, to the extent possible, with the rehabilitation of other sites in an area where there is a high concentration of *mineral aggregate operations* (PPS, 2020).

Connectivity

The degree to which *key natural heritage features, natural heritage features and areas* and/or *key hydrologic features* are connected to one another by links such as plant and animal movement corridors, hydrologic and nutrient cycling, genetic transfer and energy flow through food webs.

Conservation Authority

Refers to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and/or Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Conserved

The identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, *cultural heritage landscapes* and *archaeological resources* in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment that has been approved, accepted or adopted by the relevant planning authority and/or decision maker. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments.

Core Areas

An individual natural features and areas, or a group of features and areas in close proximity to each other (i.e., less than or equal to 30 m distance in *settlement areas*, less than or equal to 60 m distance outside of *settlement areas*) that have functional ecological connectivity (i.e., their proximity to each other supports *ecological functions*, such as *wildlife habitat*, exchange of genetic material, etc.).

Corporate Facilities

Facilities owned by the Region, such as administrative offices and related facilities. For the purpose of Section 3.5 of this Plan, corporate *facilities* does not include *water and wastewater facilities*.

Cultural and Regenerating Woodland

Woodlands where the *ecological functions* of the site are substantially compromised as a result of prior land use activity and would be difficult to restore and/or manage as a native *woodland* and which provide limited *ecological function* and ecosystem services.

Cultural Heritage Landscapes

A defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, *archaeological sites* or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association. *Cultural heritage* landscapes may be properties that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest under the Ontario Heritage Act or have been included on federal and/or international registers, and/or protected through official plan, zoning by-law, or other land use planning mechanisms (PPS, 2020).

Cultural Heritage Resources

Built heritage resources, *cultural heritage landscapes* and *archaeological resources* that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people. While some *cultural heritage resources* may already be identified and inventoried by official sources, the significance of others can only be determined after evaluation (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

D

Defined Portions of the Flooding Hazard Along Connecting Channels

Those areas which are critical to the conveyance of the flows associated with the one hundred year flood level along the St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, where *development* or *site alteration* will create *flooding hazards*, cause updrift and/or downdrift impacts and/or cause adverse environmental impacts.

Demand-Responsive Transit Service

Door-to-door transportation service which has flexible routing and scheduling, and can operate either as an “on-demand” service or a “fixed-schedule” service, such as airport shuttles or paratransit services for people with disabilities and older adults.

Deposits of Mineral Aggregate Resources

An area of identified *mineral aggregate resources*, as delineated in Aggregate Resource Inventory Papers or comprehensive studies prepared using evaluation procedures established by the Province for surficial and bedrock resources, as amended from time to time, that has a sufficient quantity and quality to warrant present or future extraction (PPS, 2020).

Designated Greenfield Areas

Lands within *urban areas* but outside of *built-up areas* that have been designated in an official plan for development and are required to accommodate forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan. *Designated greenfield areas* do not include *excess lands*, and are identified in Schedule B.

Designated Growth Areas

Lands within *settlement areas* designated in an official plan for growth over the long-term planning horizon provided in policy 1.1.2, but which have not yet been fully developed. *Designated growth areas* include lands which are designated and available for residential growth in accordance with policy 1.4.1(a), as well as lands required for employment and other uses (PPS, 2020).

Development

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

- a. activities that create or maintain *infrastructure* authorized under an environmental assessment process, including a Class Environmental Assessment, with the exception of lands designated as being within an Area of Development Control under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act; or
- b. works subject to the *Drainage Act*.

(Based on PPS, 2020 and modified for the Growth Plan, 2019).

Dynamic Beach Hazard

Areas of inherently unstable accumulations of shoreline sediments along *large inland lakes*, as identified by provincial standards, as amended from time to time. The *dynamic beach hazard* limit consists of the *flooding hazard* limit plus a dynamic beach allowance.

E

Ecological Function

The natural processes, products or services that living and non-living environments provide or perform within or between species, ecosystems and landscapes. These may include biological, physical and socio-economic interactions (PPS, 2020).

Ecological Integrity

Includes *hydrological integrity*, and means a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes.

Ecological Value

The value of *ecological functions* performed by *natural heritage features and areas*, *key natural heritage features*, *key hydrologic features* and *key hydrologic areas* to the native biodiversity and *wildlife habitats*. These functions include, but are not limited to, providing cover and refuge; breeding, nesting, denning, and nursery areas; corridors for wildlife movement; food chain support; and natural water storage, natural flow attenuation, and water quality improvement, which enhances habitat for wildlife and biodiversity.

Employment Areas

Areas designated in an official plan for clusters of business and economic activities including, but not limited to manufacturing, warehousing, offices, and associated retail and ancillary facilities (PPS, 2020).

Employment Land

Lands that are designated in Local official plans or zoning by-laws for employment uses. *Employment lands* may be within and outside of *employment areas*.

Endangered Species

A species that is classified as “Endangered Species” on the Species at Risk in Ontario List, as updated and amended from time to time.

Enhancement Areas

Ecologically supporting areas adjacent to *natural heritage features and areas*, *key natural heritage features*, and *key hydrologic features*. *Enhancement areas* can also be measures internal to features that increase the ecological *resilience* and function of individual features or groups of natural features and areas. *Enhancements areas* are identified where they:

- connect natural features and areas to create larger contiguous natural areas;
- reduce edge habitat and increase proportion of interior conditions (greater than 100 m from edge); and
- include critical function zones and important catchment areas critical to sustaining *ecological functions*.

Environmental Impact Study

A science-based study of ecological features and functions, and impacts to those features and functions resulting from *development* and/or *site alteration*, prepared in accordance with the Region's *environmental impact study* guidelines.

The purpose of an *environmental impact study* is to:

- collect and evaluate the appropriate information in order to have a complete understanding of the boundaries, attributes, and functions of components of the *Natural Environment System*;
- determine whether there are any additional components;
- undertake a comprehensive impact analysis;
- propose appropriate mitigation measures;
- clearly articulate any impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated;
- where appropriate, recommend monitoring provisions;
- consider *climate change*, cumulative and/or watershed impacts where possible; and
- demonstrate that ecological enhancement to the *Natural Environment System* is achieved.

Erosion Hazard

The loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property. The *erosion hazard* limit is determined using considerations that include the 100 year erosion rate (the average annual rate of recession extended over a one hundred year time span), an allowance for slope stability, and an erosion/erosion access allowance.

Essential Emergency Services

Services that would be impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of floodproofing measures and/or protection works, and/or erosion.

