

Natural Systems Regional Official Plan Provincial Policy Conformity

List of Provincial Policy Documents Reviewed

- PPS - Provincial Policy Statement, 2020
- GBP - Greenbelt Plan, 2017
- ORMCP - Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, 2017
- GP – A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019

Types of Policies	Brief Description of Provincial Policy Change	Provincial Policy Documents	Proposed Actions in York Region Official Plan
Water Resource System	Clearer direction and strengthened language to identify a water resource system to protect key hydrologic features, key hydrologic areas, and their functions	GP PPS GBP	Update mapping, revise policy language and definitions
Key Hydrologic Areas	<p>Key Hydrologic areas are added as a component of the Water Resource System with policies to protect and, where possible, improve or restore hydrologic functions in these areas.</p> <p>Key hydrologic areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant groundwater recharge areas • Highly vulnerable aquifers • Significant surface water contribution areas 	GP GBP	<p>Review and update significant groundwater recharge areas (Map 13) and highly vulnerable aquifers (Map 14) maps to reflect best available information including source protection plans</p> <p>Significant surface water contribution areas to be identified and appropriate policies included in the official plan</p>
Watershed Planning	<p>Requirement to partner with stakeholders to undertake watershed planning</p> <p>Evaluate impacts of climate change to water resources system at the watershed level</p>	GP GBP PPS	All watersheds in York Region have existing plans. The Region will continue to partner with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation and Toronto and Region Conservation Authorities to fill watershed planning gaps beyond the MCR
Subwatershed Plans	Requirement to develop subwatershed plan or equivalent for large-scale development in designated greenfield areas (including secondary plans)	GP	Current Official Plan policies are consistent with updated provincial policy. Official Plan language will be updated to improve consistency and alignment

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Urban River Valley Areas	Updated mapping and policies to recognize new urban river valley designation	GBP	New policy section to be added to the Official Plan to implement the designation and associated policies
Natural Heritage System outside settlement area boundary	<p>Requirement to incorporate Provincial Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan map in the Official Plan</p> <p>Upper- and single-tier municipalities may refine provincial mapping at the time of initial implementation in their Official Plan</p>	GP	Refine and update mapping in ROP
Natural Heritage System/Features/Areas within settlement area boundary	<p>Clearer direction and strengthened language to identify a Natural Heritage System and protect natural heritage features and areas</p> <p>(Specific policy requirement to protect natural heritage features and areas within settlement area boundaries)</p>	GP PPS	Update mapping to reflect approved local systems and updated information
New development or site alterations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted within the Natural Heritage System, subject to criteria. • Generally prohibited on key natural heritage and key hydrologic features and their vegetative protective zones with some exceptions such as forest, fish and wildlife management; conservation and flood or erosion control projects; infrastructure; aggregate; recreational, shoreline; agriculture; and existing uses, subject to criteria • May be permitted on lands adjacent to key natural heritage and key hydrologic features and will require a natural heritage evaluation or hydrologic evaluation. 	GP GBP	Current Official Plan policies conform to updated provincial policies. Official Plan language will be updated to improve consistency and alignment

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be permitted within a key hydrologic area where it is demonstrated that the hydrologic functions, including the quality and quantity of water will be protected and, where possible, enhanced or restored. 		
Definitions	<p>New and Updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered species • Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species • Highly vulnerable aquifers • Key Hydrologic Areas • Significant Groundwater Recharge Area • Significant Surface Water Contribution Areas • Subwatershed Plan • Watershed planning • Water Resource System 	<p>GP GBP PPS ORMCP</p>	<p>Update definitions in the Official Plan to improve consistency and alignment with provincial policy</p>