

### 3.1.1 General Policies

#### It is the policy of Council:

#### 3.1.1.1 **That** the components of the Greenway System include the following:

- a) Natural Heritage Network lands;
- b) Natural Heritage Network Enhancement Lands;
- c) Rouge Watershed Protection Area lands;
- d) Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area lands;
- e) Greenbelt Plan Area lands; and
- f) certain naturalized stormwater management facilities.

To the extent possible, given the limitation of available data, these components are generally identified on Map 4 – Greenway System, Map 5 – Natural Heritage Features and Landforms, Map 6 – Hydrologic Features and Map 7 – Provincial and Federal Policy Areas.

#### 3.1.1.2 **To identify, protect and enhance** Markham's Greenway System as shown on Map 1 – Markham Structure by:

- a) protecting a network of *natural heritage and hydrologic features* (as defined as *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features, valleylands and woodlands*, and their functions) and associated *vegetation protection zones*, protected agricultural lands and Natural Heritage Network Enhancement Lands, to improve the *biodiversity* and connectivity of natural heritage features and their *ecological function*;
- b) directing permitted development, *redevelopment* and *site alteration* away from *natural heritage and hydrologic features* within the Greenway System;
- c) protecting the *ecological integrity* of the Oak Ridges Moraine;
- d) providing protection for agricultural lands and *ecological features* and functions in the Greenbelt;
- e) providing public access to publicly owned natural areas for nature-based recreation uses, where appropriate, in a manner that respects ecological sensitivities in support of a healthy and active community;
- f) encouraging public acquisition of the Natural Heritage Network lands where possible over the long term; and
- g) encouraging stewardship of privately owned natural areas by private landowners until the lands come into public ownership.

#### 3.1.1.3 **That** the boundaries of the Greenway System and Natural Heritage Network, including the delineation of *natural heritage and hydrologic features* as shown on Map 4 – Greenway System, Map 5 – Natural Heritage Features and Landforms, and Map 6 – Hydrologic Features reflect the most accurate information available and are to be confirmed and may be refined or modified as follows:

- a) confirmation of the boundaries will be undertaken in the field, in consultation with appropriate agencies, and any corresponding changes to the mapping shall be undertaken without amendment to this Plan;
- b) refinements to the boundaries may be considered as part of an application pursuant to the Planning Act, without an amendment to

**Section 3.1.1.2  
subject to  
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this Plan, where supported by a *subwatershed* study, master environmental servicing plan, environmental impact study or equivalent study; and

- c) modifications to the boundaries, other than refinements, including the delineation of the boundaries of the Natural Heritage Network Enhancement Lands in accordance with Section 3.1.3.2, may be considered through an amendment to this Plan, where supported by a *subwatershed* study, master environmental servicing plan, environmental impact study or equivalent study.

The outer boundaries of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area and the Greenbelt Plan Area can only be refined or modified by the Province through amendments to the relevant Provincial Plan or as identified in applicable legislation. Any modifications to these boundaries approved by the Province shall be addressed in accordance with provincial requirements.

**3.1.1.4** **That** where compensation for removal of *natural heritage and hydrologic features* is determined to be appropriate, Council shall:

- a) work with the Province, York Region, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and other agencies seeking compensation and encourage all compensation to be located in Markham; and
- b) seek appropriate compensation in accordance with Section 3.2.1 c).

**3.1.1.5** **To coordinate** with Parks Canada, the Province, York Region and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority efforts to ensure a consistent approach towards the protection of a system of *natural heritage and hydrologic features*.

**3.1.1.6** **To incorporate** the protection and enhancement of the Greenway System as a component of the parks and open space system in accordance with Section 4.3.1.2 and a required secondary plan in accordance with Section 10.1.1.

**3.1.1.7** **That** lands within the Greenway System are subject to the policies of this Plan, and where applicable, policies in the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and Minister's Zoning Order – Airport and other applicable land use policy regulations and/or standards. In the event of conflict among plans, regulations and standards the most restrictive requirements prevail, except in the case of agriculture, mineral aggregates and wayside pits where provincial plans and policies prevail.

**3.1.1.8** **To collaborate** with Parks Canada and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, where appropriate, to prepare plans to guide the management of public parks and recreation uses within the Greenway System while safeguarding and enhancing natural features and functions.

**3.1.1.9** **To minimize** the impacts of nature-based recreation infrastructure such as trails, trailheads, foot bridges, parking, signage, picnic facilities, washrooms and interpretative facilities on the *ecological integrity* of the Greenway System.

**3.1.1.10** **To require** minimum *vegetation protection zones*, as identified in Section

**Section 3.1.1.4**  
**subject to Area/Site**  
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**Hearing Issues 3)**