

Virtual Public Information Centre No. 1

This document is provided as an alternative format that is originally hosted using ESRI StoryMaps. It is provided for those who may not have the compatible browser to view the original virtual public information materials online.

Project Introduction

The Regional Municipality of Niagara has initiated a Region-Wide Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update (MSPU) to provide safe, sustainable and optimized Water and Wastewater services that support growth.

This study is in response to the Provincial Growth Plan forecasts which identified the need for an additional 214,000

people and 81,000 jobs in the Niagara Region by 2051. Another key driver of this study is the need to sustain existing levels of service. This study will identify the need, timing and cost of water and wastewater servicing infrastructure required to support Region growth to 2051.

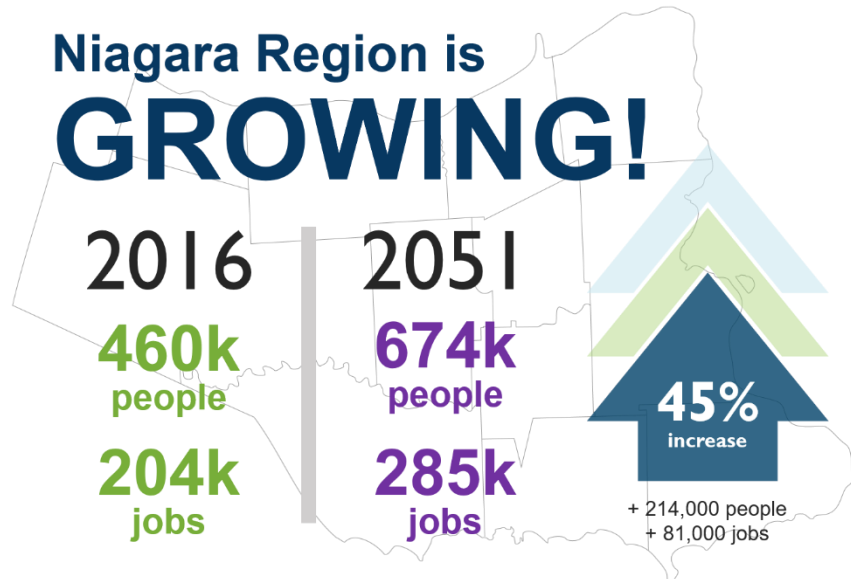
The MSPU follows the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process for Master Plans and will satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Class EA process.

Problem and Opportunity Statement

Niagara Region has completed several updates to the Water and Wastewater Master Plan. The most recent 2016 MSPU, completed in 2017, looked at servicing planned growth to year 2041.

With an updated planning horizon to 2051, the 2016 Master Servicing Plan needs to be updated to determine how the Region's water and wastewater infrastructure will establish a cost effective infrastructure program that meets the service needs of existing and future users, meets regulatory and legislative requirements, supports growth in a sustainable and responsible manner, and addresses the priority areas impacted by wet weather issues, climate change, energy management, infrastructure optimization, system security, and resiliency.

The 2021 Master Plan Update will identify and develop a long-term water and wastewater servicing strategy and capital forecast to ensure level of service for existing and future residents and businesses. This will support future growth in the community to 2051, and consider potential impacts beyond 2051.



Public Information Centre (PIC) Objectives

The objectives of the virtual PIC No. 1 are to:

1. Present the public and stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about Niagara Region's water and wastewater systems and provide insight to future growth needs in a sustainable manner.
2. Outline the MSPU project schedule and what steps are being taken to support the decision-making process.
3. Answer any questions you may have about the project process or potential outcomes.

Timeline

April 21, 2021:
Project information, project overview video, and transcript posted

April 21 to May 5, 2021:
Submit questions or comments to the Niagara Region Project Manager
niagaramspu@niagararegion.ca

May 19, 2021
Responses to questions and comments posted



Present the Public and Stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about Niagara Region's water and wastewater systems and provide insight to future growth needs and sustainability.



