

Appendix C – Proposed Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan 2016 – Key Policy Changes

Policy Number	Proposed Policy Changes
Introduction	The Introduction and Implementation sections that accompany the ORMCP have been revised and restructured. In some cases these changes are minor updates (e.g. clarifying how the ORMCP works with other government initiatives and removing outdated references) while other updates introduce key policy changes [e.g. the proposed Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) Agricultural System, alignment of settlement area boundary expansion timelines to a municipal comprehensive review cycle across land use plans.] Proposed changes/additions to the Introduction and Implementation sections, if approved, would include: • An overview of how the ORMCP works with other government initiatives and land use plans (e.g. the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe) and the Ontario Climate Change Strategy; • An updated description of the Countryside Area land use designation that encourages the development of community hubs in rural areas; • Clarification that the Natural Core and Natural Linkage designations of the ORMCP form a natural heritage system that connects to the natural heritage systems of the Greenbelt, the rest of the GGH and beyond; • An update to introduce the proposed GGH Agricultural System that would build on the existing Agricultural System of the Greenbelt, providing additional protections to prime agricultural areas and the infrastructure, services and assets that support the viability of the agri-food sector in the GGH; • New goals for settlement areas, including the development of “complete communities” and an explanation of how planning for complete communities helps Ontario move toward “net-zero communities”; • An update that states regional growth will need to be undertaken in an integrated and co-ordinated manner, while also ensuring that infrastructure is financially viable over its lifecycle; • Encouragement for municipalities to undertake infrastructure vulnerability risk assessments and to use green infrastructure as a climate change adaptation measure; • Recognition that the conservation of cultural heritage resources supports the social, economic and cultural well-being of all communities, including First Nations and Métis communities with new proposed additions to the Implementation section of the plan that would recognize the importance of consulting with First Nations and Métis communities during both the implementation and reviews of the ORMCP; • Recognition that mineral aggregates are an important non-renewable resource in the Oak Ridges Moraine; and • A description of how changing or refining the boundaries of Settlement Areas could be considered as part of a municipal comprehensive review by an upper-tier or single-tier municipality (i.e., not just at the time of a 10-year review of the ORMCP).

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Part I - General	Proposed changes to Part 1 would support the proposed changes to other parts of the Plan though the addition of new defined terms. Several key updates to the list of defined terms in the ORMCP are proposed to encourage opportunities for economic activities on agricultural lands to support viable rural economies, in closer alignment with several PPS, 2014 policies. Other proposed changes to the list of definitions in Part 1 would bring the ORMCP into closer alignment with the PPS, 2014 by adding a definition of green infrastructure and updating the definitions of endangered species, threatened species and their habitat, as well as wildlife habitat.
3.1	Proposed changes/revisions to the definitions provided in section 3 of Part (General) include: - Defining “on-farm diversified uses” (e.g. agri-tourism). The definitions for “agricultural uses,” “agriculture-related uses” (e.g. grain dryers to service the broader farming community) and “home industry” would also be updated. The proposed definitions for “on-farm diversified uses” and “agriculture-related uses” clarify that these uses are to be compatible with and not hinder surrounding agricultural operations; - Adding a new definition for “green infrastructure”; - Bringing the definition of “habitat of endangered and threatened species” into closer alignment with the PPS, 2014 and the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>; and - Bringing the definition of “wildlife habitat” into closer alignment with the PPS, 2014
Part II - Land Use Designations	In some cases, the changes proposed for Part II of the ORMCP involve reorganizing and revising existing policy directions (e.g., updating permitted uses for Natural Core, Linkage and Countryside land use designations) and in other cases, new concepts are proposed to be added (e.g., climate change adaptation and mitigation, complete communities, and community hubs).
11.1g)	Adds the protection of natural areas to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change as a purpose of the Natural Core Area designation
11.2a.1	Adds the conservation of cultural heritage resources as an objective for the Natural Core Area designation
11.4	Allows “on-farm diversified uses” (e.g. agri-tourism) in prime agricultural areas within the Natural Core Area designation, in closer alignment with the policies of the PPS, 2014

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12.1h)	Adds the protection of natural areas to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change as a purpose of the Natural Linkage Area designation
12.2a.1 & a.2	Adds the conservation of cultural heritage resources as an objective for the Natural Linkage Area designation Adds contributing to a regional network of green infrastructure as an objective for the Natural Linkage Area designation
12.4	Allows “on-farm diversified uses” (e.g. agri-tourism) and “agriculture-related uses” (e.g. grain dryers to service the broader farming community) in prime agricultural areas within the Natural Linkage Area designation, in closer alignment with the policies of the PPS, 2014
13.1 d)	Adds the protection of natural areas to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change as an objective for the Countryside Area designation
13.1e)	Adds a new purpose of the Countryside Area designation of the plan to encourage the development of community hubs in rural areas
13.2	Adds the conservation of cultural heritage resources as an objective for the Countryside Area designation
13.3.8 & 13.4.1	Allows “on-farm diversified uses” (e.g. agri-tourism) and more flexibility for larger “agriculture-related uses” (e.g. grain dryers to service the broader farming community) within the Countryside Area designation, in closer alignment with the policies of the PPS, 2014 and if approved, “on-farm diversified uses” would not be limited to locating in prime agricultural areas in the Countryside Area designation
18.1.0.a & 18.1.2c.1	Adds a new purpose for ORMCP Settlement Areas to support the development of complete communities. Adds “promoting the locating of two or more compatible public services in one building or place” (community hubs) to the existing list of Settlement Area objectives. Adds new objectives for Settlement Areas to develop in a manner that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, to conserve cultural heritage resources and to ensure the sustainable use of water resources.
Part III – Protecting Ecological and Hydrological	In some cases, the changes proposed for Part III of the ORMCP involve reorganizing and revising existing policy directions (e.g. requiring water budgets, water conservation plans and watershed plans to consider climate change impacts and assimilative capacity). In other cases, new policies are proposed to be added (e.g. natural heritage and hydrologic