Excess Lands

Vacant, unbuilt but developable lands within *settlement areas* but outside of *built-up areas* that have been designated in an official plan for development but are in excess of what is needed to accommodate forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan (Growth Plan, 2019).

Excess Soil

Soil, or soil mixed with rock that has been excavated as part of a project and removed from the project area for the project as defined under O.Reg. 406/19 under the Environmental Protection Act.

Existing Uses

(Greenbelt Plan Area only): uses legally established prior to the date that the Greenbelt Plan came into force on December 16, 2004; or for the purposes of lands added to the Greenbelt Plan after December 16, 2004, uses legally established prior to the date the Greenbelt Plan came into force in respect of the land on which the uses are established.

(Niagara Escarpment Plan Area Only): shall have the same definition as “existing uses” in the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

F

Fish

As defined in the Fisheries Act, includes fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and marine animals, at all stages of their life cycles.

Fish Habitat

As defined in the Fisheries Act, means spawning grounds and any other areas, including nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which 'fish' depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes (PPS, 2020).

Flood Fringe

For *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means the outer portion of the *floodplain* between the *floodway* and the *flooding hazard* limit. Depths and velocities of flooding are generally less severe in the *flood fringe* than those experienced in the *floodway*.

Flooding Hazards

The inundation, under the conditions specified below, of areas adjacent to a shoreline or a river or stream system and not ordinarily covered by water:

- a. along the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System and *large inland lakes*, the *flooding hazard* limit is based on the *one hundred year flood level* plus an allowance for *wave uprush* and *other water-related hazards*;
- b. along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, the *flooding hazard* limit is the greater of:
 - i. the flood resulting from the rainfall actually experienced during a major storm such as the Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or the Timmins storm (1961), transposed over a specific *watershed* and combined with the local conditions, where evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over *watersheds* in the general area;
 - ii. the *one hundred year flood*; and

- iii. a flood which is greater than one or two. which was actually experienced in a particular *watershed* or portion thereof as a result of ice jams and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry;

except where the use of the *one hundred year flood* or the actually experienced event has been approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry as the standard for a specific *watershed* (where the past history of flooding supports the lowering of the standard) (PPS, 2020).

Floodplains

For *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means the area, usually low lands adjoining a *watercourse*, which has been or may be subject to *flooding hazards* (PPS, 2020).

Floodproofing Standard

The combination of measures incorporated into the basic design and/or construction of buildings, structures, or properties to reduce or eliminate *flooding hazards, wave uprush* and *other water-related hazards* along the shorelines of *large inland lakes*, and *flooding hazards* along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*.

Floodway

For *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means the portion of the *floodplain* where *development* and *site alteration* would cause a danger to public health and safety or property damage. Where the *one zone concept* is applied, the *floodway* is the entire contiguous *floodplain*. Where the *two zone concept* is applied, the *floodway* is the contiguous inner portion of the *floodplain*, representing that area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or that area where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to be such that they pose a potential threat to life and/or property damage. Where the *two zone concept* applies, the outer portion of the *floodplain* is called the *flood fringe* (PPS, 2020).

Freight-Supportive

In regard to land use patterns, means *transportation systems* and facilities that facilitate the movement of goods. This includes policies or programs intended to support efficient freight movement through the planning, design and operation of land use and *transportation systems*. Approaches may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives (PPS, 2020).

Frequent Transit Service

A public transit service that runs at least every 15 minutes in both directions throughout the day and into the evening every day of the week.

Fringe Lands

The area between the agricultural/rural countryside and the built-up city/suburbs. It can further be described as the edge of the urban region where patterns of building development and non-development interweave. The urban fringe is often an area with contrasting land uses and compatibility conflicts.

G

Green Infrastructure

Natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes. *Green infrastructure* can include components such as *natural heritage features and systems*, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs.

Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System

The *natural heritage system* mapped and issued by the Province in accordance with the Greenbelt Plan.

Greyfield Sites

Previously developed properties that are not contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict, or vacant (Growth Plan, 2019).

Groundwater Feature

Water-related features in the earth's subsurface including recharge/discharge areas, water tables, aquifers and unsaturated zones that can be defined by surface and subsurface hydrogeological investigations (PPS, 2020).

H

Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species

Habitat within the meaning of Section 2 of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (PPS, 2020).

Hazardous Forest Types for Wildland Fire

Forest types assessed as being associated with the risk of high to extreme wildland fire using risk assessment tools established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as amended from time to time.

Hazardous Lands

Property or lands that could be unsafe for *development* due to naturally occurring processes. Along the shorelines of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System, this means the land, including that covered by water, between the international boundary, where applicable, and the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard*, *erosion hazard* or *dynamic beach hazard* limits. Along the shorelines of *large inland lakes*, this means the land, including that covered by water, between a defined offshore distance or depth and the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard*, *erosion hazard* or *dynamic beach hazard* limits. Along *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, this means the land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard* or *erosion hazard limits* (PPS, 2020).

Hazardous Sites

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

Hazardous Substances

Substances which, individually, or in combination with other substances, are normally considered to pose a danger to public health, safety and the environment. These substances generally include a wide array of materials that are toxic, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or pathological.

Heritage Attributes

The principal features or elements that contribute to a *protected heritage property's* cultural heritage value or interest, and may include the property's built, constructed, or manufactured elements, as well as natural landforms, vegetation, water features, and its visual setting (e.g. significant views or vistas to or from a *protected heritage property*) (PPS 2020).

Higher Order Transit

Transit that generally operates in partially or completely dedicated rights-of-way, outside of mixed traffic, and therefore can achieve levels of speed and reliability greater than mixed-traffic transit. *Higher order transit* can include heavy rail (such as subways and inter-city rail), light rail, and buses in dedicated rights-of-way (Growth Plan, 2019).

Highly Vulnerable Aquifers

Aquifers, including lands above the aquifers, on which external sources have or are likely to have a significant adverse effect (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Hydrological Evaluation

A science-based study of hydrologic features and areas, and impacts to those features and hydrologic functions resulting from *development* and/or *site alteration*.

The purpose of a *hydrologic evaluation* is to:

- collect and evaluate the appropriate information in order to have a complete understanding of the boundaries, attributes of permanent and *intermittent streams, inland lakes and their littoral zones, seepage areas and springs, wetlands, groundwater features, surface water features, floodplains, flooding hazards, floodways, shoreline areas, and related hydrologic functions*;
- determine whether there are any additional *hydrologic features* and areas;

- assess the significance and sensitivity of hydrologic features and their *hydrologic functions*;
- undertake a comprehensive impact analysis;
- propose appropriate mitigation measures;
- identify planning, design and construction practices that will maintain and, where possible, enhance or restore the health, diversity and size of the *hydrologic feature and functions* and its connectivity with other hydrologic features, *natural heritage features and areas* and *key natural heritage features*;
- clearly articulate any impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated;
- where appropriate, recommend monitoring provisions to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the identified mitigation measures; and
- consider *climate change*, cumulative and/or *watershed* impacts where possible

Hydrologic Functions

The functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, and water's interaction with the environment including its relation to living things (PPS, 2020).