Outline the Master Servicing Plan Update (MSPU) project schedule and what steps are being taken to support the decision-making process.



Answer any questions you may have about the Project process or potential outcomes.

Project Approach

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process

This project is following the Class Environmental Assessment process for Master Plan Projects, which is a decision-making process that all Ontario municipalities follow for rehabilitating and building new infrastructure.

The 2021 Niagara Region Water and Wastewater MSPU will satisfy Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class EA Process.

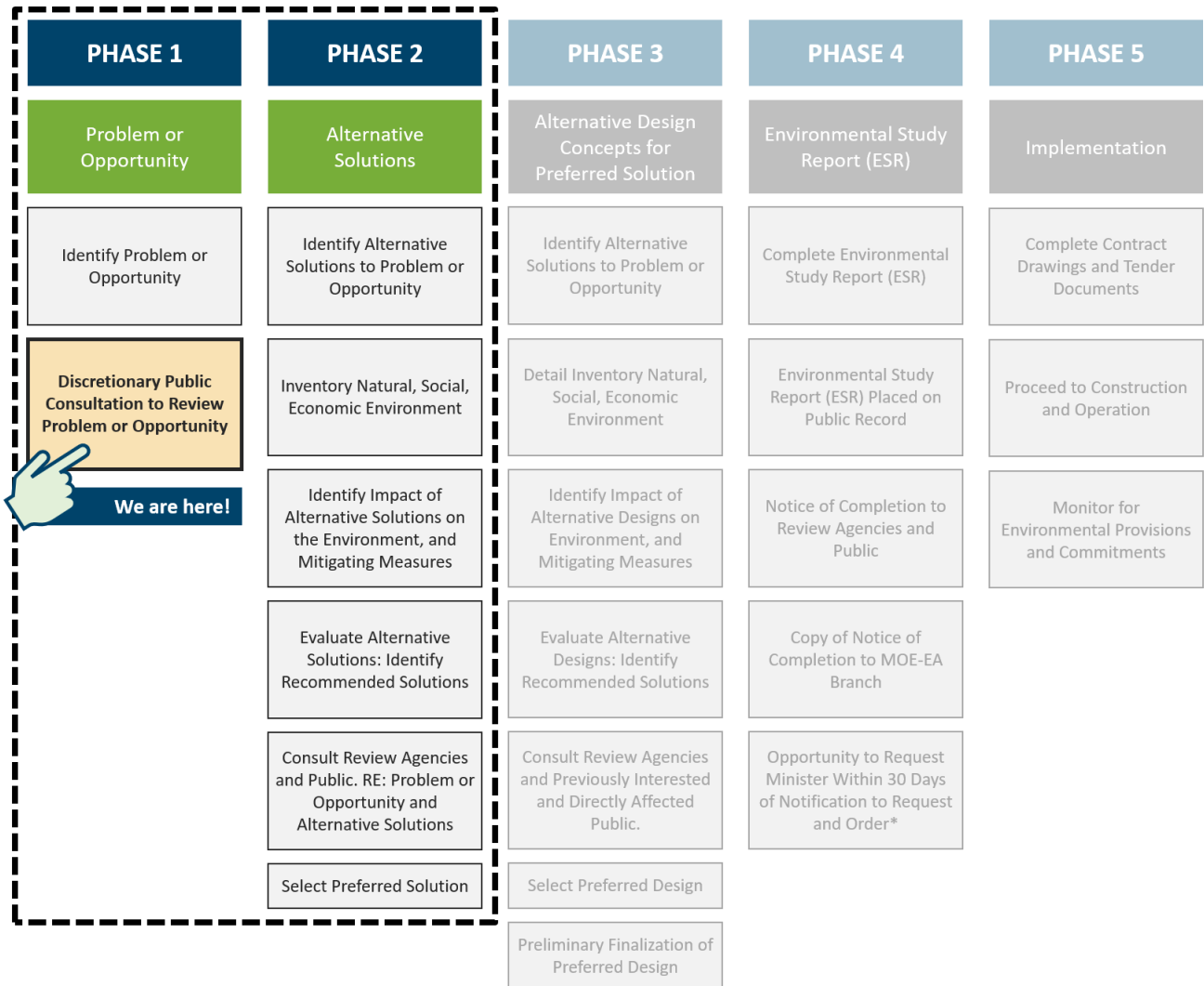


Figure 1 MEA Mandated Requirements

2051 Integration

The Provincial Growth Plan forecasts an increase in Niagara Region's population by approximately 45% from 2016 to 2051. With Niagara growing to 674,000 people and 285,000 employees by 2051, the alignment of growth, infrastructure and finance is crucial for proactively managing growth.

