



Proposed Natural Heritage Policies of the Provincial Planning Statement

**Special Development Services
Committee
July 5, 2023**



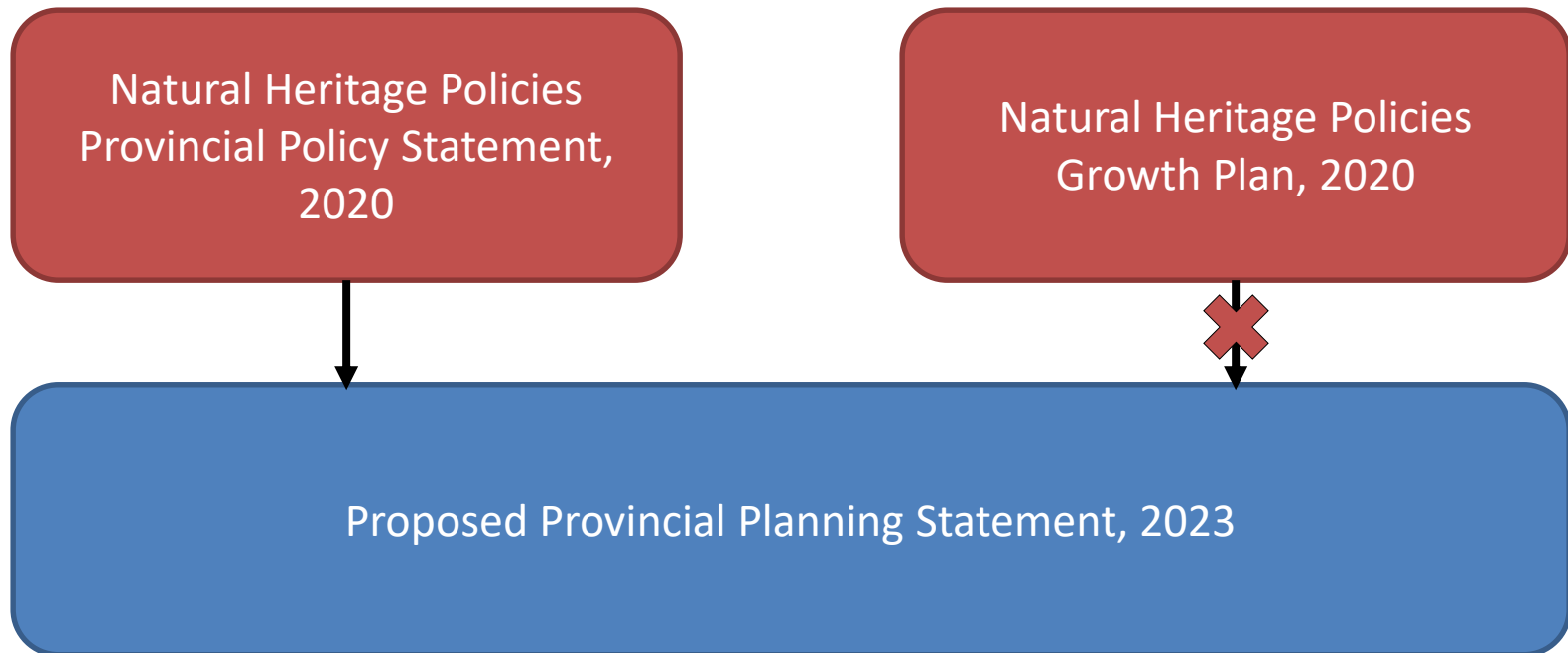
Timeline for the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

- Apr 6, 2023** Province released a draft Provincial Planning Statement for public comment. The natural heritage policies were withheld as they were still under review by the Province
- May 31, 2023** Markham Council endorsed staff report on the draft Provincial Planning Statement for all matters except for natural heritage planning
- June 16, 2023** Province released the natural heritage policies for review
- Aug 4, 2023** Deadline for comments



Provincial Natural Heritage System Policies

- Province proposes to revoke the PPS 2020 and the Growth Plan 2020 and replace them with the new PPS 2023
- The natural heritage policies of the PPS 2020 are proposed to be carried forward in the new PPS 2023
- The natural heritage policies of the Growth Plan 2020 are **not** proposed to be carried forward.

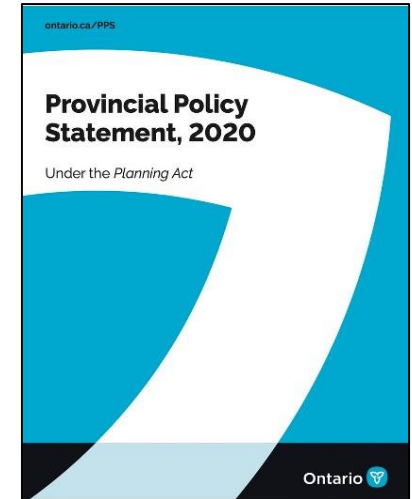




Analysis of Provincial NHS policies

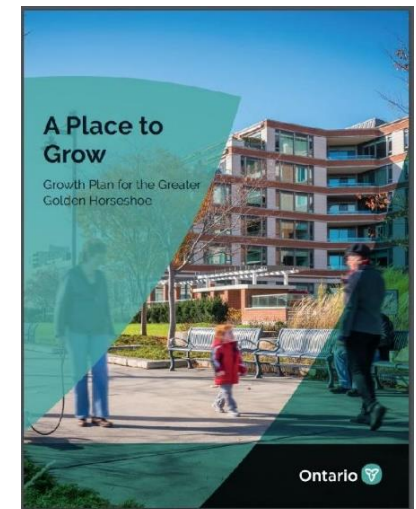
Provincial Policy Statement, 2020

- Staff support retaining the existing natural heritage policies of the PPS as proposed by the Province
- PPS policies have been instrumental to protecting and improving the City's Greenway System



Growth Plan, 2020

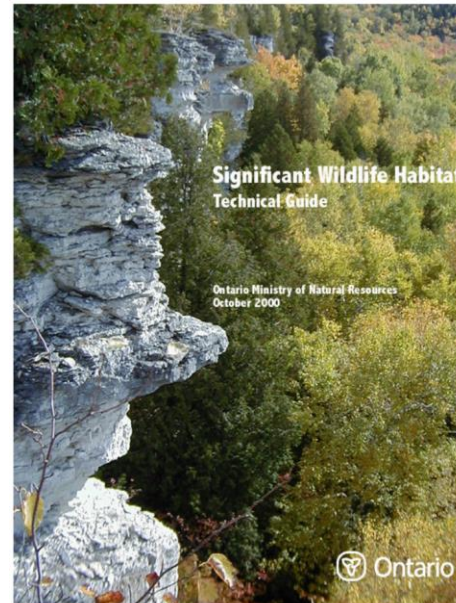
- Staff have no concerns with the proposed deletion of the Growth Plan natural heritage policies
- Vast majority of the Growth Plan natural heritage system is already protected in the City's Greenway System
- Growth Plan natural heritage system policies are generally weaker than the City's natural heritage system policies





Implementation of the PPS

- The PPS is supported by technical guidelines to help with interpretation of natural heritage policies and definitions
- The Province should review and update existing natural heritage guidance materials





Next Steps

- Staff recommend that the report be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as the City of Markham's comments on the natural heritage policies of the Provincial Planning Statement