Individual On-Site Sewage Service

Sewage systems, as defined in O. Reg. 332/12 under the Building Code Act, that are owned, operated and managed by the owner of the property upon which the system is located.

Individual On-Site Water Service

Individual, autonomous water supply systems that are owned, operated and managed by the owner of the property upon which the system is located.

Industrial Effluent System

Systems which convey and discharge the by-product from an industrial process that can contain contaminants from non-domestic wastes.

Infrastructure

Physical structures (facilities and corridors) that form the foundation for development.

Infrastructure includes: sewage and water systems, septage treatment systems, stormwater management systems, *waste management systems*, electricity generation facilities, electricity transmission and distribution systems, communications/telecommunications, transit and transportation corridors and facilities, oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

Inland Lakes and their Littoral Zones

Any inland body of permanently standing water larger than a pool or pond or a body of water filling a depression in the earth's surface, where their water levels and hydrologic functions are not directly influenced by either Lake Erie or Lake Ontario.

Inland lakes do not include storm water management ponds, ponds constructed for irrigation purposes, such as those on a golf course or used for agriculture, lakes that have been constructed and managed with the sole purpose of supporting essential infrastructure, and where their *ecological function* is not a consideration in their management.

Institutional Use

Include uses such as government buildings, hospital, schools, churches, cemetery uses.

For the purposes of Section 3.1 of this Plan, means land uses where there is a threat to the safe evacuation of vulnerable populations such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and those who are sick or young, during an emergency as a result of flooding, failure of floodproofing measures or protection works, or erosion.

Intake Protection Zone

An area as delineated in Schedule E of this Plan and in the Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area that surrounds a municipal surface water intake and within which it is desirable to regulate or monitor drinking water threats. Where a conflict in mapping arises, the Source Protection Plan shall prevail.

Intensification

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

- a. *redevelopment*, including the reuse of brownfields;
- b. the development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas;
- c. *infill development*; and
- d. the expansion or conversion of existing buildings. (PPS, 2020)

Interface

The physical relationship between two or more uses, such as, a building and street. It is the intent of urban design to reinforce this relationship and increase its impacts positively on the *public realm*.

Intermittent Stream

Stream-related watercourses that contain water or are dry at times of the year that are more or less predictable, generally flowing during wet seasons of the year but not the entire year, and where the water table is above the stream bottom during parts of the year (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

K

Key Hydrologic Areas

Significant groundwater recharge areas, highly vulnerable aquifers, and significant surface water contribution areas that are necessary for the ecological and hydrologic integrity of a *watershed* (Growth Plan, 2019).

Key Hydrologic Features

Permanent streams, intermittent streams, inland lakes and their littoral zones, seepage areas and springs, and wetlands (Growth Plan, 2019).

Key Natural Heritage Features

Habitat of endangered species and threatened species; fish habitat; wetlands; life science areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSIs), significant valleylands, significant woodlands; significant wildlife habitat (including habitat of special concern species); sand barrens, savannahs, and tallgrass prairies; and alvars (Growth Plan, 2019).

L

Lake

Any inland body of standing water, usually fresh water, larger than a pool or pond or a body of water filling a depression in the earth's surface.

Landform Features

Distinctive physical attributes of land such as slope, shape, elevation and relief.

Large Inland Lakes

Those waterbodies having a surface area of equal to or greater than 100 square kilometres where there is not a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

Lateral Connection

The point at which a sewer or water line coming out from homes and businesses connects to the municipal sewer or water line.

Legal or Technical Reasons

Severances for purposes such as easements, corrections of deeds, quit claims, and minor boundary adjustments, which do not result in the creation of a new lot (PPS, 2020).

Linkages

An area, that may or may not be associated with the presence of existing natural features and areas, that provides and maintains ecological connectivity between core areas consisting of natural features and areas, and supports a range of community and ecosystem processes enabling plants and animals to move among *natural heritage features*, in some cases over multiple generations, thereby supporting the long-term sustainability of the overall *natural environment system*.

Local Growth Centres and Corridors

Established areas, outside of *strategic growth areas*, that will be the focus for growth within Area Municipalities and the preferred location for public and private investment. *Local growth centres and corridors* will vary in size, nature and character, and may include traditional downtown cores and key mixed use areas and areas of *intensification* along transit corridors.

Low and Moderate Income Households

In the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 per cent of the income distribution for the *regional market area*; or in the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 per cent of the income distribution for renter households for the *regional market area* (Growth Plan, 2019).

Low Impact Development

An approach to stormwater management that seeks to manage rain and other precipitation as close as possible to where it falls to mitigate the impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution. It typically includes a set of site design strategies and distributed, small-scale structural practices to mimic the natural hydrology to the greatest extent possible through infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration, and detention of stormwater. *Low impact development* can include, for example: bio-swales, vegetated areas at the edge of paved surfaces, permeable pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, and exfiltration systems. *Low impact development* often employs vegetation and soil in its design, however, that does not always have to be the case and the specific form may vary considering local conditions and community character (Growth Plan, 2019).

M

Major Facilities

Facilities which may require separation from sensitive land uses, including but not limited to airports, manufacturing uses, transportation *infrastructure* and corridors, *rail facilities*, *marine facilities*, sewage treatment facilities, *waste management systems*, oil and gas pipelines, industries, energy generation facilities and transmission systems, and resource extraction activities (PPS, 2020).

Major Goods Movement Facilities and Corridors

Transportation facilities and corridors associated with the inter- and intra-provincial movement of goods. Examples include: inter-modal facilities, ports, airports, *rail facilities*, truck terminals, freight corridors, freight facilities, and haul routes and primary transportation corridors used for the movement of goods. Approaches that are freight-supportive may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives (PPS, 2020).

Major Institutional Uses

Major trip generators that provide essential services for every stage of life and benefit from being close to urban services and amenities. Generally, *major institutional uses* are considered post-secondary institutions (i.e., colleges, universities, and trade schools), health care facilities and research centres (i.e., hospitals); and corporate government headquarters.

Major Office Use

Freestanding office buildings of approximately 4,000 square metres of floor space or greater, or with 200 jobs or more (Growth Plan, 2019).