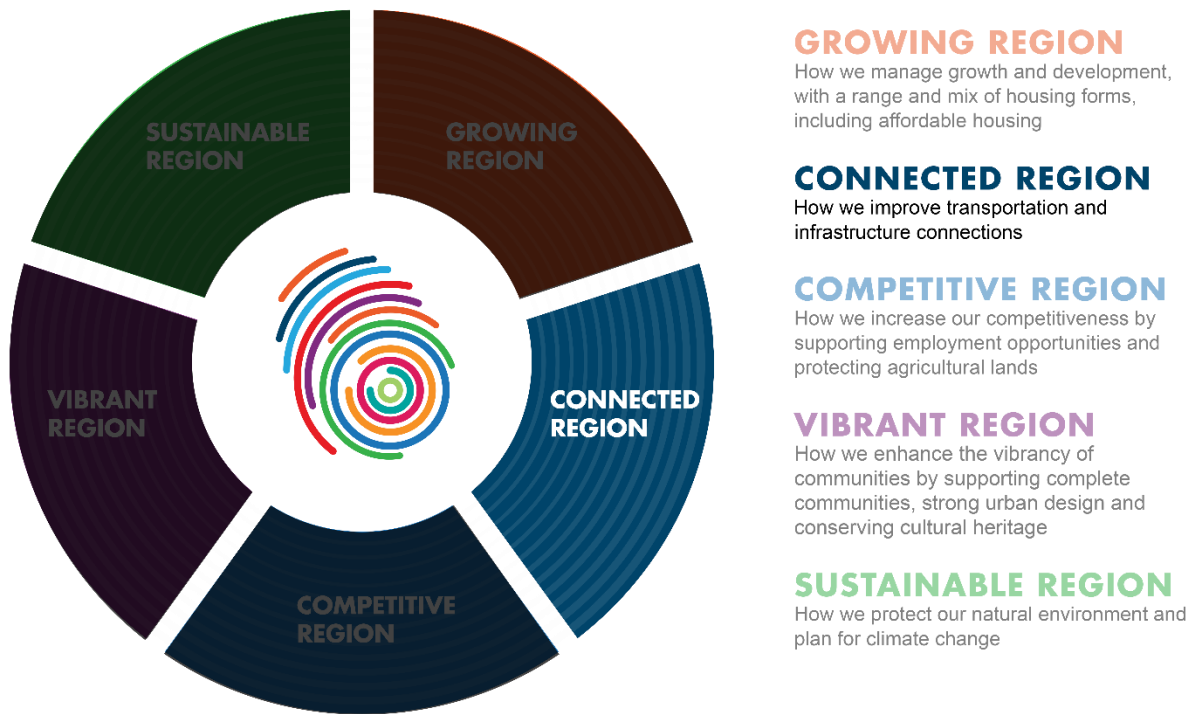


Figure 2 New Niagara Official Plan. (Source: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/official-plan/pdf/pic1-display-boards.pdf>)

Niagara 2051 represents a coordinated approach of Niagara Region's strategic projects including:

- Development Charges (DC) Background Study and By-Law
- Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update (MSPU)
- Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Refresh
- Region Official Plan – 2051 Population and Employment Forecasts

Niagara 2051 will be the overarching umbrella for the coordination of these projects to ensure consistency in public engagement as well as other project components. These studies are all linked with the anticipated growth out to 2051 and the required capital projects to support this growth.