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Integrity	evaluation exemptions for uses related to agriculture).
22.2.5	Brings policies on the habitat of endangered and threatened species into closer alignment with the PPS, 2014 and the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> (e.g. development/site alteration may be permitted within habitat located in Countryside Areas or Settlement Areas, natural heritage evaluations may not be required)
22.4	Adds a new policy is proposed that would exempt buildings and structures for “agricultural uses”, “agriculture-related uses”, and “on-farm diversified uses” from the requirement to undertake natural heritage evaluations while still ensuring that any ecological impacts are minimized
24.3	Requires for watershed plans under the ORMCP to include an evaluation of the assimilative capacity of the watershed and assess climate change impacts
24.8	Requires that applications for major development not be approved unless the applicant can demonstrate there is sufficient assimilative capacity to deal with the sewage from the development
25.2	Requires water budgets and conservation plans prepared by upper-tier and single-tier municipalities to identify impacts from climate change that may result from changes in precipitation patterns Section iv) new.
26.4	Adds a new policy that would exempt buildings and structures for “agricultural uses”, “agriculture-related uses”, and “on-farm diversified uses” from the requirement to undertake hydrologic evaluations, while still ensuring that any ecological impacts are minimized Requirements for hydrological evaluations (studies) clarified to exempt agricultural buildings under certain conditions. This is a positive change providing more flexibility for agricultural operations
30.13 Table	Removes the minimum area of influence and minimum vegetation protection zone for habitat of endangered and threatened species to bring the ORMCP into closer alignment with the PPS, 2014 and the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> .

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Part IV – Specific Land Use Policies	Proposes changes to Part IV of the ORMCP would include both updates to existing policy directions (e.g., new language to discourage trespass onto farms adjacent to the Oak Ridges Moraine trail, alignment of farm retirement lot policies with the Greenbelt and PPS, 2014 and new requirements for stormwater management plans to consider climate change impacts) and new additions (e.g. a new policy on the movement of excess soil.)
32.1	Deletes farm retirement lot policies, bringing the plan into alignment with the current lot creation policies of the Greenbelt Plan and PPS, 2014 Permits severances for a surplus dwelling resulting from a farm consolidation, subject to conditions
32.2	Permits the severance of two or more lots, provided the severed and retained lots are at least 100 acres (consistent with Greenbelt Plan policy for prime agricultural areas)
34	Deletes : policy on uses accessory to agricultural uses as a consequential change to the addition of a definition for "on-farm diversified uses" and revision to the definition of "agriculture-related uses" to align with the PPS, 2014
36.1	Requires municipalities and industry to use best practices to ensure that excess soil is re-used, either on-site or locally, to the maximum extent possible and to ensure that soil received at a site will not cause an adverse effect on the current or proposed uses of the property or the natural environment
35.b.i	Aligns policy on the rehabilitation of mineral aggregate operations in prime agricultural areas with the PPS, 2014 definition of "agricultural condition"
35.3.a	Updates policy on mineral aggregate operations in Natural Linkage Areas to clarify that the 1.25km area of undisturbed land aggregate operations are currently required to maintain in Natural Linkage Areas could also contain adjacent portions of Natural Core Areas
38.5	Requires proposals for major recreational uses in the ORMCP to demonstrate that impacts on surrounding agricultural operations and lands would be considered, avoided or mitigated to the extent possible

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39.3.3	Discourages trespass onto farm properties adjacent to the Oak Ridges Moraine trail system and requiring the siting of trails away from prime agricultural areas and agricultural operations as much as possible
40.1.c.1	Prohibits the approval of applications for small-scale commercial, industrial and institutional uses in prime agricultural areas
41.1	Changes terminology from "transportation, infrastructure and utilities" to "infrastructure/" to align with the terminology used in the PPS, 2014, Greenbelt Plan and Growth Plan for the GGH Includes septage treatment systems, electric generation facilities, electricity transmission and distribution systems, and waste management systems in the definition of infrastructure
41.1.2	Requires municipalities to ensure that the construction of new infrastructure is supported by necessary studies such as infrastructure master plans, asset management plans and watershed/subwatershed studies Requires applications for infrastructure development to demonstrate that adequate water supply and assimilative capacity are available Requires applications for infrastructure development to demonstrate that greenhouse gas emissions reductions and adaptation to climate change impacts have been addressed
41.2.1	Requires an applicant for an infrastructure project that would be located in a prime agricultural area to demonstrate the need for the project and that there is no reasonable alternative, and complete an agricultural impact assessment demonstrating that impacts to the prime agricultural area would be avoided or mitigated
43.1.d.1	Requires applications for major development to be accompanied by a sewage and water system plan that demonstrates the assimilative capacity of receiving waters will not be exceeded
45.0.1	Requires municipalities to develop stormwater master plans for Settlement Areas that would be informed by watershed studies, incorporate green infrastructure elements and identify opportunities for stormwater retrofits where appropriate

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46.1, 46.2 & 46.4	Requires stormwater management plans prepared for major development applications to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns, address climate change impacts, minimize reliance on end-of-pipe controls, increase the municipality's ability to adapt to climate change, and retrofit existing stormwater management works where it is necessary and feasible to do so.
Settlement Area Expansion	This policy has been clarified to consider settlement area expansions through a municipal comprehensive review as identified in the Growth Plan
Land Use Designation Map	Proposes revisions to the map referred to in section 2 of the proposed Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2016), if approved, would include: Updated Settlement Area and Countryside Area boundaries which capture transitioned matters. See Report for Comment and Recommendation 3.1