Major Recreational Use

(Greenbelt Plan area only): a recreational use that requires large-scale modification of terrain, vegetation or both and usually also requires large-scale buildings or structures, including but not limited to the following: golf courses; serviced playing fields; serviced campgrounds; and ski hills.

Major Retail / Major Commercial Uses

Large-scale or large-format stand-alone retail stores or retail centres that have the primary purpose of commercial activities.

Major Transit Station Areas

The area including and around any existing or planned *higher order transit station* or stop within a *settlement area*; or the area including and around a major bus depot in an urban core. *Major transit station areas* generally are defined as the area within an approximate 500 to 800 metre radius of a transit station, representing about a 10-minute walk, and include protected *major transit station areas* (Growth Plan, 2019).

Major Trip Generators

Origins and destinations with high population densities or concentrated activities which generate many trips (e.g., *urban growth centres* and other downtowns, *major office* and *office parks*, *major retail / major commercial*, *employment areas*, *community hubs*, large parks and recreational destinations, post-secondary institutions and other *public service facilities*, and other mixed-use areas).

Marine Facilities

Ferries, harbours, ports, ferry terminals, canals and associated uses, including designated lands for future *marine facilities* (PPS, 2020).

Mine Hazards

Any feature of a mine as defined under the Mining Act, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated (PPS 2020).

Minerals

Metallic minerals and non-metallic minerals as herin defined, but does not include *mineral aggregate resources* or *petroleum resources*.

Metallic minerals means those minerals from which metals (e.g. copper, nickel, gold) are derived.

Non-metallic minerals means those minerals that are of value for intrinsic properties of the minerals themselves and not as a source of metal. They are generally synonymous with industrial minerals (e.g. asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, and wollastonite) (PPS, 2020).

Mineral Aggregate Operation

- a. Lands under license or permit, other than for wayside pits and quarries, issued in accordance with the *Aggregate Resources Act*;
- b. For lands not designated under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, established pits and quarries that are not in contravention of municipal zoning by-laws and including adjacent land under agreement with or owned by the operator, to permit continuation of the operation; and
- c. Associated facilities used in extraction, transport, beneficiation, processing or recycling of *mineral aggregate resources* and derived products such as asphalt and concrete, or the production of secondary related products (PPS, 2020).

Mineral Aggregate Resources

Gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock or other material prescribed under the *Aggregate Resources Act* suitable for construction, industrial, manufacturing and maintenance purposes but does not include metallic ores, asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, wollastonite, mine tailings or other material prescribed under the *Mining Act* (PPS, 2020).

Mineral Deposits

Areas of identified *minerals* that have sufficient quantity and quality based on specific geological evidence to warrant present or future extraction (PPS, 2020).

Mineral Mining Operation

Mining operations and associated facilities, or, past producing mines with remaining mineral development potential that have not been permanently rehabilitated to another use (PPS, 2020).

Minimum Distance Separation Formulae

The formulae and guidelines developed by the Province, as amended from time to time, to separate uses so as to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities. (PPS, 2020).

Multimodal

The availability or use of more than one form of transportation, such as automobiles, walking, cycling, buses, rapid transit, rail (such as commuter and freight), trucks, air, and marine (Growth Plan, 2019).

Multimodal Transportation System

A transportation system which may include several forms of transportation such as automobiles, walking, trucks, cycling, buses, rapid transit, rail (such as commuter and freight), air and marine (PPS, 2020).

Municipal Comprehensive Review

A new official plan, or an official plan amendment, initiated by the Region under Section 26 of the Planning Act, 1990 that comprehensively applies Provincial policies and plans and the applicable policies of this Plan.

Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems/Services

Municipal water systems/services are all or part of a drinking-water system:

- a. that is owned by a municipality or by a municipal service board established under section 195 of the Municipal Act, 2001;
- b. that is owned by a corporation established under section 203 of the Municipal Act, 2001;
- c. from which a municipality obtains or will obtain water under the terms of a contract between the municipality and the owner of the system; or
- d. that is in a prescribed class of municipal drinking-water systems as defined in regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002.

And, municipal wastewater systems/services are any sewage works owned or operated by a municipality.

N

Natural Environment System

An ecologically integrated system made up of the *Provincial natural heritage systems, natural heritage features and areas, other wetlands, key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, key hydrologic areas, shoreline areas, hydrologic functions, supporting features and areas, hazardous lands, and linkages* intended to provide connectivity and support natural processes which are necessary to maintain biological and hydrological diversity, *ecological functions*, ecosystem services, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems.

Natural Heritage Features and Areas

Features and areas, including *significant wetlands, significant coastal wetlands, other coastal wetlands, fish habitat, significant woodlands, significant valleylands, habitat of endangered species and threatened species, significant wildlife habitat, and significant areas of natural and scientific interest*, which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area (modified from PPS, 2020). For the purposes of this definition, *natural heritage features and areas* includes *other woodlands, earth science areas of natural and scientific interest* (provincial and regional), and *life science areas of natural and scientific interest* (provincial and regional).

Natural Heritage System

A system made up of *natural heritage features and areas, wetlands, and linkages* intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level) and support natural processes which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. These systems can include *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features*, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, other natural heritage features and areas, lands that have been restored or have the potential to be restored to a natural state, associated areas that support *hydrologic functions*, and working landscapes that enable *ecological functions* to continue.

Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan

The *natural heritage system* mapped and issued by the Province in accordance with the Growth Plan.

Natural Self-Sustaining Vegetation

Vegetation dominated by native plant species that can grow and persist without direct human management, protection, or tending.

Negative Impacts

- a. In regard to water, degradation to the quality or quantity of surface or groundwater, *key hydrologic features* or *vulnerable* areas and their related *hydrologic functions*, due to single, multiple or successive *development* or *site alteration activities*;
- b. In regard to *fish habitat*, any permanent alteration to, or destruction of *fish habitat*, except where, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, it has been authorized under the *Fisheries Act*; and
- c. In regard to other *natural heritage features and areas*, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or *ecological functions* for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive *development* or *site alteration* activities (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Net-Zero

Either emitting no greenhouse gas emissions or offsetting emissions through actions such as tree planting that capture carbon before it is released into the air.

Niagara Economic Centre

Settlement areas conceptually depicted on Schedules 2, 5, and 6 of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 that, due to their proximity to major international border crossings, have unique economic importance to the region and Ontario.

Niagara Economic Gateway

The total geographic area of the local municipalities a part of the *Niagara Economic Centre* or *Niagara Economic Zone*.