Key Issues and Considerations

This project will build on the 2016 MSPU and evaluate technical, environmental, social and cultural, and financial components to select the preferred water and wastewater servicing strategies with a sustainable capital plan.



Key Issues and Considerations Include:

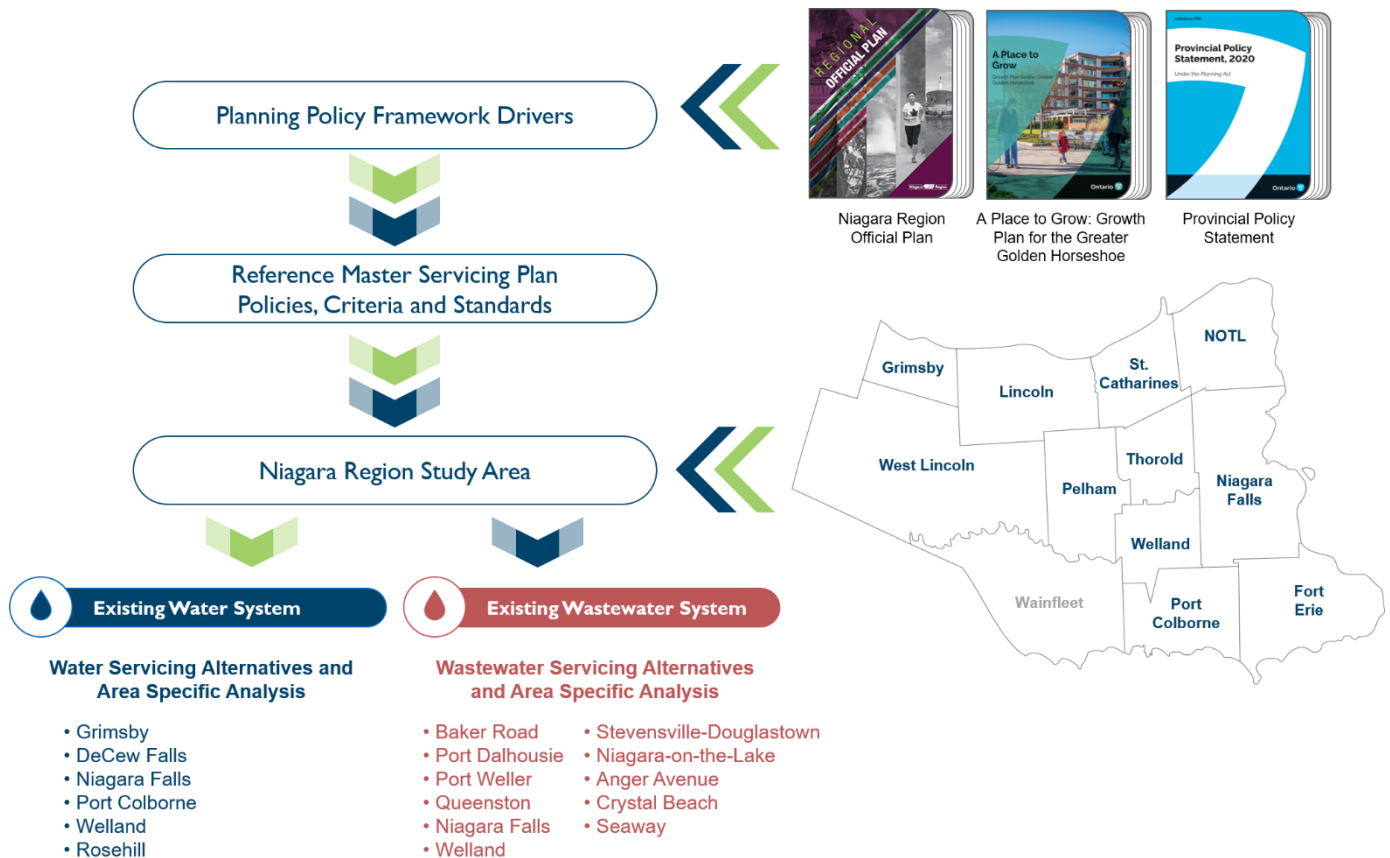
- Sound decision making for growth area selection
- Continuous improvement in Master Planning
- Integrate process with Niagara 2051
- Greenfield and intensification servicing requirements and impacts
- Integrate new infrastructure with the existing systems
- Support policy and meet regulations
- Manage capacity both regionally and locally
- Clear communication and engagement

Water and Wastewater Servicing

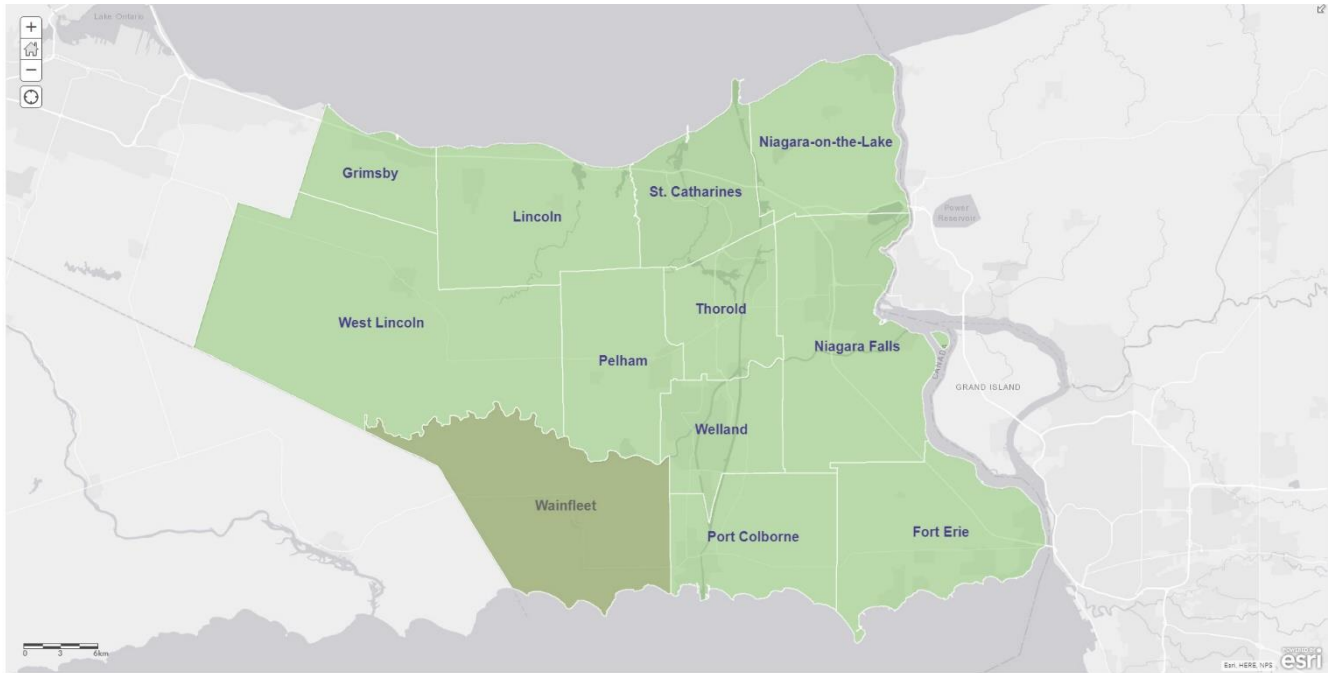
Master Plan Strategy Development and Process

Key drivers of the MSPU include planning policies at the provincial level with the Provincial Policy Statement and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, as well as the Niagara Region Official Plan at the regional level.