Niagara Economic Zone

Settlement areas within the zone that is conceptually depicted on Schedules 2, 5, and 6 of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019, that, due to their proximity to major international border crossings, have unique economic importance to the region and Ontario.

Normal Farm Practices

A practice, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, 1998, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances; or makes use of innovative technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices. *Normal farm* practices shall be consistent with the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 and regulations made under that Act (PPS, 2020).

O

Office Parks

Employment areas or areas where there are significant concentrations of offices with high employment densities (Growth Plan, 2019).

Oil, Gas, and Salt Hazards

Any feature of a well or work as defined under the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act, or any related disturbance of the ground that has not been rehabilitated (PPS, 2020).

One Hundred Year Flood

For *river, stream and small inland lake systems*, means that flood, based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period of 100 years on average, or having a one percent chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year.

One Hundred Year Flood Level

- a. For the shorelines of the Great Lakes, the peak instantaneous stillwater level, resulting from combinations of mean monthly *lake* levels and wind setups, which has a one per cent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year;
- b. In the connecting channels (St. Mary's, St. Clair, Detroit, Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers), the peak instantaneous stillwater level which has a one per cent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year; and
- c. For large *inland lakes*, *lake* levels and wind setups that have a one per cent chance of being equalled or exceeded in any given year, except that, where sufficient water level records do not exist, the *one hundred year flood level* is based on the highest known water level and wind setups.

On-Farm Diversified Uses

On a farm; secondary use; limited in area; includes, but is not limited to, home occupations, home industries, agri-tourism uses and value-added uses; compatible with surrounding agricultural operations.

Other Water-Related Hazards

Water-associated phenomena other than *flooding hazards* and *wave uprush* which act on shorelines. This includes, but is not limited to ship-generated waves, ice piling and ice jamming.

Other Wetlands

Lands that meet the definition of a *wetland*, and which have not been evaluated as a *provincially significant wetland*.

Other Woodlands

Woodlands determined to be ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation, or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or *natural heritage system*. *Other woodlands* include all terrestrial treed vegetation communities where the percent tree cover is greater than 25 per cent. *Other woodlands* would not include *woodlands* meeting the criteria as *significant woodlands*.

P

Permanent Streams

Watercourses that contain water during all times of the year.

Petroleum Resource Operation

Oil, gas and salt wells and associated facilities and other drilling operations, oil field fluid disposal wells and associated facilities, and wells and facilities for the underground storage of natural gas and other hydrocarbons (PPS, 2020).

Petroleum Resources

Oil, gas, and salt (extracted by solution mining method) and formation water resources which have been identified through exploration and verified by preliminary drilling or other forms of investigation. This may include sites of former operations where resources are still present or former sites that may be converted to underground storage for natural gas or other hydrocarbons (PPS, 2020).

Place-Making

The purposeful planning, and design of buildings, *public realm*, and *transportation systems* to achieve attachment to a place.

Planned Corridors

Corridors or future corridors which are required to meet projected needs, and are identified through this Plan, preferred alignment(s) determined through the Environmental Assessment Act process, or identified through planning studies where the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, Metrolinx, or Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) or any successor to those Ministries or entities, is actively pursuing the identification of a corridor. Approaches for the protection of *planned corridors* may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province (Growth Plan, 2019).

Portable Asphalt Plant

A facility:

- a. with equipment designed to heat and dry aggregate and to mix aggregate with bituminous asphalt to produce asphalt paving material, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b. which is not of permanent construction, but which is to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project (PPS, 2020).

Portable Concrete Plant

A building or structure:

- a. with equipment designed to mix cementing materials, aggregate, water and admixtures to produce concrete, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b. which is not of permanent construction, but which is designed to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project (PPS, 2020).

Prime Agricultural Area

Areas where *prime agricultural lands* predominate. This includes areas of *prime agricultural lands* and associated Canada Land Inventory Class 4 through seven lands, and additional areas where there is a local concentration of farms which exhibit characteristics of ongoing agriculture. *Prime agricultural areas* may be identified by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food using guidelines developed by the Province as amended from time to time. A *prime agricultural area* may also be identified through an alternative agricultural land evaluation system approved by the Province (PPS, 2020).

Prime Agricultural Land

Specialty crop areas and/or Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands, as amended from time to time, in this order of priority for protection (PPS, 2020).

Protected Heritage Property

Property designated under Parts IV, V or VI of the Ontario Heritage Act; property subject to a heritage conservation easement under Parts II or IV of the Ontario Heritage Act; property identified by the Province and prescribed public bodies as provincial heritage property under the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties; property protected under federal legislation, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites (PPS, 2020).

Protected Major Transit Station Area

The area surrounding and including an existing or planned *higher order transit* station or stop as identified on Schedule B to this Plan.

Provincial and Federal Requirements

- a. In regard to Section 3.1.12 of this Plan, legislation and policies administered by the federal or provincial governments for the purpose of fisheries protection (including *fish* and *fish habitat*), and related, scientifically established standards such as water quality criteria for protecting lake trout populations; and
- b. In regard to Section 3.1.13 of this Plan, legislation and policies administered by the provincial government or federal government, where applicable, for the purpose of protecting species at risk and their habitat.

Provincial Natural Heritage System

Collectively the *Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan* and the *Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage system*.

Provincially Significant Employment Zones

Areas defined by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in consultation with affected municipalities for the purpose of long-term planning for job creation and economic development. Provincially *significant employment zones* can consist of *employment areas* as well as mixed-use areas that contain a significant number of jobs (Growth Plan, 2019).

Provincially Significant Wetlands

Those *wetlands* identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time (PPS, 2020).

Public Realm

The publicly owned places and spaces that are accessible by everyone. These can include municipal streets, lanes, squares, plazas, sidewalks, trails, parks, open spaces, waterfronts, public transit systems, conservation areas, and civic buildings and institutions.

Public Service Facilities

Lands, buildings and structures for the provision of programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other body, such as social assistance, recreation, police and fire protection, health and educational programs, long-term care services, and cultural services. *Public service facilities* do not include *infrastructure* (PPS, 2020).

Public Works Projects

Construction projects, such as roads, highways or dams, bridges and waterworks financed by public funds and constructed by or under contract with the Region or Local municipality for the benefit or use of the public.