These drivers impact master servicing plan policies, criteria and standards. They are all critical in developing water and wastewater servicing options throughout the Region. **The identification and evaluation of these servicing options is a fundamental component of the master planning process through collaborative involvement with all Municipal partners.**

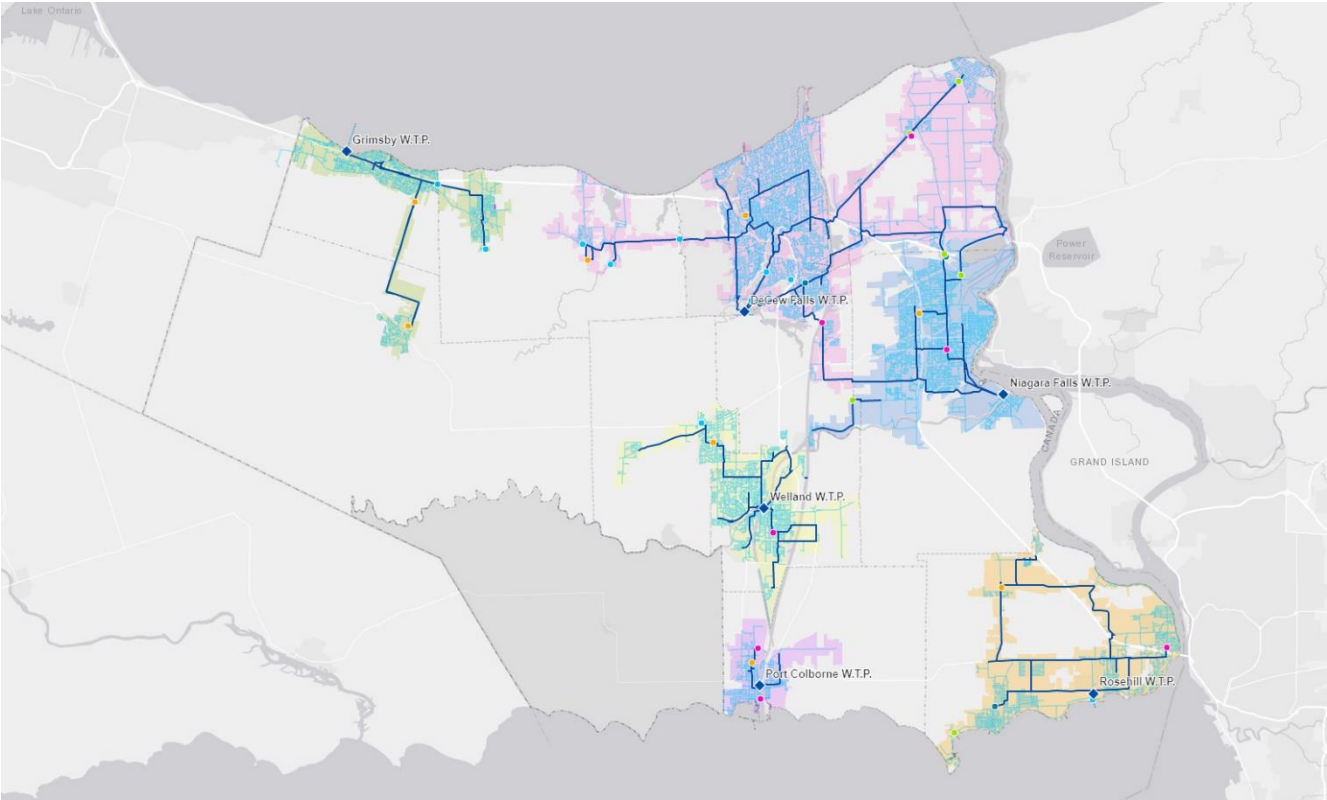


Niagara Region currently services the urban area of the municipalities of Grimsby, West Lincoln, Lincoln, St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and Fort Erie. Wainfleet is not included in this study as they do not have urban Municipal services.

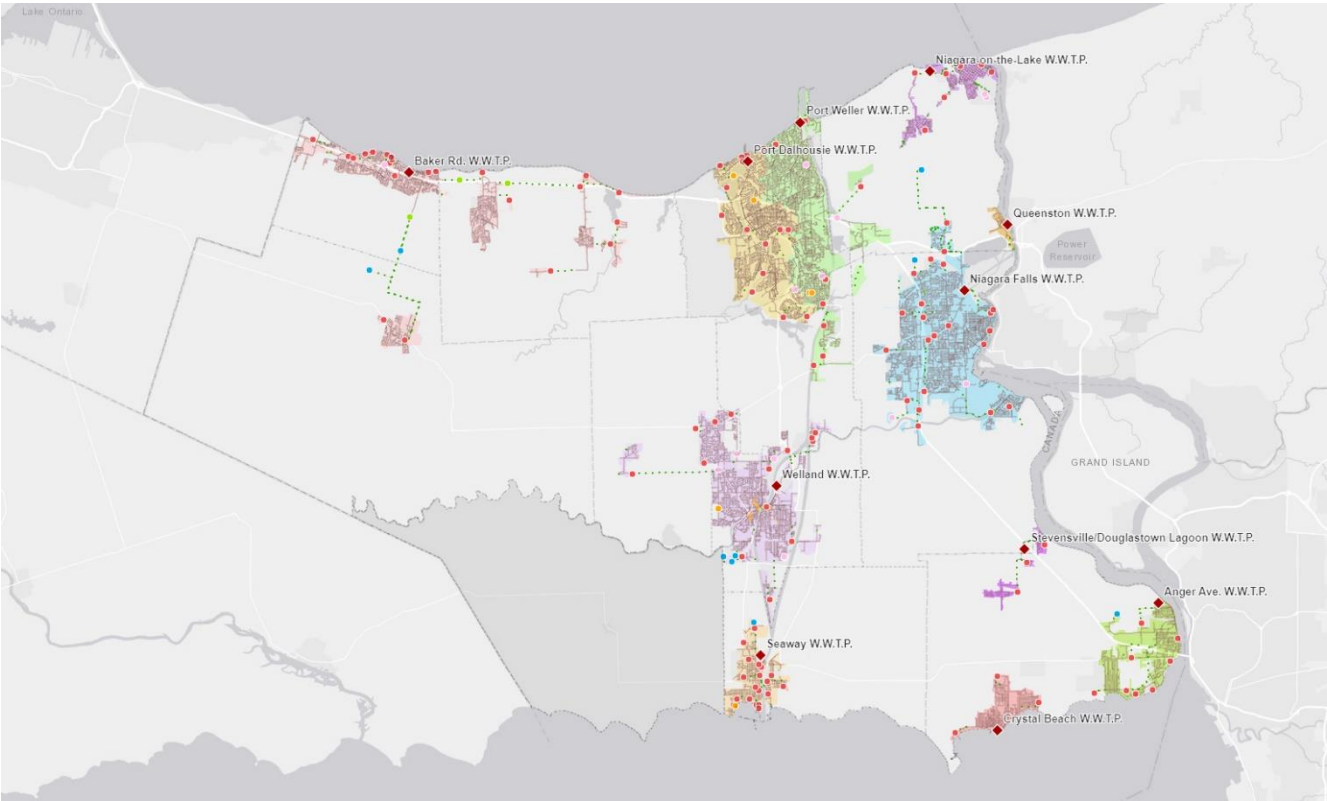


Water and wastewater servicing is operated under a two-tier system. Niagara Region is responsible for water treatment, transmission mains, storage facilities and major booster pumping stations; as well as wastewater treatment, trunk sewers and sewage pumping stations. The area municipalities are responsible for local water distribution networks, local sewer collection systems, and direct billing to the customers.