Q

Quality and Quantity of Water

Measured by indicators associated with hydrologic function such as minimum base flow, depth to water table, aquifer pressure, oxygen levels, suspended solids, temperature, bacteria, nutrients and hazardous contaminants, and hydrologic regime

Quaternary Watershed

A watershed with a drainage area that is between 62 km² and 870 km² that drains into a *tertiary watershed*. There are 12 quaternary watersheds in Niagara:

- Fifteen and Sixteen Mile Creeks
- Four Mile Creek and NOTL
- Jordan Harbour -Twenty Mile Creek
- Twelve Mile Creek
- Welland Canal North
- Welland Canal South
- West Lake Ontario Shoreline
- Niagara River North
- Niagara River South
- Welland River East
- Welland River West
- Northeast Lake Erie Shoreline

R

Rail Facilities

Rail corridors, rail sidings, train stations, inter-modal facilities, rail yards and associated uses, including designated lands for future rail facilities (PPS, 2020).

Redevelopment

The creation of new units, uses or lots on previously developed land in existing communities, including *brownfield sites*.

Regional Market Area

An area that has a high degree of social and economic interaction. The boundaries of the Niagara Region will serve as the *regional market area* for the purposes of assessing housing market conditions.

Renewable Energy System

A system that generates electricity, heat and/or cooling from a renewable energy source.

For the purposes of this definition:

A renewable energy source is an energy source that is renewed by natural processes and includes wind, water, biomass, biogas, biofuel, solar energy, geothermal energy and tidal forces (PPS, 2020).

Residence Surplus to a Farming Operation

An existing habitable farm residence that is rendered surplus as a result of farm consolidation (the acquisition of additional farm parcels to be operated as one farm operation) (PPS, 2020).

Resilience

The ability to withstand, adapt to, or efficiently recover from, exposure to the negative effects of exogenous and endogenous shocks.

Risk Management Official

A person appointed under Part IV of the Clean Water Act, 2006, by the Council of a municipality that has authority to pass by-laws respecting water production, treatment, and storage under the Municipal Act, 2001 (Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Source Protection Area).

River, Stream and Small Inland Lake Systems

All watercourses, rivers, streams, and small *inland lakes* or waterbodies that have a measurable or predictable response to a single runoff event.

Rural Areas

A system of lands within local municipalities that may include *rural settlements*, *rural lands*, *prime agricultural areas*, *natural heritage features and areas*, and resource areas (PPS, 2020).

Rural Lands

Lands which are located outside *settlement areas* and which are outside *prime agricultural areas* (PPS, 2020).

Rural Settlements

Communities located in *rural areas*, as delineated on Schedule B of the Niagara Official Plan, that are serviced by individual private on-site water and/or private wastewater systems, contain a limited amount of undeveloped lands that are designated for development, and are to accommodate limited growth. All *settlement areas* that are identified as hamlets in the Greenbelt Plan, or as minor urban centres in the Niagara Escarpment Plan are considered *rural settlements* for the purposes of this Plan, including those that would not otherwise meet this definition.

S

Seepage Areas and Springs

Sites of emergence of groundwater where the water table is present at the ground surface (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Sense of Place

The emotional attachments, meanings and identities people develop or experience in particular locations and environments. It is also used to describe the distinctiveness or unique character of a place.

Sensitive

In regard to *surface water features* and *groundwater features*, means areas that are particularly susceptible to impacts from activities or events including, but not limited to, water withdrawals, and additions of pollutants (PPS, 2020).

Sensitive Land Uses

Buildings, amenity areas, or outdoor spaces where routine or normal activities occurring at reasonably expected times would experience one or more adverse effects from contaminant discharges generated by a nearby *major facility*. *Sensitive land uses* may be a part of the natural or built environment. Examples may include, but are not limited to: residences, day care centres, and educational and health facilities (PPS, 2020).

Setback

A physical separation that forms a boundary by establishing an exact distance from a fixed point, such as a property line, an adjacent structure, or a natural feature, within which *development* and/or *site alteration* is prohibited in accordance with the policies of the Conservation Authority.

Settlement Areas

Urban areas and *rural settlements* within local municipalities (such as cities, towns, villages and hamlets) that are:

- a. built up areas where development is concentrated and which have a mix of land uses; and
- b. lands which have been designated in an Official Plan for development in accordance with the policies of this Plan. Where there are no lands that have been designated for development, the *settlement area* may be no larger than the area where development is concentrated.

Sewage Works

Any works for the collection, transmission, treatment and disposal of sewage or any part of such works but does not include plumbing to which the *Building Code Act*, 1992 applies. For the purposes of this definition: Sewage includes, but is not limited to drainage, storm water, residential wastes, commercial wastes and industrial wastes.

Shoreline Areas

The interface between terrestrial and aquatic environments, allowing for interactions between them, providing: specialized habitats (e.g., natural beach, overhanging cover, bird stopover or nesting, etc.), natural cover, areas of shoreline erosion or accretion, nutrient and sediment filtration / buffering, shading, foraging opportunities.

Significant

In regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest. Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest

Those *areas of natural and scientific interest* identified as provincially significant and regionally significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.

Significant Coastal Wetlands

Those *coastal wetlands* identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time (PPS, 2020).

Significant Drinking Water Threats or Significant Threat

A threat that, according to a risk assessment, poses or has the potential to pose a significant risk to the quality of municipal drinking water (Based on the Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Source Protection Area).

Significant Groundwater Recharge Area

An area that has been identified as:

- a. a *significant groundwater recharge area* by any public body for the purposes of implementing the PPS;

- b. a *significant groundwater recharge area* in the assessment report required under the Clean Water Act, 2006; or
- c. an ecologically *significant groundwater recharge area* delineated in a *subwatershed study* or equivalent in accordance with provincial guidelines.

For the purposes of this definition, ecologically *significant groundwater recharge areas* are areas of land that are responsible for replenishing groundwater systems that directly support *sensitive* areas like cold water streams and wetlands (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Groundwater recharge areas are also classified as “significant” where they supply more water to an aquifer than the surrounding area (NPCA, 2013). In other words, a recharge area is considered significant when it helps to maintain the water level in an aquifer that supplies a community with drinking water, or supplies groundwater recharge to a coldwater ecosystem that is dependent on this recharge to maintain its *ecological function* (N.V.C.A., 2015b).

Significant Surface Water Contribution Areas

Areas, generally associated with headwater catchments that contribute to baseflow volumes which are significant to the overall surface water flow volumes within a *watershed* (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Significant surface water contribution areas include headwater drainage features classified as protection, conservation and mitigation.

Significant Valleylands

Valleyland which is ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Province (Growth Plan, 2019).

Significant Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat that is ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation, or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Province (PPS, 2020).

Significant Woodlands

Woodlands that are ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history (PPS, 2020).

Site Alteration

Activities, such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site (PPS, 2020).