Existing Water System (Entire Region-Wide System)

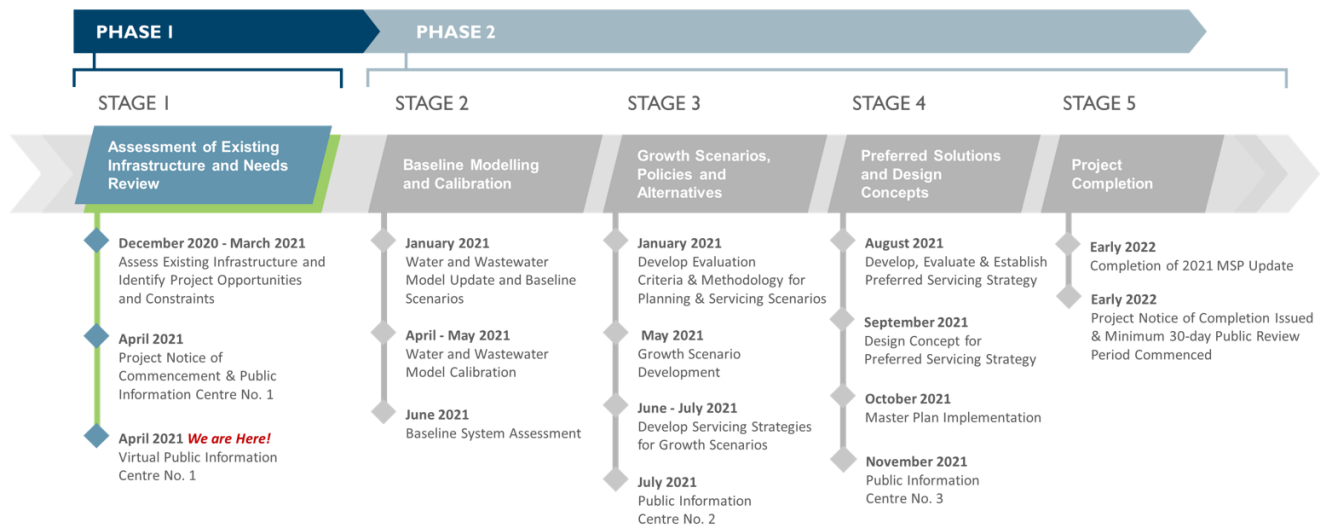


Existing Wastewater System (Entire Region-Wide System)



Project Workplan

The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process for Master Plan Projects



Get Involved

Public feedback is important. Sign-up to be added to the study contact list and submit any questions or comments to the Project Team.

Key Dates

- **April 21, 2021:** Virtual PIC No.1 online and running for two (2) weeks accepting questions and/or comments
- **May 5, 2021:** Deadline to submit questions and/or comments related to the project
- **May 19, 2021:** Responses to questions and comments to be published on Project Website

Submit your Questions/Comments

Sign-up for Project Notification Updates

To receive project updates and electronic invitations for future public information centres, please sign-up below. You will be added to our study contact list.

Sign-up for Project Updates

Contact Us

Ilija Stetic, Project Manager Niagara Region | niagaramspu@niagararegion.ca

Privacy and Accessibility

Niagara Region is committed to reviewing its practices, processes and the built environment for barriers to access for persons with disabilities. If you require additional or other formats for communicating, contact Niagara Region to make arrangements.

Please note that information related to this study will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. All comments related will become part of the public record and may be included in the study documentation prepared for public review.

Copyright © Niagara Region 2021. |All Rights Reserved.