Soil Management Plan

A plan completed by a professional engineer or geoscientist that outlines the condition of soil at a source site where soil is excavated (Best Management Practices for Excess Soil and modified for this Plan).

Source Protection Plan

A drinking water source protection plan prepared under of the Clean Water Act, 2006 (Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Source Protection Area).

Source Water

Water in its natural or raw state, prior to being drawn into a municipal drinking water system (Source Protection Plan for the Niagara Source Protection Area).

Special Policy Area

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

Specialized Housing Needs

Any housing, including dedicated facilities, in whole or in part, that is used by people who have specific needs beyond economic needs, including but not limited to, needs such as mobility requirements or support functions required for daily living. Examples include, but are not limited to, long-term care homes, adaptable and accessible housing, and housing for persons with disabilities such as physical, sensory or mental health disabilities, and housing for older persons.

Specialty Crop Area

Areas designated using guidelines developed by the Province, as amended from time to time. In these areas, specialty crops are predominantly grown such as tender fruits (peaches, cherries, plums), grapes, other fruit crops, vegetable crops, greenhouse crops, and crops from agriculturally developed organic soil, usually resulting from:

- a. soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops, or lands that are subject to special climatic conditions, or a combination of both;
- b. farmers skilled in the production of specialty crops; and
- c. a long-term investment of capital in areas such as crops, drainage, *infrastructure* and related facilities and services to produce, store, or process specialty crops (PPS, 2020).

Specialty Crop Guidelines

Guidelines developed by the Region or Province, as amended from time to time.

Standards and Guidelines for Consulting Archaeologists

The 2011 Standards and Guidelines for Consultants Archaeologists, or as superseded, and any bulletins that clarify and expand on the requirements in the Standards and Guidelines, compliance to which is mandatory for all consultant archaeologists who carry out archaeology in Ontario.

Stormwater Management Facility

A facility for the treatment, retention, infiltration or control of stormwater.

Stormwater Master Plan

A long-range plan that assesses existing and planned stormwater facilities and systems and outlines stormwater *infrastructure* requirements for new and existing *development* within a *settlement area*. *Stormwater master plans* are informed by *watershed planning* and are completed in accordance with the environmental assessment processes under the Environmental Assessment Act, 1990, as amended.

Strategic Growth Areas

Within *settlement areas*, nodes, corridors, and other areas that have been identified in Schedule B to be the focus for accommodating *intensification* and higher-density mixed uses in a more *compact built form*. *Strategic growth areas* include *urban growth centres*, regional growth centres, *major transit station areas*, and other major opportunities that may include infill, *redevelopment*, *brownfield* sites, the expansion or conversion of existing buildings, or *greyfields*. Lands along major roads, arterials, or other areas with existing or planned frequent transit service or higher order transit corridors may also be identified as *strategic growth areas* (Growth Plan, 2019).

Subwatershed

An area that is drained by a tributary or some defined portion of a stream. A *subwatershed* is smaller nested drainage area within a quaternary watershed. There are over 200 *subwatersheds* in Niagara Region.

Subwatershed Planning

Planning that reflects and refines the goals, objectives, targets, and assessments of *watershed planning*, as available at the time *subwatershed planning* is completed, for smaller drainage areas, is tailored to *subwatershed* needs and addresses local issues.

Subwatershed planning typically includes: the consideration of existing development and the evaluation of the impacts of any potential or proposed land uses and development; the identification hydrologic features, areas, *linkages*, and functions; the identification of natural features, areas, and related *hydrologic functions*; and a plan for protecting, improving, or restoring the quality and quantity of water within a *subwatershed*.

Subwatershed planning is based on pre-development monitoring and evaluation; is integrated with natural heritage protection; and identifies specific criteria, objectives, actions, thresholds, targets, and best management practices for development, for water and wastewater servicing, for stormwater management, for managing and minimizing impacts related to severe weather events, and to support ecological needs.

Subwatershed Study

The plan or outcome from a *subwatershed* planning exercise.

Supporting Features and Areas

Lands that have been restored or have the potential of being restored. *Supporting features and areas* include grasslands, meadows, and thickets (defined in accordance with Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario); other *valleylands*; and other *wildlife habitat*; and *enhancement areas* where they are determined to contribute to the biodiversity and *ecological function* of the *natural environment system*.

Surface Water Feature

Water-related features on the earth's surface, including headwaters, rivers, stream channels, *inland lakes*, *seepage areas*, recharge/discharge areas, springs, *wetlands*, and associated riparian lands that can be defined by their soil moisture, soil type, vegetation, or topographic characteristics (PPS, 2020).

Sustainable

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable Design

The design of the urban environment that mitigates and adapts to *climate change* and reduces or eliminates other negative environmental impacts.

T

Tallgrass Prairie

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

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

Temporary Storage Site

Sites owned or controlled by the owner/operator of a source site or receiving site, at which *excess soil* is temporarily stored for two years or less. Includes sites to treat, remediate and transfer *excess soil* to other sites for final placement or disposal (Best Management Practices for Excess Soil and modified for this Plan).

Tertiary Watershed

A *watershed* that drains and discharges into a large water body. There are three *tertiary watersheds* in Niagara, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and Niagara River.

Threatened Species

A species that is classified as “Threatened Species” on the Species at Risk in Ontario List, as updated and amended from time to time.

Total Developable Area

The total area of the property less the area occupied by key natural heritage features, *key hydrologic features* and any related *vegetation protection zone*.

Transit Priority Corridors

Transportation corridors that aim to improve transit reliability, speed and capacity through roadway treatments, such as: transit only lanes that allow buses to bypass general traffic, dedicated bus lanes, and queue jump traffic signals that allow buses to go before the general traffic green light.

Transit Service Integration

The coordinated planning or operation of transit service between two or more agencies or services that contributes to the goal of seamless service for riders and could include considerations of service schedules, service routes, information, fare policy, and fare payment (Growth Plan, 2019).

Transit-Supportive

Relating to *development* that makes transit viable and improves the quality of the experience of using transit. It often refers to compact, mixed-use development that has a high level of employment and residential densities. Transit-supportive development will be consistent with Ontario's Transit Supportive Guidelines (Growth Plan, 2019).

Transport Pathway

In respect of an *intake protection zone*, means works or any other thing that reduces the time it takes for a contaminant to reach a surface water intake and may include storm sewers, discharge pipes, utility trenches, ditches, swales, drainage works or any other types of drain (2017 Technical Rules under the Clean Water Act).

Transportation System

A system consisting of facilities, corridors and rights-of-way for the movement of people and goods, and associated transportation facilities including transit stops and stations, sidewalks, cycle lanes, bus lanes, high occupancy vehicle lanes, *rail facilities*, parking facilities, park-and-ride lots, service centres, rest stops, vehicle inspection stations, inter-modal facilities, harbours, airports, *marine facilities*, ferries, canals and associated facilities such as storage and maintenance (PPS, 2020).

Two Zone Concept

An approach to *floodplain* management where the *floodplain* is differentiated in two parts: the *floodway* and the *flood fringe*.

U

Universal Design

The design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

Urban Agriculture

Within *urban areas*, agricultural production of food and non-food products accessory to the principle use of a property. Examples of *urban agriculture* include community, school, and rooftop gardens, ground-based outdoor community and urban market gardens, urban livestock, and hydroponic farms.

Urban Areas

Lands located within a defined boundary as identified in Schedule B. Urban areas are made up of *built-up areas*, *designated greenfield areas* and *excess lands* and does not include hamlets.

Urban Growth Centre

Existing or emerging downtown areas shown in Schedule 4 of A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Horseshoe and as further identified by the Minister on April 2, 2008 (Growth Plan, 2019). For the purposes of this Plan, downtown St. Catharines is identified on Schedule B of this Plan.

Utility

Any system, works, plant, pipeline, or equipment providing a service necessary to the public interest including but not limited to electric power generation and transmission, stormwater management, water supply, sewage treatment and disposal, waste management, communications and telecommunications, and oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

V

Valleylands

A natural area that occurs in a valley or other landform depression that has water flowing through or standing for some period of the year (PPS, 2020).

Vegetation Protection Zone

A vegetated *buffer* area surrounding a *key natural heritage feature* or *key hydrologic feature* (Greenbelt Plan, 2017).

Vulnerable

Surface and/or groundwater that can be easily changed or impacted.

W

Waste Disposal Sites

The application of untreated septage, the storage, treatment, and discharge of tailings from mines and waste *disposal sites* as defined under Part V of the *Ontario Environmental Protection Act*, 1990 with respect to Source Water Protection.

Waste Management

The activities and actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal. This includes the collection, transport, treatment, and disposal of waste, together with monitoring and regulation of the waste *management* process.

Wastewater Services

Any works provided by the municipality for the collection, *lateral connection*, transmission, and treatment of sewage that are connected to a centralized *wastewater treatment facility*.

Wastewater Treatment Plant/Facility

The part of a *sewage works* that treats or disposes of sewage but does not include the part of the *sewage works* that collects or transmits sewage.

Water Budget

An accounting of the inflow to, outflow from, and storage changes of water in a hydrologic unit.

Water Resource System

A system consisting of *groundwater features and areas* and *surface water features* (including *shoreline areas*), and *hydrologic functions*, which provide the water resources necessary to sustain healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and human water consumption. The *water resource system* comprises of *key hydrologic features* and *key hydrologic areas* (Growth Plan, 2019).

Water Services

Any works provided by the municipality for the distribution, *lateral connection*, transmission, and treatment of drinking water.

Watershed

An area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

Watershed Plan

The plan our outcome from a *watershed planning* exercise either at the *tertiary* or *quaternary* level.

Watershed Planning

Planning that provides a framework for establishing goals, objectives, and direction for the protection of water resources, the management of human activities, land, water, aquatic life, and resources within a watershed and for the assessment of cumulative, cross-jurisdictional, and *cross-watershed* impacts.

Watershed planning typically includes: watershed characterization, a *water budget*, and conservation plan; nutrient loading assessments; consideration of the impacts of a changing climate and severe weather events; land and water use management objectives and strategies; scenario modelling to evaluate the impacts of forecasted growth and servicing options, and mitigation measures; an environmental monitoring plan; requirements for the use of environmental best management practices, programs, and performance measures; criteria for evaluating the protection of *quality and quantity of water*; the identification and protection of *hydrologic features*, areas, and functions and the inter-relationships between or among them; and targets for the protection and restoration of riparian areas.

Wave Uprush

The rush of water up onto a shoreline or structure following the breaking of a wave; the limit of *wave uprush* is the point of furthest landward rush of water onto the shoreline.

Wayside Pits and Quarries

A temporary pit or quarry opened and used by or for a public authority solely for the purpose of a particular project or contract of road construction and not located on the road right-of-way (PPS, 2020).

Wellhead Protection Areas

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

Wetlands

Lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of *wetlands* are swamps, marshes, bogs and fens. Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit *wetland* characteristics are not considered to be *wetlands* for the purposes of this definition (PPS, 2020).

Wildland Fire Assessment and Mitigation Standards

The combination of risk assessment tools and environmentally appropriate mitigation measures identified by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to be incorporated into the design, construction and/or modification of buildings, structures, properties and/or communities to reduce the risk to public safety, *infrastructure* and property from wildland fire.

Wildlife Habitat

Areas where plants, animals and other organisms live, and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter, and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific *wildlife habitats* of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species (PPS, 2020).

Woodlands

Treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the general public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of *wildlife habitat*, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the *sustainable* harvest of a wide range of woodland products. *Woodlands* include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance at the local, regional and provincial levels. *Woodlands* will be delineated according to the Province's Ecological Land Classification system definition for forest (PPS, 2020). For the purposes of this definition, forests include terrestrial vegetation communities as defined in accordance with the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) system, where the tree cover is greater than 60 per cent.

Woodland Enhancement Plan

A study that is carried out when a proponent proposes to remove a *woodland* or portion of a *woodland*, including cultural and regenerating *woodlands* where the purpose of the *woodland* enhancement is to increase *woodland* cover in the region as part of a longer term perspective. The *woodland enhancement plan* must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Region, in consultation with other agencies as the Region sees fit. As part of requirement for a *woodland enhancement plan* the following should be taken into consideration:

- a. if the removal occurs within the *Urban Area* that the enhancement also be provided in the *Urban Area*;
- b. that the enhancement be in the form of a *woodland* and not just the planting of individual trees, i.e., street planting or ornamental tree planting in a park setting is not considered *woodland* enhancement;
- c. the goal of the *woodland* enhancement is it so create a native *woodland* of equal or greater size;
- d. landscape ecology principles including size, patch shape, connectivity, edge to area ratio should be considered;
- e. responsibilities will be determined for who will undertake the restoration of the woodland and the schedule for implementing the plan;
- f. the *woodland enhancement plan* includes a program for the long-term maintenance and management of the restoration woodland until such time as it is deemed to be self-sufficient or when a public agency assumes responsibility for it; and
- g. the plan includes a monitoring plan and periodic reporting to determine if the woodland is progressing toward the approved goal(s) and objectives of the plan.